

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

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The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

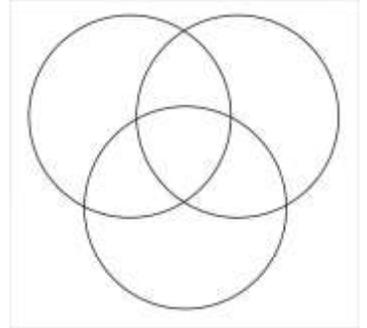
JANUARY 2023

Just Throwing Some Old and New Things Out There for 2023

As we break bread together in the coming year, let's also think and plan and do.

I am inspired by exploring the intersections between ideas and opportunities and actions. I want to encourage all of you and be encouraged by you to creatively respond to our time in the history of our congregation.

What helps you generate ideas? Here are two suggestions from the Forbes Agency Council of successful PR, media strategy, creative and advertising executives, and Indeed.com career services.



Ask Questions And Don't Rush Your Solutions

As we age and establish routines, we rarely stop to ask if those are still the right things to be doing. Start by asking questions about why a meeting is needed or if a process is still relevant. Challenge the team to clarify the business problem or opportunity you are trying to address. Then push the team to identify all the questions that need to be asked in order to find the best solution. - Lisa Gearhart, St. John & Partners (SJ&P)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesagencycouncil/2018/04/10/10-brainstorming-strategies-that-work/?sh=312e77875da7>

Think aloud

Saying your thoughts aloud makes the brainstorming process feel natural and conversational. Thinking aloud can help you feel more comfortable sharing your thoughts before they become fully developed ideas. Talking out your thoughts with colleagues as you have them can inspire productive conversation and naturally enable others to build on your ideas. Even if you're brainstorming independently, verbalizing your thoughts can make it easier to recognize good ideas and talk through any challenges.

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-brainstorm>

We are created in God's image to be creative; to respond and interact with God's world and God's people to find the best possible ways of living.

In Matthew 13 Jesus tells a bunch of parables: the Sower, Wheat & Weeds, a Mustard Seed, Yeast, a Hidden Treasure, a Pearl of Great Price, and a Net & Fish. Then he puts the disciples on the spot about what they have heard.



“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied.

He said to them, **“Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”** (Matthew 13:51-52)

It's not easy to manage old things and new things. And yet with God's creative energy it can be inspiring.

As the source of novelty, God constantly calls us to new possibilities, personally and institutionally...

What will you have to give up to embrace God's novel possibilities? What traditions will you need to affirm to be faithful to God in your place in time? In what ways will you join ancient gifts and future lures in this holy moment? (Epperly, Praying with Process Theology, 61).

Here are several things I am considering bringing out of my storeroom for 2023. What are yours?

- Offer "Senior Technology Management" services: 45-minute consultations on how to operate your phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer; less confident on helping with a thermostat, TV remote, etc.
- Launch our new Greenville FUMC phone application. Linda Custer is the champion for this effort.
- Celebrate Grandchildren/Grandparent Month (of our choosing) with pictures, videos, visits, and activities after worship.
- Take pictures of the stained glass windows throughout the Church and use them to tell the stories of our congregation.
- Struggle with a social worker's observation that in her years of service only one household named the Church as a positive influence.
- Challenge ourselves as a congregation to do one common good thing at the end of each worship service in the coming week.
- Offer a spiritual gifts inventory and make immediate connections with the ministries of the Church.
- With a horizon of 5-6 years for paying off the mortgage, what will our ministry look like then? What will be possible? Let's begin now to talk and think and plan for that time. I believe God will show us some amazing opportunities as we enter that time of discernment.

Maybe 2023 can be a time to clean out our storerooms and discern what God has in store for us to do.

Peace, Pastor Jeff

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 *



Aliviah Maag
 Caitlin Jensen
 Barb Perry

Human Relations Day January 15

In a social justice commentary, the Rev. I. Malik Saafir highlights two questions before The United Methodist Church: “Will those on the side of the road know us as the church that passed by on the other side? Or will they know us as the church that provides outreach programs that take the risk to heal their wounds?”

Human Relations Day is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God’s children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

CELEBRATION!!

Please join our family in celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of Dick & Jemery Palmer after the morning service on January 22nd.

Cake and refreshments will be provided in Brotherhood hall.



JANUARY 2023 WORSHIP

January 1 **Epiphany** *Chuck Hill*
Royal Conduct and Consequences
[Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14](#)
[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

January 22 **Epiphany 3**
We Live in the Kingdom Story,
Not a Church Story
[Luke 7:18-33](#)

January 8 **Epiphany 1**
Holy Baptism of the Lord, Baptism Renewal
We Choose the Window Seat,
Not the Aisle Seat
[Luke 10:29-37](#)

January 29 **Epiphany 4**
Ministry of the Laity; Matt & Nora Vos
We Send Lots of People Away
From the Church Building
[1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)

January 15 **Epiphany 2**
Communion
Human Relations Day Offering
We Practice Weight Training,
Not Bodybuilding
[Ephesians 2:1-10](#)



I wish to thank all our Prayer Warriors who faithfully prayed for me for my surgery. You can not know how much I count on the prayers and thoughtfulness of my church family! I continue to recover at home and am grateful for all the support.

