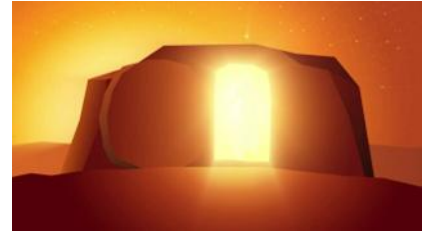


THE GARDEN

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

Living Hope by Pastor Barbara Lee

There is a particular kind of hope the world offers—cautious, tentative—it comes with a lot of disclaimers. It is the sort of hope that says, “things will probably get better,” while quietly preparing for disappointment.



But the hope we find in the resurrection of Jesus is altogether different. It is not optimism, nor is it wishful thinking. It is a steady, clear-eyed proclamation that God has already begun to remake the world.

In these special days of Holy Week, we remember that when the first disciples encountered the risen Christ, they were gathered behind locked doors, still carrying the weight of confusion, fear and unbearable grief. And yet it was there—in precisely that moment—that Jesus came and stood among them. He came not to whisk them away, but to send them back out into the world to bear witness to the new creation already underway.

Resurrection hope is not escape, but renewal.

We often think of resurrection as something that comes at the end of time, a distant promise that one day all will be set right. And it is that—but it is so much more. The stone has been rolled away, not just from that tomb long ago, but in every place where death *seems* to have the final word—fractured communities, despondent hearts—and a world plagued with violence and conflict.

So what does it mean for us to live as “Easter People”?

I’ll admit that a few minutes of “doom scrolling” can make despair seem reasonable—a stagnant economy, our nation at war, broken families and systems—flood our news streams. Practicing hope does not mean denying reality but is a trust in a deeper reality that God is still at work making all things new.

Being people of resurrection means refusing to surrender to despair. It means planting seeds for new life, even when the ground looks barren. And it means we faithfully watch for signs of hope. Sometimes that hope comes quietly, like the light of dawn slipping under a door. It can look like forgiveness where resentment had taken root. It can sound like laughter in a home that has experienced too much sorrow. It can feel like courage in a protest march or letter articulating one’s expectations for change. It can be tasted in sharing a meal with an unhoused person.

So we keep moving forward—sometimes boldly, sometimes trembling—trusting that the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead is now at work in us! And that hope, we know, is sturdy enough to carry us, not just at the end of our earthly life, but right here and right now in the living of these days. Christ is risen... indeed!

April – May 2026
Newsletter

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

Green Pond United
Methodist Church

www.greenpondumc.com

Announcements

GPUMC FINANCE SUMMARY FEBRUARY 28, 2026

	FEB. 2026
COLLECTION	
OTHER	14,995.13
INCOME	1,141.00
HOUSING	1,833.33
REIMBURSE	
EXPENSES	(29,512.20)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(11,542.74)
	YTD 2025
COLLECTION	26,387.89
OTHER	
INCOME	2,391.00
HOUSING	
REIMBURSE	3,666.66
EXPENSES	(44,748.43)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(12,302.88)

New Pastor Appointment—Mary Anne Constable (SPRC Chair)

I am pleased to share with you that Pastor Jennifer Miller has been appointed as the new pastor for Green Pond United Methodist Church. Pastor Jen was Ordained an Elder in 2022. Prior to ministry, she went to school for Special Education and Elementary Education. She received her calling to ministry after a major stroke and graduated from Drew University School of Theology with a Master of Divinity Degree. Her appointments included Mt. Pocono UMC, Wooddale UMC, Analomink UMC and Pocono Lake UMC.

Pastor Jen brings gifts that will richly bless Green Pond UMC through her strong pastoral heart, relational leadership, and passion for nurturing faith across generations. She thrives in pastoral care as well as children and youth ministry, gifts that align well with Green Pond's commitment to caring for all ages while growing in faith together.

Pastor Jen is married to Andrew, and has two young children. A 4-year-old daughter named Addison and a 1-year-old son named Aiden. Her daughter will be starting Kindergarten in the Fall. We have been told that her children are adorable and lots of fun! In her free time, Jen spends time with her family, or can be found reading a good book. We look forward to the ways her experience, compassion, and leadership will support Green Pond UMC in this new season of ministry.

