

Sept. 2020 Newsletter

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Green Pond United
Methodist Church

www.greenpondumc.com

Healing by Pastor Scott

I found myself in the hospital recently for 5 days. It was a very challenging time physically, emotionally, and spiritually. At first, my physical pain was excruciating. But when the doctors and clinicians figured out the issues, it was just a matter of course; that I needed time to heal, hence the 5 days. Because of the level of my pain and the drugs that I was on, I could not really express my emotional pain, though I know it was present. I did a lot of sleeping, wanting to be left to crawl into the hole of myself and be left alone. But that does not mean that I did not try and connect with my God during that time of questions, discomfort, and physical pain.

During the 5 days, several times, I called out to God: “Where are you when I need you?” Like when Jesus called out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Then God shows up. God did not show up as the old bearded white guy in a long flowing robe, but God showed up in many other forms. God showed up in the form of the doctors and clinicians, trying to heal me. God showed up as the nurses and assistants, who took care of my every need during that time. God showed up in the form of my friend and colleague Rev. Laurence Micewinkle, whom I have known for over 30 years and is the visiting pastor chaplain from West Chester UMC. He was doing his rounds in the hospital as the chaplain, came across my name, and came to see me. Though he could only be at my door, we connected and prayed together, again renewing our friendship and him providing me the love of God. When I was in my bed, I reached out to him, and he said because of Covid 19, he could not touch me; but I told him that I am reaching out to him, because he was bringing me the love of God.

As your Pastor, when I go to visit many of you, I pray; not only for the doctors, and the nurses, and the care givers, I also pray for the person who mops the floor. You have heard me pray that. Well, I finally met that person after 20 years of those prayers. Now, I can now put a face and a soul to that person that I have been praying for all these years. They too can be an image of God for me now.

However, it was not until Sunday morning that I was in a place to get in touch with the spiritual pain I was experiencing. Because when we are in physical pain, we are often in spiritual pain. At 9 am Sunday morning, I listened to the Spotify play list of songs Megan chooses for the day on my cellphone. During that time, I was finally able to weep from deep within my soul. The assistant nurse saw me crying, and she asked what was wrong. I said that I was in Spiritual distress, that I missed my wife, my boys, my life, and my church. She, in a moment of compassion, put her hand on my shoulder. It seemed like something Jesus would do. It also seemed like a silent prayer. But, at that very moment, it changed my demeanor. From deep spiritual hurting and missing God, to having His healing hand on my shoulder and feeling His presence.

(continued on next page)

Announcements

Finance Update: Below is a brief summary of July'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 JULY 31, 2020

	JULY 2020
INCOME	18,490.13
EXPENSES	(25,597.99)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(7,107.86)
	YTD 2020
INCOME	85,892.52
EXPENSES	(127,578.19)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(41,685.67)

Then, I listened to Jeff pray at the beginning of worship, and Pam preach beautifully. That was just the medicine that I needed. To know that I am part of something that can bring the presence of God to people in the parking lot of our church in Easton, to people laying in a hospital beds, just as I was. And to people in the four corners of the world. You are a part of this story also, and that is why I am so proud and privileged to be your pastor. God was so present for me that day, and my prayer is that God was also present for you. I also got what I prayed for. I was able to go home later that day, so that I can tell this story of healing, prayer, and the presence of God in real time. In our time. Yes, God is real, and present and active in this kingdom. We are all in this together, no matter what side of that hospital bed you are on. Keep up the God work GPUMC; I love you.

A Study on Andrew—Carl Whitesell

The following is part of a research project on the Apostles Carl Whitesell did for the Chaplin at New Eastwood Nursing facility while volunteering at the home. He has generously decided to share this first part on Andrew with us.

ANDREW: Name means Manliness; Younger brother of Peter; Fisherman; Inquisitive, resourceful, enthusiastic about Christ, friendly

Andrew was the first called by Jesus to be a disciple and introduced many individuals to Jesus. In the synoptic Gospels and Acts, the apostles are always listed in three groups of four individuals. The first group indicates those who were closet to Jesus. Andrew is mentioned fourth in the list of disciples, indicating he stayed close to Jesus.

Andrew was one of the two initial disciples of John the Baptist; when John pointed to Jesus and said "Behold the Lamb of God", he understood that Jesus was greater than John and immediately left him to follow Jesus. He quickly sought his brother Peter to tell him he found the Messiah and then brought Peter to Jesus.

