

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

# The Connection

*Greenville First United Methodist Church*

FEBRUARY 2023

## It's the Only Place Around She Could Get a Signal

I was Beverly's +1 at an out of town conference where she taught community mental health workers about suicide awareness and prevention. I found a wonderful local coffee shop and settled at the front window table with a cold brew coffee and blueberry scone. I was ready to work on editing our live stream worship service to create an audio version of the Scripture and sermon.

The young woman was sitting at a corner table in the open room. Then her phone rang. She answered it on speakerphone and proceeded to talk in a voice such that all of us could hear both sides of the conversation. What became immediately uncomfortable for me and made me sad was that she was talking about her mental and physical health history with a potential new therapist. She spoke openly and very personally about specific events and conditions in her family in a fairly relaxed manner.

**He asked her where she was and she said a coffee shop because it was the only place around where she could get a strong enough signal.**

My sadness became prayer as I heard her open her heart and share her history publicly in search of help with a potentially new mental health professional.

My prayer moved into reflection. Do people get a decent signal at church? At our church? Or do they have to keep moving because the signal isn't strong enough?

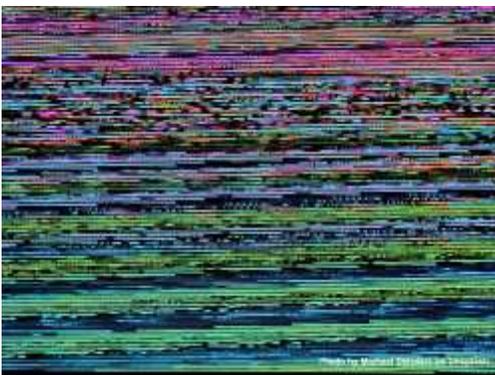
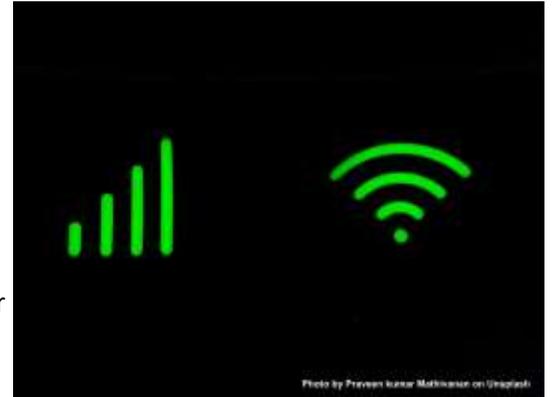
**I believe we are called to organize and maintain and grow our congregation by receiving God's signals for connection, compassion, healing, and forgiveness in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.** And we are to learn and confess the

noise of judgment and condemnation that too often are expressed instead. I care so deeply about hospitality and clear signals of welcome because that is my story of coming to faith in high school. I decided to follow Christ through the hospitality of the Three Oaks United Methodist Church and Pastor Larry Irvine.

**Are we set up for good reception here or do our activities and witness block God's signal?** This gives new meaning to the term reception or reception area and prompts the question, **How do we improve reception here?**

I don't know what else has happened for that young woman. I pray she has found a connection that is life-giving and supportive in her search for help and health. And I appreciate and renew my commitment to the openness we share to be our best for Greenville and offer a clear signal of love and compassion and grace.

Peace, Pastor Jeff



## **FEBRUARY 2023 WORSHIP**

February 5

### **Epiphany 5**

*Holy Communion*

***We Build Wells, Not Walls***

[Genesis 26:17-22](#)

[John 4:1-15](#)

February 19

### **Transfiguration**

***Light in the Night Until Dawn***

[2 Peter 1:16-21](#)

[Matthew 17:1-9](#)

February 12

### **Epiphany 6**

***We Innovate Instead  
of Replicate***

[Matthew 14:13-21](#)

