

Nov. 2022 Newsletter

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Green Pond United
Methodist Church
www.greenpondumc.com

Autumn Blessings by Pastor Barbara Lee

As I was pondering some words to share with you, I decided to step away from the cacophony of election news distracting me from my work in order to go for a quiet, afternoon walk. The autumn hues seemed especially startling and vibrant—explosive reds, varied golds, blazing and rusty oranges—made me wonder if somehow I had not paid attention to their beauty in recent years. The community garden in my neighborhood has already produced a remarkable harvest, flowers clustered around the fences fading now to crisp browns.

Deer in my neighborhood have become so tame that they sometimes wander in and out of our yard at all times of day, eyeing me cautiously, while they move slowly in search of another neighbors' pretty landscaping, which they like to nibble like candy. I wondered where the proud, young buck with the misshapen antler was on this afternoon? Amidst the patches of sunshine, a squirrel busies himself in and out of a pile of leaves, in a hurried effort to store up her supplies for winter—sharp eyes alert for a hidden acorn.

Autumn for me, at least when I am paying attention, is a deeply spiritual time—a time of beauty and bounty, and a reminder that in this mysterious process of decay, seeds are buried in the earth. I like to remember that these seeds will patiently hold all sorts of possibilities. They invite me to be patient.

The prophet Jeremiah bids us to stop and observe, saying:

*Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies, and walk in it, and
find rest for your souls.*

Jeremiah 6:16

This month, as we remember and honor our saints, and celebrate our holiday of thanksgiving, take a moment to look around. Think about the roads you have traveled. Ponder the turns you took and those you did not take at the fork in the road, and wonder what they meant for your life. Take some deep breaths and find rest for your soul. And then, let us join hands to seek out “where the good way lies and walk in it”.

Autumn Blessings to one and all,
Pastor Barbara

Tree of Giving 2022—Megan Schaeffer

Look for the Tree of Giving to be set up later this month. This is an annual event where we at Green Pond UMC donate gifts to families in need in our area to let them know they are loved by God and us. The Tree of Giving will be a virtual sign up again this year using Sign Up Genius. When available, a link for the list will be emailed to everyone. Green Pond UMC is committing to 50 tags. You may select a tag, purchase the suggested gift ideas, and place gifts unwrapped in a gift bag. Gifts will need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 11. They will then be picked up by Northampton County case workers to be delivered to local families. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation to be spent on a tag, please label your donations for “Tree of Giving”. Our Youth Group will be shopping for any unclaimed tags. Please see Megan Schaeffer (childministry@greenpondumc.com) for assistance or questions.

Announcements

Finance Update: Below is a brief summary of September’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 SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

	SEP 2022
INCOME	12,779.13
HOUSING REIMBURSE	1,833.33
EXPENSES	(17,346.13)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(2,733.67)
	YTD 2022
INCOME	115,693.71
HOUSING REIMBURSE	17,113.49
EXPENSES	(187,453.15)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(54,645.95)

NOTE: The church office will be closed on Tuesday, November 8 for Election Day and Thursday, November 24 for Thanksgiving.

Pastor Barbara’s Office Hours: Available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays by appointment.

Intention for Giving—Pastor Barbara

As the Finance team begins to budget for 2023, our church leadership asks that each one of us prayerfully consider our giving for the coming year. We often talk about the “tithes” or the goal of setting aside ten percent of one’s income as the biblical guideline for giving to the work of God through your local church. Tithing is giving back to God a portion of what God has given us. And giving can also grow our faith as we trust God to provide for all our needs so that we can see our community of faith grow spiritually, drawing more people to follow Jesus. Our ASK is this:

- Take an “Intention for Giving” card home and pray over it.
- Figure out what percentage of income you are giving now.
- If you never thought about being intentional before—could you please pray about it and be intentional?
- If you are giving 1 percent of your income—could you manage 2 percent?
- If you are at 5 percent, could you go for 6 percent?
- Could you trust God to provide for your needs?
- Whatever you do is between you and God, we just ask that you pray and please be intentional.
- Please help with our budget planning for 2023 by handing in the card by November 20.
- Pray that together, we can close the gap between our incoming funds and expenses.
- Be watching for God’s surprises and blessings!

