SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:00 AM
Watch on:
Greenville First UMC website
Facebook page
YouTube Channel

The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

MARCH - APRIL 2026

Above the Law, On the Record, and Under Oath

These three phrases are spoken quite regularly in our current national political discourse. **There is a desire for primary leaders and actors in our national drama to speak on the record and be examined under oath and not be above the law.** The tension this desire reveals is the suspicion or suggestion that there will be different answers given when someone is speaking on the record or under oath than when they respond in public media or private conversations. The tension highlights the gap or disconnection or contradiction that is believed to exist between what someone is saying and what is really true.

On the record and under oath describe careful and limited discourse that happens in a specific context, often legal and adversarial. To speak off the record, not under oath, or as an anonymous source allows us to speculate wildly or use drastic and combative language to shape or frame a narrative before other sides of the conflict weigh in with their comments. Speaking off the record also is often how we first learn of controversies and troubles. There is a freedom to speak more openly when not making official statements.

As people of faith and followers of Jesus, we are called to live lives that are not characterized by drastic differences between what we say and do and what is true. Jesus invites us to a free and abundant life in love with God and our neighbor and ourselves. We are invited to find unity and wholeness in God's mercy and grace as individuals and communities. We are given light and guidance by the Holy Spirit to see the truth of our lives. We understand the differences between our walk and our talk to be conditions of our humanity, we are sinful and have limited understanding of the mystery of this life we share.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9).

It is not easy to live authentic lives in the tension of our culture. We find strength in God's grace and our shared spiritual community to be honest about our brokenness and still make positive contributions to the common good.

Peace, Pastor Jeff
269-944-9231

March 2026 Worship

Lenten Series
"Make Good Life Choices"

March 1 - **Lent 2**
Holy Communion
In the Midst of War, We Choose Peace
Ephesians 2:13-22
James 3:13-18

March 8 - **Lent 3**
Pastor Craig preaching
When Our World Falls Down, We Will Rise
Isaiah 40:28-31, 60:1-3
Micah 7:8-9

March 15 - **Lent 4**
Holy Communion
**UMCOR Sunday offering
In the Midst of Sin, Jesus Forgives
Psalm 32:1-8
Luke 23:32-43

March 22 - **Lent 5**
In the Midst of Sin, We Forgive
Genesis 50:15-21
Matthew 18:15-22

Holy Week

March 29 **Palm/Passion Sunday**
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

April 2026 Worship

April 2 - **Maundy Thursday**
Community Service 6:30pm
Congregational Church
126 E Cass St, Greenville

April 3 - **Good Friday**
Community Service, 12:15pm
Here at FUMC

April 5 Easter!
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 28;1-10

Easter Series
"Choosing the Good Life"

April 12 - **Easter 2**
Gather in the Good Life
Acts 2:43-47; Hebrews 10:19-25

April 19 - **Easter 3**
Holy Communion
**Native American Ministries Sunday
Connect in the Good Life
Psalm 139:1-6
John 15:1-5

April 26 - **Easter 4**
Learn in the Good Life
Proverbs 2:1-5, 9-11
Matthew 11:28-30

Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Homebound or Minimal Travel

Harley VanHoose
Liz Campbell
Tom & Judy VanSyckle
John Washburn
Caitlin Jensen
Dan Sandie
Ben Chapman
John and Clarice Thorlund
Dorothy Sampson
Julie Johnston

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Recovering at Home

Eleanor Budge

THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE

Jan Carpenter
Bob Van Hoose
Betsy Irish

Hospitalized or Rehab

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.

The Zoom link is: **Thursday Bible Study**

Sunday Pastor Chat

Join us in the Church Library **Sundays after worship at 11:30 AM** for reading, study and fellowship. Bring your questions, beverage of choice and snack if you choose, and have the opportunity to discuss the week's message with Pastor Jeff and others. We hope you will gain a better understanding and maybe a different perspective of God's Word.

We hope to see you Sunday!

PastorChat

February 15, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church:

As Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, **I wish to announce to you the appointment of Rev. Adam Woods, our new pastor effective July 1, 2026.** Adam and his spouse, Laurie, were introduced to our Staff Parish Relations Committee by our District Superintendent, Rev. John G Kasper, on behalf of Bishop David Bard, who set this new appointment. We are excited about the spirit, gifts, and abilities that Pastor Adam Woods will be bringing to our congregation.

