The ENLIGHTENER



Pastor's Message:

The Bible has a lot to say about how to address disagreements, and how to forgive, ask forgiveness, and accept forgiveness – from God and from other persons. Jesus warned his disciples that the world would not always agree with them, or accept them (John 15:18 - 16:33). He gave them the assurance that the Holy Spirit would be with them in their times of trial (Matthew 10:17-20). He also told them to love their enemies, and to pray for those that would persecute them (Matthew 5:44).

Jesus knew, even before the church got started, that there would also be differences among the people who would be his disciples (*Matthew 5: 22-24*). So, he gave instructions about how to handle a dispute or a disagreement with another person in the church (*Matthew 18: 15-17*). Those instructions involve talking to one another, which hopefully will lead to the giving and accepting of forgiveness.

This is a season of the year when disagreement is in the air. I refer not to Autumn, but to Election Season. We are called upon to make decisions about who will lead us at various levels of government, and therefore, what direction our community, our state, and our country will take into the future. In this year of presidential election, the decisions to be made take on a great importance. There is not much in this world that generates more disagreement than elections, and the politics around them. This year, the sense of division around issues in society is greater than it has been in a generation.

It is my hope that your faith will inform the way you vote. Your understanding of who God is, and who we are in relation to God (theology) should be the most important factor in all the decisions of your life. Our theology informs much of how we view ourselves and other people, human relationships, and how our communities, large and small, should be organized — whether we are conscious of it or not. I hope that you will pray and seek God's guidance as you make a decision about the candidates for various offices. I hope that you will open your eyes and ears, your heart and mind to receive the answers to your prayers.

Here's the hard part: sometimes people of sincere and deep faith will pray and perceive different answers to their prayers. You, after praying, may feel led to vote for one candidate, while your faithful neighbor, after praying, may feel led to vote for the opponent. Undoubtedly, there will be people from our congregation voting on opposite sides in every race on the ballot.

Let us not be afraid to try to convince one another of our political view, but let us also remember that we are bound together in the Body of Christ. Whatever we may think of another's opinion, let us recognize them as a sister or brother – all of us children of God. Your drawing a different conclusion than mine should not mean that my faith is suspect, nor is yours. Let us be willing to talk about our differences, as Jesus instructed. And let us be willing to forgive others when we believe strongly that they are wrong.

May God bless you with wisdom, insight, and love for your neighbor as we prepare for this last month of anticipation of the election.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Matt Stengel

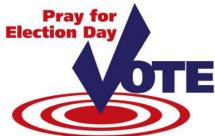


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Let's Get Connected!

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

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. 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 to Deb Babbage at dbabbage@rochester.rr.com. Thank you.

2020 Fundraiser Updates



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 Fundraising community. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed!

Church

2020 fundraiser events are scheduled. Make sure to save the new dates!

Pulled Pork BBQ (drive thru) Thur., Oct. 15, 4:30pm-sell

Profits:

Super Bowl Sub Sale	\$222.67
Chicken & Biscuits (eat-in)	\$324.00
St. Patrick's Day Dinner (eat-in)	Cancelled due to COVID-19
Chicken BBQ (drive-thru)	Cancelled due to COVID-19
Neighborhood Food & Fun	Cancelled due to COVID-19
Chicken BBQ (June)	\$1,225.00
Chicken BBQ (July)	\$1,430.15
Chicken BBQ (August)	\$1,782.54
Chicken BBQ (September)	TBA

We are continuing Sunday Worship at 10AM!!
Please review the guidelines on the next page 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 comfortable coming in person.





Sunday messages are on Facebook

If you do not have a Facebook account, go to our website, 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—October 2020

What follows are the Lectionary Readings for each Sunday. Each week, the theme of the services will usually emerge from one of the prescribed readings (often the Gospel). We invite you to read through the lessons prior to Sunday. It can be a healthy discipline and enhance the experience of worship.

10/4: Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46

10/11: Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6,19-23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14

10/18: Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonian 1:1-10 Matthew 21:15-22

"MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS"

"Manna in the Wilderness" is a campaign to help support the Upper New York Camp & Ministries during this unprecedented time when they have had to cancel summer camp and retreats for the summer of 2020 due to COVID-19. They have had many on-going operating expenses, and have not been allowed to welcome groups to use (and pay for) the facilities. If you have had a meaningful experience at one of our camps, you may wish to help with this effort to support our Camps and Retreats ministry.

