

# MGUMC NEWS

A CHURCH FOR ALL SEASONS, ALL PEOPLE

May 2025

## MOUNT GRETNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## MGUMC CONTACTS

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 am**  
(10:00 service includes children's message)



## Welcome

**We invite you** to join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Our mission is three-fold: To know Christ and make him known; To help people become—and grow as—followers of Christ; and To relieve suffering in our community and beyond through our members' ministries.

## NEW MEMBERS

We celebrate receiving new members in May. If you are interested in learning more about joining MGUMC, please contact Pastor Andrea.

## VISIONING FOR MGUMC

The strategic planning process is an opportunity for MGUMC to consider our current ministries, programs and services to our congregation and community and to plan for future ministries, programs and services. If you are interested in participating in this visioning process, please contact Pastor Andrea. This important planning work will begin this summer and extend into the fall.

## SERMON SERIES

On Sunday, April 27, Pastor Andrea began a new sermon series, *"Believing into Christ."* Throughout this series, we are exploring themes (*see below*) from Revelation and the Gospel of John about what is possible when we believe.

**May 4: Circling Toward Food Justice.** How do we ensure that God's abundance is available to all?

**May 11: Springs of Living Water.** We celebrate the living water that nourishes us and the world when we share it with those around us. And for Mother's Day, we recognize all the women in our lives.

**May 18: A New World.** God is creating a new world out of this one.

**May 25: The Tree of Life.** Trees provide oxygen we breathe, food that nourishes us and shade that protects us.

**June 1: Becoming One.** We recognize how interdependent we are with creation, and we celebrate that when we benefit, we also benefit others.

## Upcoming MGUMC Events

**THURSDAY  
May 1**

### Zoom Prayer Group

Weekly online prayer group meets 7 p.m. Thursdays. Contact the church office for more information and to join.

**SUNDAY  
May 4**

### West District Conference

3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. This pre-conference in preparation for Eastern

Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the UMC is being held at Cornwall UMC (50 Freeman Drive, Lebanon). See Pastor Andrea for more details or visit <https://member.gnjumc.org/default.aspx?page=3352&occurrenceId=828&profileId=1621>

**TUESDAY  
May 6**

### Acts Bible Study

with Pastor Andrea, 10 a.m. Library



**THURSDAY  
May 8**

### Zoom Prayer Group

Weekly online prayer group meets 7 p.m. Thursdays. Contact the church office for more information and to join.

**FRIDAY - SAT.  
MAY 9-10**

### Dismantling Racism

This two-day interactive workshop offers a pathway to

understanding current concepts and language about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) values and practices. This course is a requirement for those seeking certification toward ministry. Learn more & register...



**SUNDAY  
May 11**

### Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us into the Sacred

We will discuss Victoria Looz's invitation to center worship and practice in the natural world. Books available for purchase in the office for \$10. 9 a.m., Ebenezer Room



**TUESDAY  
May 13**

### Acts Bible Study

with Pastor Andrea, 10 a.m. Library



**THURSDAY  
MAY 15**

### Zoom Prayer Group

Weekly online prayer group meets 7 p.m. Thursdays. Contact the church office for more information and to join.

*MGUMC Events are continued on page 2—>*

# MGUMC NEWS

## MGUMC Events (continued from page 1)

**SUNDAY  
MAY 18**

### **Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us into the Sacred.** We will

discuss Victoria Loorz's invitation to center worship and practice in the natural world. Books available in the office for \$10.

9 a.m., Ebenezer Room



**SUNDAY  
MAY 18**

### **10 a.m. Worship Service,** Receiving New Members

**TUES. - THURS.  
MAY 20-22**

### **Eastern Pa. Annual Conference of UMC,** Wildwood Conv. Center, Wildwood, N.J.

For info., visit <https://www.epaumc.org/ac2025/>

**WEDNESDAY  
MAY 21**

### **Gathering Place**

Members, friends and neighbors are invited for lunch and fellowship in the afternoon. Gathering Place is supported by freewill donations.

**CANCELLED**

**THURSDAY  
MAY 22**

### **Zoom Prayer Group**

Weekly online prayer group meets 7 p.m. Thurs. Contact the church office for more info. and to join.

**SATURDAY  
MAY 24**

### **Annual Campmeeting Porch Sale** at MGUMC, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## **LARRY BOWMAN STEPPING DOWN AS CHAIR, ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

In April 2022, Larry Bowman became chair of MGUMC's Administrative Council. He has now decided to step down from this position. We thank him for his service to and leadership of MGUMC. Larry intends to remain active with MGUMC in other capacities and projects. The Nominations Committee is working to fill that position. If you might be interested in serving in this capacity, please reach out to Pastor Andrea.

## **CAMPMEETING ANNUAL PORCH SALE Saturday, May 24**

The Porch sale is coming up and we need your help. If you have any small boxes, including jewelry boxes, we could use them.



You may drop your items off in the fellowship hall after May 12.

If you have any time available, there will be sign-up sheets in the lobby with available shifts and duties.

Proceeds from Porch Sale and hotdog sale will support Jubilee Ministries to help the children of inmates and staff of the Lebanon County Correctional Facility attend a week of summer camp.

As always, we truly appreciate your willingness to help.

## **Looking Ahead**

### **2025 Wet'n Wacky - SAVE the DATES!**

Our Vacation Bible School returns on **Wednesday, July 30** and **Wednesday, August 6** from 6:30pm-8pm! We are excited to have some wet and wacky fun!

### **MGUMC NURSERY SCHOOL EXPANDING FOR 2025-26**

Plans are underway to offer two week-long summer camps for current students and to add a 5-day/week option for those children headed to kindergarten in fall 2026. The additions were approved by both Administrative Council and Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Shannon Fretz, nursery school director, will lead the summer sessions—one week in June and one week in July—providing an opportunity to keep friendships growing over the summer months. Campers will explore Gretna, visit the playground, go to the library, play with chalk and bubbles, do crafts and experiments—and so much more!

In the fall, the nursery school will add Tuesday and Thursday classes for older children to help them prepare for kindergarten. Monday, Wednesday and Friday sessions will be open to those children who are 3 years and older. Classes run from 9-11:30.

Registration for fall is now open. Please share this information with your neighbors and friends.

Shannon thanks for MGUMC's continued support of the Nursery School!

## **WE COULD USE A HAND....**

Please consider donating a pair of socks to be taken to Annual Conference by MGUMC attendees. Annual Conference is sponsoring this mission project. Socks will be donated to organizations serving senior citizens throughout Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey.



## **THANK YOU . . .**

### **Food Bank Donations**

MGUMC's April food bank donations totaled 71 pounds. Total year-to-date given is 375 pounds. Thanks to all congregation members who contributed.



### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Thank you to everyone who donated treat-filled eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Special thanks to our Easter Bunny, and to all who volunteered for this event and participated in the fun. You made it happen!



Photo by Shannon Fretz.