Christmas Outreach Food Baskets—Deanne Gade

Once again, we will partner with the Easton School district to provide 60 food baskets to families of need. Starting Sunday, October 30th, we will have bags with the list of items to purchase for you to sign up to help with this project. The average cost to fill the bag is about \$25. If you do not want to shop to fill the bag, you can donate cash and the Missions team will shop for the items. If you want to donate funds to purchase the items, you can place your donation in an envelope on Sunday morning or mail it to the church with the notation of Christmas Basket.

The filled bags are due to back to the church on Sunday, November 20th.

The Green Pond congregation is always extremely generous and step up to meet our mission goals. Thank you for supporting all our mission projects and helping those that need our compassion and assistance.

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

Lobby Refresh—Pam Boddy

Our lobby has a new, fresh look! More than six months of research, planning, and brainstorming went into this refresh. The reimagined space includes an area to sit for cozy conversations, an information/welcoming area, and an area for Mission collection and Hospitality, (love in action). The soft green color on the welcome wall ties our virtual front door (the website) with our physical front door.

Our church’s central value is love. We humbly receive God’s love, and try to reflect that love to one another. It is the reason for all we do, the inspiration for all we try to be. The Bible’s teaching about love is literally written on the walls.

Many thanks to:

Tom Dittmar and John Gerbino for the many hours and aches and pains incurred painting the space,

Deanne Gade, Bonnie Hapstack and Laura Mateulewicz, for applying their experience as “cricut-ers” for the lettering,

Megan Schaeffer, for reframing the pictures of our church’s roots in a way that honors the congregations that came before us,

Micah Gary-Fryer, for creating the seating area, including donating the coffee tables,

Joanne Gary, Raylene Frankenfield and Pat Yadush, for their sage advice and encouragement,

and the entire Trustees committee.

“ These three remain, Faith hope and love, but the greatest of these is LOVE.” 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Gospel Train Club Looking for Volunteers—Helen Boddy

The Gospel Train Club is looking for new members and/or volunteers to help out! There are no regular meetings, however events are typically an all-day commitment. You do not need any special skills to be able to help out; simply be willing to talk to people and able to help put the trains and tracks together. If interested, please reach out to Bill Austin (610-253-2280) or Larry Heinrich (610-625-4211).

Children & Youth Ministry Announcements

Upcoming

Family Advent Night
Friday, Dec. 2

Youth Shopping Trip
for Tree of Giving
Sunday, Dec. 11

Grow in God's Love!

Kid Worship & Teen Worship

Kid and Teen Worship continue all month long! All ages will begin in the sanctuary with their families at 10am. Around 10:15am, the kids and teens will be dismissed from the service to attend Kid & Teen Worship for age-appropriate activities and discussion. Kid Worship is ideal for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Teen Worship is designed for students in grades 6 through 12. Invite a friend!

Our Nursery and Prayground is open for younger toddlers and preschoolers.

Connect in God's Love!

Family Advent Night

Join the children and youth ministry for a fun night out with your family and friends! On Friday, Dec. 2 from 7pm to 8pm we will be hosting a Family Advent Night Event. We will sing carols, play games, and complete activities that can be taken home to enjoy throughout the advent season. This event will be appropriate for all ages. Friends welcome!

Go in God's Love!

Youth Ministry Shopping Trip

Our youth group will be shopping for Tree of Giving Tags on Sunday, Dec. 11. We will meet at a local store to purchase items with monetary donations for remaining tags. Stay tuned for more details!

Please see Megan Schaeffer (childministry@greenpondumc.org) or Jen Biddle for further questions or information regarding Children and Youth events.