



**PENN
TOWNSHIP**

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

Township News

Summer 2025 Edition

97 N Penryn Rd, Manheim, PA 17545

717-665-4508 (p) 717-665-4105 (f)

www.penntwplanco.org

Community Spotlight

Public Works Brings in a New Generation

After the long-time tenure of Public Works Director, Daryl Lefever, Public Works has a new team but many of the faces will be familiar to you all.

Long-time maintenance worker, Shannon Martin, also Penryn Fire Company Fire Chief, has taken the helm as Public Works Director and a relatively new face, Clayton Fidler, is the new Public Works Foreman.

Other Public Works personnel include Neil Fittery, Keith lehle, and newly hired Andy Fisher round out the rest of the Public Works team.

When you see team members working on the roads bridges or other municipal infrastructure, congratulate them on their new roles and thank them for their work in keeping the community safe and healthy!



Catching Rain, Planting Hope

Hope Episcopal Church in Manheim, PA

This past year, Hope Church, in the Mount Hope area of Penn Township, started on a stormwater project in an effort to live out their values as a church. Penn Township staff interviewed Reverend Bradley Mattson, Rector of Hope Episcopal Church, on their project, detailed below, which they hope will inspire others.

Does Hope Episcopal Church have plans for adding additional stormwater practices, like the rain garden, to its property?

Yes—and not only plans, but prayers. We see it as a beginning, a threshold into a broader story of renewal. We have aspirations. Our vision is to transform the land we've been given into something that proclaims the gospel: a place where what was once overlooked becomes sacred again. We have the "Garden of Hope" a raised bed vegetable garden where we give our produce, we are looking to add more native trees, shade our walkways—everything in its time. But all of it rooted in the same soil: a hope-filled, faithful desire to care for the land we've been entrusted with, and to show the community that our land is a living part of our ministry.

There's a passage in Isaiah that we return to often: "You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in" (Isaiah 58:12). I believe that part of our calling as a church today is to be repairers and restorers—not only of

(continued)

human relationships but of our relationship with the land and water that sustain life. What better way to live into that than to let this land reflect our deepest held beliefs in the gospel.

Can you tell us a little bit about Hope Episcopal Church and how it came to align itself with environmental goals and stewardship?

We built on the shoulders of generations of gardeners here - wonderful folks who have tended this land and improved on it. As this developed in my generation here, we continued with a simple question: What does faithfulness look like in this place, at this time?

Our answer led us back to the soil and to the establishment of our Hope Church “Green Team”. We planted the gardens to look nice for our 175th anniversary this year, added pollinator gardens, and then the rain garden. Our congregation began to understand: this isn’t extra—it’s discipleship.

We didn’t set out to become an “environmental church.” We set out to become a faithful one. And the Holy Spirit kept turning our attention to what was growing around us. We began to hear the psalmist’s words in a new way: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1).

Our stewardship of creation became a response to the glory already present in the world around us. The Baptismal Covenant calls us to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” and to “strive for justice and peace.” For us, this includes justice for the land and peace for the waters, which are so often disrupted by careless runoff or misuse. When we began to think of the church grounds as a place where we could live out those vows, everything changed. We saw ministry sprouting up from the soil.

How did Hope Episcopal Church hear about the opportunity to design and implement a rain garden, and could other faith-based groups in Penn Township and surrounding municipalities do the same?

We found our way into this work through Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and the Center for Watershed Protection. Their encouragement and expertise made all the difference. They helped us shape the plan, dream a little bigger, and actually take the first steps. They were both wonderful to work with!

What I love about those partnerships is that they didn’t come to us with a lecture about how and what to do on church land. They came to us with curiosity and trust—trust that faith communities have something powerful to offer the world when it comes to environmental leadership.

And yes—absolutely—other congregations can do the same. You don’t need a big property or a big budget. You just need a patch of ground, a willing heart, and a community that says “yes.”

In the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus says the kingdom of God is like the smallest seed that grows into the greatest of shrubs, so that birds of the air come and make nests in its branches (Matthew 13:31–32). Sometimes, all it takes is planting one thing—literally one thing—for new life to take shape in unexpected ways.

