

MGUMC NEWS

A CHURCH FOR ALL SEASONS, ALL PEOPLE

SEPTEMBER 2026

MOUNT GRETNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4th St. & Boehm Ave.

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MGUMC CONTACTS

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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.

SERMON SERIES

This month, Pastor Andrea concludes the sermon series, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*. Many of us experience daily life as routine, ordinary, and disconnected from the sacred. In *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*, Tish Harrison Warren reminds us that God is often most present in the overlooked moments of our everyday routines.

News From Your Administrative Council

I want action, not just talk. How about you?

Faithful action takes discernment, listening for God's nudge. Your Administrative Council leaders started their discernment by listening to scripture, YOU, and sister churches. The result is action—3 goals over the next 6 months! Each one, a step. Each step, an opportunity to adjust, discern, and grow.

Goal One: Define "hospitality" for MGUMC.

How will we know it when we see it, and how will we measure it? Then we plan an action so that we can test out our hospitality plan in real time.

First, we define hospitality, then develop a project to try it out, and next execute our plan. Finally, we look at what went well, and what needs improving. Dan Deitzel, Carolyn Burns, and Marcie Lloyd are the short-term team leading this. Might this team be a team you want to serve on?

The 2nd goal connects our hospitality with the two AA groups meeting in our building, and the 3rd focuses on our Church's 75th Anniversary in 2027.

Curious? Ask! Interested in helping? Contact Dave Harris, Ad Council Chair, 717-269-3483 or HodosCoaching@gmail.com. Now, on to acting on our goals, together with God!

—David Harris, Administrative Council Chairman

Upcoming MGUMC Events

WORSHIP IN THE TABERNACLE

Sept. 6 is our last Sunday for 10 a.m. worship in the Tabernacle. Sunday school resumes and we return to the sanctuary on Sunday, **Sept. 13**.

ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays (**Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29**): 10 a.m.

ZOOM PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays (**Sept. 10, 17, 24**): 7p.m.

This is a weekly online prayer group.

Call the office for more information or to join.

GATHERING PLACE

Wednesday, **Sept. 9**. Members, friends and neighbors are invited for lunch and fellowship at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Menu to be determined! This is supported by freewill donations. If you would like to help in setting up or cleaning up, please contact Jay Benjamin! YOU would be MOST welcome!

CHURCH PICNIC AT GRETNA GLEN

Sunday, **Sept. 20**. Sign-up sheet in foyer.

MGUMC Nursery School Update

Early this summer, we learned that the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Human Services is now requiring all church nursery school programs to be state licensed. We have been working diligently to implement new procedures, safety and security protocols and complete extra training in order to becoming licensed. Our application for state licensure has been submitted, and we are waiting for state inspection.

This fall we will welcome 10 children and have a waiting list of five additional children. We are excited at the growth of our program! School is in session from 9-11:30, Monday through Friday, from September through May. Our first day is Sept. 9. Glenda Musser is returning as assistant teacher four days a week and Gray Haldeman will volunteer on Thursdays.

Please stop by and see the improvements (carpet, paint) made this summer—thanks to Luke Baker for helping to paint and to all—Pastor Andrea, Bud Green, Carolyn Burns, Jay Benjamin—who helped with the paperwork required by the application.

—Shannon Fretz, Director



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SECURITY UPGRADE

Trustees are enhancing security for both our Nursery School and individuals who work alone in the building at various times of the day. This will secure the front entrance and includes:

- A vandal and weather resistant station at the main doors.
- Two 7 inch interior monitors — one in the Nursery School office and one in the church office.
- Audio and visual communication with visitors before granting access.

This system will allow staff to see and speak with anyone requesting entry, adding a critical layer of safety for our children, staff, and building users.

— Jay Benjamin

MISSION TRIPS

During July, Mt. Gretna UMC was represented in two different mission trips. Jason Sweigart traveled with the Church of the Good Shepherd's mission team, partnering with Appalachia Service Project, to Nicholas County, W.V. and worked on a home on a hug system, siding, installing a new shower in the bathroom, and fascia/soffit.

Also, Pastor Andrea was blessed to represent MGUMC in joining Unity UMC (a merger between Ebenezer UMC and St. Luke's UMC in West Lebanon) on a mission to Honduras, by invitation of Rev. Bruney Martinez, pastor of Unity UMC/Assoc. Chaplain at Cornwall Manor. She helped train Bible study leaders with tools for teaching and leading basic Bible Study. They partnered with a local church in Lepaera to provide groceries to community members, and they prayed with those who received groceries. The team provided two children's programs. What an incredible blessing to be a blessing!

HAPPY SUMMER SOLSTICE TO ALL!

As we lean into longer days, here is our solar project impact update. Since connecting to the grid on May 5, 2025, our solar panels have produced 12.2 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity through May 2026. This is the equivalent of 8.7 tons of CO² reduced from the atmosphere, or charging 1.05 million cell phones, or planting 146 trees.



We have received payment for 9 Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECS) at a market price of \$26. Polluters must purchase these to offset their emissions from clean energy producing organizations. Additionally, we have been saving around \$250 per month on our electric bill and are expecting a federal tax credit of around \$9,300.

We saw rate increases from Met-Ed in May 2025, and December 2025, and expect more in the future with the influx of data centers being added to the grid. A higher price per KWH increases our savings, as we don't have to pay for electricity we produce from our panels.

If you have questions on the project, or want to learn about solar, contact Chris Sides by email at psualum4life@hotmail.com or by phone at 717-304-8627.

—Chris Sides, Solar Project Manager

Exciting News!

As our congregation continues to grow, we are excited to announce that we are in the beginning stages of looking for a space for a nursery for Sunday worship. More details to come as we move forward with this endeavor.

Thank You . . .

We have many folks to recognize and thank for their generous contributions of time, talents and donations.

AED Machine

MGUMC now has an AED machine for use in medical emergencies. Thanks to an anonymous donor for this gift of life.

Gretna Glen Campers

With congregational support, six children attended a week of Gretna Glen camp this summer—truly a gift for the future.

Baby Grand Piano

We are incredibly thankful to Dan Deitzel & Jay Benjamin for their generous donation of our new baby grand piano for our Sanctuary. Our former baby grand piano was donated to the Hall of Philosophy. We thank Linda Seltzer, in memory of Fred, for donating the monies used to transport and set up our new piano.

Vacation Bible School

We thank those folks who stepped up to plan, organize and teach this year's Vacation Bible School on the Psalms. We welcomed 8 children. Volunteers included Pat Allwein, Than & E.J. Hershey, Shannon Fretz, Olive Fretz, Kathy Galli, Eddie Garver, Gray Haldeman, Dave Harris, Marcie Lloyd, Esther Mefferd, Greg Pappariella, Michelle Shuff, Jason Sweigart, and Pastor Andrea.

Food Bank Donations

In July and August, we donated 159 pounds of food to Lebanon County Christian Ministries. We also donated 193 pounds of fresh produce (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers) grown locally and organically.

