

Mar. 2021 Newsletter

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Not Just Another Year by Pastor Scott

One year ago, we entered into an uncertain time. Covid 19 was on the rise, we shut down everything, church and social events got canceled, and our circles got smaller, particularly for those folks who already had a small circle. Life as we knew it seemed “Not Normal.” Last year at this time, I was looking forward to my 64th birthday. I had hoped to celebrate with family and friends; however, those plans were cut short by the quarantine. But I had a great celebration with Lori and my son Thomas.

One year later, I find myself in a similar situation as I turn 65 on March 13th. When I say the date, the 13th, many people have a small adverse reaction. For some reason, people are skeptical of that date, because it has been associated with that Ides of March. Some people also ask: What is the meaning of the term the Ides of March?

Well, it simply referred to the first full moon of a given month, which usually fell between the 13th and 15th. In fact, the **Ides of March** once signified the new year, which meant celebrations and rejoicing. Yet when heroes in movies, books and television shows are faced with the **Ides of March**, it's always seems to have a bad omen. That's Hollywood for you, and what used to be celebrated, became something to be feared. Just know that is myth.

I always looked at this time as a positive time, as I was born on my Father's birthday. Yes, it was planned; my mother's doctor wanted to go on vacation, and induced labor. The birth went as planned, and mom and dad took me home in the snowstorm of 1956. Some of you might remember that. Those were the days.

I say all of this to let you know that I still look forward to my birthday, small it might well be; however, I thank God for another year. A year to grow, live life, and look forward to the little victories and moments that mean a lot. You are all a part of that. And I want to thank you. I am completing my 5th year here at Green Pond United Methodist Church. And even though things are very different, I still feel privileged to be your pastor. God has blessed me with you, my church family.

I realize that this next year will also be a year of change, challenges, and blessing. All of which we will live through together with God's help. I want you to keep the faith, know that I am here for you, and love you all.

Green Pond United
Methodist Church

www.greenpondumc.com

Black History Month Materials—Micah Gary-Fryer

Announcements

Finance Update: Below is a brief summary of January's balance, as well as our Year to Date balance, from our Finance Team. As always, feel free to contact Brad Schaeffer (schaefferfinancialandtax@yahoo.com), our Financial Advisor, if you have any questions.

GPUMC FINANCE SUMMARY JANUARY 31, 2021

	JAN 2021
INCOME	9,017.00
HOUSING	
REIMBURSE	1,333.33
EXPENSES	(12,523.78)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(2,173.45)
	YTD 2021
INCOME	9,017.00
HOUSING	
REIMBURSE	1,333.33
EXPENSES	(12,523.78)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(2,173.45)

February was Black History Month. Following his sermon on February 28, Micah Gary-Fryer was asked to provide additional resources for education. Here are his suggestions:

Black Conversation Suggestions

PBS: The Black Church, This is our story, this is our song - Louis Henry Gates Jr
PBS: The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross - Louis Henry Gates Jr.

Historical Suggestions

CNN: Lincoln, Divided We Stand
PBS: Thomas Jefferson, by Ken Burns (also on Amazon Prime Series - Two Episodes, 3 hours)

Church and Racism Suggestions

Amazon Prime: White Savior, Racism in the American Church
PBS: God In America, FRONTLINE (Series - Six Episodes)

New in the Theaters

Judas and the Black Messiah (RE: The Black Panthers)
On Hulu: I still Believe (also released on DVD)

Book Reading Suggestions

Justice, What's the right thing to do: by Michael J Sandel (Audible Books)
How to be an Antiracist: by Ibram X Kendi (Audible Books)
White Fragility: by Robin DiAngelo (Audible Books) Controversial and Complication Read...

Classic Black History Movies:

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (Cicely Tyson)
Roots by Alex Haley AND Alex Haley Queen (Root II)
Mississippi Burning (with Gene Hackman and William Dafoe) Excellent but traumatic
The Ghost of Mississippi (Whoopi Goldberg and Alec Baldwin) Medgar Evers Story

I also thought a link to the Poor People's Campaign - A National Call for Moral Revival (Rev. Dr. William Barber II) might be helpful.