You may make a contribution to benefit one particular site or facility (e.g. Camp Asbury or Casowasco), or to benefit the Camps and Retreats Ministry in general. The website to contribute is https://crmcentral.campbraingiving.com/. You may also send a check through our church (put "Manna in the Wilderness" on the note line of the check), or send it directly to the Upper NY Conference at 7481 Henry Clay Blvd, Liverpool, NY 13088.

Greece United Methodist COVID In-person Guidelines

Requirements: Facial Masks, Screening, Temperatures, Social Distancing

Available: Masks, Hand Sanitizer, Cleansing Wipes

Not Available: Sunday School, Children's Church, Nursery, Bulletins, Pew Bibles, Hymnals, Guest

Sign-in Books, Offering plates,

Process:

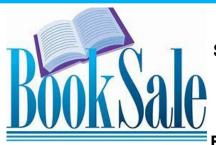
• Limited access into the building – Only use of the main entrance located off the parking lot (Kings Common)

- Doors will be opened (weather permitted) 30 mins before the service and kept open.
- Screening table will be at the entrance of the building. You must stop at a screening table before entering the building.
- You will be asked a series of pre-screening questions, your temperature will be taken (100.3 or below accepted), and sign-in attendance (for contact tracing) will be taken before entering the building.
- We will be counting attendees to make sure we do not exceed capacity requirements.
- Name tags will be available on outside table. Congregation will take their name tags with them after the service and will be responsible for the care of them. It is recommended that you wear you name tag when possible. It is difficult to recognize people with their masks on. (Suggestion: Leave in your vehicle so you have it each week.)
- After screening, proceed directly to the sanctuary where an usher will seat you/family in a social distance approved pew.
- Tithing box will be inside sanctuary doors.
- At the end of the service, ushers will release congregation one pew at a time. Please proceed directly to parking lot.
- Non-touch socializing should be before and after the service, **outside** on church grounds. Please maintain social distancing.
- Due to space limitations, we ask that no more than 2 people at a time in our restrooms. It is important that we make every effort to abide with social distancing.

Screening Questions:

- Have you recently developed any of these symptoms <u>without a known cause</u>?
 Cough, fever or chills, congestion or running nose, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, body aches or fatigue, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, sore throat, severe headaches
- 2. Have you been exposed to COVID-19 and told to quarantine?
- 3. Have you returned from any high-risk domestic areas, as described by NY*, in the last 14 days?
- 4. Have you returned from a foreign country in the last 14 days?
- 5. Have you had a positive COVID test in the last 28 days?

*NY State high-risk domestic areas (as of 9/15): Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Virgin Islands, Wisconsin



2020 Annual Book Sale Book

September 24-26, October 1-3, October 8-10, October 16-17*

Thursdays & Fridays hours: 2pm—6pm

Saturdays: 10am-2pm

Each Saturday will be special sale:

9/26—games,

10/3—puzzles,

10/10—movies/music

*Weekend of 10/16-10/17—bag sale for books—\$3/bag

CDC rules apply. Masks and Social Distancing required—gloves recommended. Temperature screening will be taken at the door. Please check our guidelines on page 4 of this newsletter for all screening information.

We have a huge selection of new or gently used books, CDs, DVDs, Blue Rays, and puzzles/games* to sell. Tables/bookcases will be set up through the entire Fellowship hall, spaced to accommodate social distancing.

Tell your family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for your support!

*(There are no VHS tapes, cassette tapes, magazines, encyclopedias or textbooks.)



We desperately need Volunteers for set-up, during the sale, and cleaning up after the book sale. Please consider helping.

You can email Debbie at dbabbage@rochester.rr.com, subject Book sale volunteer

Thank you in advance.

Pulled Pork Drive Thru! Thursday, October 15th

4:30—6:30pm (or until sold-out)

Pulled Pork w/bun, Coleslaw, Potatoes, and Brownie for \$10.00

All COVID-19 rules will be implemented. Exact change would be appreciated.



Message from Outreach:



limetes Fall is in the air, but we are definitely not *fall*-ing short of generosity!



Our two bursting-at-the-seams school supplies collection boxes ensure that six local elementary schools will be well-supported again this year. Everything from backpacks to binders, crayons to composition books, pencils to Post-its, erasers to Elmer's, tissues to paper towels. All these treasures, along with our August collection of undies, were received with smiles and thanks.