February 26

### **Lent 1**

***“Open Heaven and  
Get Down Here!”***

[Isaiah 62:1-9](#)

[Psalm 13](#)



**February 22 Ash Wednesday**

**Lenten Series  
*Practicing Lament***

### **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.

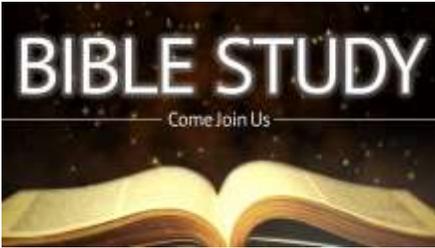


\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* HOMEBOUND \*  
 \* Corla Morgan \*  
 \* Neil Sergent \*  
 \* Harley VanHoose \*  
 \* Linda VanHoose \*  
 \* Richard Pendrick \*  
 \* Louise Noble \*  
 \* Kay Welsch \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*



*THOSE WHO HAVE  
 CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE*  
 Ethan Silverthorne

Aliviah Maag  
 Caitlin Jensen  
 Ken Workman  
 John Raven  
 Rory Frisbee  
 Bob Knapp  
 Diana Surrell  
 Carol Cole



## 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](#)

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## 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.

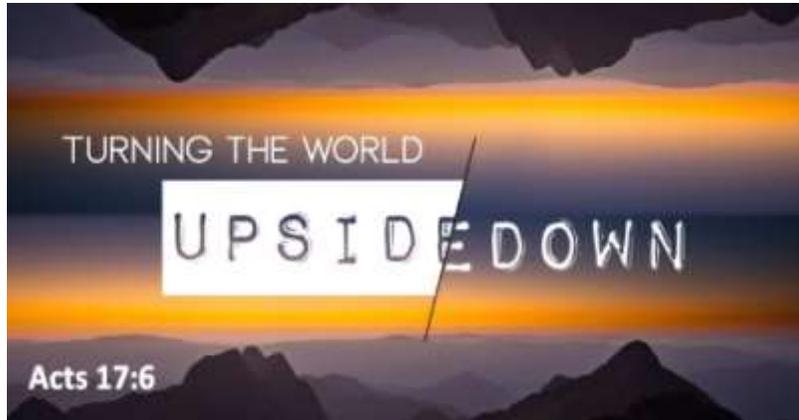
**Unit 1: The Supremacy of Christ:** Colossians is an uplifting reminder of the hope of the gospel. This study will focus on the power of the gospel, the certainty of salvation, and the supremacy of Christ.

**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](#)



## Missions Minute

It's been a while since Christmas but you should know that your generous giving has once again benefited others. \$480 was sent to Clay Street Center from your special Christmas giving!

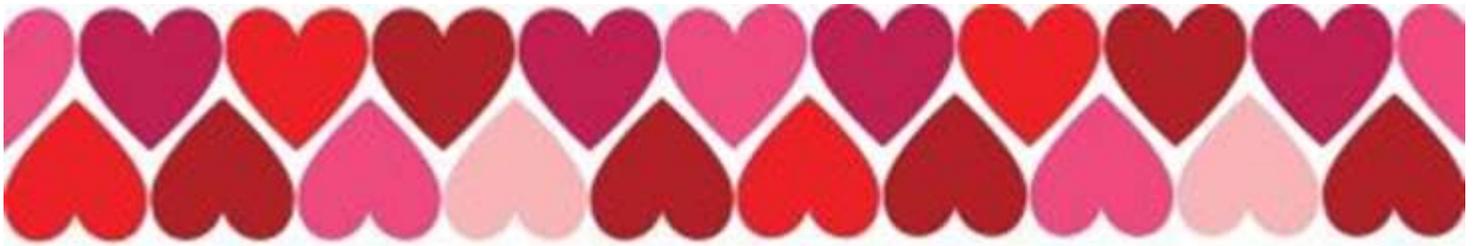
Throughout the year Missions gives to so many places. This is really all about you. Because you give we support Trobby, a missionary. We support Jessica from Guatemala, our Compassion Child, you fill pews for RAVE, baby pantry, and other groups. You amazing amounts to UMCOR, local groups and others at various distances. So many benefit from your generosity.

