

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

MARCH 2023

Longer than Expected

We are coming out of our recent ice storm and the power is still out at the parsonage as I write this.

This morning at Men's Breakfast I received this text:

Today 7:57 AM
Spectrum Service Alert
Update: Restoration work has
taken longer than expected.
Our techs are continuing to
work on the problem

That is true for so many things.

We are constantly adjusting our expectations about the work we or others do. Business leaders talk about renegotiating our agreements with ourselves and each other as things change in the course of doing our work.

I worked for two years in public accounting before going to seminary. In that first professional accounting job I learned so many things. One rather vivid lesson was about estimating the time for completing the audit of a particular financial section like Cash or Accounts Payable. Fred, my supervisor, asked me to give an estimate for auditing one of these sections. I did and he said to double it and that is how long it should take; then double that estimate and that is how long it will actually take me to complete the work.

It turns out we can be pretty unreliable estimators of our time and projects. And we have this similar condition when it comes to our expectations of God.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. (Isaiah 64:1)

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? (Psalm 13:1)

In our Lenten worship series *Practicing Lament*, we are learning that God's absence is a primary complaint in lament. For example, Isaiah's cry for God to open heaven and get down here! Or the Psalmist who cries, "How long, O Lord?"

Dr. Christopher Davis offers a challenging perspective on this experience:

Another implication of waiting is the reality that God reserves the right to keep us waiting; time was made for humans, not for God. Thus, God is not in a hurry. Another implication of waiting, which is probably the least popular yet the most applicable to the text, is the reality that **while God is great, God can also be gradual. When it comes to God's moves, God's methods, and God's miracles, God can be slow** (Dr. Christopher Davis, Working Preacher).

One special quality of Lent is the invitation to slow down, not because things are not urgent but because we want to respond in the deepest and most effective ways to the urgent needs.

*Slow is Smooth
and
Smooth is Fast*

Kara Swisher interviewed Tim Ferriss on her podcast Recode Decode about this concept:

Kara: ...fast has always been looked at as important. That you have to move fast, break things, and all the different things you read about. **How does that change when you don't get to move fast or is there a way to move fast in this environment?**

Tim: **So you practice doing things very slowly. And if you do things slowly without making mistakes, you can later optimize for speed.**

Sometimes when I go too fast through a situation or try to answer a question too quickly I lose my balance or perspective on the issue at hand. And I usually miss additional information that helps make sense of the matter.

Intentionally allowing time for second thoughts can be helpful. Second thoughts may refer to doubt, like, "I'm having second thoughts about some decision/matter/question, etc." However, what if we use second thoughts in the more positive light of giving further consideration to matters of faith and life? Second thoughts suggest that first thoughts and impressions may not convey the deepest meaning. Further contemplation can bring out better understanding and allow for meaning to emerge over time. The late Howard Thurman, a theologian/pastor/author, referred to the need to allow our decisions and questions to "simmer."

This Lent let's develop our capacity to respond when important things take longer than expected by practicing our faith slowly.

Peace, Pastor Jeff
jeffwrev@gmail.com
269-944-9231

MARCH 2023 WORSHIP

March 5
Lent 2
Holy Communion
"You Just Don't Get It!"
[Jeremiah 8:18-22](#)
[Luke 13:31-35](#)

March 19
Lent 4
UMCOR Sunday offering
I Did It and Things Aren't Right
(Regret and Protest)
[2 Samuel 12:1-7a](#)
[Habakkuk 1:2-4](#)

March 12
Lent 3
Somebody's Wide and Painful Gap
[1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)
[Romans 8:19-23](#)



March 26
Lent 5
Make Room to Cry and Grieve
[Matthew 5:4](#)
[Romans 12:9-21](#)

April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday

April 6 Maundy Thursday with Holy communion

April 7 Good Friday

Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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



*THOSE WHO HAVE
 CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE*
 Carol VanLoo

Aliviah Maag
 Caitlin Jensen
 Ken Workman
 John Raven
 Rory Frisbee
 Bob Knapp
 Mary Sharp



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](#)



UMCOR Sunday **March 19, 2023**

Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to provide hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. UMCOR Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for UMCOR. The special offering on this Sunday underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business" making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance. It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100% of any donation to a specific UMCOR project or missionary will go towards that project and not administrative cost.

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one
and only Son, that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life."**

John 3:16 NIV

United Women In Faith
Wednesday March 8th
10:00AM
Brotherhood Hall



Are you interested in joining
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH,
BUT can't make the 2nd Wednesday
of the Month Morning Meeting?
Here are some other opportunities to think about.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Second Tuesday of the month 2:00PM
Beginning in April – thru October
Uplifting Devotions and Christian fellowship.

SPIRITUAL UP LIFE & CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Second Wednesday Evening 6:30PM.
One hour program ONLY.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM Continuing Study of the Psalms.

If interested, contact Ruth Hansen
616-302-4933 – ruhansen@charter.net

*“For where two or three gather in my name,
there am I with them.”*

Matthew 18:20 NIV



Stephen Ministry

Hello, Church Family! Our next Stephen Ministry monthly meeting will be Wednesday, March 1, at 6:30 in the Conference Room. Tammy has been leading us in a discussion/video Bible Study about Jesus's miracles. It is fascinating and very educational. Please join us, Stephen Ministers. ❤️ 😊



We have so many people who could use a caring Christian friend. If you are being called to become a Stephen Minister, we would love to begin a Stephen Minister training class! Please let Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, or me know that you are interested and may have some questions for us.

