

THE GARDEN

“...some of the seed fell on good soil” Mark 4:8

A Spiritual Summer by Rev. Jen Miller

July has brought a little more rain and now a little more summer like weather as well. The rain has been such a blessing to us. All green again. Amazing how that works! As I look back at past summers, I see a trail of beautiful and bittersweet memories. There have been summers that overflowed with joy and summers filled with deep sadness and pain. The common thread is that every summer was unique and had its own tale to tell.

Just as every *natural* summer has a story, so does every *spiritual* summer. We will each walk through the spiritual seasons many times. Autumn is a time of change. Winter is a time of barrenness and preparation. Spring is a time of rebirth. And summer is a time for bearing fruit and embracing the abundant life that surrounds us.

The key to embracing our spiritual summer, no matter what time of year it is in the natural, is to remember to seize the joy of the season. This is a time to feel the heavenly warmth on our face and revel in the beauty that surrounds us. Relax, have fun, celebrate, and abide in gratitude for the blessings that surround. Fall and winter will come, but don't let thoughts of the unknown rob you of the joy of the moment.

VBS is just around the corner now. On Saturday August 15th we will be having a VBS family fun day from 10am-1pm. The day will be packed with bible stories, snacks, crafts, science activities, games and songs! Don't miss out on the fun! All are welcome. Summer is a season known for cultivating and bearing good fruit, for most that cultivating and bearing fruit begins with Vacation Bible School.

Oh goodness, there is just nothing like a sweet, sun-ripened, summer strawberry. It is like the taste of heaven on earth! Our spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control must also be cultivated and ripened so it can taste even sweeter than the best summer strawberry. There is one sure way to do this, and that is to remember *who* our spiritual gardener is and to remain in him always.

Abundant Lord, thank you for the gift of summer. Thank you for ice cream cones, backyard barbecues, and sun-drenched memories. May we seize each moment of joy and remember that you are the true cultivator of our harvest and author of our stories. Amen.

Aug. – Sep. 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

Announcements

GPUMC FINANCE SUMMARY JUNE 30, 2026

	JUNE 2026
COLLECTION	13,745.63
OTHER	
INCOME	0
HOUSING	
REIMBURSE	1,833.33
EXPENSES	(20,560.43)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(4,981.47)
	YTD 2026
COLLECTION	93,857.50
OTHER	
INCOME	33,916.67
HOUSING	
REIMBURSE	10,999.98
EXPENSES	(146,485.84)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(7,711.69)

Save the Dates:

September 27: Baked Potato
Bar after service
November 3: Election Day
Bake Sale

Reminder: Don't forget to
get your flu shot in the fall!

School Supplies Needed—Pam Boddy

Fall means Back to School, but Palmer Elementary School informed Pastor Jen that not all students can afford the basic supplies. Items must be collected by Sunday, August 23. They have given us the following wish list:

- Pencils
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Notebook paper or spiral notebooks
- Construction paper
- Small scissors
- Folders
- Backpacks

United Women in Faith (UWF)—Maxine Willoughby

In July, for 4 days, the Eastern Pennsylvania United Women in Faith hosted a workshop in two forums. I attended the online presentations on July 15, 16, & 22nd. We explored the theme, "Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives." The workbook utilized for this meeting was written by Linda Louise Furtado specifically for the UWF. The mission for this event was to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation.

Reverend Julia Singleton was the leader for this program. We explored the challenges women faced from biblical stories and how faith in God helped them to overcome adversity. Connecting with twenty-five women from various churches who shared their personal stories that resonated with the biblical stories; reflecting how God helps us as we walk by faith.

UWF is presently seeking to increase the number of chapters, and I am inviting women of Green Pond to join in establishing one. If interested, please see the flyer in the lobby for the next event. Thank you and God Bless.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders ... All the believers were together ... with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved

Acts 2:42-47 (selected verses)

Movies with the Pastor—Pam Boddy

We have been enjoying our Summer Movies with the Pastor! These have been family friendly movies for only \$1.00 and there is one more in August. On Wednesday, August 5 at 11:00 am, come and enjoy “Despicable Me 4” at the Regal Cinema.



Fall Fellowship—Pam Boddy

On Saturday, September 12, at 6:30 pm, we will hold a Fall Fellowship. This will be a special time to gather together, as evening falls; to spend time together and make new memories. We will enjoy warming up by a fire pit, make s'mores, and eating hot dogs. There will also be various seasonal activities. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate the beginning of a new season with friends.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy, but you don't like driving at night or can't make that time, we also will have a daylight Fall Fellowship the next day, Sunday, September 13, after our service.

The third chapter of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a season for everything; let's make the most of this new season!

Children & Youth Ministry Announcements

Upcoming

August 15th - Family Fun Day

September 13th - Kid and Teen Worship resumes!

Grow in God's Love!

Kid Worship & Teen Worship

Kid and Teen Worship will resume on September 13th. 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.

As always, our Nursery and Pray-ground is open for younger toddlers and preschoolers.

Connect in God's Love!

Family Fun Day

Our Rolling River Rampage Family Fun Day will take place from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on August 15th, 2026. The day will be packed with bible stories, snacks, crafts, science activities, games, and songs! Don't miss out on the fun! All are welcome- invite your family and friends! Invite your friends and families! Please RSVP to Jen Biddle! We hope to see you there!