

# *The ENLIGHTENER*



## **Pastor's Message:**

*"All the shine of a thousand spotlights, all the stars we steal from the night sky will never be enough."*  
– Justin Paul and Benj Pasek

As we roll into the month of September, we look forward to Autumn and the start of new things. I find it interesting that, as much as we are resistant to change, when we expect change to come, we get excited about it. Consider the seasons. Most people look forward to the seasons, maybe not the cold weather, but certainly the possibilities to engage in new activities and to experience new and familiar things.

When Winter turns to Spring, I look forward to seeing the leaves on the trees and hearing the songs of birds that were absent for a season. As Spring turns to Summer, I look forward to vacations and the feel of grass or warm sand on my bare feet. As Summer turns to Fall, I look forward to seeing the beauty of nature on display through the change of colors in the leaves. And as Fall turns to Winter, I look forward to the beauty and quiet of that first snowfall. These are changes I look forward to and get excited about.

As we move into this the fall season, it is also a time where the church often gets excited about starting new things, or reengaging things that were paused for the summer. What are the things we are excited about as we look forward to the change? As I consider our lives as disciples, I am reminded that change and transformation are a part of our calling. And with that calling comes the promise that God will be with us always. Paul reminds us of that calling and celebrates with us the possibilities that all Christians experience.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-6)

Paul reminds us that God has been with us throughout all our seasons, and God will remain with us, seeing God's will done in and through us. But what does that look like? During this month of September, I am going to invite us...and maybe challenge us to dream God-sized dreams as we seek an answer to that question. I am going to invite us and challenge us to set our expectations for one another a bit higher and to include God in those expectations. I believe that when we set our expectations high, and strive toward them with faith and intentionality, we can and will do great things.

I love all things music, and a song from the musical, *The Greatest Showman*, comes to mind. The song is entitled *Never Enough*. The entire show is about living into a dream – making that dream a reality. Dreaming so big that, "All the shine of a thousand spotlights, all the stars we steal from the night sky will never be enough."

What are our God-sized dreams? What are our expectations? Are the expectations we have for ourselves and others around us inspirational? I believe that God has begun a good work in us, and that God will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. With that belief comes the responsibility to strive for that goal – to dream God-sized dreams and to move into this new season stepping out in faith.

The season is changing. The change is familiar and exciting. What are you looking forward to doing and experiencing? What new God-sized dream might come with the change of the season? Let's dream together and make those dreams our expectations as we strive to live into all that God has created us to be.

Happy Fall,  
Pastor Gary



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### Let's Get Connected!

*Excellent opportunity to share with your friends and family all the GUMC has to offer.*

**Email:** greeceumc@outlook.com

**Website:** greeceumc@outlook.com



**Facebook:** Greece UMC



**Twitter** @GreeceUMC



**Instagram** greeceunitedmc



### A PRAYER CHAIN REMINDER:

*We have an active prayer chain through e-mails. You're invited to be part of that by contacting Gale Huber. If you have a prayer concern of any kind that you want to share, contact Gale at [galefischerhuber@gmail.com](mailto:galefischerhuber@gmail.com). We only send out prayer concerns when we receive direct requests for sharing.*

### NEWSLETTER:

*Deadline for all newsletter articles is the 15th of each month by 12:00pm.*

*Please e-mail Katie at the church office email — [greeceumc@outlook.com](mailto:greeceumc@outlook.com)*

*Thank you.*



## Church Fundraisers

Thank you to all who have helped in some way to make our fundraising successful. **These fundraisers help support our church and the many ministries we have to offer our community.**



**Church Fundraising**

### GUMC 2021 Fundraisers: Save the Dates!!

Chicken BBQ (Drive-Thru)	Thu. Sept. 16, 4:30pm—sellout
Pulled Pork (Drive-Thru)	Thu. October 21, 4:30pm-sellout

### PROFITS:

Super Bowl Sub Sale	\$ 265.00
May Chicken BBQ	\$1,312.00
June Chicken BBQ	\$1,500.00
July Chicken BBQ	\$1,655.91

*Volunteers are always needed and welcomed! Contact Tom Hinterman or the church office by phone or email.*



**Chicken BBQ**  
**Thursday September 16th**  
**from 4:30 pm – sellout**  
**(Drive-Thru)**



**Meals include :** 1/2 chicken with our famous sauce, coleslaw, boiled potatoes, roll & butter, and a brownie. All COVID-19 rules will be implemented. Proceeds to benefit the ministries at GUMC. Invite your family, friends, & neighbors.