Pastor Adam Woods grew up in Wisconsin, is a proud graduate of the University of Montana and Duke Divinity School, and now a Michigan resident. Adam is an ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church and a clergy member of the Wisconsin Conference. He most recently left Turtle Lake, WI, Parkview UMC.

As one half of an interdenominational clergy couple, Adam's wife, Laurie, was responsible for bringing the family to Michigan in November as she began her new position as a campus minister with United Campus Christian Fellowship. She is ordained in the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). In addition to Adam's Master of Divinity degree, He has continued his education with a Clinical Pastoral Education year-long Residency at Rush University Medical Center, a Certificate in Spiritual Direction and Formation from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and is currently enrolled in the Practical Church Leadership Program through Dakota Wesleyan University.

While Adam isn't guest preaching at ELCA Congregations since moving to MI late last year, he has been at home caring for their 3-yr old son, Peter, and enjoying time with the family dog, Lexie.

We are pleased to make this announcement to you and know that you will enjoy meeting Adam, Laurie and Peter. Please hold them and their family in prayer during these months of transition. Pray, too, for the whole Cabinet, including Bishop David Bard, as they continue to meet, pray, and discern God's will in the appointment-making process.

Trusting God's amazing grace, Christ's faithful love, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as we move into the future.

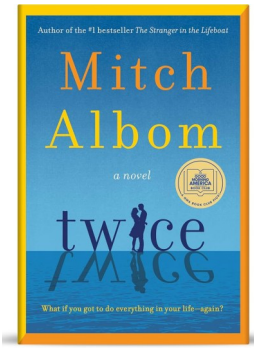
Serving Christ with you,

Linda Custer
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairperson
Greenville First United Methodist Church

Coffee Hour is a Mission of Hospitality

We *need more hands to share in this mission* each Sunday.

Would you please sign-up to help with setup and/or cleanup?

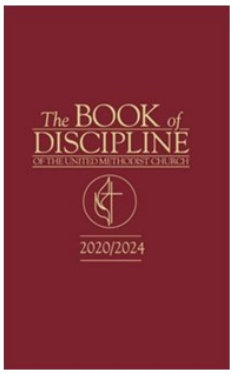


Library Link

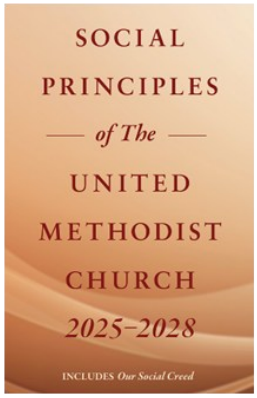
Leading the parade of new items available in the library this month is Mitch Albom's newest novel, ***Twice***. What if you got to do everything in your life—twice? What if you could undo any moment and live it again? The heart of this novel is a love story that explores how our unchecked desires might mean losing what we've had all along. Are you willing to risk that? What did Alfie do?

The calendar may show that our Christmas season is past, but Christmas lives in our hearts all year long, so maybe you would like to recapture some of the wonder of Christmas. You can watch the movie ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** or read to the youngest in the family the BabyLit board book ***A Christmas Carol***. Both are now ready for your pleasure.

The use of prayer beads, though a relatively new practice among Protestants, has a long history. ***Praying With Beads*** gives that history, prayers, and suggested prayer practice to use with the beads. It's a small book, but one that can open an entirely new window on your prayer practice.



Along with a new Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church, came a new set of our social principles. These are included in the Book of Discipline, but also published separately for more convenient reading. Both books are a part of our collection, and may be borrowed from the library.



Thanks for all the cards, visits,
and prayers after surgery!
I am almost healed!
Love, Barb (Perry)

Easter Flowers for Sale

<u>Orders due by Sunday March 22rd</u>

Tulips (assorted colors)
$10 per pot

Pay by check or cash.
Mark a giving envelope
or use a flyer to submit your order.

Flowers by Wayside Gardens

Greetings Church,

It's hard to comprehend 25 years have passed since construction of the new sanctuary and our daycare below it. Our focused efforts to pay off the mortgage are coming to fruition! We will celebrate the end of the loan along with our church's 175th Anniversary on the weekend of July 18th and 19th.

Because the shingles are also 25 years old, they need to be replaced. The **"Raise the Roof Campaign"** has raised $82,823 toward the total cost of $133,743.
Balance needed is $50,920.

Please prayerfully consider a one time, weekly or monthly gift to help fund this project for completion by mid-fall of 2026.

