

MGUMC NEWS

A CHURCH FOR ALL SEASONS, ALL PEOPLE

DECEMBER 2025

MOUNT GRETNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4th St. & Boehm Ave.
P.O. Box 427
Mount Gretna, Pa. 17064
www.mtgretnachurch.org
mgumc@verizon.net
(717) 964-3241

MGUMC CONTACTS

Pastor Andrea Haldeman
MGUMC Pastor
(717) 964-2122
revandreaaldeman@gmail.com

Pastor Marilyn Nolte
Assoc. Pastor/Prison Ministry
(717) 269-8613
revonolte@gmail.com

Carolyn Burns
Office Administrator
(717) 964-3241
mgumc@verizon.net

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.

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Worship in December continues with **Advent-ure in Narnia: Reflections for the Season**. With its enchanting themes of light and darkness, temptation and sin, forgiveness and hope—and even an appearance by Father Christmas—C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* naturally enhances the Advent season of reflection.

On **Sunday, Dec. 7**, we consider Peace/The Wonder of Narnia. Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-8 & Matthew 18:1-5.

Joy/On the Move in Narnia is the theme for the third Sunday of Advent (**Dec. 14**). Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-6, 11b, 16 & Luke 1:26-38.

Sunday, Dec. 21 -- 10:00 a.m. Love / Christmas Children's Program

Wednesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services at 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. At both services on Christmas Eve, we welcome Christmas in Narnia!

Sunday, Dec. 28, Finally Christmas
Isaiah 25: 6,9 & Matthew 2:13-23.

Upcoming MGUMC Events

**TUESDAY
DEC 2**

Pastor's Bible Study

Meet in the library at 10 a.m. We are studying the Book of Acts.

**THURSDAY
DEC 4**

Zoom Prayer Meeting

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

**SATURDAY
DEC 6**

Annual Tree Lighting and Caroling

6:30 p.m. Join us in the parking lot for the tree lighting followed by carol singing in the sanctuary and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

**SUNDAY
DEC 7**

Advent Book Study

Join Pastor Andrea at 6:30 p.m. in the Ebenezer Room. Heidi Haverkamp's *Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season* will be our guide to the witch (Dec. 7), Father Christmas (Dec. 14), the lion (Dec. 21).



**TUESDAY
DEC 9**

Pastor's Bible Study

Meet in the library at 10 a.m. We are studying the Book of Acts.

**THURSDAY
DEC 11**

Zoom Prayer Meeting

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

**SUNDAY
DEC 14**

Advent Book Study

Join Pastor Andrea at 6:30 p.m. in the Ebenezer Room. Heidi Haverkamp's *Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season* will be our guide to the witch, Father Christmas (Dec. 14), and the lion (Dec. 21).

**TUESDAY
DEC 16**

Pastor's Bible Study

Meet in the library at 10 a.m. We are studying the Book of Acts.

**WEDNESDAY
DEC 17**

Poinsettia orders are due. Cost:

\$8.50/each, red or white. If you wish to sponsor a plant, email or call the church office. You will be able to pick up your plant after the Christmas Eve Service.

**WEDNESDAY
DEC 17**

Gathering Place

Members, friends and neighbors are invited for lunch and fellowship at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Menu to be determined! Gathering Place is supported by freewill donations. Volunteers wanted to help set up, serve, and clean up.

MGUMC Events are continued on page 2—>



Join us for our Annual Tree Lighting and Caroling, Saturday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. in the church parking lot.

MGUMC NEWS

MGUMC Events (continued from page 1)

**THURSDAY
DEC 18**

Zoom Prayer Meeting

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

**SUNDAY
DEC 21**

Advent Book Study

Join Pastor Andrea at 6:30 p.m. in the Ebenezer Room. Heidi Haverkamp's *Advent in Narnia*:

Reflections for the Season will be our guide to the witch, Father Christmas, the lion (Dec. 21).

**WEDNESDAY
DEC 24**

Christmas Eve Services 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Pastor Andrea invites youth and young adult participation in the 11 p.m. service by playing music, reading Scriptures, ushering. Let her know if you will help.

NOTE: The MGUMC office will be closed from Friday, Dec. 26 to Monday, Jan. 5, 2026.

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Join Pastor Andrea in a 24-week survey of the entire Bible starting in January and based on the well-known Disciple curriculum. The first 12 weeks will focus on the Old Testament; the next 12 weeks cover the New Testament. By study's end, you will have read about 60 percent of the Bible.

Participants will explore the Bible through daily readings, watching commentaries by noted Biblical scholars and group discussions. Weekly sessions will run about 75-minutes and will be offered in a hybrid format—in person and on zoom. You are invited to prayerfully consider committing to the next step in your faith journey by joining Disciples Bible Study. Contact Pastor Andrea with questions about this opportunity or to learn more. Learn more about this program by using the QR code at the right.

Deadline for sign-up is December 20.



Application for 2026 Drendall Endowment grants now available

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026 Drendall Endowment grants. Information can be found on the MGUMC website (www.mtgretnachurch.org).

The William (Bill) Drendall Endowment Committee seeks to honor Bill's memory by providing grants for Christian Ministries. We seek to support community and social service organizations that are consistent with the mission and values of the Mount Gretna United Methodist Church (MGUMC).

Blanket Drive

Please support our 5th grade Sunday School class's project to give blankets to Lebanon County Christian Ministries. These are being collected in the Narthex in the box labeled "5th grade blanket drive." Last day for donating is Dec. 14.

Hats, Scarves and Gloves

We are collecting new and gently used hats, scarves and gloves for those in need. Please place items in the box in the Narthex.

Charge Conference Update

MGUMC held its annual Charge Conference on Tuesday, Nov. 4, with District Superintendent Jenny Freymoyer presiding.

We discussed successes and challenges of the past year and charted a way for the coming years.

Committee memberships were approved with the following changes: Dan Deitzel will serve as Lay Leader, and Marcie Lloyd will chair Staff Parish Relations Committee beginning Jan. 1. They join two other interim chairs: Dave Harris, Administrative Council, and Margaret Hopkins, Endowment Committee. Kristi Donahue was approved to serve on the Endowment Committee.

THANK YOU . . .

For Pastor Marilyn's Gift

We give thanks for those who donated towards Pastor Marilyn's gift. She continues to appreciate prayers.

For Food Bank Donations

Thanks to all for Nov. donations to Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM) Donations totaled an incredible 810 pounds—that's ten times our typical monthly donation of 75-80 pounds. And we provided a check for \$1,770 to LCCM to help with the food bank's purchase of groceries. Thanks also to Larry Bowman, Robin May, Bob Rader and Kristi Donahue who packed and delivered our donations.



For Thanksgiving Breakfast

With grateful hearts we thank all who contributed to our Thanksgiving breakfast—our cooks, our setup and clean-up crews, our choirs, our activities helpers and more.

WE COULD USE A HAND....

Consider Joining Our MGUMC Care Team

We frequently have members who are hospitalized or home-bound because of medical issues and would appreciate a visit, cards or a meal. Please prayerfully consider if you would be willing to be part of a Care Team that would be available to reach out to our members who might welcome a visit, a card or a meal.

Volunteers Are Wanted for help with setup, serving, and cleanup for **Gathering Place**.