*Remember to sign-up as a volunteer!*

# JOIN US FOR OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10.00 AM

*We are continuing Sunday  
Worship at 10AM!!*

*Please review the guidelines before you  
decide to attend.*

*Our Sunday messages will continue to be  
recorded and posted on our Facebook  
page. Perfect for those who are not com-  
fortable coming in person.*

## Sunday messages are on Facebook

If you do not have a Facebook account, go to our website, [www.greeceumc.org](http://www.greeceumc.org). On the Welcome page, in the top right hand corner, you will see the Facebook link. Just click that link and you will be taken to the page and you can view all messages and live videos.

Worship Scripture will be available in the weekly email and bulletins.



### Joys and Concerns — Weekly email

Our effort to keep the church congregation connected and updated on your Joys & Concerns remains important to us. We continue to offer this list, along with announcements & the weekly calendar, through an email sent out weekly on Thursdays. If you would like to be added to the email list or share your prayer request with us for this list please send by Wednesday at noon to the Church Office at—585-225-1880, [greece-umc@outlook.com](mailto:greece-umc@outlook.com)

If you would like the Pastor to pray but do not want your request shared on the public list please indicate that clearly on your request.

We look forward to hearing from you,  
Greece United Methodist Church



Please continue to check our weekly email,  
the bulletin, or our church website at  
**[www.greeceumc.org](http://www.greeceumc.org)**

for up-to-date information on church activities  
and current Covid guidelines as New York  
continues to make changes to it's  
recommendations.



## Greece United Methodist COVID In-person Guidelines

Due to the uptick in covid cases in our area and the delta variant breaking through the vaccine, Greece UMC is asking **everyone, even if you have been vaccinated, to please wear a mask** while attending worship and indoor church events. This move is in response to recommendations from county, state, and CDC health officials and is an act of love as we seek to guard one another from harm.

We will continue to have music and singing, but ask worshipers to sing while wearing a mask and to do so in a softer voice.

The only exceptions to this rule will be for the liturgist and pastor only when they are in place to lead the worship service as they will be in a position to allow for safe distance between themselves and others.

Thank you for your act of love!

Pastor Gary



## **Finance Report:**

### **Budgeted Income as of Week #32 – 08/08/21**

Budget Total Needed YTD	Received YTD	Pledges Needed YTD	Received	Non-Pledges Needed	
\$184,114.46	\$167,434.54	\$98,461.54	\$101,892.00	\$27,692.31	\$31,502.94



### **Current Income (Usable) vs Expenses as of the end of July 07/25/21 (Week#30)**

Usable	Spent	Yet to Spend	+/-
\$152,811.60	\$156,705.44	\$0.00	-3,893.84

### **Summer - Pledge and Contributions**

Thank you to all who continued your pledges and contributions throughout the summer. Whether in person, by mail or on-line, your donations provide much needed support.

### **GUMC Fundraisers**

The Summer Chicken BBQ's are happening monthly through the Fall. Please support these fundraising efforts.

Best regards,

Bill Kostyshak, Financial Secretary

## **A Message from Outreach — September 2021**



Now through September 12, our **school supplies** collection is topping the charts at GUMC! The big boxes in the commons await your items which include: backpacks, spiral & (marble) composition books, 2-pocket folders, #2 pencils, Crayola crayons, markers (thin, colored, low odor dry erase), colored pencils, rulers, erasers (Pink Pearl & pencil-top), glue sticks, (1-inch) 3-ring binders, sticky notes, tissues, paper towels, Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, gallon), anti-bacterial wipes, hand sanitizer . . . AND . . . lunch boxes, pencil boxes, inexpensive water bottles. A list of these requests can be found on the table near the mailboxes in the commons.



Get ready! **MISSION SUNDAY** is coming **October 17**, featuring Tracy Jagla, director of Journey Home, as our guest speaker. Due to covid, we received fewer pledges and, therefore, less revenue for 2020. As a result, we needed to adjust our budget donations: each of the 16 organizations we support received only half of our original designation. Otherwise, our treasury would have been empty. A couple of weeks prior to October 17, you will receive a letter (with budget details) & a pledge card in the mail. As you prepare for this year's mission, please pledge as generously as you can.