She will be starting in her position here on July 1st, and her first sermon will be July 5th. Please continue to keep Pastor Barbara close to your hearts as she continues to minister to us during these next few months. And we ask you to pray for a smooth transition for Pastor Jen as she prepares to leave Mount Pocono and begin a new pastoral journey with us.

Bible Study Continues—Pam Boddy

Our Lenten Bible study has ended, but our journey through the Bible continues. Raylene Frankenfield will lead a 6-week study titled, "Peter, the Rock". Study times are Tuesday afternoons at 1 PM (beginning April 14), and Thursday evenings at 7 PM (beginning April 16). There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby.

Join us as we learn more about the simple fisherman who immediately accepted Jesus' invitation to "follow me", walked on water, denied Jesus in his darkest hour, but was forgiven, reinstated, and named the rock of the early church.

Spotlight on...Barbi Oakley—Teresa Smith

Our wonderful Nursery Attendant, Barbi Oakley, was born in Patterson, NJ and grew up living in various locations within the state, including Mt. Bethel and Broadway. She moved to Easton, PA in 1987 and started attending this church when it was Calvary United Methodist Church located on 14th and Lehigh Street. She has been working with the children of the church for many years, starting out as one of the Sunday school teachers, then as the Christian Education Co-Director before becoming our Nursery Attendant. She is actively involved with Vacation Bible School, the Missions committee, and the Miracle League Trunk or Treat. She enjoys working with children because she loves their inquisitiveness, laughter and willingness to learn. She has been quoted as saying, “Children are our future. They need to be guided and led by proper morals and love and patience, all while holding God’s hand along the way. Always listen carefully so you can hear the sheer music of a child’s laughter. The world would be so much happier if we follow a child’s innocence and compassion.”

She has also shared her love of cooking with the church and the community by cooking for, and serving at, Safe Harbor in downtown Easton, cooking for the church’s soup sales and apple dumpling sales, and cooking for the many church dinners that we had in the past, like the Pork & Sauerkraut dinners and the Spaghetti & Meatball dinners.

She also shares her love of children and of cooking with the community in her past and present occupations. She has worked in a day care, in Easton Area School as a paraprofessional, had a catering business, and currently is working as a cook at Lafayette College Upper Farinon Dining Hall.

When she is not working, she enjoys creative cooking and crafting. Her family is very important to her, and she loves spending time with her two sisters and one brother, her two sons, Austin & Tyler, and one grandson, Zachary. But she also enjoys her quiet time as well.

Upcoming Events—Pam Boddy

Sunday, April 26: 3-5 PM, High School Cabaret

Friday, May 1: deadline for Jack H. LaFever Memorial Achievement Award, and Educational Assistance Loans

Saturday, May 9: 2 and 7 PM, Lehigh Valley Chorale concert at Miller Symphony Hall in Allentown

Thursday, May 14: Lifeline Health Screening

Tuesday, May 19: Election Day

Saturday, May 30: 9 AM-2 PM, Community/Church Yard Sale

Sunday, May 31: Confirmation Sunday

Details for Jack H. LaFever Memorial Achievement Award: You may apply if you are a graduating high school senior and an active member of the church. Selection is based on church and community service, scholastic achievement and extracurricular activities.

Details for Educational Assistance Fund loans: Active church members planning to enroll or continue in college, vocational or technical school, or those who are currently enrolled, and need help with the cost of furthering their education, may apply for an interest-free loan. Loans are based on the availability of funds and must be repaid in full.

Applications for both may be picked up in the church office or from Alex Konya
(alexander.s.konya@lmco.com)

Children & Youth Ministry Announcements

Upcoming

Earth Day Clean Up
Coming Soon!

Confirmation
May 31st

Grow in God's Love!

Kid Worship & Teen Worship

Kid and Teen Worship will continue throughout April and May. 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.

Confirmation

We have two children that have been participating in confirmation classes. They will be confirmed on May 31st. Please join us for this joyous event!

Connect in God's Love!

Earth Day Clean Up

We will be participating in an Earth Day Clean Up event. All families are welcome. More information will be posted shortly.

Summer Camp at Pocono Plateau

Pocono Plateau has released their 2026 summer camps brochure. If you are interested in sending your child to camp this summer, please check out their website: <https://www.poconoplateau.org/summer-camp/-2026summercamp>. If you need financial assistance, please see Megan Schaeffer or Jen Biddle.

