

Mount Gretna United Methodist Church

December 2023



The Story of “The Christmas Star”

The 10 a.m. Christmas Eve service will be led by our Sunday School youth who will present the traditional Christmas story with a twist: The story will be narrated by Old Star who will tell Star School interns about the First Christmas. With the interns, we will learn the message of the Christmas Star—and the bright light of God’s love.

Our Sunday School youth are busy painting sets, creating stars and learning their parts. We look forward to seeing you and sharing our play at 10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 24.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, Dec. 2 - Tree lighting and caroling at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3 - Donations for Lebanon County Christian Ministries food bank. Also new hats, mittens, gloves.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 10, 17: Advent study, *Experiencing Christmas*. 6:30 p.m., Ebenezer Room. Book available for \$10 donation in office.

Wednesday, Dec. 6 - Gathering Place, Noon. Fellowship Hall. Donations accepted.

Sunday, Dec. 24 - No 8:30 a.m. service. 10 a.m. service led by Sunday School youth. Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Services at 7 p.m.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who donated items for our **Silent Auction** and for all of those who purchased those items. We raised \$548, half of which will go to the Elevator Fund. The other half will go the Church’s Prison Ministry.

Thanks to all who donated to **Lebanon County Christian Ministries food bank** this year. From May through November, MGUMC collected 474 pounds valued at \$3,264.55.



LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, Jan. 17 and/or Sunday, Jan. 21 -

Home from School: The Children of Carlisle

The Eastern PA Conference Committee on Native American Ministries has made available this documentary about Native children who were taken from their communities and sent to the Carlisle (Pa.) Indian School in the late 1800s for 'Americanization.' As many as 10,000 children from more than 140 tribes were sent to the school during its 39 years of operation. While some students thrived, others did not survive.

Please join us to watch and discuss this documentary. Let the office know if you plan to attend on Wed., Jan. 17 (6-7:30 p.m.) or Sun., Jan. 21 (4:30-6 p.m.).



POINSETTIAS

If you wish to sponsor a plant, request an order slip from the office at 717-964-3241.

Orders due by **Sunday, Dec. 10**. Cost is \$8.25 for red or white poinsettias.

Plants can be picked up following either Christmas Eve service.

FROM TRUSTEES

The elevator project is complete except for a few odds and ends that are fallouts from the project. We will be completing the Fellowship Hall storage closet and furnishing the narthex in the next few weeks. The Trustees thank all those involved in the success of this project. This includes those who had the vision 6 years ago to put money aside from the William Drendall gift toward the elevator as well as the Trustees who worked on the planning of the project since 2018.

Also a huge thank you to the congregation for your patience and support during the nine months that building took place and thanks, of course, for the donations from the congregation and friends to fund the balance of the project.

We invite any member or friend of the church to get involved in the work of the Trustees. It's not just large projects that we manage. The more important things are the daily chores that keep the church and parsonage in excellent condition.

If interested please contact Don Bowman, Chairman of Trustees.