

## May 2022 Newsletter

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## The Tree of Life by Pastor Scott

April showers sure did bring May flowers. Isn't it great to see new life blooming all around us? We are so fortunate. Spending time outdoors is a pleasure these days. And I want to make a special shout out to our Trustees who keep GPUMC so beautiful. If I didn't know that Tom Dittmar had his own house, I would swear he lived in our garage, as he is here working tirelessly most days. He sure could use your help; connect with him any Sunday morning to volunteer time. Church work is a communal obligation.

The Bible has many hints to God's beauty, particularly to plants and flowers. The Book of Genesis has our creation story, centered around such things, the Garden of Eden. In The Garden was a flowering tree, the Bible calls it the Tree of Life. And according to many scholars, there is another tree, the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Two separate trees. Both found at the center of the garden. I once thought that it was the same tree, but as we dig deeper into the text, we find that each tree serves a separate function. In the Abrahamic traditions Judaism and Christianity, and Muslim, the tree of life is first described in chapter 2, verse 9 of the Book of Genesis as being "in the midst of the Garden of Eden" with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Tree of Life appears both in the first book of the (OT) Bible Genesis, and the last book of the (NT) Revelation. The tree of life, mentioned in the books of Genesis and Revelation, is a life-giving tree created to enhance and perpetually sustain the physical and spiritual life of humanity. The tree was planted by God in the Garden of Eden: “The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food and sustenance. It was planted in the middle of the garden so that from any point, it was easily accessible.”

Excerpt below from <https://agodman.com/the-tree-of-life-signifies-christ-as-life-to-man-hes-so-available-and-satisfying/>:

“The Tree of Life Signifies Christ as Life to Man in the Form of Food

God planted a garden called Eden, and in the middle of the garden, He put the tree of life (Gen. 2:8-9). The tree of life signifies the Triune God embodied in Christ as life to man in the form of food. The fact that God placed man in front of the tree of life and gave him indications to eat of this tree shows that God's intention is to come into man as life and be lived out through man for the fulfilling of His purpose.

This is our link to go in many ways. How many ways can you find Jesus in your daily Christian walk as you walk amongst the flowers?”

Green Pond United  
Methodist Church

[www.greenpondumc.com](http://www.greenpondumc.com)

## What's Happening in May—Pam & Helen Boddy

### Worship Schedule for May

### Announcements

**Finance Update:** Below is a brief summary of March's balance, as well as our Year to Date balance, from our Finance Team. As always, feel free to contact Brad Schaeffer (schaefferfinancialandtax@yahoo.com), our Financial Advisor, if you have any questions.

#### GPUMC FINANCE SUMMARY MARCH 31, 2022

|                   | MAR. 2022   |
|-------------------|-------------|
| INCOME            | 12,115.13   |
| HOUSING REIMBURSE | 1,910.02    |
| EXPENSES          | (28,049.07) |
| GAIN/(LOSS)       | (14,023.92) |
|                   |             |
|                   | YTD 2022    |
| INCOME            | 30,923.55   |
| HOUSING REIMBURSE | 5,730.06    |
| EXPENSES          | (64,178.56) |
| GAIN/(LOSS)       | (27,524.95) |

- May 1 Pam Boddy preaches  
Baked Potato Bar after the service
- May 8 Pastor Scott preaches and Communion
- May 15 Pastor Scott preaches  
New Members Tea after the service
- May 22 Pastor Scott preaches
- May 29 Micah Gary-Fryer preaches

An additional note: the church office will be closed the first week of May (May 2-6) while our staff is on vacation. Regular hours will resume the following Monday, May 9. If there is a pastoral emergency during that time, you can contact Pastor Scott at 610-717-8336. Thank you!

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### Save the Dates in June—Pam Boddy

- June 5 Pastor Scott Preaches  
Youth Sunday  
Youth Drumming
- June 12 Pastor Scott's last week  
Graduate Sunday  
luncheon following service
- June 19 Pam Boddy preaches
- June 26 Micah Gary-Fryer preaches

## **Where Are You Going?—Megan Schaeffer**

As much as my daughter loves going to kindergarten, she has started a count-down to the last day of school. It's fun to celebrate the ending of a school year. Celebrate the achievements and celebrate the perseverance through disappointments. As a teacher, there is something about this time of year that gets me ready to plan for the next school year. As one school year ends, I reflect on where I've been with my class, but I also think about where we are going in the future. What will my class be like next year? Will I see the same successes and disappointments? Will next school year be better? Or worse?