Kindest Regards, Barb Perry

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!



New Year - New Beginnings
New Intentions - New Thoughts
New Focus - New Results



UMW - United Women In Faith

We believe love in action can change the world!
Many members, united in one purpose.

Wednesday January 11, 2023
10:00AM
Brotherhood Hall

SHORT BUSINESS MEETING

Mintues – Treasures Report – Candy Sales
Evaluate Candle Light Christmas Tea
(Please bring you suggestions and ideas.)

PROGRAM

Story of Queen Esther *(In skit form.)*

Stephen Ministry



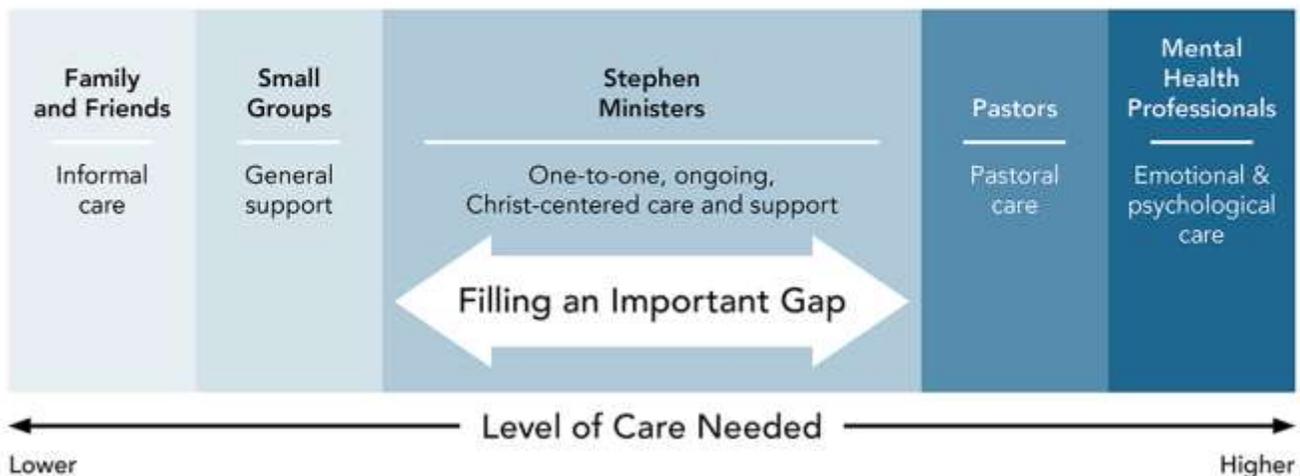
Happy New Year, Church Family! Our next Stephen Ministry monthly meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 6:30 in the conference room. Tammy is leading a very interesting Bible Study about Jesus’s miracles. See you there, Stephen Ministers!

■ 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

THE SPECTRUM OF CARE

This graphic shows how Stephen Ministry fills a unique and important niche among the types of care available in a congregation for people experiencing a life crisis.



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 ~ January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 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	2 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	3 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 1:00 pm - Dominos 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	4 6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting 6:30 pm - Stephen Minister Meeting 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	5 10:30 am Bible Study	6 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	7 10:00 am—Sampson Party
8 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	9 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting	10 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	11 10:00 am—UMW Meeting 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	12 10:30 am Bible Study	13 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	14
15 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	16 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	17 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	18 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	19 10:30 am Bible Study	20 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	21
22 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	23 7:00 pm—Leadership Board Meeting	24 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	25 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	26 10:30 am Bible Study	27 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	28 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
29 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	30	31 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.



January Birthdays

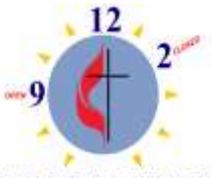
Kim Frisbey	01/05	Kathryn Youmans	01/18
Larry Parker	01/06	Tammy Youmans	01/18
Harley VanHoose	01/07	Martin McDonough	01/20
Vanessa Palmer	01/10	Barb Parker	01/21
Bud Zayler	01/16	Carol Zayler	01/22
Richard Palmer	01/18	Andrew Raven	01/24
Jamee Gunn	01/18	Wyatt Dickinson	01/24
Donald Spachman	01/18	Christine Cooper	01/25



Dick and Jemery Palmer	01/20
Roy and Andrea Stearns	01/27

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 February Connection is **Tuesday, January 24th.** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.