

The Messenger

We could care less but decided to care more.

From the Pastor's Desk

The earth never rolled up. The buffalo never came back, and the dead relatives never came to life again. It was the soldier who came; why, nobody knew. The dance was a peaceful one, harming nobody, but I guess the white people thought it was a war dance.
— Richard Fool Bull, on the Ghost Dance and the Massacre at Wounded Knee

It is a rare thing to get to hear the voices of those who are crushed by the boots of the powerful forces of victorious empires. When those voices break through, we need to hold onto what they say, no matter how uncomfortable it may be. We want to tell ourselves great stories of heroism and destiny. We want to understand ourselves as the noble protagonists of history, but history is never as neat as we would like. There is a movement afoot to try and de-emphasize the dark consequences of our own national history; whether it is to minimize the brutality and impact of the trans-Atlantic slave trade or to outright deny the genocide of Native Americans during our westward expansion.

We must not ignore the voices of those who have been left maimed and killed along our trail through history. We have been able to hear from the likes of Frederick Douglass about the brutality and moral consequences of slavery; Ann Frank and Elie Weisel about the Holocaust, Nelson Mandela about apartheid in South Africa, and from survivors of the Lakota peoples about the dark days of the end of their world. The Sioux began to see that they stood no chance of defeating the *Wasichu* (white people) who seemed to come from some bottomless well across the big water. They did not understand the motivations, let alone the procedures, of the soldiers and settlers. They could not comprehend why, for instance, soldiers would slaughter herds of buffalo and leave the carcasses to rot on the plains.

As the last flares of violent resistance failed and the people were herded onto reservations, the Lakota people began participating in the *Wanagi-wachipi*, the Ghost Dance. It was a ritual of lamentation, a funeral for a way of life that was clearly gone. It was a mystical response to a crushing reality, and it had very real power. Ghost Dancers saw their ancestors and understood that they were part of something bigger than the catastrophe of the current moment. Part of it was an acknowledgement of their suffering, but in the counterintuitive way that the passion of Jesus is somehow good news, it was also hopeful.

The *Wasichu* did not understand it any better than Sitting Bull understood European property law. The government saw the power of the Ghost Dance as a threat because Crazy Horse had shown them they were not invincible at the Little Bighorn. The Sioux had learned a different lesson about the world from their "victory" over Custer, they learned that there were always more *Wasichu*,

Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church

Mailing address:

PO Box 925, Waldorf, MD 20604

Website:

www.goodsamprc.org

Email:

gspc@comcast.net

Session

Pastor: Reverend Mark Gaskill

Communion Team

Michele Gaskill
Charlotte Mandragos
Mindy Tracy

Discipleship Team

Ron Banks
Sally Brandt
Sandy Webb

Hospitality Team

John Holmes
Jay Koehler
Bill Wetmore

and wiping out one unit does nothing to slow them down, it may even make them stronger. So what do they do? They dance, they dream dreams, they have visions, and they tell stories. This is how humans survive the end of the world.

It is how Christianity went from being a marginal movement inspired by a crucified victim of the Roman Empire to a world religion: faith. Faith inspires fear in those who would dominate the world through violence, because they do not understand it, because they cannot control it. I know the world can seem dark and evil at times. I'm writing this not long after hearing about children being shot in a church in Minnesota on their first day of school, and I know we have far too many ghosts like them who probably do not want us to dance with them. They want us to fix this, they want us to do better, and I have to wonder how many ghosts do we need to tell us that the status quo is insane. The hopeful power of the Ghost Dance, and the Gospel, is that death is not the end, we can learn from our ghosts, even if all we have left are their words, their songs and their dances.

Mark

FINANCIAL STATUS—JULY

Balance, Beginning of July	\$19,970.85
Income	\$16,084.43
Disbursements	\$16,257.28
Balance, End of July	\$19,798.00

Summary of Assets	07/31/2025
Shore United—Checking	\$20,098.00
Shore United—Reserve	\$18,939.86
Investments	
Morgan Stanley	\$200,196.38
Total Assets	\$239,234.24

FINANCIAL STATUS—AUGUST

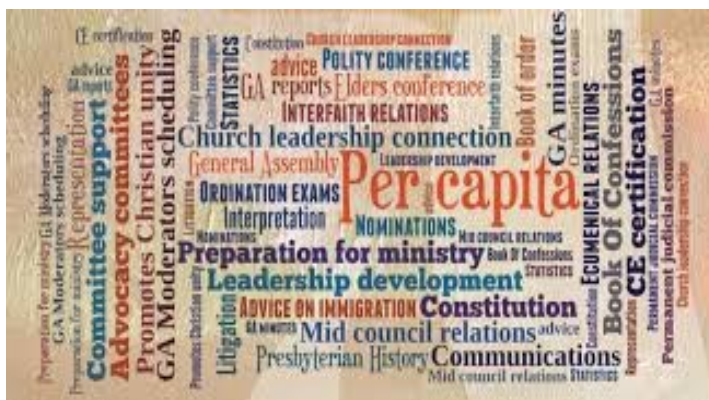
Balance, Beginning of August	\$19,798.00
Income	\$20,001.62
Disbursements	\$14,701.03
Balance, End of August	\$25,098.59

Summary of Assets	08/31/2025
Shore United—Checking	\$25,842.11
Shore United—Reserve	\$18,941.47
Investments	
Morgan Stanley	\$203,826.19
Total Assets	\$248,609.77

FUNNEL CAKES AT THE FAIR

Starting Thursday, September 11th, Good Samaritan will again be selling funnel cakes at the Charles County Fair. We still are in need of volunteers to help with this important fundraising event from the set up on Thursday morning through the break down on Monday morning. **There are sign-up sheets in the narthex**, please sign-up, email, or call if you are able to volunteer.