Our thanks go to Jennifer Muniga from Cameron Street Ministries for her video presentation on Mission Sunday. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience. Each organization that we support depends on our contributions.

Thanks, also, to our CROP Walkers and contributors. Stay tuned for the details!

November 29 is our next Undie Sunday, gathering new undies for elementary school children as well as adults at the Open Door Mission and the Veterans Outreach Center. Kids' socks and pants are also appreciated.



This year, because of the pandemic, our Thanksgiving donations will be very different, based on the recommendations of the Food Shelf. First, we will not be bringing in any turkeys or canned/boxed goods, and we will not be creating "baskets" to sponsor a certain number of families. Instead, we will be contributing to an overall "pool" of money for the Food Shelf to purchase gift cards for families, available in these increments: \$40 (family of 3-5); \$50 (family of 6-8); \$60 (family of 9 or more). Second, Bucket Brigade Sunday will be earlier, probably November 8 or 15. We can make our \$\$\$ donations—either cash or checks (payable to Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf)—any time up to whichever date is chosen. ADDITIONAL DETAILS to follow in the November newsletter as well as in the bulletin in a few weeks.

Our Atria Bible Study is still on hold, but I (along with Gale Fischer) have been "Zooming" with a small group of residents at Elderwood on Long Pond Road for the past several weeks.



Thank you all for caring about others in our community.

GREECE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

Due to the ever-changing pandemic challenges, the following locations are subject to change: Any in-person meeting in Room 9 requires masks being worn along with social distancing.



UMW Executive Committee: Monday, October 5th, 6:30, Location TBD

Miriam Circle: Monday October 12th, 6:30 in Room 9 Please bring Baby Shower items for Asbury Store-

house

Ruth Circle: Tuesday, October 13th, at 12:30. Location in Pavilion, weather permitting. Program TBD

PLEASE NOTE: The UMW Annual Fall Bazaar will not be taking place this year.

HEART TO HEART and "WE CARE" CARD MINISTRY

Names and addresses of our homebound members as well as recent members appearing on our Joys and Concerns list are on the table in the Commons area as well as note cards for your use to pick up and mail to members to let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Please let Gale know (247-3464) if you wish to add someone to our Heart to Heart list.



Widows & Widowers:
Will not meet until COVID
restrictions are lifted.
Check website for updates.

Congregational Updates:

New Address:

Pam Gratzer

Erich Ruppert Sr.





Remember your mask when entering our building!

Page Turners Book Club:

October Selection:

Emma In The Night
By Wendy Walker

One night three years ago, the Tanner sisters disappeared: fifteen-year-old Cass and seventeen-year-old Emma. Three years later, Cass returns, without her sister Emma. Her story is one of kidnapping and betrayal, of a mysterious island where the two were held. But to forensic psychiatrist Dr. Abby Winter, something doesn't add up. Looking deep within this dysfunctional family Dr. Winter uncovers a life where boundaries were violated and a narcissistic parent held sway. And where one sister's return might just be the beginning of the crime.

Join us <u>Tuesday, October 27th at 4PM</u> in the Kerrison Room.

November Selection: **Sold On A Monday** by Kristina McMorris

Salem Nutritional Center

Salem is still operating. doing meals for pickup only, and they are oper-



ating with a reduced staff (basically by invitation only).

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

October we are collecting:

- Canned fruit pears, pineapple, applesauce, apricots, mixed fruit
- Pork & Beans



Please donate regular sizes—most households are 1-4 people.

UPDATE: COVID-19 and Our Church Finances

Our church finances have continued to look ok because you, our members, have continued to make your contributions, tithes and offerings. Thanks be to you and to God!

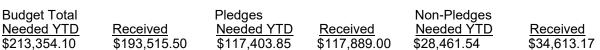


We have now done three very successful BBQ fund raisers but are not likely to achieve our income goal in this area due to the events that did not take place earlier this year.

Your contributions remain vital, especially as we work to discern our ministry plans for the coming year. You may drop them off at the church, mail them, use our online giving option (see the website greeceumc.org) OR turn them in at our Covid 19 compliant in-person services at 10:00 am Sundays this fall.

Finance Report:

Budgeted Income as of Week #37 - 09/13/20





Current Income (Usable) vs Expenses as of the end of August 08/31/20 (Week#35)

<u>Usable</u>	<u>Spent</u>	Yet to Spend	+/-
\$182,253.00	\$181,184.45	\$0.00	+1,068.55

Missions Fund Pledge

The Missions Fund Pledge campaign is underway.

