

Gray Weekly News



Week Leading to Sunday, April 24, 2022

Festival of God's Creation **Observance of Earth Day 2022**

A relationship with God's creation and a ministry of caring for and healing the earth are integral to what it means to be a United Methodist. We believe that all of creation is God's, and that we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Our natural world is to be valued and conserved because God has called humanity to be its caretakers

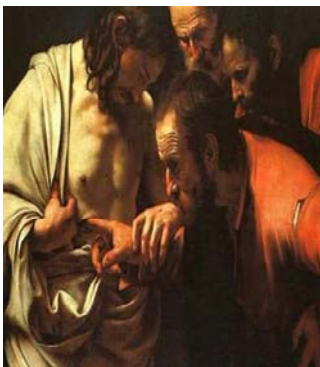
Genesis says it was God who created the very first Earth Day: "The second day God said, 'Let there be space to divide the waters into two parts.' And it was so. God called the space Sky. 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place and let dry land appear.' ... God called the dry land Earth and the waters that were gathered together, Seas. God saw that it was good." *Genesis 1:9-10, NRSV.*

As United Methodists, we heed the call to do all in our power to care for planet Earth. Psalm 24 tells us, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants too."

"The Natural World" portion of our Social Principles reflects these scriptures. "All creation is the Lord's," the section opens, "and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it."

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Second Sunday of Easter



Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
John 20:19-31

“Thank God for Doubting Thomas”

News and Notes

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 24

Please join us on Sundays at 11 am. If you are unable to come in person, you can watch our livestream at graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com or graymemorialumc.org/youtube, at 11 am or any time after that at graymemorialumc.org/



If you have prayer requests, please contact Norma Adams, Jennifer Skinner or Gail Teems.

You may also call the church office at 850/385-6441 or send a text to 850/933-8469.

Prayer Requests & Praises

Husband of Christie Shellenberger (former accompanist) who had a brain hemorrhage and is still hospitalized

Sam, Patsy and Betty

Dawn and her family for struggles, challenges and needs

Jack, Randy, Jim & Jane Workman

Joyce and Bob

All those who are suffering from accidents, illnesses and surgery

Praises for miracles occurring in the lives of Dawn's children

Praises to God for our beautiful world

The Big Give – Saturday, April 30

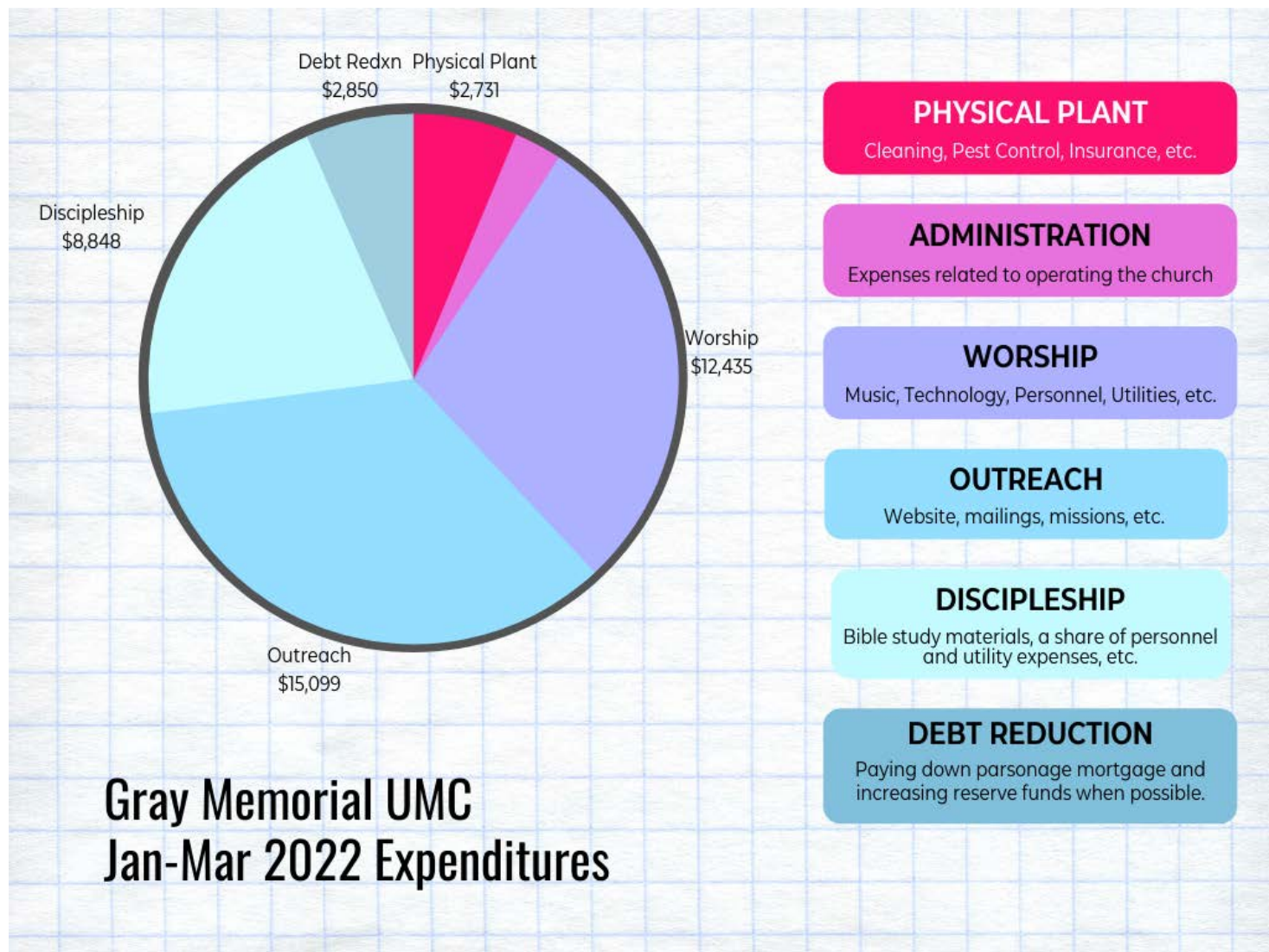
8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Start gathering the things you don't want or need any more. Plan to bring them to the church on Sunday, April 24 or anytime that week. Tables will be set up in the narthex and classroom for you to place your items on. If you need help moving large items, call the church office and let us know so we can arrange to pick them up before Friday, April 29.



