

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

APRIL 2023

Jesus was a public educator.

Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them. Jesus replied, **“Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret”** (John 18:19-20).

Jesus' transparent life and public teaching confronted and revealed the sins of the world and led to his death. The excruciating drama of Holy Week and the exuberant joy of Easter lead us step by step through his arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial, and the Easter morning discovery of the empty tomb and risen Christ by the women. I am moved to tears every year that we go through these stories.

These stories are public and held by communities of faith, where the people gather. Our communal study, recital, and remembrance of them express faith in God as so much continues to be destroyed in our world and in our lives.

Holding the grief and trauma of late-in-Holy-Week stories and the exuberant joy of Easter stories we can discover their saving grace. That's the image of the broken mirror in the glass jar, a friend's gift when Beverly and I left campus ministry at Wesley of Kalamazoo in 2002. The jar allows us to see jagged edges of human experience and process our grief and joy. It also is a helpful image for the growth and struggle in the educational process.

I am deeply grateful and profoundly biased in favor of campus ministry. Our campus pastors, students, and local Board members are examples for me of the faithful pursuit of transparent living and public teaching in Jesus' name **where the people gather**. We are present in the most concentrated populations of young adults in our culture.



On a wider scale are these examples of the power of faithful prophetic higher education communities: [Rev. Dr. Chris Momany's book, "For Each and All: The Moral Witness of Asa Mahan,"](#) details the life of the founding president of Adrian College. Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish in his article on this book writes, "Rev. Dr. Chris Momany, former professor and chaplain at Adrian College, has made the life of Asa Mahan and **his commitment to the 'intrinsic worth' of all persons** a hallmark of his ministry on and off campus. He connects Asa Mahan with the current issues of racism and human trafficking in a way that gives depth to the discussion and a historic anchor for our social witness."

Another example is Philander Smith College which was founded in 1877 and chartered in 1883 as a four-year coeducational liberal arts college in Little Rock, Arkansas. It is a United Methodist-related college like Adrian and Albion.

The heritage of Philander Smith College is deeply rooted in faith. Philander Smith College's mission statement echoes its first mission by The Methodist Church to provide an education during **"conflict and social change,"** by educating current students to become **"advocates for social justice."** (<https://www.philander.edu/about-us/the-united-methodist-church>)

Terrance Roberts is one of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who were the first black students ever to attend Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Roberts spoke at Philander Smith in 1997 and shared these memories:

During the three-week period as we awaited the outcome of the legal wrangling over states' rights versus federal rights, Philander Smith College faculty and students tutored us in the high school subjects being taught to our future Central High classmates...They continued to do this for the entire academic year of 1958-59 as well when all Little Rock public high schools were closed in the name of "segregation forever," and African-American students were in need of educational resources (Philander Smith College Remarks, September 27, 1997 in Lessons from Little Rock, 168).

I am inspired by the leading role that belongs to higher education communities and their willingness to pursue transparent living and public teaching. **And I am inspired by the educational thread from Jesus' public teaching to schools like Adrian and Philander Smith Colleges to local congregations and our own congregation.**

We study, recite, and remember Holy Week and Easter stories *where the people gather* to keep learning during conflict and social change, and for the sake of being witnesses to God's redeeming love in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Peace, Pastor Jeff

APRIL 2023 WORSHIP

April 2

Palm/Passion Sunday

Holy Communion

Palm Passion Story

[Matthew 21:1-11](#)

[Matthew 26:14-27:66](#)

April 16

Easter 2

Let There Be Joy in This Place

Hymn Sing, Special Music
& Meditations

April 6

April 7

Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm @ Turk Lake UMC

Good Friday 12:30 pm @ GFUMC

April 9

Easter Sunday

He Lives!

[Acts 10:34-43](#)

[Matthew 14:13-21](#)

April 23

Easter 3 *Native American Ministries Sunday*

**Walking is the Answer
to God's Call**

[Ephesians 4:1-16](#)

April 30

Easter 4

Church is a Serious House on Earth

[Ephesians 3:14-22](#)

ONLINE GIVING OPTION AVAILABLE



Greenville First United Methodist Church now offers an easy, convenient, and quick way for anyone to make a contribution! Just click on the GIVE tab at the top of the homepage at <https://greenvillefumc.org/>. This will take you to the Giving page. You simply click on the blue "Give Now" button, answer a few easy prompts, such as a one time gift, weekly, monthly, etc., and you will be done! Or, using your phone, scan this QR Code to take you directly to the Giving Page.

Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

HOMEBOUND

Corla Morgan Louise Noble
Neil Sergent Judy Sandie
Harley VanHoose Kay Welsch
Linda VanHoose Calvin Day



THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE

Richard Pendrick

Caitlin Jensen
Ken Workman
Rory Frisbee
Bob Knapp
Linda Chapman
Ron DeYoung
Betty Knapp
Elaine Pendrick

Thursday Bible Study



Join us Thursday mornings at 10:30. We will delve into the words of scripture. We meet in-person in the Bailey Conference room. You may also join us through Zoom Meeting. We look forward for the opportunity to discuss and learn from each other. Pastor Jeff

The Zoom link is: [Thursday Bible Study](#)

Sunday Small Group

Adult Faith Connections Bible Study is written by pastors, leaders, and scholars to help group members go deeper in God's Word during and after the lesson. Each week, group members will gain a greater understanding of the focus passage, as well as have the opportunity to answer reflective questions to help them take time to consider the message of that week's session.

Our Spring curriculum begins an interesting new Lenten study entitled "Four World-Changing Days"! During this study you will explore the last four days of the life of Jesus, the message of the book of James, and the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

Join us in the Bailey Conference Room Sundays at 10:30 AM for reading, study and fellowship.

The Zoom Link is: [Faith Connections](#)



All-Church POTLUCK

Be sure to mark your Calendars for the **ALL CHURCH POTLUCK DINNER**

Thursday April 27 Gathering 5:30 Dinner 6:00.

A time of fellowship and welcoming back our snow birds.

To keep things simple, we are asking everyone to bring their own dishes, silverware and a dish to pass. Some suggestions are:

POTATO DISH: Potato Salad, Scallop Potatoes. Sweet Potato Casserole, etc.

SALAD: Veggies, Pasta, Lettuce, Caesar, Coleslaw, etc.

MEAT DISH: Lasagna, Meat Loaf, Meatballs, Pulled Pork, Chicken legs/wings, etc.

DESSERTS: Cookies, Fruit, Cake, Cupcakes, etc.

BREADS: Rolls, Crackers/Cheese/salami, Fancy breads, etc.

Drinks will be provided. **PLEASE SIGN UP AFTER CHURCH APRIL 16TH OR THE 23RD.** It is not necessary but helpful for set up. if you decide to join us at the last minute, we would love to have you.

SPONSORED BY: UWM - United Women in Faith

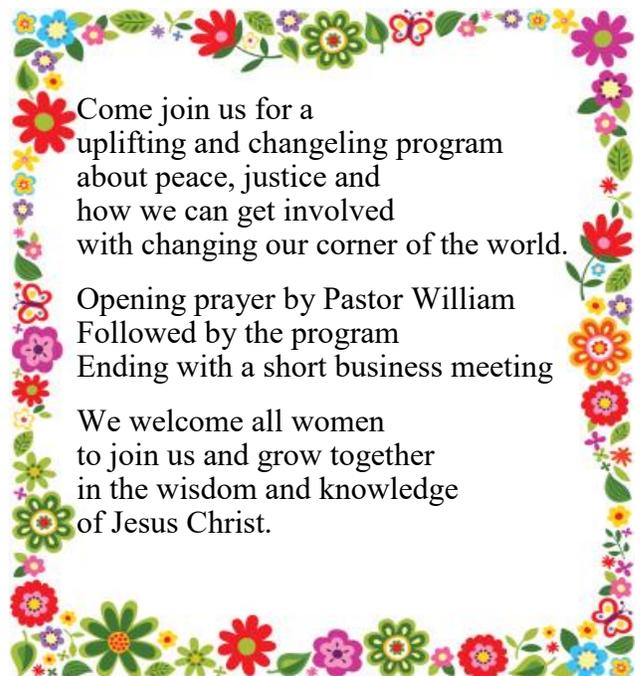
United Women In Faith
Wednesday April 12th 10:00AM
Brotherhood Hall