Here are some thoughts about giving things up for Lent.

Blessings, Barb Perry, Stephen Leader

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

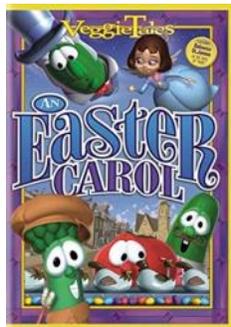
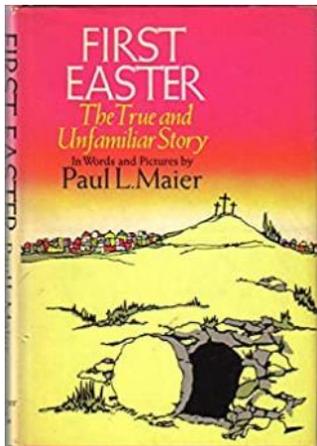
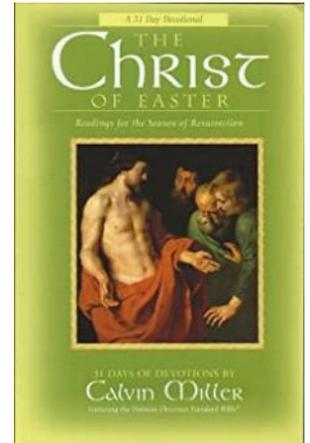
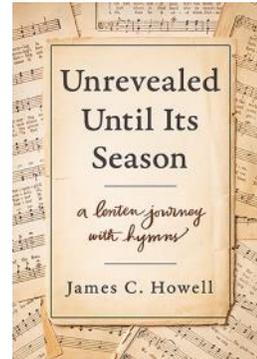
pietrafitness.com



LENT

Call No.

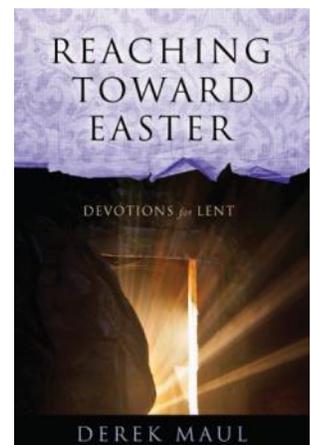
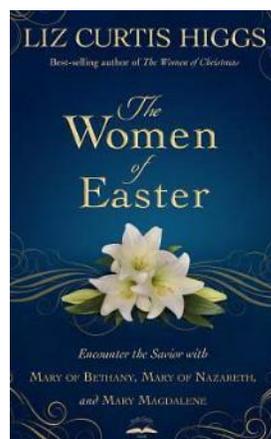
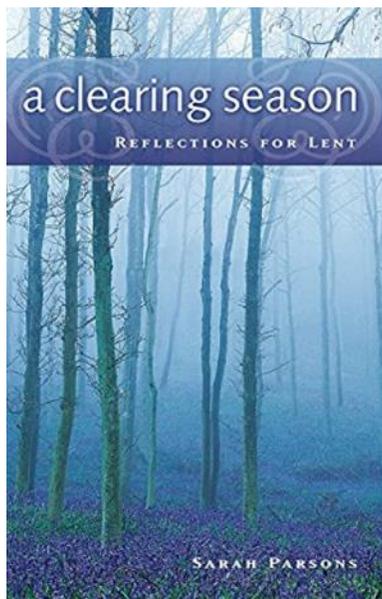
- 242.34/BEM God's Gift of Life / Larry Beman
- 242.34/MAU Reaching Towards Easter / Derek Maul
- 242.34/PAR A Clearing Season / Sarah Parsons
- 783.9/HOW Unrevealed Until Its Season: A Lenten Journey with Hymns / James Howell



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 ~ March 2023

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

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.



March Birthdays

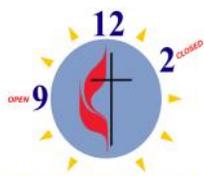
Mark Wilkin	03/01	Ruth Hansen	03/15
Jersey Legg	03/01	Bryant Dudzik	03/15
Dannah Gager	03/02	Loretta Lockwood	03/18
Josh Byington	03/05	Dorothy Sampson	03/18
Justin Slating	03/07	Kathleen Harmelink	03/20
Kim Weller	03/08	Nelson Byington	03/23
Chris Larsen	03/08	Alexandra Woodward	03/23
John Ritter	03/09	Shirley Harris	03/24
Katy McDonough	03/09	Lee Frisbey	03/28
Brandon Smith	03/09	Ron DeYoung	03/29
Karen Peterman	03/12	Scott Bates	03/29
Diana Surrell	03/12	Chris Nelson	03/30
Jack Waber	03/13	Judie Leach	03/31
Barb Schuster	03/14	Kim Ward	03/31



Doug & Jan Lamborne	03/08
Lee & Lauri Bahlman	03/10
James & Carolyn Humble	03/21
Rory & Kim Frisbey	03/28

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 April Connection is **Tuesday, March 28th.** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.