THE GARDEN

"…some of the seed fell on good soil" Mark 4:8

Oct. – Nov. 2026 Newsletter

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Pastor Jen's Office Hours: Available Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays by appointment.

Green Pond United Methodist Church

www.greenpondumc.com

Faithful Living this Fall by Rev. Jen Miller

Can you believe that it is October already? It is crazy how quickly things seem to move in church life. October is shaping up to be another wonderful ministry filled month and we hope that whether it is in Kid's Church, Bible Study, Fall Fellowship, "The Sweet Side of Science" and of course Sunday worship that you will be a part of it all.

There is a seasonal aspect to life that closely mirrors the seasons of the year. We are in the middle of a wonderful season of busyness here at the church, but just because we are busy, we do not need to be burdened. Jesus says many wonderful things, and one of my favorite Jesus sayings is: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11: 28-30). Jesus is telling us in this moment that if we ground the work we do, whether for the church, or our families, and even our community, in God we will find not a life of ease but a life of joyful work.

We are not called to live easy lives; we are called to faithful living. Faithful living includes giving thanks to God at the end of a busy day for the places where you saw His grace shining through. Jesus reminds us in this passage from Matthew that there will be work to do, but we don't need to be overwhelmed by it because Jesus is with us every step of the way and as much as we desire to lead lives of faith for Jesus, Jesus will always be faithful to us.



Announcements

GPUMC FINANCE SUMMARY
AUGUST 31, 2026

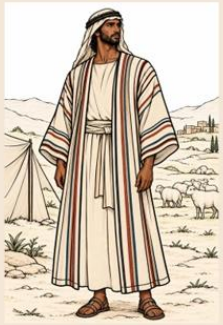
	AUG. 2026
COLLECTION	22,163.13
OTHER INCOME	1,213.13
HOUSING REIMBURSE	1,833.33
EXPENSES	(19,962.03)
GAIN/(LOSS)	5,247.56

	YTD 2026
COLLECTION	127,647.76
OTHER INCOME	35,422.93
HOUSING REIMBURSE	14,666.64
EXPENSES	(187,400.18)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(9,662.85)

Bible Study This Fall—Pam Boddy

Genesis Chapters 37-50 contain the story of Joseph. It's a story filled with very human themes: jealousy, favoritism, violent fury, truth-telling and lies, endurance, and dysfunctional family dynamics. Underpinning it all is God's faithful, providential hand and Joseph's response of forgiveness and grace.

Beginning in October, Jim Cyr will be leading a six-week Bible Study exploring the story of Joseph. It is offered twice each week: Tuesday afternoons at Noon (beginning October 6), and Thursday evenings at 7 PM (beginning October 8). You are invited to come and learn more about the man who famously said: "What you intended for evil, God meant for good".



"God shows up, disguised as your life." Paula D'Arcy

A six week study of themes from the life of Joseph

led by Jim Cyr

Tuesdays at noon or Thursdays at 7 PM

Tues., Oct. 6, Thurs., Oct. 8 – Family
Tues., Oct. 13, Thurs., Oct. 15 – Dreams
Tues., Oct. 20, Thurs., Oct. 22 – Empire
Tues., Oct. 27, Thurs., October 29 – Suffering
Tues., Nov. 10, Thurs., Nov.12 – Guilt & Forgiveness
Tues., Nov. 17, Thurs., Nov. 19 – God disguised as your life

Intention of Giving 2027—Pam Boddy

In the fall, we ask the congregation to prayerfully consider what they can give to the church in the coming year. It helps the church plan the budget for the year. If it ever seems tiresome to be reminded to give, consider the following poem, by James Ryle:

"Break to the needy sweet Charity's bread,
for giving is living," the angel said.

"What!? Giving again?" I asked in dismay.
"Must I keep on giving and giving away?"

"Oh, no," said the angel; piercing me through.
"Just give, 'till the Father stops giving to you."

Green Pond UMC Member Receives Environmental Volunteer Award—Celia Williams

Congratulations to Green Pond UMC member **Thomas Dittmar**, who has been selected as a co-recipient of the first Palmer Township Environmental Volunteer Award, along with Earth Stewards of Palmer.

Tom has dedicated decades to environmental service in Palmer Township. He served on the Palmer Township's environmental committee from 1993 to 2023, where his work included educating residents about composting and helping establish e-recycling and household hazardous waste collection programs. He later continued this work as Director of Environmental Resources for Northampton County, helping expand these environmental programs beyond Palmer Township.

Tom and co-recipient Earth Stewards of Palmer were formally recognized for this honor at the October 5 meeting of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors.

We congratulate Tom on this well-deserved recognition and celebrate his many years of service to our community.



Election Day Bake Sale: Mark Your Calendar—Deanne Gade

Many churches that are polling sites run very successful bake sales. The church council has decided to hold a bake sale on Election Day this November 3rd. Please mark your calendar as we will be reaching out to all you bakers for HOMEMADE treats to sell. We will need them at the church on Monday, November 2nd. Time to be announced.

We will also need help to sell these baked goods, so please, if you can give an hour or two consider signing up to help sell. If you have any questions, please reach out to Deanne Gade.

Children & Youth Ministry Announcements

Fall Prayer

God, as the season changes, help us to grow in faith, connect with one another, and go forth to share Your love. Open our hearts to the needs around us, guide us in using our gifts to serve others, and help us reflect Your love in all that we do. Amen.

Grow in God's Love

Kid Worship & Teen Worship

Kid & Teen Worship returned on September 13, and we are excited to have our children and teens back for another year of learning and growing in faith. Through age-appropriate lessons, conversations, activities, and time together, our young people have opportunities to explore Scripture, ask questions, build relationships, and discover how faith connects with their everyday lives.

We are grateful for the children and teens who participate, the families who support these ministries, and the volunteers who give their time and talents each week. As the year continues, we look forward to seeing our children and teens continue to grow in their faith and in their relationships with God and one another.

Connect in God's Love

Science Saturday

Science Saturday returns to Green Pond UMC on Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This year's theme, "The Sweet Side of Chemistry," will bring science to life through a morning of hands-on experiments, learning, discovery, and fun. Participants will explore science through activities featuring candy, strawberries, yeast, and even ice cream. Science Saturday is open to all ages, so there will be something for everyone to discover and enjoy.

More than just a morning of experiments, Science Saturday is an opportunity to connect with one another and welcome members of our wider community to Green Pond. Invite a friend, bring the family, and join us for The Sweet Side of Chemistry! See Celia Williams for more details.

Go in God's Love

Faith in Action

As a new school year began, Green Pond UMC celebrated the Blessing of the Backpacks, surrounding our students with prayer and encouragement as they began another year. The blessing was also a reminder that God goes with us wherever we go. Each day gives us opportunities to carry God's love beyond the walls of the church and into our schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

We can carry that same spirit with us in our own daily lives. We can check on a neighbor, help someone who is going through a difficult time, care for our community, share our time and talents, or simply offer encouragement to someone who needs it. Each of us has something to offer. As we move through this fall season, let us continue to look for opportunities to go forth, serve others, and put God's love into action wherever we are.