

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

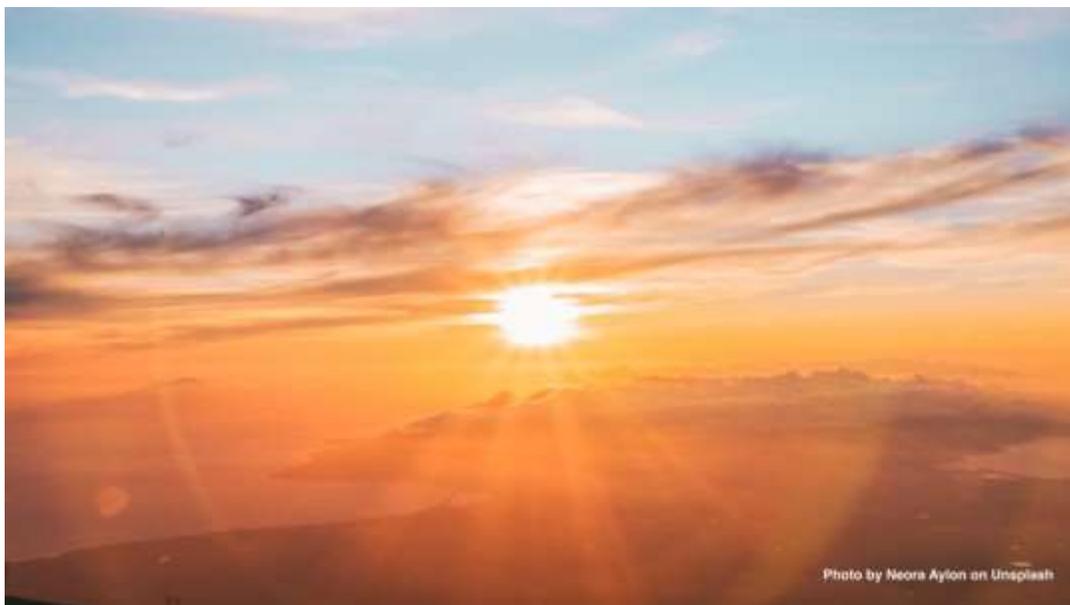
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2022

Love Comes Down and Moves All Around at Christmas

- Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and others,
love for plea and gift and sign.
(**Love Came Down at Christmas**, verse 3)

My late father-in-law had an interesting way of talking about the church. **He described it as having a center with no circumference.** The center is Jesus Christ and the lack of a circumference represents a diminished concern for walls and barriers that would keep people in or out.



My religion professor at Central Michigan University, Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly, includes in his book, *Praying with Process Theology: Spiritual Practices for Personal and Planetary Healing*, this statement:

As a wise teacher, once stated, "**God is a circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.** God's love encircles our lives and embraces our yesterdays, todays, and tomorrows to bring healing to us and the world."

In Australia's vast outback it is impractical for ranchers to build fences to keep their cattle from wandering away. **Instead they just dig watering holes, since they know the cattle won't wander far away from their sources of life** (Andrew Ross, as quoted by John Longhurst, *Winnipeg Free Press*, March 2005) ([Jack Heppner, retired educator; Edgework blog](#)).

The same concept is explored in a business setting here: <https://www.firedupculture.com/the-waterhole-vs-the-fence/>.

This is a challenging concept for our faith and our understanding of how and why the Church grows. **What if God has established such a compelling and nourishing center of love in Jesus Christ that we can direct our attention to that center more than the fences that we think we need?**

Love Came Down at Christmas is a beautiful hymn. While it emphasizes the downward movement of Christ, that love also awakens love in our hearts and communities and congregations, and moves all around the world even turning it upside down as Nick Springsteen, our Missions Team Chairperson consistently tells us.

Christ is both the boundless expression of God's love for and in the world and the center in which we all can gather for strength to love.

May we be drawn to Christ this Christmas and sent out to love. Merry Christmas.

Pastor Jeff Williams

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Greenville High School is in need of student mentors. If you are interested, please contact: Lyndy Harrison at lyndy.harrison@gpsjackets.org. Thank you!



* HOMEBOUND *
* Corla Morgan *
* Neil Sergent *
* Harley VanHoose *
* Linda VanHoose *
* Richard Pendrick *
* Louise Noble *



Aliviah Maag
Caitlin Jensen
Chuck Hill

From the United Women of Faith

Thank you all so very much for making the UWF Christmas Candle Light Tea a great success. The spirit of joy and celebration was in the air and everyone responded with such grace to the whole event.

HOSTESSES: Thank you for your time of set up and tearing down. Thank you for the creative table decoration and center pieces. What a blessing you all were to the event. You really made our night a great success.

Thank you to all those helping with decorations and all the pre-planning. Also to those who helped with kitchen clean up, set up and tear down. The men who served, please know how much we appreciated their help and support. They really looked good dressed up, too.

We collected a van load for the Community House, thank you to those helping to pack up and transporting all the gifts to Community House. Also, to the tech team who helped with sound.

