



- St. David's Event: A Celebration of the Declaration of Independence
- Sunday, June 28, 2026
- St. David's Episcopal Church, 763 S. Valley Forge Road, Wayne, PA

On June 28, 2026, St. David's Episcopal Church (est. 1715) will host a public "Celebration of the Declaration of Independence" at our historic fairgrounds in Wayne, Chester County. This free, family-friendly event will commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding by bringing the community together for a live reading of the Declaration of Independence, children's and family games, and a traditional American cookout.

The reading of the Declaration will be performed by members of the community—children, teens, veterans, civic leaders, and long-time residents—making this truly a commemoration "by the people, for the people." By inviting diverse voices to participate, we aim to reflect both the historical significance of 1776 and our ongoing commitment to liberty and justice for all. Children's Ministries will provide engaging educational activities that help young participants understand the meaning of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness in age-appropriate and interactive ways.

This event is being spearheaded by our History and Archives Commission, which preserves and interprets our parish's 300+ years of local and national history. As one of the oldest institutions in the region, St. David's is uniquely positioned to connect Chester County's story to the broader American narrative. Our fairgrounds—long a gathering place for community celebrations—provide an accessible and welcoming setting for this milestone anniversary.

We anticipate welcoming several hundred community members from Wayne and the surrounding Chester County region. The overall event budget is approximately \$7,500, covering staging and sound equipment for the public reading, children's program materials, food and hospitality, promotional outreach, and logistical support. Grant funding from the Chester County Community Foundation will help offset event production costs and ensure the event remains free and open to all.

Through this celebration, we aim to deepen civic understanding, foster intergenerational connection, and create a joyful, inclusive space to reflect on America's founding ideals and our shared responsibility to advance them. By gathering in fellowship, education, and gratitude, we hope to let freedom ring in a way that honors the past while inspiring the future.