

# Green Pond United Methodist Church

## October 2017 Newsletter

### Table of Contents

Calendar	
Letter from the Pastor.....	1
Children & Youth Ministry Announcements.....	3
2017 Summer Camperships.....	4
Note from the Trustees.....	5
Letter and Updates from Missions.....	5
Fundraising Updates from Larry.....	6

# OCT 2017

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:15 AM CASUAL, 9:15 AM CONTEMPORARY & KID WORSHIP, 10:45 AM TRADITIONAL  
THE NURSERY IS OPEN DURING 9:15 AND 10:45 SERVICES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>01</b> Communion	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b> Choir 7 PM	<b>05</b> Busy Hands 1:30 PM T.A. Bible Study 1:30 PM	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>08</b>	<b>09</b> Trustees 7 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Choir 7 PM	<b>12</b> T.A. Bible Study 1:30 PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Confirmation 9:15 AM Apple Dumpling Bakers 5-9 PM	<b>16</b> Apple Dumpling Bakers 8 AM-12 & 5-9 PM SPRC 7 PM	<b>17</b> Apple Dumpling Bakers 8 AM-12 Pickup 12-2:30 PM	<b>18</b> Choir 7 PM	<b>19</b> Busy Hands 1:30 PM T.A. Bible Study 1:30 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Trunk or Treat 12-2 PM Koinonia 1 PM
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Church Council 7 PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Choir 7 PM	<b>26</b> Pastie pick up 11 AM-12 T.A. Bible Study 1:30 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Charge Conference 2 PM Fundraiser Dinner 4:30 PM
<b>29</b> All Church Sunday 10 AM Baked Potato Bar right after	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## OCTOBER'S LETTER FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Holy Conferencing is a term that we use at Annual Conference (our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church yearly meeting) to describe the work, the business, and the worshiping that happens at that annual business meeting. I think that we should adapt that same attitude here at Green Pond United Methodist Church for every meeting we hold here. As we gather together as a church, whether in worship, at meetings, or in mission, we should be reminded that all we do is for the Lord.

On Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 2:00pm we will be conducting our Charge Conference here at GPUMC with 4 other local churches. The four other churches that we are associated with is called a "Cluster." The "Cluster of the "Northampton County Region" consists of GPUMC, Bethlehem: Wesley/ Rev. Andy Karpata, Easton: Christ UMC/ Rev. Joe Grasser, Easton: La Hermosa/ Pastor Manfredo Martinez Luna, Allentown: La Familia de Dios/ Pastor Manfredo Martinez Luna. "Holy Conferencing is: Bringing Grace to Tough Conversations."

Here are a few quotes from an article where various United Methodist leaders use holy conferencing as a concept (Note: The article was written by Rev. Kevin Watson on Vital Piety.):

"Holy conferencing became really important as we gathered at the table to listen to all the reasons of why we should or shouldn't move forward... When there would be a conflict or some tension or a variety of opinions, we would commit to listen to each other and approach each other with grace as much as possible. We always remembered that we have a place to stand together even if we don't end up in the same place at the end of the conversation." – Rev. Trudy Robinson, First UMC Littleton, CO

"Holy conferencing developed out of recognizing who people were, with a theological commitment that each person is a child of God and deserves to be treated as one." – Rev. Stephen Cady, Kingston UMC, NJ

"It's not just an exchange of opinions... but a real attempt to move toward a common understanding of God's will and intention towards Christians. It's a holy thing to be undertaken with seriousness and integrity. It's an opportunity to build on the trust that is already there and to allow people to seek together for the truth." – Rev. Tom Lambrecht, vice-president, Good News

One gets a similar sense from the ["Principles of Holy Conferencing"](#)

1. *Every person is a child of God*
2. *Listen before speaking*
3. *Strive to understand from another's point of view*
4. *Strive to reflect accurately the views of others*
5. *Disagree without being disagreeable*
6. *Speak about issues; do not defame people*

*7. Pray, in silence or aloud, before decisions*

*8. Let prayer interrupt your busy-ness*

This is a helpful list. And these principles are important to keep in mind when having any conversations. I have seen too many examples in person and (more often) online where these principles have not been practiced by Christians. So, I think this is a well thought out and helpful guide, in particular to having difficult conversations. However, at the end of the day, it still looks like the focus is on being nice.