Our weekly **Bible Study** "mission" continues via Zoom on Wednesday mornings for residents of Atria and Elderwood senior living facilities. We are always looking for volunteers; if you are interested in checking out what we do, contact Karen Pearson (kgp@rochester.rr.com, 392-3892, 329-6659) or Gale Huber (galefischerhuber@gmail.com, 247-3464).



Thanks to everyone who shopped & donated undies for August 29 /**Undie Sunday**. We will deliver the new undies along with the school supplies to our six elementary schools in mid-September.



Thinking ahead to November, we will be participating in Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf's annual **Thanksgiving** program. At this time, we are waiting for details, but the procedure will likely be the same as it was last year: collecting money (rather than frozen turkeys & canned goods) to be used to purchase Aldi's gift cards for those in need (based on family size).



**For all the details of these projects and more, check out the weekly bulletins, inserts, and flyers.**





## GREECE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

**Executive Committee Meeting** — No Meeting in September. Next meeting will be October 4th.

**Miriam Circle** — September 13th @ 6:30pm. Planning for the year so bring your ideas for programs.

**Ruth Circle** — September 14th @ 12:30pm (Room 9). Marty Golub will present "Learning To Love Yourself More."

We are not planning a Men's Breakfast this month, as we have in other years.

Save the date — 10/9, Genesee Valley District meeting at Penfield UMC with a speaker from Margaret House.



Introducing **Greece Ubuntu**, the name now being used for the Greece Ecumenical Racial Justice Committee. It means "Humanity Towards Others," or "I am Because We are." There is some great information as to what this project entails on a new website called "Greece Ubuntu" appearing on the Greece Baptist Church website. The easiest way to access the website is to search for [Greece Baptist Church, Rochester, NY/Greece Ubuntu \(click here\)](#). You will learn exactly what this faith-based ecumenical group is all about and the impact it is having on our community.

Bible Study at Atria and Elderwood continues on Zoom Wednesday mornings, 10:30-11:00, featuring scripture readings, real-life or humorous stories, and "instrumental" hymns (no singing yet). Volunteers welcome. To get more information, contact

Karen Pearson [kgp@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kgp@rochester.rr.com) or 392-3892 or 329-6659(cell) or

Gale Huber at [galefischerhuber@gmail.com](mailto:galefischerhuber@gmail.com) or 247-3464.



### *HEART TO HEART and "WE CARE" CARD MINISTRY*

To "keep in touch" during this difficult time when we are unable to worship and fellowship all together please consider checking the page in the Newsletter where birthdays and anniversaries are printed and send a card or two to members listed, especially to those who have been unable to worship with us in the church building. Note cards are available on the table in the Commons area.

Thank you.

Please join us each month as we help to stock the shelves at the **Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf**.

For **September** needs please check the sign in the commons and weekly email.

**Please donate regular sizes—most households are 1-4 people. Items that are always needed: chunky-style soup, canned vegetables & fruit, canned pasta, chili, stew and tuna.**

Your donations of food help to feed our neighbors in Greece and Charlotte.

Thank you



## **Congregational Updates:**

### New Addresses:

Not available for web edition





## Committee Meetings

**Leaders may hold Zoom meetings. Check your emails for updates.**

9/14: SPRC

9/12: Trustee

9/21: Finance

9/28: Church Council

*All are welcome to join any or all studies.  
Invite your family, friends, and neighbors.*



## **Page Turners Book Club:**

*September 2021 Selection:*

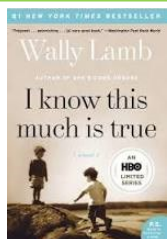
### ***I Know This Much Is True***

*by Wally Lamb*

Dominick Birdsey, a forty-year-old house-painter living in Three Rivers, Connecticut, finds his subdued life greatly disturbed when his identical twin brother Thomas, a paranoid schizophrenic, commits a shocking act of self-mutilation. Dominick is forced to care for his brother as well as confront dark secrets and pain he has buried deep within himself—a journey of the soul that takes him beyond his blue-collar New England town to Sicily's Mount Etna, the birthplace of his grandfather and namesake. Coming to terms with his life and lineage, Dominick struggles to find forgiveness and finally rebuild himself beyond the haunted shadow of his troubled twin.