There will be more chances for you to change the course of lives near and far. Some we will plan and some that occur because our world is not perfect. You continue to help Jesus turn this old world upside down!



Contribution statements have been distributed through email, church mailbox or US mail. Please contact the church office if you did not receive your statement.

Thank you all for your contributions!



let all that you  
do be  
done in  
**Love**  
1 Cor 16:14

**United Women In Faith**  
**Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM**  
**Brotherhood Hall**

**PROGRAM: Loved To Love**

*"We Welcome All Women To Join Us"*



# Stephen Ministry

Our next monthly Stephen Ministry Meeting is Wednesday, February 1, at 6:30. Stephen Ministers, please join us in the Conference Room! And if you are a person who is being called train as a Stephen Minister, please tell Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, or Barb Perry.



You may wonder where Stephen Ministry came from and where it stands today. Here are the latest interesting statistics:

## Stephen Ministry Is Built to Last

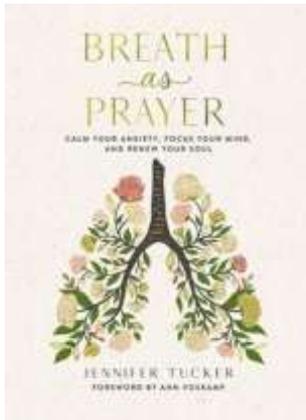


You'll find Stephen Ministry in congregations from more than 190 Christian denominations, across the U.S. and Canada and in 30 other countries. Stephen Ministry is built to last—going strong for decades in hundreds of congregations.

Since [Stephen Ministries St. Louis](#) was founded in 1975:

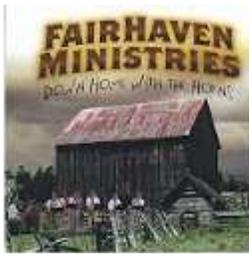
- More than 13,000 congregations have enrolled in Stephen Ministry.
- More than 75,000 pastors and lay leaders from those congregations have been equipped as Stephen Leaders.
- More than 600,000 laypeople have received Stephen Minister training.
- More than one-and-a-half-million people have had a Stephen Minister to walk with them, providing one-to-one Christian care during tough times.

Blessings,  
Barb Perry  
Stephen Leader



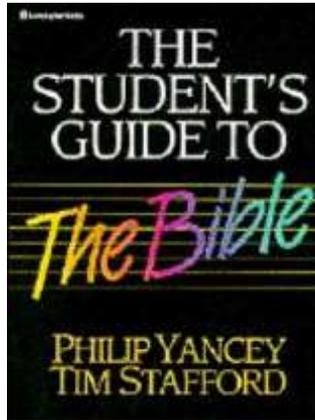
### **Breath As Prayer** by Jennifer Tucker

Calm your anxiety; focus your mind; renew your soul. Breath prayers are short, mostly one-sentence prayers that combine the science of deep breathing with prayers of meditation on God's Word. They are rooted in Scripture, and can help us calm our worries and anxieties. This book's Breath Prayers are grouped into themes, and come with a short meditation introduction and scriptural reference.



### **Down Home With the Horns**

This CD gives you 70 minutes of gospel music with Chris Hansen and his group, Fair Haven Ministries.