My sense from thinking about the use of “holy conferencing” in contemporary discourse over the past six months or so is that it is being appealed to so heavily because, during a time when there are areas of profound differences and disagreement in our culture and particularly among Methodists, it is a way to find something we can agree on. We should be able to agree to be nice when we disagree with each other, to “disagree without being disagreeable.”

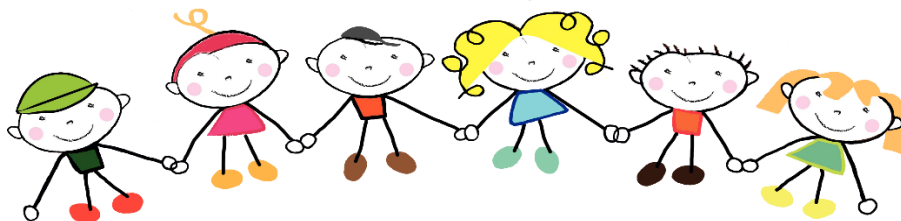
Sometimes the areas of disagreement often go so deep that someone finds the statement of a particular position to itself be disagreeable. In other words, the use of “holy conferencing” presumes an ability to not take the beliefs and convictions of another as a personal attack. Secondly, I am not sure we are currently in a place where people are always able to make a distinction between honest disagreement and intentionally being disagreeable, or intentionally hurtful. My hope is that we here at Green Pond United Methodist Church can stand together, even though we are not in the same place.

### **Reminder:**

Charge Conference is coming up on Saturday, October 28 here at the church at 2 PM. Immediately afterward, at 4:30 PM, we will be having a fundraiser dinner benefitting our own Barbie Oakley.

Please also note that we will be having our All Church Sunday Worship Service on Sunday, October 29 at 10 AM in lieu of our regular services.

## Children & Youth Ministry Announcements



### Upcoming Go Events!

*Go Events are an opportunity for kids and teens to go out and serve by spreading God's love.*

**Serving at Safe Harbor!** Teens are invited to help serve lunch to the residents at Safe Harbor on Sunday, October 29 from 11:30-12:30pm.



### Upcoming Grow Events!

*Grow Events are an opportunity for kids and teens to grow in relationship with God.*

**Kid Worship** continues at 9:15am Sunday mornings for students in grades K-6. We will not have Kid Worship on Oct. 29 because it is an all church Sunday service at 10am.

**Confirmation Class** will continue to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from September 2017 - May 2018.

### Upcoming Connect Events!

*Connect Events are an opportunity for kids and teens to grow in relationship with each other.*



**Trunk-Or-Treat** will be on Saturday, October 21 from 12-2pm. **Treaters** of all ages are invited to attend our Trunk-Or-Treat. In addition to lots of candy, we'll have games, snacks, and a special appearance from our Train Club! **Trunkers** are encouraged to attend and park their vehicles, decorate their trunks, and hand out candy to our treaters.

Please contact Megan Schaeffer at [greenpondumcyouth@rcn.com](mailto:greenpondumcyouth@rcn.com) to RSVP for any of these events!

## 2017 Summer Camperships

This past summer Green Pond UMC's Trustees were able to send five youth to Christian summer camps through the Reimert Fund. The youth and their families are grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank our church for their financial assistance!