May God richly bless you all. And a very, very, Merry Christmas.
In His Service, Ruth



DECEMBER WORSHIP

December 4 **Advent 2**
Holy Communion
A World of Light and Shade: Isaiah
[Isaiah 9:1-7](#)

December 18 **Advent 4**
Advent Choir Cantata
Waiting for a Lifetime: Mary
[Luke 1:26-38](#)

December 11 **Advent 3**
Scouting Recognition
Between the Times: John the Baptist
[Luke 1:5-23](#)

December 24 **Christmas Eve**
Candle Light Service **7:00 pm**

December 11
Blue Christmas Service
5:00 pm

December 25 **Christmas Day**

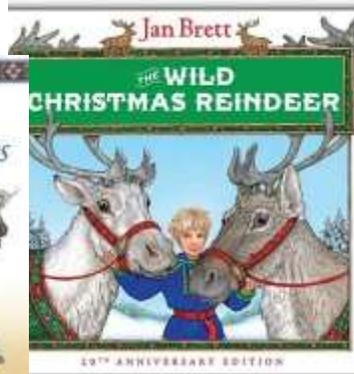
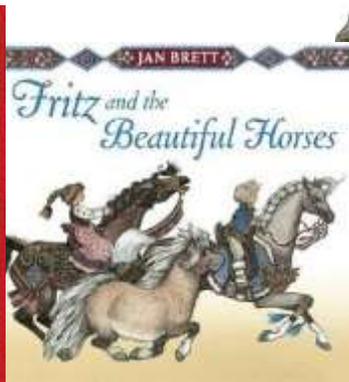
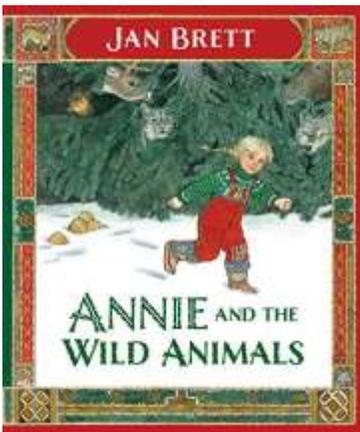


Pastor Jeff and Stephen Ministers will offer a
Blue Christmas Service
December 11th, at 5:00 pm
in the sanctuary.

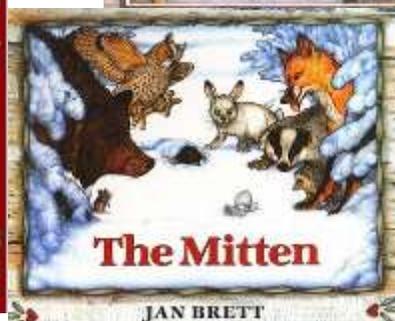
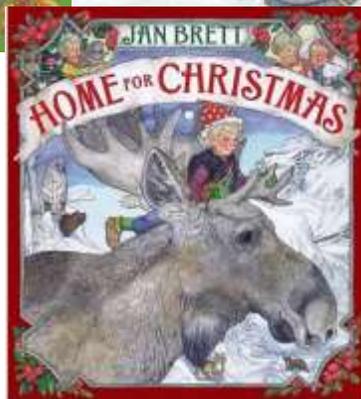
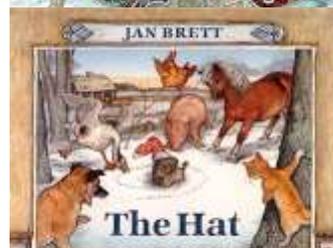
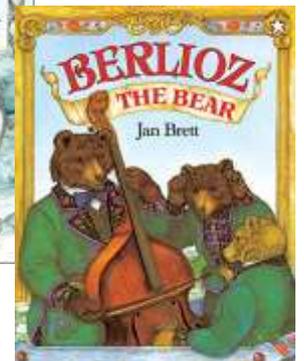
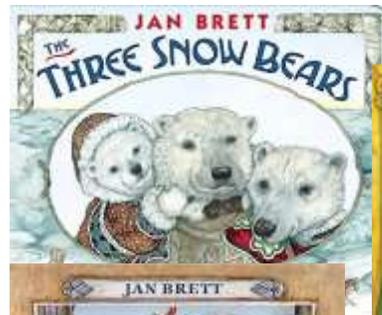
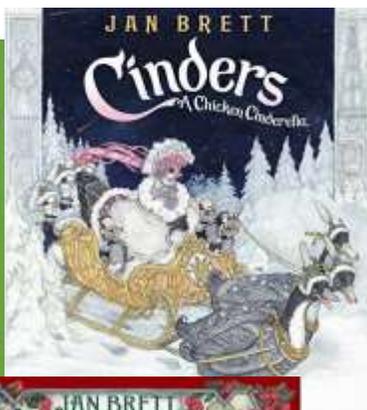
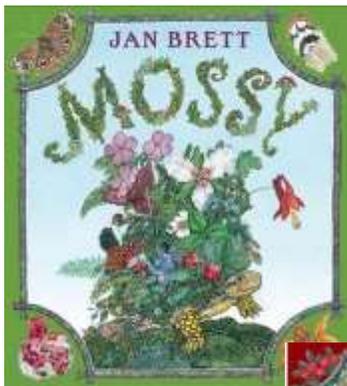
This simple service welcomes all
who grieve during the
Christmas holiday season.