If you have not already done so, please submit your Missions Fund Pledge card.

GUMC Fundraisers

This Fall, please support the Pork BBQ and the Annual Book Sale fundraising efforts.

Contribution Statements - Third Quarter of 2020

Due to Covid-19, the 3rd Quarter Contribution statements will be mailed out in October 2020.

Included in the statement will be details of contributions received from January 1 - September 30, 2020.

Please review your contributions for accuracy and let me know if there are any corrections needed.

Best regards,

Bill Kostyshak, Financial Secretary



Committee meetings are suspended during COVID restrictions. Leaders may hold Zoom meetings. Check your emails for updates.

10/11: Trustee—Hold 10/13: SPRC—Hold

10/20: Finance Zoom Mtg

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



Tuesday Book Group:

Classes have been suspended until the COVID-19 restrictions have been cleared.

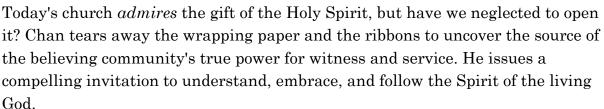
Seize The Day

by Joyce Meyer
Living on purpose and making every day.
We meet Tuesdays @ 10:00 am in the Kerrison
Room. All are welcomed to attend.

Contact Linda Hoffman for information. (458-2248 or Imhoffman@rochester.rr.com

NEW!!!! Wednesday ZOOM Study, starting September 30th

Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit By Francis Chan





9/30: Introduction/Chapter 1: I've Got Jesus. Why Do I Need the Spirit?

10/7: Chapter 2: What Are You Afraid Of?

10/14: Chapter 3: Theology of the Holy Spirit 101

10/21: Chapter 4: Why Do You Want Him?

10/28: Chapter 5: A Real Relationship

11/4: Chapter 6:Forget About His Will for Your Life!

11/11: Chapter 7: Supernatural Church

Zoom meetings are <u>Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30PM.</u> Contact Debbie Babbage at dbabbage@rochester.rr.com, Subject: Zoom Book Study, to sign up. Books can be ordered through Christianbook.com. Also, the ebook is available on Hoopla.

Thoughts from Lisa Kostyshak

From Barbara Johnson's 1993 book, "Pick Up Your Gloomees in a Great Big Box Then Sit on the Lid and Laugh"

Grace Is God

But he was wounded for our transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon him,

And by his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, everyone, to his own way;

And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53: 5 - 6

Grace is one of those "theological" words that we say we believe in and even count on, but sometimes it's good to consider what grace really does mean in a world where the gloomees are always out to get you. As Lewis Smedes says, "God's grace can make life all RIGHT despite the fact that everything is obviously all WRONG... Grace is the reality of God entering history -- and our lives -- to make things right at the very center.

Grace does not stand up for an escape mechanism, some kind of all-expense-paid trip to Disneyland because God knows we can't afford to go ourselves. Grace has nothing to do with Disneylands, Fantasy Islands, magical cures, or instant solutions.

You may have seen the acrostic on grace that puts it in perspective:

God's

Riches

At

Christ's

Expense

Jesus never used the word grace.

God left that for Paul, but if you want to describe grace in one word it is Jesus.

Grace (Jesus) is the answer for our guilt and failure.

Grace (Jesus) is the strength we need to cope with life.

Grace (Jesus) is the promise that gives us the hope that keeps us going.



Congregational Share Page

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 the present COVID-19 restrictions. If you would like to share something on this page, please email Debbie Babbage at dbabbage@rochester.rr.com.

To My Dear Church Family,

I am very sorry that I wasn't able to see many of you before I left town on August 14th. Even though church services were being held then, I didn't feel comfortable attending. In a way, I was glad because it would have been extremely difficult to see you all knowing that, for most of you, it would be for the last time.

G.U.M.C. has been a huge part of my life since 1965. There were many "ups" and a few "downs" during those 55 years and thanks to those who were with me during those times. Many wonderful memories flood my mind whenever I think of all the events that were held over the years. I will treasure those memories and the special friendships that I was blessed to have with so many of you; those memories will never leave me. I will miss you all terribly but I truly believe that this move was the right thing to do at this stage of my life.