PROGRAM: Sherie Kosten
"Putting Peace Into Action"

*"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God."*

Matthew 5:9





Esther/Lois Circle
Come join us for a time of fellowship
Tuesday April 11th 2:00pm
Brotherhood Hall
Devotions & Spiritual Up Lift
Sponsored by United Women Of Faith

**Esther/Lois Circle will be meeting
the second Tuesday of each month April through October.
We welcome all women for a time of sharing and caring.**

For more information contact
Sherie Kosten 616-225-0023 Sheriekosten@yahoo.com

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”
Matthew 18: 20 NIV



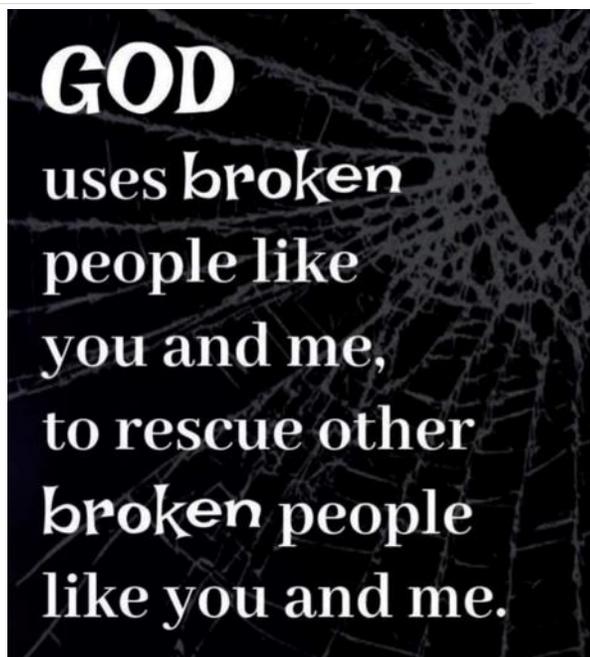
Stephen Ministry



Happy Spring, Church Family! Our next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30 in the conference room. Tammy will be leading us in the interesting study of Jesus's miracles. Stephen Ministers, please join us!

I found this quote in one of the national Stephen Ministry websites. It expresses why we are seeking people who are called to our wonderful, confidential, one-to-one ministry opportunity. We get many calls for Stephen Ministers that we aren't able to fill because of lack of active Stephen Ministers, and it is very sad not to be able to fill the requests. Please consider going through our training! Please let Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, or me that you are willing to take our training and helping to fill this need!

Blessings,
Barb Perry
Stephen Leader



MISSIONS

With your help we are continuing the effort to make life better for others. The month of April will have a Fill-a-Pew effort for the Baby Pantry at Trinity Church in Stanton. We can really help many new and struggling families ensure that kids have what is needed to develop in a healthy, safe way.

The items that can really help are: Baby wipes, milk based powdered formula and milk based "gentle formula". Clothing in sizes newborn to size 5. These can be new or gently used. Underwear and socks are included in this. Especially needed are potty chairs, bathtubs, bouncy chairs, and good used or new infant car seats (less than 5 years old). Your help in the past of this has been tremendous. THANKS!!