I believe there are mustard seeds waiting to be planted all across our community. And I believe God will bless even the smallest garden, the tiniest change, the first hesitant “maybe.”

What, if anything, could or would you change about the permitting process?

Honestly, working with Penn Township was a gift. We weren’t sure what to expect, but they were collaborative and encouraging every step of the way. We felt supported, respected, and celebrated for taking on something that benefits not just the church but the whole community.

That kind of partnership is rare—and beautiful.

If I could wave a wand, I’d love to see a more formal pathway for churches and nonprofits to access technical support earlier in the process. But I also want to say clearly: the township’s attitude made all the difference. They treated us as partners in something meaningful. Townships have land stewardship goals that can be either accomplished through the application of taxpayer dollars, or grants - when landowners (whomever they may be) take responsibility and apply for grants that lifts burden, and takes on responsibility for those around you. Or to put it the way we do as followers of Jesus - we “loved our neighbors”.

That reflects a larger biblical truth: “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity” (Psalm 133:1). I saw that unity between public leadership and community ministry, and it gives me hope for what else we might build together.

Were there any unexpected obstacles during the project, and if not, can you share why you chose a rain garden and what’s growing in it?

Anytime you introduce something new in a faith community—especially one with deep roots—there’s going to be questions. People care about the church. They care about how we spend our time, our energy, and our resources.





I remember early on in the process, someone said—firmly—that if we were going to step into this kind of environmental work, “it had better be grant-money.” I also took that as an invitation. A challenge worth accepting. So we did our homework, built partnerships, and leaned into a vision. And now, over \$115,000 in grant funding later, we’ve built a rain garden that reflects not only good land use—but our love, our care, and an identity that’s more faithful.

We partnered with Flyway Excavation, a thoughtful, community-minded contractor who brought real heart to the project. Together, we shaped the land to catch water, welcome life, and tell a story. And just this week, we were contacted about potential follow-up work using remaining resources. We’re not closing the book. We’re turning the page.

I often say that the spiritual qualities needed for this kind of work—and really, for any meaningful church effort—are faithfulness, flexibility, and staying power. And Hope Church has all three. We’re not a flashy congregation. But we are a steady one. We pray. We plant. We adapt. And we keep showing up, rain or shine.

We chose a rain garden because it lives out a theology we believe in. It takes the chaos of runoff—the overflow, the residue—and slows it down. It filters it through something rooted. It sends it back into the earth, not as waste, but as blessing.

That’s what grace does. That’s what the resurrection does. It receives what others might discard and says, “Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)

Now growing in our garden are swamp milkweed, blue flag iris, soft rush, beebalm, and black-eyed Susans—plants that thrive in this region, even when the weather shifts. They bring color and life. They welcome pollinators. And if you listen closely, they preach a quiet sermon of resilience and beauty.

Amos reminds us: “Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24). That verse has always stirred my heart—but now it also stirs the soil beneath our feet. Because at Hope, justice doesn’t just roll down—it soaks in. It feeds the roots. It blooms.

Small churches like ours—off the main road, quietly faithful—have a decision to make about what we want to be known for. We may not always have the biggest platform, but we have a place. And we can use that place to proclaim something bold: that we believe in restoration. We believe in care. We believe in planting hope, even in uncertain soil.

So yes—there were questions. There were dry spells. There were new things to learn. The faithful stayed with it, and the questions quieted. In the end there was trust. And joy. And bees. And I’ll take that any day!

Is there anything else you’d like to share?

Only this: land can be holy. Soil can be sacramental. Water can be more than runoff.

We planted a promise. And every time it rains, that promise is renewed.

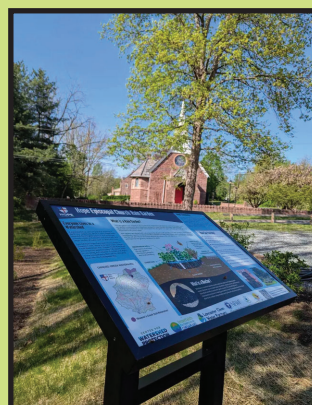
We want to be a church that lives into that peace, that reconciliation, right here where we’ve been planted.