May God bless you and may He keep you all safe and healthy. Arlene Martin.













Thank you to all the volunteers and the Greece Police for making this a successful year!

Chicken BBO in the time of COVID!

Sunday Morning Servants



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, Barb Mertz, Sue Hogeman, Janice Smith

Counters: Mondays

10/4 & 10/11: Earle Ridley, Sue Hogeman, Barb Mertz

10/18 & 10/25: Sandra Kornarski, Glenna Jonantgen, Chris Collins

October Birthdays

October Anniversaries



Birthdays and Anniversaries are printed in web edition.



Worship Committee



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
- <u>Communion Stewards:</u> Contact Kathy Murray at kathykearnsmurray@gmail.com
- <u>Liturgists:</u> Contact Tom Klingenberger at tklingen@rochester.rr.com
- <u>Ushers:</u> Contact Tom Hinterman in person, or Hinterman.Tom7@Gmail.com
- Nursery, Children's Church, Greeters: Contact Debbie Babbage at dbabbage@rochester.rr.com
- <u>Projectionists:</u> Contact Lisa Kostyshak at lkostyshak@gmail.com
- <u>Choir</u>: Contact Sharon Neary, choir director at sharonlneary@gmail.com
- <u>Praise Band:</u> Contact Ed Klingenberger at edk@rochester.rr.com

October 2020 as of 9/15th. Please see Website for Updates.

				e see Website fo		Ī.,
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Book Sale 9am-
				Book Sale 2-6pm	Book Sale 2-6pm	2pm
				Atria Sr Bible Study	AA 12 PM	
				- "ON HOLD"		
					Creative Hands	
				Women's AA	1:15 PM	
				11 AM	AA 7:30 PM	
				Boy Scouts		
4	5	6	7	7 PM 8	9	10
In-person Worship		Tuesday Book	AA	Book Sale 2-6pm	Book Sale 2-6pm	Emmaus Gathering
10am	AA IZ FIVI	Study	12 PM	-	-	8:30 AM
loam	Silver Squares	10 AM		Atria Sr Bible Study - "ON HOLD"	AA 12 PM	
	Square Dancers		Zoom Book Study	OIVIIOLD	Creative Hands	Book Sale 9am-
	12:30 PM		6:30PM	Women's AA	1:15 PM	2pm
	Victory AA 6 PM			11 AM		
	Victory AA 0 1 W				AA 7:30 PM	
11	12	13	14	Boy Scouts 7 PM	16	17
In-person worship		Tuesday Book	AA	Newsletter Deadline		Book Sale 9am-
10am	Columbus Day	Study	12 PM	Today	_	2pm
	AA 12 PM	10 AM		,	AA 12 PM	Zp
			Zoom Book Study	Atria Sr Bible Study	Creative Hands	
	Oliver Oquares	SPRC 7 PM	6:30PM	- "ON HOLD" at this time	1:15 PM	
	Square Dancers 12:30 PM	7 F IVI				
	12.50 T W			Women's AA	AA 7:30 PM	
	Victory AA 6 PM			11 AM		
	Miriam Circle			Pulled Pork Drive Thru 4:30 PM		
	6:30 PM			1111 d 4.30 1 M		
				Boy Scouts 7 PM		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
In-person worship		Salem Nutrition	AA	Atria Sr Bible Study		
10am	12 PM	Center 9 AM	12 PM	- "ON HOLD"	12 PM	
	Silver Squares	9 AIVI	Zoom Book Study	Women's AA 11 AM	Creative Hands	
	Square Dancers	Tuesday Book	6:30PM	Wolliens AA 11 AW	1:15 PM	
	12:30 PM	Study 10 AM		Boy Scouts 7 PM		
		E: 0 '''			AA	
	Victory AA 6 PM	Finance Committee 7 PM			7:30 PM	
25		27	28	29	30	31
	MS Society Support		AA	Atria Sr Bible Study		Halloween
10am	Group	Study	12 PM	- "ON HOLD"	12 PM	
	10:30 AM	10 AM				
Girl Scout Service	A A 10 DM	Dago Turnara	Zoom Book Study	Women's AA	Creative Hands	
Unit 6 PM		Page Turners 4PM	6:30PM	11 AM	1:15 PM	
	Silver Squares	,,,		Boy Scouts 7 PM	AA	
	12:30 PM				7:30 PM	
	Victory AA 6 PM					