Quarterly Financial Statement

Your 1st Quarter financial statements will be on their way to you soon. Thanks to you, Gray Memorial has a healthy financial picture that is not only sustainable but is trending in the right direction. In the first quarter of 2022, only 9% of our expenditures went to our physical plant and administrative costs. About 7% went to debt reduction (to pay down the mortgage on the parsonage). That means 84% of our expenditures were spent in three broad categories: Worship (29%), Outreach (35%), and Discipleship (20%)! Sixty-four percent of our total expenses were for payroll. We distribute those expenses across the categories of Worship, Outreach, and Discipleship since that's their purpose!



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According to the [Faith and Facts Card on Climate Justice](#) produced by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, “Carbon dioxide and other heat trapping pollution...are collecting like a blanket in the atmosphere.” This blanket is slowly warming the planet. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) defines climate change as “a broad range of global phenomena created predominantly by burning fossil fuels.” These phenomena include global warming and “extreme weather events.”

“The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions,” The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states. This means those living in industrialized countries bear a responsibility to decrease our emissions to lessen the effects of climate change on those who produce far fewer of these pollutants.

By reducing the production of emissions known as greenhouse gases, Christians with easy access to energy can do something about the weather after all. Reducing carbon dioxide and other pollutants will help slow these global trends and address some of the adverse effects on our neighbors and ourselves.

- **Save electricity:** According to the EPA, the production of electricity generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions. “Approximately 67 percent of our electricity comes from burning fossil fuels, mostly coal and natural gas.” The United Methodist Board of Church and Society recommends using CFL (compact fluorescent light) or LED (light emitting diode) bulbs. Both use significantly less electricity than traditional incandescent bulbs.
- **Use renewable energy:** If you are able, investigate and invest in green energy sources like wind or solar power. These reduce the need for the types of electricity production that emit greenhouse gases.
- **Transportation:** The cars we drive are also big producers of carbon dioxide. Choosing to carpool, use public transportation, or drive a low emission vehicle will help significantly reduce our contribution to these pollutants.
- **Eat local:** Choosing foods produced nearby helps reduce the need for these products to be transported great distances, decreasing the need for fuel burning vehicles.
- **Learn what the church says:** The United Methodist Church’s Social Principles on the Natural World is a great place to start. This section of our *Book of Discipline* sets forth the basic position of The United Methodist Church on important social issues, including global climate stewardship.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 19	5:30 pm 7 pm	Community Yoga Executive Council Meets via Zoom
Wednesday April 20	10 am 7 pm	Neighborly's Time with Afghan Mothers and Children Bible Study with Pastor Beth Via Zoom
Thursday, April 21	10 am	Bible Study
Friday, April 22		Earth Day
Sunday, April 24	9:30 am 11 am	Bible Study with Pastor Beth Worship Service
Monday, April 25	5:30 pm 7 pm	Community Yoga Town & Country Neighborhood Assoc. Meets at Gray Memorial
Tuesday, April 26	7 pm	Board of Trustees Meet
Wednesday, April 27	10 am 7 pm	Neighborly's Time with Afghan Mothers and Children Bible Study with Pastor Beth via Zoom
Thursday, April 28	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study Choir Practice