The service will also be Live Streamed
on the website and church Facebook page.

Our page this month features just one author: Jan Brett. In addition to the many titles already in the library collection, two new stories have been added for Christmas: *Home for Christmas* and *The Wild Christmas Reindeer*. If you haven't noticed before, Jan Brett is a big favorite with the Librarian, not just for her stories, but also for her amazing art work. Jan and her husband have traveled all over the world so she could research the region and animals she is writing about and drawing. They were in St. Petersburg for *Cinders*; in Sweden for *Home for Christmas*; in the Arctic for *The Three Snow Bears*; in Denmark for *The Hat*; and in Maine for *The Wild Christmas Reindeer*, so she could see caribou, the North American version of reindeer. Her love of her subjects, and her desire to "get it right," shows in the details of her drawings, and the marginal art in each book adds elements to the story and fills the book with color. They are visual and literary treats for all ages, so there's sure to be more of them coming in the future.



The Christmas reindeer in this story have different names than we are used to, but they still have to pull Santa's sleigh, and someone has to train them. That's Teeka's job, and she learns just in time that gentleness and a quiet voice are best for getting the job done.



There's no better place to be than home for Christmas, but wild little troll, Rollo, has to have many adventures before he learns that lesson.



Happy Advent, Church Family! We hope you are inspired to prepare for welcoming the birth of Jesus by our special services, including the Blue Christmas service. It is especially meaningful for those who have lost loved ones in the recent past.

Our next Stephen Ministry monthly meeting will be Wednesday, January 7, 2023, at 6:30 in the conference room. Tammy is leading a very interesting Bible Study about Jesus's miracles. See you there, Stephen Ministers!

■ How does Stephen Ministry benefit pastors?

Stephen Ministry supports pastors by deepening, expanding, and extending the caregiving capacity of their congregations. A team of Stephen Ministers, together with a pastor, can provide ongoing care for more people than the pastor could provide alone. This also frees pastors to invest more time in other important ministry areas. We have been blessed to have very supportive pastors of Stephen Ministry.

Blessings,
Barb Perry
Stephen Leader



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.

During this quarter you will examine the supremacy of Christ in the book of Colossians, gain a deeper understanding of God's Word, and explore the lessons learned from the life of David.

Unit 1: The Supremacy of Christ: Colossians is an uplifting reminder of the hope of the gospel. This study will focus on the power of the gospel, the certainty of salvation, and the supremacy of Christ.

Unit 2: Meaningful Study: As we explore the authority and relevance of the Bible, we will gain a deeper understanding of the ways God's Word brings us into a closer communion with God.

Unit 3: The Life of David: This study explores several lessons learned from the life of David.

Join us Sundays after the 9:15 am worship service in the Bailey Conference room.

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



First United Methodist Church ~ December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 UMW Candy Sale 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>	<p>5 6:00 pm - Optimist Club</p>	<p>6 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 1:00 pm - Dominos 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice</p>	<p>7 6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting 6:30 pm - Stephen Minister Meeting 6:30 pm - City Church Jr</p>	<p>1 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm - Advent Choir Practice</p>	<p>2 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing</p>	<p>3 9:30 am - UMW Candy Sale Preparation</p>
<p>11 9:15 am - FUMC Worship 9:15 am - CCG Leader Worship 10:30 am - Faith Connections 11:00 am - CCG Worship 5:00 pm - FUMC Blue Christmas Service 6:30 pm - CCG Sr. High Group</p>	<p>12 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting</p>	<p>13 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice</p>	<p>14 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups</p>	<p>15 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm - Advent Choir Practice</p>	<p>16 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 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>	<p>19 6:00 pm - Optimist Club</p>	<p>20 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice</p>	<p>21 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups</p>	<p>22 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm - Advent Choir Practice</p>	<p>23 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing</p>	<p>24 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service</p>
<p>25 Christmas Day 9:15 am - FUMC Worship 9:15 am - CCG Leader Worship 11:00 am - CCG Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 10:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>30 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</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.



December Birthdays

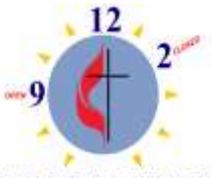
Menno Haan	12/01	Don Peterman	12/16
Holly Byington	12/02	Doug Lamborne	12/16
Emma Larsen	12/04	Chris Slating	12/17
Lee Rasmussen	12/05	David Bailey	12/18
Connie Januzelli	12/07	Chad Olsen	12/18
Blaine Kading	12/08	Michelle McComb	12/21
Jim Westbrook	12/13	Josh Januzelli	12/26
Ella Byington	12/13	Marty Posekany	12/29
Mitch Stressman	12/14	Judy Westbrook	12/31
Emily Schnepf	12/14		



Nick & Cheryl Springsteen	12/24
Lee & Norice Rasmussen	12/27
Scott & Wendy Bates	12/29

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 January Connection is Tuesday, December 27th. Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.