

MGUMC NEWS

A CHURCH FOR ALL SEASONS, ALL PEOPLE

December 2024

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) 202-0207
marilynn@jub.org

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 each Sunday 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 will be centered on "Angels Among Us" and the message that we can bring hope, peace, joy, love and light for an anxious world. This sermon series dovetails with the Advent book study of *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent*.



- Dec. 1:** Make Ready a People #morehope
- Dec. 8:** Nothing is Impossible #morepeace
- Dec. 15:** Do Not Be Afraid #morejoy
- Dec. 22:** This Will Be a Sign #morelove
- Dec. 24:** Glory to God #donotbeafraid (7 p.m. and 11 p.m.)
- Dec. 29:** Get up and Go #morelife

MGUMC Looks to the Future

— Larry Bowman, Chair, Administrative Council

While working to continue current ministries, programs and services to our congregation and community, Mount Gretna UMC is also beginning to look at its longer-term future. Discussion began at Administrative Council's October meeting about starting a strategic planning process aimed at identifying and examining the opportunities, challenges, resource needs and other areas that may lay ahead for MGUMC.

Strategic planning is a process that many organizations and businesses undertake on a regular, periodic basis, often with the goal of providing a three- or five-year roadmap for their organizations. As it has been quite a few years since MGUMC last developed a strategic plan for itself, Administrative Council felt that now would be an appropriate and opportune time to pursue such a process, especially in

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Upcoming MGUMC Events

**SUNDAY
Dec 1**

Advent Book Study

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Ebenezer Room
Chapter 1: Standing in the Presence of God: Gabriel and Zechariah

**THURSDAY
Dec 5**

Zoom Prayer Meeting

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

**SATURDAY
Dec 7**

Cookie Baking

Calling all youths to bake cookies to serve after tree lighting and caroling! Baking will start at 10 a.m. Please let the office know if you are planning to attend.

**SATURDAY
Dec 7**

Tree Lighting and Caroling

Join us in the parking lot at 6:30 p.m. for the annual tree lighting followed by carol singing in the sanctuary. Refreshments to follow in the fellowship hall.



**SUNDAY
Dec 8**

Advent Book Study

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Ebenezer Room
Chapter 2: Let It Be: Gabriel and Mary

**TUESDAY
Dec 10**

Pastor's Bible Study

Meet in the Ebenezer Room at 9 a.m. We are studying the Apostle Paul.

**WEDNESDAY
Dec 11**

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. Volunteers wanted to help with set up, serving and clean up.



**SUNDAY
Dec 15**

Advent Book Study

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Ebenezer Room
Acting on the Unbelievable: An Angel of the Lord and Joseph

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MGUMC NEWS

MGUMC Events *(continued from page 1)*

**MONDAY
Dec 16**

Christmas Pointsettia Orders

Orders are due to the office. See the order form (at right) and the bulletin for more information.

**TUESDAY
Dec 17**

Pastor's Bible Study

Meet in the Ebenezer Room at 9 a.m. We are studying the Apostle Paul.

**SUNDAY
Dec 22**

Advent Book Study

6:30 p.m.-8 p.m., Ebenezer Room
Hark the Herald Angels Sing: The Angels and the Shepherds

**TUESDAY
Dec 24**

Christmas Eve

7 p.m. service and 11 p.m. service
Pastor Andrea invites youths and young adults to participate in the 11 p.m. service by playing music, reading Scriptures, ushering. Let her know if you will help.

**TUESDAY
Dec 24**

Christmas Eve

8 p.m.-10 p.m. Open House at the Haldemans (600 Otterbein Ave., Mt. Gretna Campmeeting).

Come and enjoy fellowship and food in between the two services! Feel free to bring cookies and drinks to the gathering.

Thank You Thank You Thank You!

Thanks to all for donations to Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM)!

Donations in November totaled 66 pounds. Total year-to-date given by MGUMC is 839 pounds. See the bulletin board for LCCM's wish list of items for our monthly donations.



Thank you to all of the donors and bidders in our recent Silent Auction.

A special thank you to Melissa Warner for organizing the auction. This year, we raised more than \$900 to benefit MGUMC Disability Ministry and the Mount Gretna Volunteer Fire Company.



Connecting with Our College Students

Please let the office know if your family includes students attending college/university. MGUMC would like to send them care packages at those particularly stressful times like midterms and finals.

MGUMC Looks to the Future

(continued from page 1)

light of the recent change in our Senior Pastor position. Pastor Andrea Haldeman has also expressed her strong support and enthusiasm for our church developing such a long-term plan.

Discussions about a strategic planning process for MGUMC are in the very early discussion phase and will hopefully begin to take shape in first quarter 2025. We will ensure that you are kept closely informed about this proposed planning process as the details and format of this effort are being developed and implemented.

Christmas Pointsettias

Once again this Christmas we will be decorating the church with sponsored poinsettias. You will be able to pick up your plant(s) following either of the Christmas Eve Services.



If you wish to sponsor a plant, fill out the order form below and mail it to the church, or call the church office at 717-964-3241.

All flowers come in a 6.5" pot with 5+ blooms.

ORDERS DUE BY DECEMBER 16th

POINTSETTIA ORDER

Pointsettia Color	Price	Number
Red	\$8.50	_____
White	\$8.50	_____

Presented by (Please Print):
(Your Name) _____

(Your Phone #) _____

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Please make checks payable to:
Mount Gretna UMC
P.O. Box 427, Mount Gretna, PA 17064