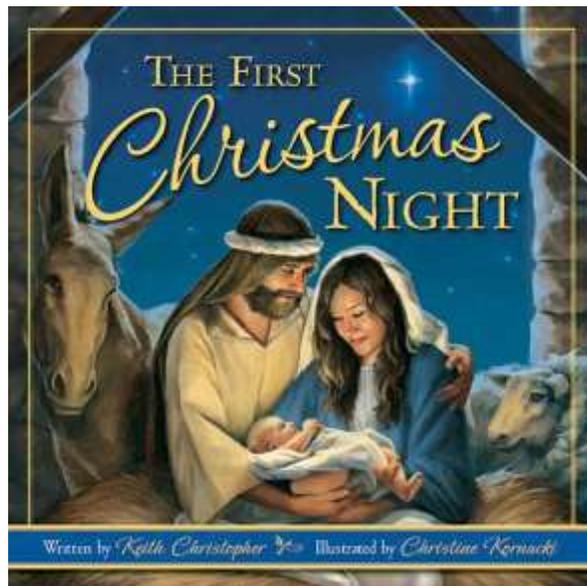


### **The Student's Guide to the Bible** by Philip Yancey

How valuable were Clif's Notes to you when you were in school? They do exist for the Bible, but this guide is written by a well known, respected Christian author, and offers a succinct overview of each book in the Bible, as well as information about the cultures and attitudes of biblical people. It's a wonderful tool to use as an introduction to your reading when you begin a study of any book from Genesis to Revelation.

### **The First Christmas Night** by Keith Christopher

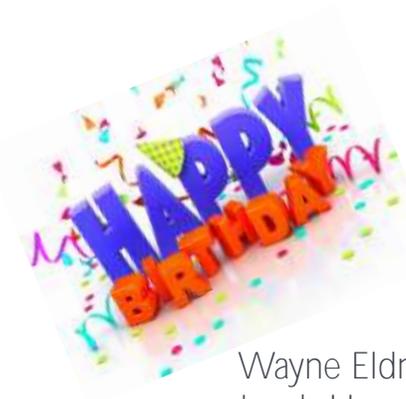
Yes, we're past Christmas, but the story of the birth of Christ is not a story only to be told at the end of December. It's one for every day of the year, so embrace this re-telling modeled after "A Visit From St. Nicholas," which sounds like it might be irreverent, but isn't. With full spread illustrations and gentle verse, this appeals to reader and listener alike.



# First United Methodist Church ~ February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting 6:30 pm - Stephen Minister Meeting 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	<b>2</b> 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>3</b> 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 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	<b>6</b> 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	<b>7</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	<b>8</b> 10:00 am— UMW Meeting 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	<b>9</b> 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>10</b> 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	<b>11</b> 4:30 pm—Emmaus Gathering
<b>12</b> 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	<b>13</b> 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting	<b>14</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	<b>16</b> 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>17</b> 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 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	<b>20</b> 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	<b>21</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	<b>22 Ash Wednesday</b> 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	<b>23</b> 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>24</b> 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	<b>25</b>
<b>26 Lent 1</b> 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	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm—Leadership Board Meeting	<b>28</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice				

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.



# February Birthdays

Wayne Eldred	02/05	Tamara Larsen	02/15
Jacob Homich	02/05	Russel Harmelink	02/18
Virginia Curtis	02/07	Emily Raven	02/18
Bob Hansen	02/08	Andy Hurst	02/22
Sharyl Hutchinson	02/10	Jacob Rasmussen	02/22
Robert Schuster	02/10	Russ Armstrong	02/27
Dr. Eugene Shatz	02/13	John Campbell	02/27
Janice Lamborne	02/13	Carol Schnepf	02/28

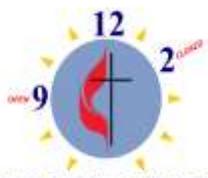


John and Clarice Thorlund	2/02
Bud and Carol Zayler	2/10
Andy and Krista Hurst	2/14

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*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](mailto:office@greenvillefumc.org).

Pastor Jeff can be reached anytime by email [jeffwrev@gmail.com](mailto: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 March Connection is **Thursday, February 23rd.** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 754-8532 or email at: [office@greenvillefumc.org](mailto:office@greenvillefumc.org).