



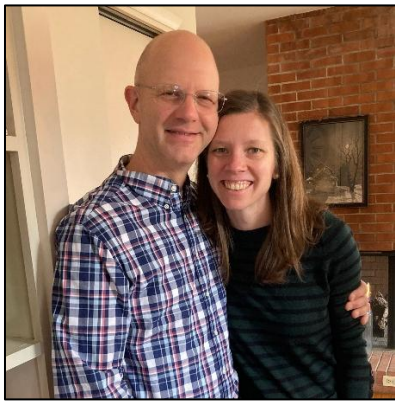
Welcome to Valley Presbyterian Church

Contact person: Tom Hartman, 54 N Broad Street, Selinsgrove, PA 17870
(717) 875-1623 • tmhartman715@gmail.com

FAQ's about the newest mission church of Susquehanna Valley Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America

1. Where and when did Valley Presbyterian Church (VPC) begin?

- VPC began with worship services in the living room of **Zach and Johanna Levi** in Selinsgrove, PA to magnify the God of grace and reach out to the community.
- **Tom and Melody Hartman**, Johanna's parents, helped to organize and lead the services.



Zach and Johanna



Tom and Melody

- Worship began on two Saturday or Sunday evenings each month so as not to conflict with evening services at Redeemer Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Danville where some attenders are members. Sunday morning services at VPC have not yet begun.

2. What made these evening services special?

- Exquisite hymn accompaniment by professional-quality musicians



- Confession, supplication, and intercession by Tom Hartman.
- Messages by Dave Carver, David Cross, Jack DeBardeleben, John Hayward, Ron Ziegler and others.
- Fellowship and refreshments after services to deepen our personal connections.



3. How would you describe Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania?



Selinsgrove is a charming college town that combines history, education, small-town warmth, and recreation.

Founded in 1787 by Revolutionary War Captain Anthony Selin, Selinsgrove in eastern Snyder County is located on the Susquehanna River across from Northumberland County. Valley Presbyterian Church takes its name from the Susquehanna River valley.



Susquehanna University, a nationally recognized private liberal arts college founded in 1858 and now with about 2,250 students, adds intellectual and cultural vibrancy to the entire community by providing, for example, excellent free concerts by its 60-member symphony orchestra.

With a total population of about 5,450, Selinsgrove offers friendly people, a relaxed pace, tree-lined streets, and colonial architecture that reflects its heritage. The downtown features brick sidewalks, specialty shops, and inviting restaurants. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy boating, fishing, and seasonal activities on the Susquehanna River.

The median age of the permanent (non-student) population of Selinsgrove is 40.9 years, which is consistent with the rest of Pennsylvania. The median 2025 household income of the permanent population is over \$70,000. The community is approximately 88% White, with smaller Black, Asian, and multiracial populations.



The total 2025 population of about 40,000 residents in **Snyder County** (where Selinsgrove is located) has been relatively stable over the last 15 years. The total 2025 populations of **Union** and **Northumberland** Counties which adjoin Snyder to the north and east are about 42,000 and 90,000 respectively, making the tri-county total about 172,000 people.

- About 19% of the permanent population of Selinsgrove is composed of children. The Selinsgrove Public School District enjoys above average performance compared to both Pennsylvania and the U.S. in reading and math, ranking in the top 30% statewide and better than about 80% of school districts nationally. In addition, there are 7 Christian schools in Snyder County, 6 in Union County, and 8 in Northumberland County.
- Selinsgrove has a much lower crime rate than both Pennsylvania overall and the USA. Violent and property crime rates in Selinsgrove are significantly below state and national averages, making it one of the safest communities in the region. Snyder County overall has an A+ safety rating for both violent and property crime.



Selinsgrove's historic character, scenic countryside, stable population, economic prosperity, educational and cultural opportunities, outdoor recreation, personal security, and welcoming community make it a quintessential Pennsylvania borough.

4. How many students from Susquehanna University have attended VPC?

- Not many: only about 6-8 individual visits from students – both believers and unbelievers.
- DiscipleMakers is a Reformed university ministry available on



campus with other Christian organizations there as well. We want to partner with them to reach students.

- Since 99% of Susquehanna University's 2,250 students are enrolled in 4-year programs, there are over 550 new students to reach each year.

5. Why and when were services moved to the Pump House?



- Research by the Barna Group (a Christian polling organization) found that mission churches reported more first-time professions of faith per capita than established churches did. To reach our community effectively, we decided to plant a new church but thought services in a public place would be better attended than those in a private home.

- **Before set up in the Pump House:** **Worship in the Pump House:**



- Services began at the Pump House in September 2025. The Pump House is located at 116 East Snyder Street, Selinsgrove, PA 17870 in a public park maintained by the township.
- The Pump House is an attractive building with heat and air conditioning that is available for \$50/day and seats up to 40 people for worship. We began to use it in September 2025.