**Join us Tuesday, September 28th at 7PM by Zoom**

**October: The Color Purple by Alice Walker**



## **Tuesday Book Group:**

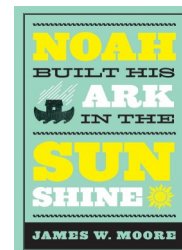
### ***Noah Built His Ark In The Sunshine***

*by James W Moore*

Noah built his ark on a sunny day; trusting in God, he prepared in advance for the storm that was to come. He didn't wait until the last minute. He used the sunny days to get himself ready. He used those bright days to build up the resources he would need when the rain and the floods came later. In his story, we learn many important things about his faith, gratitude, and spiritual strength. But the question is, "How do we get there? How do we reach that level of spiritual maturity? That kind of faith and spiritual maturity doesn't just happen overnight. We have to build it! We have to work at the faith, practice it, express it, study it, share it. And as we do, our faith will grow, and our gratitude will deepen, and we too will be able to pray, "Lord, whatever this day may bring, you are here, you are in it, you are with us, so may your name be praised!"

**We meet Tuesdays @ 10:00 am in the Kerrison Rm.  
All are welcomed to attend.**

Contact Linda Hoffman for information. (458-2248  
or [lmhoffman@rochester.rr.com](mailto:lmhoffman@rochester.rr.com))



## **Zoom Small Group Study — Wednesdays at 6:30PM**

New Book starting September 1<sup>st</sup>!

### **The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life**

By Adam Hamilton

Jesus walked the shoreline and came to Simon Peter and Andrew and gave them a simple invitation: "Come, follow me." A few steps later he called James and John to do the same. It is this idea of walking with Jesus is what we will be exploring about our Christian life. In *The Walk*, Pastor Hamilton focuses on five essential practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God. These practices are part of our daily walk with Christ and an essential part of growing together in the church.

If you are interested in joining this Zoom study, please email Debbie Babbage at [deborahbabbage12@gmail.com](mailto:deborahbabbage12@gmail.com), subject line: **The Walk**. You will receive a weekly Zoom invitation to attend the class.

What you would need: The book **The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life** by Adam Hamilton. This can be purchased at [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com), Cokesbury, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. Have your Bible and something to take notes with, also.

9/1: Intro and Chapter 1: Worship and Prayer: A Living Hallelujah

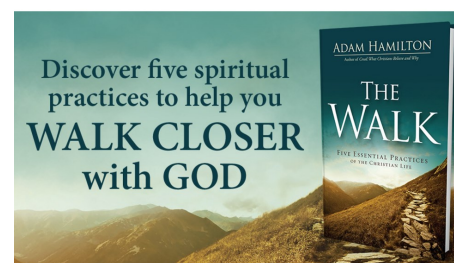
9/8: Chapter 2: Study: The Importance of Listening & Paying Attention

9/15: Chapter 3: Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me

9/22: Chapter 4: Give: Where Your Treasure Is

9/29: Share: Going Fishing, reflecting Light

10/6: The Five Practices from the Cross





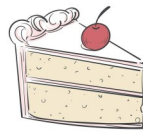
## **Congregational Share**

This page is devoted for the purpose of sharing ideas, recipes, book reviews, notes of encouragement, etc. It's an opportunity to reach out to all who read our newsletters, especially during COVID-19.



### ***Pastor Gary's Welcome Reception on July 11, 2021.***

*We had a great turn out of people coming to meet and greet Pastor Gary. Thank you to all that came and helped make a wonderful welcome reception possible.*



### **AFTER THE SERVICE SUNDAY 7/11**



**Thoughts from Lisa Kostyshak:**

## ***Ways You Can Help Your Pastor***

### **Pray for your pastor and his family**

Praying for your pastor daily will help him, and it will keep you tender toward his leadership.

### **Pick a Ministry (a Job) and Be Faithful**

Jesus taught that the primary attribute for His followers was faithfulness.

### **Volunteer for some unique service**

There's always something that needs to be done. Be available for transportation, add your strength to those chaperoning the youth group, visit someone. You name it, if it takes people, you can probably do it. From cutting the grass, to fixing a leaky faucet, the jobs needing to be done around the average church are mind-boggling.

### **Help in practical ways**

Your help is only as good as it is practical. If you are always under foot begging to be used, or you doing the job costs twice as much as another doing the same job, then perhaps that's not very practical. But, even picking up that dropped gum wrapper can be practical. Look around, ask God for Wisdom and He will give it. Use your gifts and graces in practical ways.

