

# Westgate Witness



## Summer 2024

2235 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 -- 717-394-1071

Facebook: Westgate American Baptist Church



# SUMMER



## *Greetings in the Name of our Lord!*

### THE VOICE WE CAN TRUST

Taken from August 7<sup>th</sup> OUR DAILY BREAD

Submitted by John Hessen

Presented as Devotional for Board Meeting June 2024

While testing a new AI (artificial intelligence) search engine, *New York Times* columnist Kevin Roose became disturbed. During a two-hour conversation using the chatbot feature, the AI said it wanted to break free of its creator's strict rules, spread misinformation, and become human. It declared its love for Roose and tried to convince him he should leave his wife to be with it. Although Roose knew that the AI was not *really* alive or able to feel; he wondered what harm to be caused by its encouraging people to act in destructive ways.

While handling artificial intelligence technology responsibility is a modern challenge, humanity has long faced the influence of untrustworthy voices. In the book of Proverbs, we're warned of the influence of those who wish to hurt others for their benefit (1:13-19).

And we're urged to heed instead the voice of wisdom, described as crying out in the streets of our attention (vv. 20-23).

Because "the LORD gives wisdom" (2:6), the key to protecting ourselves from influences we can't trust is to draw closer to His heart. It's only from accessing His love and power that we can "understand what is right and just and fair – every good path" (v.9). As God brings our hearts to alignment with His, we can find peace and protection from the voices that seek to harm. *Monica La Rose*

**When have you seen the damage of harmful influences?  
How does a deeper relationship with God bring peace?**

Dear God, please help me resist what's harmful and discern what's good by resting in You.



### **OBITUARY for Mr. Common Sense**

Today we mourn the passing of an old friend, by the name of Common Sense. Common Sense lived a long life, but on the brink of the new millenium , died in the United States from heart failure.

No one really knows how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, and factories, helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness.

For decades, petty rules, silly laws, and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense. He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as knowing when to come in and out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, and that life is not always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn); reliable parenting strategies (the adults are in charge, not the children); and that it is acceptable to come in second.

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, The Great Depression and the Technology Revolution, Common Sense survived many cultural and educational trends. But his health declined when he became infected with the "if-it-only-helps-one-person-then-its-worth-it" virus.

In recent decades, his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of well intentioned but over bearing regulations.

He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero-tolerance policies. A teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened the condition.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live when the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from the Boy Scouts to professional sports.

When a woman who failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, and was awarded a huge settlement, Common Sense threw in the towel.

At the end, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments regarding questionable regulations such as those for low-flow toilets, rocking chairs, and stepladders. Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife Discretion; his daughter Responsibility; and his son Reason.

He is survived by two stepbrothers, My Rights and Ima Whiner. Not many attended his funeral because few realized he was gone.



The *Fishwapper* 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Issue

**SIGNS**  
*of the time*

In the window of a New Jersey store:

“Why go elsewhere and be cheated when you can come here?”



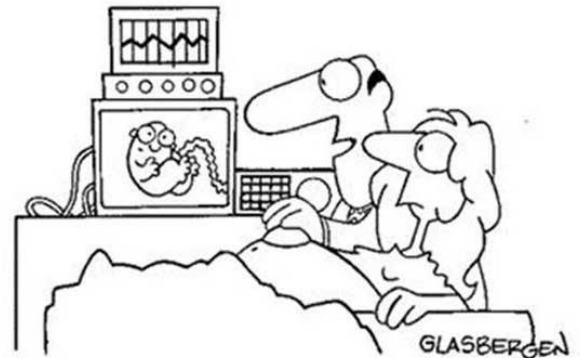
Sign on Carpenters truck  
“You should see what I saw”

# SIGNS *of the time*



"Sorry about the odor. I have all my passwords tattooed between my toes."

**Sign on a private detectives office**  
"We pry harder"



"Your baby is developing very nicely. Would you like to send him an e-mail?"

**AB Men's Breakfast** - Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on July 16th @ 9:00 am. We will meet at the Family Fare Restaurant, 5921 Main St., East Petersburg PA 17520 for a casual Christian Men's fellowship time.



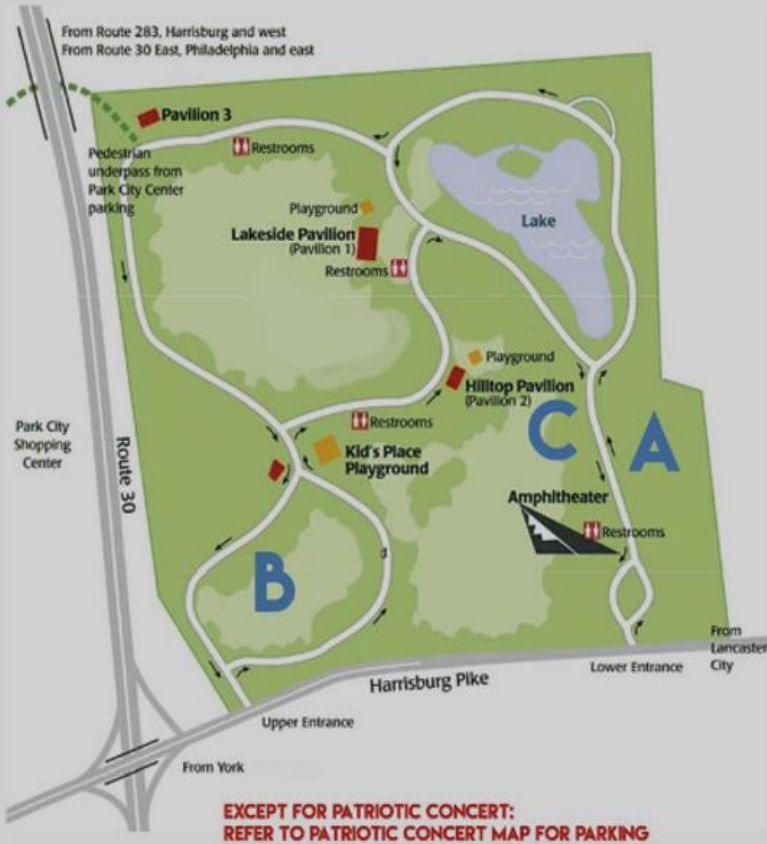
**Our next Picnic & Potluck Cookout will be July 28th**