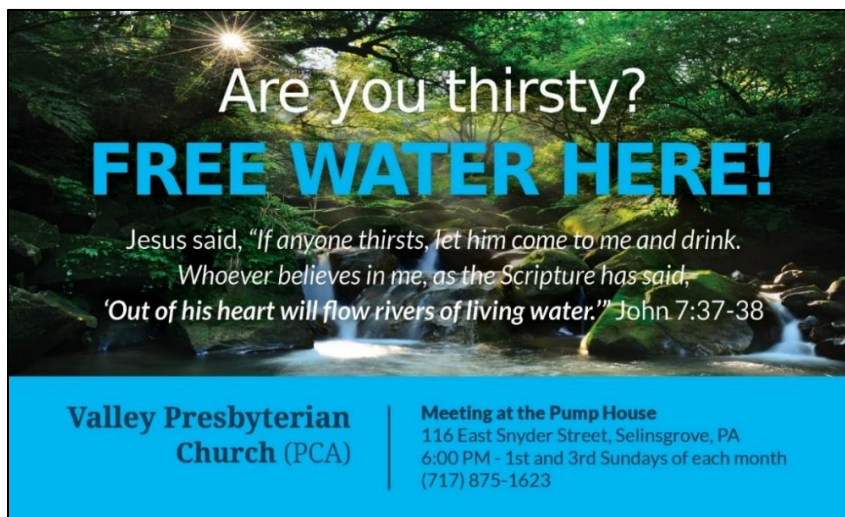
Public concerts or services could also be held in a large gazebo in the same park at the same rate, but we have not used it yet. The gazebo seats about 30 with hundreds more possibly surrounding it on the beautiful green lawn.

6. How many other churches are within driving distance of Selinsgrove?

- Yelp.com reports over 100 congregations within driving distance of Selinsgrove, but **none** of them are all three: faithful to the Scriptures, reformed, and Presbyterian. Besides VPC, there is no other Presbyterian church in Selinsgrove – either liberal or conservative.

7. How has VPC reached out to the Selinsgrove community?

- We participated in the Selinsgrove Market Street Festival on Sept. 27, 2025, painted dozens of kids' faces, and gave away nearly 1,200 free bottles of ice water, so we could talk with people about the free water of life. This was the 10' x 6' banner in our booth:



Each free water bottle had this double-sided tag:



We painted lots of faces, too:



- We gave away literature about the gospel, the PCA, and comparisons of “Methodism with Presbyterianism” and “Catholicism with Presbyterianism.” Since few at the festival knew anything about denominational differences, everyone welcomed our literature.
- We regularly email invitations to our services to those on our mailing list. Someone that we met on the street attended our next worship service and stayed to help us clean up.

8. What other outreach is planned?

- Establishing a website – currently in preparation
- Initiating radio and newspaper advertising
- Distributing flyers to the community
- Renting a billboard in Selinsgrove

9. Who are the leaders of Valley Presbyterian Church?

- VPC was originally led by a volunteer Steering Committee.
- Susquehanna Valley Presbytery subsequently appointed **TE Ron Ziegler and RE Tom Hartman** and two others (TBD) as a temporary Session to lead the church until it can elect its own officers.



TE Ron Ziegler – ron@ministrytostate.org – (717) 813-4232 – 187 Macintosh Drive, Palmyra, PA 17078.

Ron has served as a PCA Teaching Elder in an outreach to legislators at the Pennsylvania state capitol in Harrisburg.

Local journalists call him “the Harrisburg pastor who brings the church to state.”

RE Tom Hartman, tmhartman715@gmail.com, (717) 875-1623 – 54 N Broad Street, Selinsgrove, PA 17870.

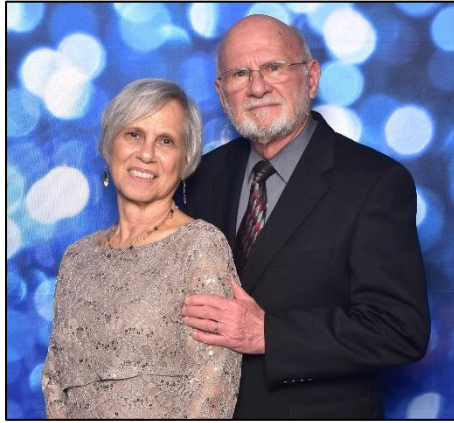
Tom has served as a Ruling Elder with TE Troy De Bruin on the Session of Proclamation PCA in Mt. Joy, PA.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matt. 25:40 NIV



- Once the borrowed Session was appointed, the Steering Committee was renamed the Ministry Committee to handle details too numerous for the Session. The Ministry Committee is composed of:

- **David and Robin Carver:** drcarver@ptd.net, (570) 850-8105
17 Calvin Dr, Selinsgrove, PA 17870



After meeting at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC, and marrying, **Robin** became a teacher and **Dave** worked for the Greenville City Police and County Schools.

Moving to Pennsylvania, **Dave** enrolled in Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield and finished in 1982 with a Master of Divinity.

They joined the Bible Fellowship Church, a small denomination in the mid-Atlantic area, which ordained Dave to the gospel ministry.

