

MGUMC NEWS

A CHURCH FOR ALL SEASONS, ALL PEOPLE

February 2025

MOUNT GREтна UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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.

Pastor Andrea continues the sermon series, "Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It." In this series, we will retrace the steps of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, as he called people to a revival of their hearts and souls. We will examine how those lessons from 18th century England are relevant for today. The series continues through Sunday, March 2.

NEW MEMBERS

On January 12, we celebrated two new members: Gracyn-Jean M. Haldeman and Rachel A. Haldeman. Gray is a second-year student at Pennsylvania College of Art & Design pursuing a B.F.A. degree in Live Experience Production and Design. Rachel is a senior at Cedar Crest H.S. who looks forward to pursuing a degree in environmental science following graduation. It is with great joy that we welcome them into MGUMC congregation and family!

If you are interested in joining MGUMC, please let the Office or Pastor Andrea know.

PASSINGS

We note the passing of MGUMC member **Robert C. McCullough III** (a.k.a. "Bobby Mac") on December 24, 2024. Please keep his friends and family in prayer as we grieve this loss.

MGUMC To Go Solar

At the January 15 meeting, MGUMC Administrative Council voted to move forward with installation of solar panels on the church roof. The initial cost of installation is about \$30,000 which will include solar panels and permitting. It is anticipated that the panel will produce more electricity than what the church needs, and surplus electricity will be sold to the grid at the end of the year.

MGUMC To Go Solar is continued on page 2—>

A Journey of Healing: From Lamentation to Praise

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi has issued a call for all of us to engage in healing the divisions and deep wounds in our congregations, our conference and our communities. This five-month, conference-wide campaign, A Journey of Healing: From Lamentation to Praise, will culminate in opportunities to praise and celebrate the work of God in our lives at district conferences and Annual Conference in May.

January's theme was "Naming the Woundedness," and Bishop Koikoi invited us to share our prayer requests through a Google form at <https://www.epagnjhealing.com/prayer>. Those requests will be lifted by a team of prayer warriors in February's "Praying Over the Wounds." In March, Lenten Gatherings with Communion & Healing Services will focus on cleansing the wounds within us and our communities and be held throughout Eastern Pennsylvania.

More information on the journey and resources can be found at <https://www.epagnjhealing.com> or from Pastor Andrea.

Upcoming MGUMC Events

**TUESDAY
FEB 4**

Bible Study, 10 a.m. Ebenezer Room. We will study the Book of Acts.

**THURSDAY
FEB 6**

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

**SATURDAY
FEB 8**

Souper Bowl Soup-to-Go Sale
Sale will start at 9 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the church (weather permitting). Soup will sell for \$8/quart—or \$7 with a donation of a can of soup. Please support the sale by making soup or helping with sale. See "WE COULD USE A HAND" (p. 2) for more info.



**SATURDAY
FEB 8**

Book Sale!
Mary Ellen McCarty donated a lifetime of treasured and eclectic books—mysteries, non-fiction, fiction—to MGUMC when she moved from the Heights. These will

MGUMC Events are continued on page 2—>

MGUMC

NEWS

MGUMC Events *(continued from page 1)*

be sold by donation starting at 9 a.m. in the Narthex (soup and books—what a combo!). Book Sale proceeds to benefit the Mount Gretna Community Library.

**SUNDAY
Feb 9**

Souper Bowl Sunday

Please join us for Souper Bowl Luncheon on Sunday



after the 10 a.m. service. Sign up at the office to bring soup, bread or fruit/dessert to share. A donation of a can of soup for Lebanon County Christian Ministries is appreciated.

CANCELLED

**TUESDAY
FEB 11**

Bible Study, 10 a.m. in the Ebenezer Room. We will study the Book of Acts.

**TUESDAY
FEB 18**

Bible Study, 10 a.m. in the Ebenezer Room. We will study the Book of Acts.

**WEDNESDAY
FEB 19**

The Gathering Place

Members, friends and neighbors are invited for lunch and

fellowship at noon in Fellowship Hall. Menu to be determined! The Gathering Place is supported by freewill donations.



**TUESDAY
FEB 25**

Bible Study, 10 a.m. in the Ebenezer Room. We will study the Book of Acts.

THANK YOU . . .

MGUMC's Food Bank donations totaled 103 pounds. This was the highest total of donations in several months. Thanks go to all congregation members and friends who contributed.



Please consider making a contribution to assist our Lebanon County neighbors who may be dealing with food and nutrition shortages.

Thank you to all of our members and friends who contributed to making the holiday season a festive and holy celebration. Thank you for the poinsettias, for the holiday trees, for the tree lighting, cookie baking and organ music at our caroling event, for the help at our candlelight service, and for the work of decorating and un-decorating. For all of the things that you do every week to make our church a welcoming and spiritual place, we thank you.

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

This year's Lenten series is titled *"Everything [in] between: Meeting God in the midst of extremes"* and is inspired by the Gospel of Luke, chapters 9-24.

In Pastor Andrea's sermons and in our Lenten study, we will be invited to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention and openness to be transformed. Themes are Intention & Action, Stranger & Neighbor, Faith & Works, Rest & Growth, Righteousness & Mercy, Shouting & Silence, Power & Humility, Acceptance & Resistance, and Grief & Hope.

Information on the community Lenten series will appear in the bulletins in March and April.

MGUMC To Go Solar *(continued from page 1)*

This project was made possible by the generous gift of \$50,000 from the estate of the father of one of our members who has chosen to remain anonymous. Because donations like this are the responsibility of Trustees, they established an Ad Hoc Committee to discern how best to allocate these funds. That committee voted in December to proceed with the solar project as initially proposed in October 2024. Trustees approved the project and brought it to Administrative Council.

The expectation is that after several months, MGUMC will receive a rebate of about \$9,000 from the Federal Solar Tax Credit. Chris Sides will be the project lead.

The Ad Hoc Committee will continue prayerful consideration of the remainder of the funds.

WE COULD USE A HAND....

Volunteer Soup Cooks & Helpers Needed!



Help is needed to make soup and sell soup for our **Souper Bowl Soup-to-Go Sale** (Saturday, Feb. 8).

Quart containers are provided. Proceeds from the sale benefit Lebanon County Christian Ministries. Last year, we sold 149 quarts of soup in an hour, raising almost \$1,200 for LCCM. Forty cans of soup were also donated. Let's top these numbers this year!



If you can donate soup or are able to help with the sale, please contact the office and/or Margaret Hopkins (mah242@psu.edu; 814-777-7463).

Let them know what kind of soup you will make and how many quarts. Thanks in advance!