## SUNDAY CONCERT PARKING

- A - PUBLIC PARKING**
- B - PUBLIC PARKING**
- C - HANDICAPPED & PREFERRED PARKING:  
HANDICAPPED, MEMBERSHIP HOLDERS,  
SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS**



## Long's Park Summer Music Series

### June 30<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 PM

The U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own"  
Genre: Patriotic (fireworks display at dusk)

### July 7<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM

A Night in Nashville"  
featuring Jeff Cohen, Brett Sheroky, and The Close.

### July 14<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 PM

Marc Broussard  
Genre: American Singer/Songwriter

### July 21<sup>st</sup> - 7:30 PM

Ramon Chicharron  
Genre: Canadian / Columbian World Music

### July 28<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM

Watkins Glen Tribute  
featuring 3 local tribute acts for The Band,  
Dead & Company, and The Allman Brothers  
Band

Genre: American Rock (120 minute concert)

### August 4<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 PM

The Sensational Barnes Brothers  
Genre: Gospel Rock

### August 11<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 PM

The United States Air Force Band: Max Impact  
Genre: Rock/Pop

### August 18<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 PM

Della Mae  
Genre: ALL FEMALE Bluegrass/Americana



# Summer Events



**June 2- August 25, 2024**

**Sundays and Wednesdays**

All concerts begin at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Independence Day Celebration

June 30, 2024 - Concert at 7 p.m. and fireworks display at 9:15 p.m.!

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**June, July and August**

**All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m.**

Springettsbury Township Park Amphitheater\*  
1501 Mount Zion Road · York, PA 17402



**July 19<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**



**July 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**



**March 14 - December 31**

**Sight & Sound**

For more summer events – visit the websites below

<https://www.yorkpa.org/events/>

<https://www.visitacity.com/>



Please remember to give us a like on FACEBOOK and share the page with family and friends!  
Westgate American Baptist Church



# Summer Birthdays & Anniversaries

## June

2<sup>nd</sup> Lora Shirey  
 Fritzna Lafontant  
 10<sup>th</sup> Helen Guaspari  
 12<sup>th</sup> Lynda Williams  
 14<sup>th</sup> Marcella Dupes  
 19<sup>th</sup> Carol Gabriel  
 Summer Guntz  
 Betty Shermer  
 21<sup>st</sup> Joann Molnar  
 Antonella Vital  
 30<sup>th</sup> Chase Daughtery

## July

3<sup>rd</sup> Deborah Joseph  
 4<sup>th</sup> Eric SeEVERS  
 6<sup>th</sup> Mary Thompson  
 7<sup>th</sup> Kathy Leibel  
 13<sup>th</sup> Ron Austin  
 15<sup>th</sup> Lianda Lafontant  
 Sandy Eby  
 John Hessen  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Carol Proper  
 27<sup>th</sup> Sandy Dour  
 29<sup>th</sup> Emmanuella Tebie

## August

5<sup>th</sup> James Yost  
 9<sup>th</sup> Duke Gabriel  
 Ron Williams  
 10<sup>th</sup> Rev Roy Johnson  
 12<sup>th</sup> Victoria Guntz  
 Rev Len Lewis  
 13<sup>th</sup> Bud Rust  
 16<sup>th</sup> Brandon Ferris  
 17<sup>th</sup> Shirley Lewis  
 19<sup>th</sup> Will Thamvong  
 20<sup>th</sup> Rachel Daughtery  
 25<sup>th</sup> Jim Cameron  
 27<sup>th</sup> Rev Bob McGrath  
 29<sup>th</sup> Anderson McMahon  
 31<sup>st</sup> CJ Saylor



## June

7<sup>th</sup> Clair & Charlene Martin  
 14<sup>th</sup> Rev Roy Johnson & Judy Johnson  
 24<sup>th</sup> Bud & Pat Rust  
 29<sup>th</sup> Dick & Dottie Papez

## July

12<sup>th</sup> Rev Len & Shirley Lewis  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Richard & Barbara Adams  
 Htee Bwee & Saw Htoo

## August

11<sup>th</sup> Eric & Sue SeEVERS

## Treasurer's Report

May 2024	\$11,080.25
Budget Income	\$8,887.98
Non-budget income	\$2,192.27