Andrew was not part of the inner circle, but was content to be near Jesus and quietly do his work. He preached in Greece, Asia Minor, and Russia. He is known as the founder of the Orthodox Church in Constantinople. He was present when Jesus appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection. He was present for the Great Commission when Jesus sent his disciples to all the nations. He witnessed Jesus being taken up into Heaven.

The Gospels record three episodes involving the apostle Andrew. The first was when he told Jesus of the boy with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to feed the multitude of 5,000 who had gathered to hear the Word. The second occasion was when he and the other core disciples questioned Jesus about the destruction of the Temple. The third instance is when Andrew and Philip brought word to Jesus of the Greeks who wanted to see him.

After Christ's death, Andrew went forth to spread the Gospel and endured many sufferings and torments from pagans. He was martyred in Greece by a Roman consul and crucified. Like Peter, Andrew did not regard himself worthy of being crucified in the same manner as Christ. He asked to die on an X-cross. The Roman governor ordered him bound to the cross rather than nailed to make Andrew's agony last longer. He hung on the cross four days before his death, preaching for two of the days.

Missions in Action—Bonnie Hapstack

Happy September! This is my favorite month because it's the month I was born :) I can't believe we are here already, but I am excited for celebrations with family, the weather being just a tiny bit cooler, and that our Missions group has been able to resurface and assist in doing things we like to do in the last few weeks....helping others!

SO, I love music....all genres....it just makes me so happy and it brings people together with no agenda. I believe it helps in healing, in comforting, in loving, and in just about every way for people to relate to something occurring in their lives at that moment. Truth be told, it took me until about 5 years ago to appreciate country music. It was the old "twangy" country that used to make me cringe a bit, but thankfully, I have come to appreciate all it has to offer and now listen to it regularly. If you listen to country music, you may be familiar with this song, but if not, that's ok too! I just want to share some of the lyrics because this embodies my spirit. They come from the song by Thomas Rhett, "Be a Light".

In a place that needs change, make a difference
In a time full of noise, just listen
'Cause life is but a breeze, better live it
In a place that needs a change, make a difference

In a world full of hate, be a light
When you do somebody wrong, make it right
Oh, don't hide in the dark, you were born to shine
In a world full of hate, be a light

ISN'T THAT GREAT????? This is what we need! To shine and spread positivity and to help those in need AND love one another as you would like to be loved!!

The Missions Group has been offering some options to assist people find ways of helping others in these unprecedented times. We currently are accepting pancake mix and syrup for ProJeCt (there is a bin you may drop off these items into on your way out of Sunday service). We support Backpack Pals through Family Connection. This is when we collect the crackers to help fill backpacks for schoolchildren to take home to make sure there is food during long weekends. This year is a little different for them though; they will be sending home "family backpacks" each month, instead of holiday weekends, in order to make sure all these families have food regularly....(so many are suffering due to loss of jobs because of COVID & are not able to make ends meet). Currently monetary donations are being accepted so that we can purchase crackers as needed for these backpacks. We will also be participating in Trunk or Treat for Miracle League this year. In previous years, we would set up a booth and the children got to parade around. Unfortunately, this year they will be required to stay in their cars. We will be passing out the candy as they drive by. (In a parking lot.) A little different scenario, but the same end result....happy children :)

We are a blessed group! We love what we do and feel honored to do it. There's always room for more, so please, if you would like to be part of this group, please reach out! Also, if you have any questions about any of the examples I've given, I'd be happy to talk to you. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!!

Children & Youth Ministry Announcements

Upcoming

Kid and Teen Worship will resume on Zoom Sundays at 11:15am beginning Sunday, Sept. 6.

Grow in God's Love!

Kid Worship & Teen Worship

Kid and Teen Worship will return virtually Sundays in September at 11:15am via Zoom! Our first meeting will be on **Sunday, Sept. 6 at 11:15am**. Current Kid and Teen Worship families will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link and other information. If you are not a current attendee, but would like to try us out, please email Megan Schaeffer at greenpondumc youth@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 September, Kid Worship will be exploring the theme of creativity as it applies to the Creation Story in the book of Genesis. Teen Worship will be using a curriculum called LinC (Living in Christ), which will offer discussion on how the Bible relates to current events. The goal is to show our teens how the Bible can be our guide every day.

Kid Kits at Drive-In Service

Throughout September, Kid Kits will be available to any who attend the 10am Drive-In Worship Service. Kid Kits include activities that are related to the morning's sermon theme. They are meant to keep the kids engaged in the car or on the lawn during the service. Ask for them when you arrive!

Our Top Facebook Post from August!