Notes from camper scholarship recipients:

Dear Green Pond United Methodist family,

Thank you so much for sponsoring and allowing me to go to PA youth camp over the summer. Every time I return my faith grows stronger and stronger. During camp, the day starts off with a morning service followed by non-stop games and activities throughout the day and then an intense night service saving so many teens and bringing them closer to the Lord. At camp, I feel at peace with my faith and following Jesus. I am truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to return to camp and cannot wait until next summer!

Thank you so much,  
Emma Gulick

Dear Green Pond UMC,

We would love to thank all of those who were involved in sending our children (Marissa & Christopher) to Camp Pocono Plateau. The experience for them was incredible. We have gotten so much feedback on how much fun they had. To have been able to send both children was a blessing. The camp is also encouraging and teaching the word of Jesus. So amazing. The quiet time reflecting on Jesus is awesome and reading the bible is so encouraging. They are both still talking about it, new friends, camp fire, swimming, canoeing, walks, crafts, all of it they loved and want to go again.  
~Maria and Christopher Wisk

Dear Green Pond UMC,

Jonah and Ella relayed to me that they both really liked attending camp at Pocono Plateau this summer because the counselors are a lot of fun and are really kind! They love the food, too! Ella loved camp last year so much for the 3-day camp, that this year she stayed the week and brought a good friend with her! Both kids enjoy that they can get to know the kids they are with because the groups are not huge and that makes for a fun time! This was Jonah's 5th year and Ella is already talking about next years' camp!

~Serfass Family

**REMINDER: ANYONE LOCKING UP THE BUILDING AND SETTING ALARM:**

THE TRUSTEES WOULD LIKE TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT BEFORE LOCKING UP THE BUILDING AND SETTING THE ALARM... **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PHYSICALLY LOOK IN THE ROOMS TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS EXITED (DO A VISUAL CHECK).** THE ALARM WILL BE ACTIVATED IF THERE IS MOTION IN THE HALLWAY (NOT IN ROOMS). THEREFORE, IF SOMEONE IS IN A ROOM AND WALKS OUT IN THE HALL AND THE ALARM IS SET, IT WILL TRIGGER THE ALARM. THE POLICE WILL BE DISPATCHED AND WE COULD BE FINED IF WE RECEIVE TOO MANY FALSE ALARMS.

**THANK YOU, THE TRUSTEES**

### **Letter and Update from Missions**

Hello everyone!! Let me first start by saying a huge THANK YOU to all of you for the incredible contributions you made to UMCOR. The funds raised allowed us to put together 35 buckets for the flood victims in Houston and Florida. Your generosity in helping people in need is beyond incredible!!!

We will be participating in the Miracle League Trick or Treat on 10/21/17 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. If anyone is interested in participating please be in touch with Diana Gerbino or Bonnie Hapstack.

Missions continues with their contributions of crackers to the backpack pals as well as the pancake mix and syrup for ProJeCt. Please continue to help with this mission.

Our world is a bit mixed up right now and it can cause some concern for our future...but we sure are doing some big, meaningful things here at Green Pond!! These positive things help us balance out some of the unrest.

Spread the love!!

Thanks everyone!!

Bonnie Hapstack :)

The Missions Team is now collecting warmer Fall and Winter clothing, sneakers, shoes as well as blankets, sleeping bags, and tents. Please bring any of the above and drop it off in the Missions room in the hallway. Thank you!!

## Fundraising Updates from Larry

**Pastie orders are due by October 18, with pickup on October 26 (11 AM-Noon).** Order forms are available in the church lobby. Please make checks available to Green Pond U.M. Church. To order by phone, please call Nan (610-252-8858) or Larry (610-625-4211). See Larry Heinrich for more details.

**Christmas Lunch and Show at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Limited seats remaining, \$65.50 per seat.** An ensemble cast of multitalented performers celebrate Christmas in an original holiday song and dance fest featuring traditional carols, classic and contemporary Yuletide compositions, humorous skits, and spectacular dance numbers—all backed by a live onstage orchestra. Sign-up is in the lobby; please see Larry Heinrich for more details.