If you ever want to walk the garden, we’d love to show you around. You’ll find daffodils, milkweed, and maybe something you weren’t expecting. You’ll find hope.



Scan QR Code above or use link below to view video on the Hope Rain Garden:

<https://youtu.be/ctKFjV8B-wQ?si=1oTTiq6ERSBwEyma>



Penn Township Plans Yard Waste Facility at 97 North Penryn Road



The long awaited yard waste facility is open! A fob is required to enter the facility. Complete the Fob & Re-Activation Application (<https://penntwplanco.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Fob-Re-Activation-Application.pdf>) and complete and submit it to the Township with \$20.00 (cash or check made payable to Penn Township). Please allow 48 hours for key fob application processing.

Yard Waste Rules & Regulations can be found on page 2 of the application and in the 2025 Fee Schedule: Section 27. Yard Waste Site Fees and Rules.

- ☞ All key fobs are active for one year; fees are not prorated; key fobs are for residential use only and for property owners only
- ☞ \$20.00 per key fob per property or to replace a damaged or lost fob
- ☞ \$20.00 to renew fob annually
- ☞ Cash or check made payable to Penn Township
- ☞ Penn Township residential property owners only
- ☞ Place items in designated areas
- ☞ No smoking
- ☞ The use of chain saws and similar equipment is prohibited
- ☞ All children under age 16 must remain in the vehicle
- ☞ Skateboarding, rollerblading, bicycling or any similar activity is prohibited within the facility
- ☞ **LEAVES, GARDEN WASTE, SHUBBERY AND TREE TRIMMINGS ONLY**
- ☞ Leaves may be loose or bagged in paper bags (bags can be purchased at any hardware store)
- ☞ Tree trimmings, up to 8 inches in diameter, maximum 8 feet in length
- ☞ Christmas trees must be free of all ornaments and all other decorations
- ☞ **No grass clippings, grasses, bamboo, mulch, dirt, root balls, weeds, vines, corn stalks, etc.**
- ☞ **Nothing else allowed**
- ☞ Any use of the facility in violation of the rules, including but not limited to the following, will result in prosecution and loss of access:
 - ☞ Use of your key fob by someone else not living on your property
 - ☞ Dropping any items not accepted by the facility
 - ☞ Damage to gates, signs, walls, fences, landscaping or any other property damage
- ☞ Violations of these rules are violations of Township Code of Ordinances Chapter 20, Solid Waste

Visit the Township office to submit the application and obtain your fob!



MANHEIM COMMUNITY LIBRARY

LEARN. CONNECT. GROW.

547 N Penryn Rd, Manheim, PA 17545

manheimlibrary.org

717.665.6700

We've MOVED!

*Visit us at our new location at
547 N Penryn Rd across from the
Pleasant View Retirement Campus!*

Manheim Community Library Summer Calendar

Weekly:

Computer... Help! – Mondays - 5-7pm

Family Story Time – Tuesdays - 10am

Toddler Time – Fridays - 10am

Monthly:

Book Club – 1st Thursdays of the month - 9:30-11am

Unraveling yarns – 2nd Thursdays of the month - 1-2:30pm

Lego Lab – 2nd Thursdays of the month - 6-7pm

Junior Dungeons and Dragons – 2nd Saturday of the month - 12-4pm

Crafternoon – 3rd Thursdays of the month - 3:30-4:30pm

Summer Reading Special Events:

June 7 – Summer Reading Kick-Off - 10am

June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, Aug. 6 & 20 – Read to a K-Pet - 10-11am

June 12 – No. 2 Pencil Man: Superhero Workshop – 2-3pm

June 12 – Backyard Wildlife: An Adult Program – 6:30-7:30pm

June 16 – Mark DeRose: Music and Art – 10-11am

June 17- Pollinator Story Time – 10-11am

June 23 – Butterflies & Moths w/ LC Parks – 10-11am

June 25 – Working on the Railroad w/ the RR Museum of PA – 1:30-2:15pm

July 9 – Chemistry Magic Show: Surprise Theme! – 1-2:30pm

July 11 – Daddy & Daughter Tea Party – 3-4pm

July 18 – Mother & Son Tee – Shirt Party! – 3-4pm

July 24 – Night Creatures w/ LC Parks – 6:30-7:30pm

July 28 – Survival Skills w/ LC Parks – 10-11am

Aug. 4 – Raven Ridge Wildlife Show– 1-2pm

Aug. 7 – Nature Bookmarks w/ LC Parks – 10-11am



SAVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

JOIN THE BATTLE. BEAT THE BUG.