They moved to Selinsgrove in 1983 to start a BFC while **Dave** worked as an assistant pastor in nearby Sunbury. When after four years the church plant closed, they found jobs in the local economy. **Robin** taught math at the local middle school, and **Dave** “made tents” by working with UPS while preaching and teaching in area churches.

Now retired from teaching and tent-making, their hearts continue to focus on worshipping and serving the Lord in a reformed church, so they joined an Orthodox Presbyterian congregation where they minister in various capacities.

After meeting Tom and Melody Hartman in 2024, their desire was rekindled to help start a reformed Presbyterian church in eastern Snyder County. **Dave** contributed the name “Valley Presbyterian Church,” preaches occasionally at its services, and serves as its Treasurer.

- **Jack and Jane DeBardleben:** jack@theskillednegotiator.com, (609) 203-5191
jane@theskillednegotiator.com, (610) 574-5426 – 51 Fairway Dr, Lewisburg, PA 17837



A graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, **Jack** served as pastor of RPCES and PCA churches, as Chairman of the Candidates Committee of Philadelphia Presbytery, and as Dean of Students at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, where he taught leadership to students and directed their field education. At the seminary’s extension center, he taught Romans and preaching to minority pastors. After earning an MA in Biblical counseling at Colorado Christian University, Jack pursued doctoral studies in social and organizational

psychology at Columbia University in NYC. He currently leads street evangelism efforts in Danville and Selinsgrove, PA and preaches occasionally at VPC.

Jane is a board member of ServingLeaders Ministries which provides church leaders and their families with pastoral counseling, ministry coaching, mediation, and legal consultations. She also writes and emails a free devotional blog for women, available upon request.

After retiring from full-time ministry, **Jack and Jane** have taught negotiation and leadership and coached corporate executives and PCA pastors. As the parents of four grown children and five grandchildren, they have also enjoyed teaching Sunday School to 6 – 8-year-olds.

- **Tom and Melody Hartman:** tmhartman715@gmail.com, (717) 875-1623, 54 N Broad Street, Selinsgrove, PA 17870



Tom and Melody Hartman have been a married ministry team for 52 years with 2 children and 5 grandchildren. They moved to Selinsgrove two years ago and purchased a home within walking distance of Susquehanna University.

Tom has served in several churches in various positions: Assistant Pastor, Organist, Christian Education, Youth Ministry, and Pastoral Visitation. For several years he served as a Chaplin in retirement homes.

Melody is now retired from teaching math at the middle school, high school, and college levels. She also worked as the Administrator/Office Manager at a church in Elizabethtown for 10 years.

They helped to plant and strengthen Proclamation PCA in Mount Joy, PA for ten years where **Tom** served as a Ruling Elder and they were involved in various ministries and community groups, helped lead music in worship, and taught Sunday school.

- **Zach and Johanna Levi:** zachlevi@gmail.com – 607-339-1353
Johanna Levi: johannaklevi@gmail.com – 717-449-9746
712 University Place, Selinsgrove, PA 17870



Zach and Johanna married at Westminster PCA in Lancaster, PA in 2011. Since they work as professional musicians, they served in musical roles at Westminster and became members there in 2012. In 2014, they became members and musicians at Proclamation PCA, a mission church of Westminster in Mt. Joy, PA, where they served on the music ministry team and filled other needs in the nursery and Sunday School from 2014 to 2022. In 2022,

Zach joined the music faculty at Susquehanna University and along with their boys, Samuel (10) and Owen (7), they moved to Selinsgrove in 2023.

With a master's in music education, **Johanna** has taught music students from elementary to collegiate levels. As a violinist, she enjoys performing with her husband and various regional symphonies. **Zach** earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting. He conducts the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. As a cellist, he has performed in master classes with David Ying, Steven Doane, Paul Katz, and Yo-Yo Ma.

The Levis find great joy in supporting hymn sings and worship services with their music and opening their home to neighbors, community members, and college students. They are excited to see how God is working to grow his church in the area and are committed to being used in his plan.

10. Are any children involved in planting VPC?



YES! Here are some of them. We *love* the involvement of children!

11. How is Valley Presbyterian Church supported financially?

- Members of the Ministry Committee have pledged \$23,500 to VPC over the next year.
- Susquehanna Valley Presbytery contributed over \$41,400 to VPC from its 2025 budget and has set a goal of raising \$100,000 more from its member churches in 2026.
- Offerings from worshipers made by check are tax deductible.
- Compensation for our Organizing Pastor will depend on his giftedness, education, ministry interests and priorities, experience, assessment scores, sample sermons, ministry recommendations, and family circumstances.

12. Now it's your turn: what questions do you have for us?

- We're praying for the Lord to send us a godly and gifted Organizing Pastor, and we're happy to answer your inquiries.
- We're friendly people, so drop us a line or give us a call at our contact info above.
- We'd love to talk *with you* about reaching the people of beautiful, historic Selinsgrove!



“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd” (Mt. 9:36).