This year I taught preschool for the first time in my career. It's been so exciting to watch these little ones grow and learn and play. They have so much life ahead of them. Here at church, I get to see children and teens at different places in their childhood, too. Many are getting ready for middle school next year, and one is heading off to college. Throughout our childhood, we reach milestones all the time. There is the natural progression of toddler to kid to teen to adult. But what happens after we reach adulthood? Does our journey end? Does it is plateau? A wise friend recently told me that we must fight our human nature to measure our journey in quantity (meaning years lived, or successes achieved). Instead, we need to put our focus on our life quality (meaning what brings us joy and fulfillment). God's journey for us is never ending. It's constantly evolving. If I could go back in time and tell my younger self advice, I would say, "Don't take anything too seriously. Find what feels good and let go of what doesn't. Allow yourself to experience joy every day. Let God lead you where you need to go and trust that everything will be okay, because it always is." Since I can't go back in time, these are my words to my daughter, to my preschoolers, and my young friends here at church. We might not always know where God is leading us next or what he has in mind for our life adventure; however, we can always feel confident in knowing that he has our back.

Where is God leading you this season? Is he opening doors for you to walk through? Or is he telling you to be still and wait? Consider Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him and He will make straight your paths.* Take a moment for yourself this day and listen for God's voice. Pray he will guide you and give you what you need.

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## **“Praylight” Begins in May—Pam Boddy**

I believe in the power of prayer. I believe that God hears every prayer. I believe that God delights in our prayers. I believe prayer can open possibilities that would not otherwise exist. I believe that quiet prayer is necessary to connect with God, and listen for His voice to lead and sustain us. And I believe in Jesus' promise:

“Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them,”

Matthew 18:20

‘Praylight’, a new small group, begins Wednesday, May 18 at 12:30. The name is a shortening of ‘Praying in the Daylight’. Join us as we take one hour each week to pray together. We will pray for each other, for the prayer requests on our prayer wall, for our church family, for our region, our nation and the world.

## Children & Youth Ministry Announcements

### Upcoming

Kid & Teen Worship will be held in person on Sundays at 10am.

June 5 is Youth Sunday

VBS will be held July 11 – 14 from 9:30-11:30am

### Grow in God's Love!

#### **Kid Worship & Teen Worship**

Kid and Teen Worship continue in-person throughout May! We will meet during our 10am worship service. May 22 will be a rehearsal day for our June 5 performance.

### Go in God's Love!

#### **Youth Sunday**

Save the date! On Sunday, June 5 we will celebrate our children and youth population with a worship service dedicated to them. Any child or teen that is interested in participating in this worship service is welcome. We will have readers, singers, drummers (no experience necessary) and behind the scenes jobs to help with technology. Please see Megan Schaeffer for more details about how your child can participate.

### A Special Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who helped out with our Easter Egg Hunt! Set up and clean up was easy thanks to you! A special thank you to the Carlberg/Meyering Family, Drake Family, Dianne DeSantis, Joanne Gary, Micah Gary-Fryer, Marks Family, Paulus Family, and our Gospel Train Club! It was a fun morning for our families and community!



### Vacation Bible School!

Dates for VBS have been set for Monday, July 11 – Thursday, July 14 from 9:30am-11:30am. Our theme for VBS this year will be Adventure Island. We'll learn about 3 stories from the Bible: The Creation Story, Moses and the Burning Bush, Faith through the roof, and Mary at the tomb. Our theme verse comes from Isaiah 60:1 Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you! Each morning we will gather to hear a Bible story, sing songs, play games, and complete a craft. Activities will be held in our sanctuary and outside weather permitting. VBS is great for kids entering kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Invite your friends! Registration is open now! Click below to sign up!

<https://greenpondumc.breezechms.com/form/2feae845>