STOP THE SPREAD OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY.

CHECK YOUR VEHICLE

Search for all spotted lanternfly life stages



Egg mass
Sept. - June



Early nymph
April-July

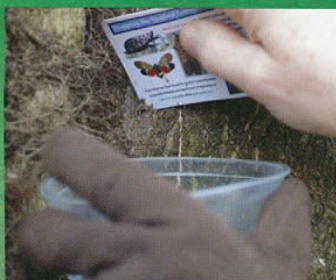


Late nymph
July-Sept.



Adult
July-Dec.

SCRAPE. SQUASH. REPORT.



Scrape
egg masses into a
container of rubbing
alcohol or hand sanitizer



Squash
any bugs
you see

[extension.psu.edu/
spotted-lanternfly](http://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly)

888-4-BADFLY

Report
any sightings



Find out if you're in the state quarantine area at agriculture.pa.gov



United States Department of Agriculture



PennState
Extension



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Permits

Do I need one?

It depends. For most projects, permits are needed. If you are unsure or have ANY questions, call the Township at 717-665-4508. We are willing to help you.

Projects that require a permit include:

- Adding a bedroom
- Starting a home-based business
- Adding or removing anything structural/supporting a load
- Installing or replacing an above-ground or in-ground pool, including a temporary inflatable pool capable of holding 24 inches or more of water
- Installing or replacing a fence, including fencing for animals or pool
- Changing use of a structure or land
- Installing a retaining wall, deck, patio or sidewalk
- Installing or enlarging a greenhouse
- Repaving or adding to your driveway
- Finishing a basement
- Changing an office, attic or storage space to a bedroom or living space
- Keeping of a transportation horse (there are property size requirements for the number of animals on a parcel)
- Renting a dwelling for less than 30 days, including through AirBnB, VRBO, or similar service

****Residents, Contractors and Sub-Contractors**

If a permit is required, it is your responsibility to obtain or see that a permit is obtained for the project. Both the property owner and the contractor can be held responsible.

The list above is not a list of all projects that require a permit. If you have ANY questions about permitting, please call the office at 717-665-4508.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

READY TO START DIGGING?

Before you start a project that requires digging—like planting a tree or installing a fence or pool—call 811. PPL and other utilities will come out to mark off any underground lines before your work begins.

Why is this important? Because if someone unintentionally hits an underground power line, it could injure them severely, or even kill them. Even if no one is hurt, damaging a line could cause service outages that could impact your neighbors and there could be significant costs you'll need to pay to fix the damage.

In Pennsylvania, you need to call 811 at least three business days before you start your project.

Take care and remember KNOW WHAT'S BELOW.



Pennsylvania 811
A Privately funded non-profit Pennsylvania Corporation

Be in the know... Sign-up for ALERTS

Visit: <https://penntwplanco.org/alert-signup/> or use QR code

- Road Closings
- Penn Township Public Hearings
- Ems/Ambulance Services
- and much more



Want to dispose of tree branches,
shrubbery and leaves for your property?
Look inside to learn more.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Eishenhauer
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Supervisor-Gary Stevens
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Member-Phil Donmoyer
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Chief-Josh Kilgore

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Planner-Jennifer Tulonen
Zoning Officer-Matt Reeser
Finance-Connie Weidle
Public Sewer & Public Water-
Barbara Grable

Receptionist-vacant
Public Works Director-
Shannon Martin
Foreman-Clayton Fidler
Maintenance-Neil Fittery
Maintenance-Keith Iehle
Maintenance-Andy Fisher

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Len Spencer, III, SEO