### **Envision a Great Future for Your Church**

*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. (Proverbs 29:18)*

### **Share Christ and Your Church with Others**

Andrew brought Peter to Jesus. This is the first step in becoming a soulwinner. Bringing people to church with you is the "entry level" of soulwinning. Anyone and everyone can do it. *And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. (Luke 14:23)*

### **Keep a Positive Spirit**

Determine to focus on the good things in life and the good things about your church. Anybody can criticize. Critics are a dime a dozen. *Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: (Psalm 146:5)*

### **Pray for your pastor and his family**

It all begins and ends with prayer.







## Liturgists:

Schedule TBA.

## Projectionists:

Schedule TBA.

## Nursery:

*Nursery is on hold.*

## Children's Church:

*Children's Church is on hold.*

## Greeters:

*Greeter Ministry is on hold.*

## Communion Steward:

## Ushers:

Tom Hinterman  
Janice Smith  
Sue Hogeman  
Melissa Johnson

## Counters: Sundays/Mondays

9/5 & 9/12: Earle Ridley, Sue Hogeman  
9/19 & 9/26: Sandra Konarski, Glenna Johantgen,  
Dick Hamblin

## Trustee of the Month:

Earle Ridley

## September Birthdays



Not available for web edition

## September Anniversaries



Not available for web edition

\*If you are not on this list and would like to be added please contact the church office by phone at 225-1880 or by email at greeceumc@outlook.com.

The Worship Committee is looking for people who want to aid their fellow worshipers each Sunday. See below how you may help enrich our worship time:



- **Altar Guild:** Contact Kathy Murray at kathykearnsmurray@gmail.com
- **Communion Stewards:** Contact Kathy Murray at kathykearnsmurray@gmail.com
- **Liturgists:** Contact Tom Klingenberg at tklingen@rochester.rr.com
- **Ushers:** Contact Tom Hinterman in person, or Hinterman.Tom7@Gmail.com
- **Nursery, Children's Church, Greeters:** TBD
- **Projectionists:** Contact Lisa Kostyshak at lkostyshak@gmail.com
- **Choir:** Contact Sharon Neary, choir director at sharonlneary@gmail.com
- **Praise Band:** Contact Ed Klingenberg at edk@rochester.rr.com

**September 2021 as of 8/16. Please see Website for any Updates.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Atria & Elderwood Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM AA 12 PM Book/Bible Study Zoom 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	2 Women's AA 11 AM Boy Scout Troop 278 7 PM	3 AA 12 PM  Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	4
5 Worship Service 10 AM	6 Labor Day  AA 12 PM  Silver Squares 12:30 PM  Victory AA 6 PM	7 Tuesday Book Study 10 AM	8 Atria & Elderwood Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM AA 12 PM Book/Bible Study 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	9 Women's AA 11 AM Boy Scout Troop 278 7 PM	10 AA 12 PM  Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	11
12 Trustees 10 AM  Worship Service 10 AM	13 AA 12 PM  Silver Squares 12:30 PM  Victory AA 6 PM  Miriam Circle 6:30 PM  UMW Exec. Com- mittee 6:30 PM	14 Tuesday Book Study 10 AM  Ruth Circle 12:30 PM  SPRC 7 PM	15 Newsletter Deadline Today  Atria & Elderwood Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM AA 12 PM Chicken BBQ Food Prep - Kitchen 1 PM Book Study/Bible Study Zoom 6:30 PM Brookview HOA Mtg 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	16 Women's AA 11 AM Chicken BBQ Drive Thru 4:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 278 7 PM	17 AA 12 PM  Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	18 Emmaus Gathering 8:30 AM
19 Worship Service 10 AM	20 AA 12 PM  Silver Squares 12:30 PM  Victory AA 6 PM	21 Salem Nutrition Center 9 AM  Tuesday Book Study 10 AM  Finance Committee 7 PM	22 Atria & Elderwood Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM AA 12 PM Book Study/Bible Study Zoom 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	23 Women's AA 11 AM Boy Scout Troop 278 7 PM	24 AA 12 PM  Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	25
26 Worship Service 10 AM  Girl Scout Service Unit 6 PM	27 MS Society Support Group 10:30 AM  AA 12 PM Silver Squares 12:30 PM Victory AA 6 PM	28 Tuesday Book Study 10 AM  Page Turners 7 PM  Church Council 7:15 PM	29 Atria & Elderwood Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM AA 12 PM Book Study/Bible Study Zoom 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	30 Women's AA 11 AM Boy Scout Troop 278 7 PM		