<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/our-principles/>

Note from Micah: Technology is our newest way to stream and seek historical information and theological resources. I invite you to join me because, knowing each other's history and cultural diversity and religious rituals can only bring us closer to respect one another.

Phone-In to Our 10 AM Worship Service—Megan Schaeffer

Beginning Sunday, March 7 at 10am we will offer a phone-in option to hear our Sunday morning worship services. We are offering this on a trial basis for the month of March. If you do not have internet access or a smart phone to view the Livestream Worship Service on Sunday mornings, you can now place a call through Zoom with your home phone and listen to the service. Please follow these directions to listen to our service over the phone:

1. Call 1 (929) 205-6099. You'll be greeted with a message that says, "Welcome to Zoom. Enter your Meeting ID, followed by #." Enter the meeting ID using your number pad on your phone: **813 9885 3819**.
2. You will then receive the instructions, "Enter your Participant ID, followed by #. Otherwise, just press #." Enter the "#" using your number pad. Once you have successfully joined, your call will announce that you have joined the meeting. (If you are prompted to enter a passcode, please enter "4".)
3. Participants will be muted so that everyone can hear the service. You may hang up once the service is over.

If you know anyone who may enjoy this option, please feel free to pass this information along to them.

Educational Assistance Opportunities—Alex Konya

Attention Graduating High School Seniors

If you are a graduating high school senior and a member of the church, you may apply for the Jack H. LaFever Memorial Achievement Award. Jack was a life-long member of First UMC who died in a car accident in 1986, at the age of 23. An applicant for this Award must be a church member. Selection is based on church and community service, scholastic achievement and extra curricular activities. You do not have to be considering post high school education to be eligible for the Award. Applications may be picked up from the church office or from Alex Konya (alexander.s.konya@lmco.com) and must be returned to the church office no later than **April 30th, 2021**.

Attention Post High School Students

Church members planning to enroll in college, vocational or technical school, or those who are currently enrolled, and need help with the cost of furthering their education should apply for an interest-free loan from the church's Educational Assistance Fund. Loans are based on the availability of funds and must be repaid in full. An applicant for this loan must be a church member. Applications may be picked up from the church office or from Alex Konya (alexander.s.konya@lmco.com) and must be returned to the church office no later than **April 30th, 2021**.

Missions Announcement—Bonnie Hapstack

Are you all as excited as me to hear those birds trying to be consistent with their singing in the morning? Signs of Spring and new life are starting to make their presence known! I would just like to give a shout out to Tina Kantong, her step-daughter and Aldi!! Through knowledge, conversation & wanting to help, Tina was able to obtain pasta and juice, lots and lots of it, from Aldi as a donation. We have been able to distribute these goods to Safe Harbor, Backpack Pals, Third St. Alliance and Headstart of NJ to help those in need. We still have some more to distribute and look forward to continuing to share and help more families! Thank you for knowing the need and answering the call Tina. Many people have been blessed!

We are still collecting pancake mix and syrup as well as crackers. Thank you as always, for all the prayers and willingness from all of you to continue assisting the Missions group in spreading love and kindness!

Children & Youth Ministry Announcements

Grow in God's Love!

Upcoming

Kid and Teen Worship is back in action and will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every Sunday at 11:15am!

Kid Worship & Teen Worship

Kid and Teen Worship will continue to be held virtually Sundays in March at 11:15am via Zoom! Kid and Teen Worship families will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link and other information. If you are not a current attender, but would like to try us out, please email Megan Schaeffer at greenpondumcyouth@rcn.com.

Kid Worship videos will also be available to families who cannot attend our live meetings. They will be emailed to attending families each Sunday morning and can be viewed at your convenience throughout the week.

Throughout March, Kid Worship will be exploring the theme of "Remembrance" as it relates to Luke 22:19c - *Do this in remembrance of me*. Teen Worship will be discussing a series called: The Last Words as we talk about some of the last words Jesus said on Earth before his resurrection.

Kid Kits

Kid Kits will continue to be offered during our Sunday morning drive-in worship service.