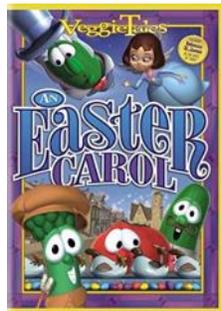
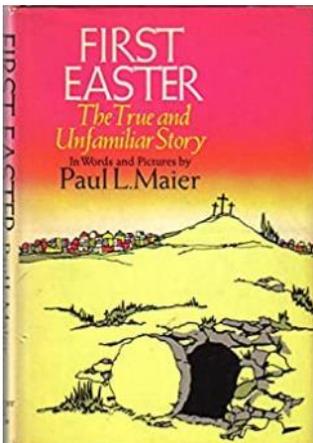
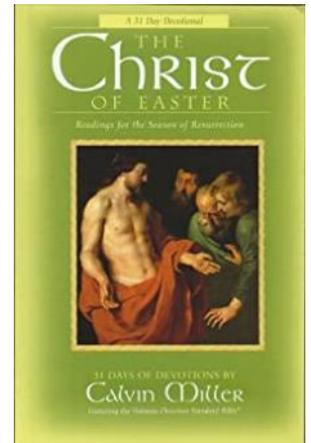
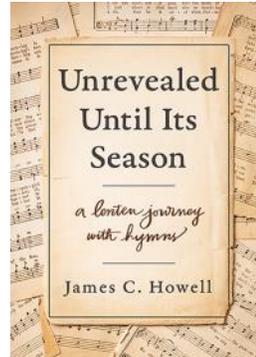
You are supporting our missionary, Trobby Kandala in Zambia. You are supporting Eurasia in Mission Together in Ukraine and Moldova. You are supporting Community Ministries Program in Grand Rapids at Trinity Methodist Church. You are supporting a child, Jessica, and her family, in Guatemala. These are just a few examples of what is happening due to YOU!! You are changing lives, changing families, changing communities, and really, changing hearts. A heartfelt THANK-YOU!!

READING SUGGESTIONS FOR LENT AND EASTER

LENT

Call No.

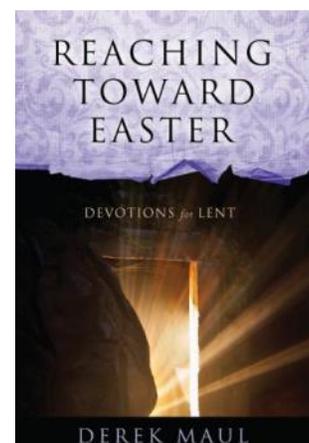
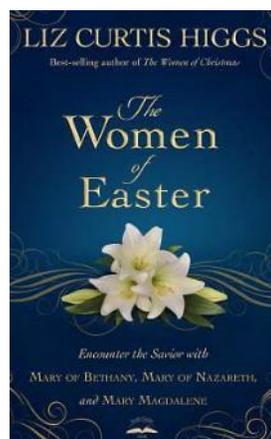
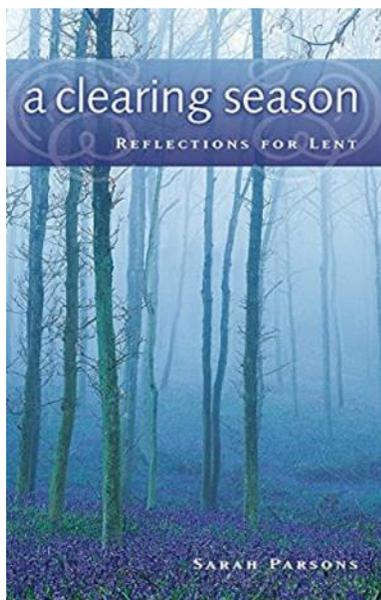
- 242.34/BEM God's Gift of Life / Larry Beman
- 242.34/MAU Reaching Towards Easter / Derek Maul
- 242.34/PAR A Clearing Season / Sarah Parsons
- 783.9/HOW Unrevealed Until Its Season: A Lenten Journey with Hymns / James Howell



EASTER

Call No.

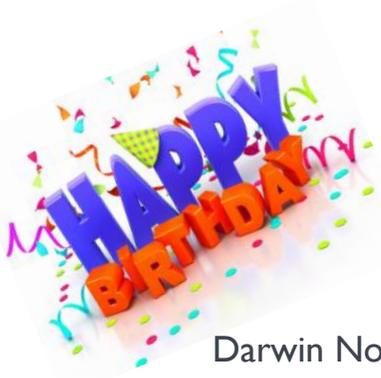
- 248.4/STE Preparing My Heart for Easter / Ann Marie Stewart
- 242.36/MIL The Christ of Easter / Calvin Miller
- 232.9L Six Hours One Friday / Max Lucado
- 232.96/WHI The Passion of Love / E. G. Love
- 232.96/MAI First Easter / Paul Maier
- 239.96/LUC And the Angels Were Silent / Max Lucado
- DVD#2 An Easter Carol / Veggie Tales
- 394.2/B Easter: A Pictorial Pilgrimage / P. Benoit
- 232.9/HIG The Women of Easter / Liz Curtis Higgs



