

MGUMC NEWS

A CHURCH FOR ALL SEASONS, ALL PEOPLE

APRIL 2026

MOUNT GREтна 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

revandrehaldeman@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 a.m.
(10:00 service includes children's message)

Welcome

We invite you to join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Our mission is threefold:

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

HOLY WEEK, EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Good Friday, April 3

You are invited to spend some quiet, contemplative time in the Sanctuary on Friday, April 3 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. There will be a guided meditation, including Scripture and prompts for prayer to assist you in worship as you reflect on all that Jesus did for us as He went to the cross to reconcile us to God. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Andrea.

This year's Ecumenical Service will be 7 p.m. on Good Friday at Zion United Methodist Church in Iona, 1920 S. 5th Avenue, Lebanon and Rev. Dr. David Harris will be speaking.

Easter Sunday, April 5

On Easter Sunday, we will hold three services: 7 a.m., Son Rise Service in the Tabernacle; 8:30 and 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

SERMON SERIES

On **April 12**, we will walk with Jesus and two disciples on the day of his resurrection from Jerusalem to Emmaus. What will you take on this journey? What will you take away from this journey? Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Andrea starts a new sermon series, "*Journey to Our Center of Faith*," that will run through May. This is a series that invites us to examine the United Methodist Church's and MGUMC's mission statements and to engage in their meaning for us. Prepare to be challenged and inspired!

We begin on **April 19** with the United Methodist Church's mission statement: "*To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*" and consider what is meant by 'transformation.' What would a transformed world look like? What is our

role in transforming the world?

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 / Romans 12:1-8

On **April 26**, we consider the United Methodist Church's vision statement: *The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.* On this Sunday, we will ask, how do we 'love boldly'? Whom should we 'love boldly'?

Scripture: Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:31-35

Upcoming MGUMC Events

THURSDAY APR 2 **Zoom Prayer Group**
Weekly online prayer group meets 7 p.m. Thursdays. Call the office for more information or to join.

FRIDAY APR 3 **Good Friday Observance**
9 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the sanctuary

FRIDAY APR 3 **Good Friday Community Service**
3 – 7 p.m., Zion United Methodist Church of Iona

SUNDAY APR 5 **Easter Services**
7 a.m. (Tabernacle)
8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. (sanctuary)

TUESDAY APR 7 **Acts Bible Study**
10 a.m., Library

THURSDAY APR 9 **Zoom Prayer Group**
Weekly online prayer group meets 7 p.m. Thursdays. Call the office for more information or to join.

SUNDAY APR 12 **Disciple Bible Study**
6-7:30 p.m., Ebenezer Room

TUESDAY APR 14 **Acts Bible Study**
10 a.m. Library

WEDNESDAY APR 15 **Gathering Place**
Members, friends and neighbors are invited for lunch and fellowship at noon in Fellowship Hall. Menu to be determined! Gathering Place is supported by freewill donations.

MGUMC Events are continued on page 2—>



MGUMC NEWS

MGUMC Events *(continued from page 1)*

SATURDAY
APR 18

Joshua
3 p.m., Sight & Sound, Lancaster

SUNDAY
APR 19

Disciple Bible Study
6-7:30 p.m., Ebenezer Room

TUESDAY
APR 21

Acts Bible Study
10 a.m., Library

SUNDAY
APR 26

Disciple Bible Study
6-7:30 p.m., Ebenezer Room

Update from the Drendall Endowment Committee

THIS YEAR, we received 53 applications for Drendall grants, more than in any previous year. Many of those were aimed at addressing basic needs—food, housing/shelter, health care. It was disheartening that we did not have the funds to help all applicants.

We selected 17 applications for funding. The list of those receiving grants will be posted when we have received requested paperwork from recipients.

The Endowment Committee would like to invite the congregation to meet some of Drendall grant recipients at a special service on **May 17**. Please mark your calendars. Stay tuned for more details.

Your Administrative Council...

IS WORKING, RETREATING, AND MEETING to learn, to identify our unique values, to attend to Church business, and to lead by listening for where God is leading MGUMC. One value rising to the top is that **ALL** belong. We seek your thoughts about our values as a congregation, your dreams for our congregation.

We are soliciting your thoughts about what options a technology team might explore. If you've had experience with sound, streaming, screens in worship, please share what you have liked, what has worked well, what you would change. If you are interested in being a part of a team to explore options, let us know (no commitment!).

Associate Pastor of Visitation

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29th it was announced that Pastor Marilyn will be our quarter time Associate Pastor. Her role will be Associate Pastor of Visitation. Her role emphasizes compassionate outreach to church members who are homebound, hospitalized, or experiencing life transitions, ensuring they remain connected to the life and ministry of the church. This appointment will be from April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

AS WE PREPARE for Annual Conference 2026 with a focus on **PRAYER**, join Bishop Moore-Koikoi, laity, and clergy across EPA & GNJ for a **28-day prayer journey** from **April 8–May 15**.

Gather weekday mornings 7:00–7:20 a.m. for reflection, community, and listening for the Spirit's leading—join as often as you can. We'll use *Dynamite Prayer* by Rev. Dr. Rosario "Roz" Picardo and Rev. Dr. Sue Nilson Kibbey. [Register](#) to receive the Zoom link. You may purchase the book [here](#) (optional).

If you are interested in serving as an equalizing lay delegate for Annual Conference (May 19-21, Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ), please contact Pastor Andrea by mid-April. Equalizing lay delegates balance clergy votes with an equal number of lay delegates' votes. A preconference workshop that will include resolutions to be voted on should be out in April.

Thank You . . .

For Food Bank Donations

MGUMC's March Food Bank donations to Lebanon County Christian Ministries totaled **129 pounds**. We have now donated **328 pounds of food and \$1,976** this year. Thanks to all congregation members who contributed.



For Parsonage Help

It is with deep appreciation that the Haldemans returned home to the parsonage the end of March. Thank you so very much to Don Bowman for all he did during these months to make sure the parsonage was renovated and ready to move in.



Thank you also to all those who helped to clean, move, clean the gutters and supported the Haldeman family through this time. We are overjoyed to be HOME! With love and gratitude, ~ Pastor Andrea, Dale, Gray, Rachel, Molly (*our dog*) and Terry (*our cat*)

For Easter Egg Hunt Contributions

Thank you to all who donated candy and/or Easter eggs and to all who helped with MGUMC's community Easter Egg Hunt at the Chautauqua Playground.