Thank you to all that are able to volunteer and for all donations of water and soda.



GSPC ANNUAL PER CAPITA

We have entered the second phase of paying our Annual Per Capita Payment (refer to Rev. Mark's newsletter article in June). In this second phase we respectfully ask for individual members to contribute \$50.15 to cover the per member fee (the counters would appreciate the rounding of this number to \$50.00). Please consider contributing additional dollars toward the communal work of the Presbyter, Synod, and the General Assembly of PCUSA. Thank you to all members that have already donated to GSPC's Annual Per Capita.



Sundays to Share Salty or Sweet Treats

If you would like to bring a salty or sweet treat to share with friends and family after worship on Sundays, please sign up in the narthex.

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM NEWS

Almost every month, Reverend Mark mentions during morning announcements, that volunteers are needed to prepare the monthly dinner for the LifeStyles women and children's shelter in White Plains. Have you ever thought "I'd like to do that but I wouldn't know how to coordinate a meal for twenty-five women and children"?

There are a number of ways to carry out this act of love. Some of us plan the meal, prepare the main course and get a few others to prepare side dishes and dessert. John Holmes is almost always available to help pack it up and deliver it to the shelter Sunday evening.

However there have been a few other ideas for preparing the meal. Sally Brandt has a particular recipe that she likes for chili. She has given the recipe to a few others and asked them to prepare one batch. Salad, corn bread, cookies and the meal is complete. Another option would be a casserole with a salad—always good option when you are preparing for so many. The crafters ordered fried chicken from Chaptico Market (the best around), made macaroni salad, coleslaw and brownies, a perfect August Sunday dinner. Bill Wetmore had a very innovative idea. He bought 25 Big Macs; because he got so many, they provided a lot of extra fries, and 25 candy bars (you know the ones we used to get for a nickle when we were kids.) Anyway, I'm sure they loved that dinner.

Probably the easiest way to get some ideas is to talk with someone who has done it. Or better than that, offer to help to get it together on the third Sunday of any month. You'll feel good about taking this step.

On Sunday, August 24th we packed up one hundred twenty "Anytime Bags" for LifeStyles. We depleted almost all of the supplies that are used for this endeavor. The bags include a bottle of water, a protein source (tuna or chicken salad bags, Vienna sausages, spaghetti and meatballs and lots of others), fruit, and crackers or similar snack items. We pack these bags once a month. Please pick up some of the items and leave them in the coat closet. **We'll need them for September.**

A big THANK YOU from the Discipleship Team.

***SAVE THE DATE FOR
GSPC'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH***



Save the Date

World Communion Sunday

We will celebrate with a Potluck Lunch after worship on October 5th.



Saturday, September 20th from 5:00 - 8:00

Bring your favorite game, a snack to share, and some friends. Come have some fun!



1st Sylvie Amenu	16 th Heather Beaton
4 th Adam Lehrter	19 th Judy Crews
7 th Jim Call	22 nd Carolyn Lees
9 th Charlie Eargle, Laura Ellison	25 th Rich Tullos

September Lectionary

Sunday, September 7

Jeremiah 18: 1-11
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14: 25-33

Sunday, September 14

Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14: 1-7
1 Timothy 1: 12-17
Luke 15: 1-10

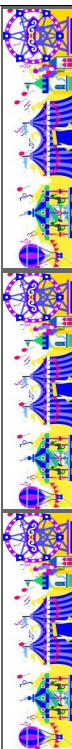
Sunday, September 21

Jeremiah 9: 18—9:1
Psalm 79: 1-9
1 Timothy 2: 1-7
Luke 16: 1-13

Sunday, September 28

Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6: 6-19
Luke 16: 19-31

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Women's Bible Study @ 9:30	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday School @9:00 Worship Service @ 10:00	8 Crafters @ 10:30	9 Women's Bible Study @ 9:30	10	11 Funnel Cakes At the Fair	12 Funnel Cakes At the Fair	13 Funnel Cakes At the Fair
14 Sunday School @9:00 Worship Service @ 10:00 Funnel Cakes at the Fair	15 Crafters @ 10:30	16 Women's Bible Study @ 9:30	17	18 	19 Session @ 9:00 Game Night @ 5:00	20 Session @ 9:00 Game Night @ 5:00
21 Sunday School @9:00 Worship Service @ 10:00	22 Crafters @ 10:30	23 Women's Bible Study @ 9:30	24	25	26	27
28 Sunday School @9:00 Worship Service @ 10:00	29 Crafters @ 10:30	30 Women's Bible Study @ 9:30				