First United Methodist Church ~ April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2 Palm Sunday 9:15 am - FUMC Worship 9:15 am - CCG Leader Worship 10:30 am - Faith Connections 11:00 am - CCG Worship 6:30 pm - CCG Sr. High Group</p>	3	<p>4 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice</p>		<p>5 6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting 6:30 pm - Stephen Minister Meeting 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups</p>		8
<p>9 Easter Sunday 9:15 am - FUMC Worship 9:15 am - CCG Leader Worship 11:00 am - CCG Worship 6:30 pm - CCG Sr. High Group</p>	10	<p>11 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 2:00 pm - Lois-Esther Circle 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice</p>		<p>12 10:00 am—UMW Meeting 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups</p>		15
<p>16 9:15 am - FUMC Worship 9:15 am - CCG Leader Worship 10:30 am - Faith Connections 11:00 am - CCG Worship 6:30 pm - CCG Sr. High Group</p>	17	<p>18 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice</p>		<p>19 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups</p>		22
<p>23/30 9:15 am - FUMC Worship 9:15 am - CCG Leader Worship 10:30 am - Faith Connections 11:00 am - CCG Worship 6:30 pm - CCG Sr. High Group</p>	24	<p>25 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice</p>		<p>26 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups</p>		29
				<p>27 10:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm—All Church Potluck</p>		28
					<p>21 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing</p>	
					<p>28 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing</p>	

Please remember: The church doors will be unlocked 15 minutes prior to each meeting/event. If you are in need of getting into the building sooner, please contact the church office during business hours to let us know. Many people have been ringing the daycare doorbell and it is difficult, and sometimes impossible, for members of the CCC staff to leave their classrooms to let groups in.



April Birthdays

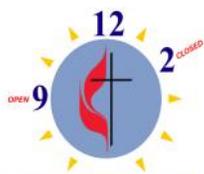
Darwin Noah	04/01	Linda VanHoose	04/20
Jean Hudson	04/03	Tyler Rasmussen	04/20
Ryan Wenger	04/03	Sally Armstrong	04/21
Walt Stevens	04/04	Pastor Jeff Williams	04/21
Miranda Holmberg	04/06	David Bailey	04/23
Darla DeYoung	04/07	Bob Knapp	04/26
Steven Thomsen	04/07	Peter Januzelli	04/26
Judy VanSyckle	04/10	Michael Campbell	04/27
Elizabeth Campbell	04/11	Amy Homich	04/27
Nancy Wilson	04/11	Derik Holmberg	04/27
Ryan Timiney	04/12	Connie Shatz	04/28
Beverly Williams	04/15	Mark Sharp	04/29
Darrell Rickabaugh	04/16	Ruth Finkbeiner	04/30
Oliver Larsen	04/17	Sherie Kosten	04/30
Suzanne Tucker	04/20		



Larry & Barb Parker	04/12
John & Becki Pfaff	04/15
Jeff & Jennifer Loding	04/20
Phil & Michelle Fassett	04/25
Keith & Jean Hudson	04/25
Chris & Tamara Larsen	04/28

If we have accidentally omitted you from our birthday or anniversary list or have a wrong date, please let the church office know so we can update our records.

Greenville First United Methodist Church
204 West Cass Street
Greenville, MI 48838



A Note From Your Church Office:

The church office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday between **10:00 am - 2:00 pm.** Please contact the office by phone or email with any questions: **616-754-8532** or email office@greenvillefumc.org.

Pastor Jeff can be reached anytime by email jeffwrev@gmail.com phone, or text (269-944-9231).

FUMC Event Scheduling: If you would like to schedule an event at FUMC, please contact Jennifer Loding at the church office: 616-754-8532.

Submission Deadlines: Deadline For the May Connection is **Tuesday, April 25th.** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.