Yours in Christ,
Douglas W. Lamborne
Campaign Chairperson

MISSIONS
across the street & around the world

Fill a Pew - March

IM KIDS
3rd MEAL

Items Needed:

- granola bars
- peanut butter
- jelly (any flavor)
- fruit cups (not applesauce)
- colorful cereal for trail mix

Help us decorate bags
at the tables in Fellowship Hall

Fill the Cart is Ongoing

For the Ecumenical Food Pantry

Items Needed:

- Boxed/bagged cereal,
- Peanut butter, jelly.
- Canned fruit, vegetables, beans, and meat.
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta.
- Soup, crackers, boxed potatoes.
- Chili spice/flavor packets.

Noisy Offering for Missions - 3rd Sundays

<u>March 15</u> - UMCOR Sunday (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

When people face crisis—whether from natural disaster, conflict, or hunger—UMCOR is there to help. But that kind of response doesn't just happen. It requires trained staff, reliable systems, and the ability to act quickly and compassionately.

<u>April 19</u> - Native American Ministries Sunday

Many people lack understanding of Native American life, culture, and spirituality. Native American Ministries Sunday helps bridge this gap by celebrating Indigenous heritage and empowering Native voices in ministry. Your giving matters because it addresses the critical shortage of Native American pastors and trained leaders, helping ensure that Indigenous communities have strong representation and leadership within the Church.

Stephen Ministry

Peace Vigil for everyone meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00pm. in our beautiful Chapel.

This is not a formal service. It's quiet time when you can pray, meditate, or just be in God's presence. Stephen Ministers will be there, in case you would like a listening ear or someone to pray with you.

Thanks for supporting Stephen Ministry! Please let Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, or me know if you feel God's call to become a Stephen Minister!

Blessings,
Barb Perry, Stephen Leader

March & April 2026 Calendar

Weekly & Monthly Recurring Events

Sundays

- **9:00am Choir Practice**
- **10:00am Worship, Sanctuary (children exit for Children's Church when indicated during the service)**
- **11:00am Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall**
- **11:30am Pastor Chat, Library**

Mondays

- **5:45pm Missions Meeting, Conference Rm (Second Mondays only)**
- **6:00pm Optimist Club, Conference Rm (First and Third Mondays only)**
- **6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting, Conference Rm (Fourth Mondays only)**

Tuesdays

- **8:00am Men's Breakfast, Big Boy -Greenville**
- **10:00am Survivors Group -Grief, Divorce, Loss of Pet or other losses, Church Library**
- **10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group, Celebration Hall (First and Third Tuesdays only)**
- **11:30am Ladies' Luncheon, Winter Inn Greenville (First Tuesdays only)**
- **2:00pm Esther-Lois Circle (Third Tuesdays only)**
- **6:00pm VFRP Craft Club, Fellowship Hall (Fourth Tuesdays only)**

Wednesdays

- **10:00am United Women in Faith -All Women Welcome (Second Wednesdays only)**
- **6:30pm Lenten Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) until Easter**
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- **6:00-7:00pm Monthly Peace Vigil - Chapel (Third Wednesdays only)**

Thursdays

- **10:30am Bible Study, Conference Room & Zoom**
- **11:00am Parkinson's Support Group, Fellowship Hall (Third Thursdays only)**
- **11:00am Chair Yoga, Celebration Hall (First Thursdays only)**

Please visit the FUMC website calendar for the latest updates. Here is the link: https://greenvillefumc.org/calendar

Upcoming Services, Events or Meetings

Palm Sunday
March 29 - Beginning of Holy Week

Maundy Thursday
April 2 - Service 6:30 pm
Congregational Church
126 E Cass St, Greenville

Good Friday
April 3 - Service at 12:15
Here at FUMC

Easter Sunday
April 5

Retirement Potluck for Pastor Jeff & Beverly
June 14
-after worship

Community Event GFUMC 175th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday July 18
Block Party
Helpers needed - Contact Pete Blinkilde
616-894-4671
Sunday July 19
Service of Celebration

March Birthdays

1 Mark Wilkin
2 Dannah Gunn-Gager
5 Josh Byington
8 Kim Weller

9 John Ritter
Katy McDonough

11 Carol Houghtaling
12 Diana Surrell

14 Barb Schuster
Cheryel Hamilton

15 Ruth Hansen
17 Kaylee Hoag

18 Dorothy Sampson
Betsy Irish

20 Kathleen Harmelink
21 Jennifer Marinos
23 Alexandra Woodward
24 Shirley Harris
28 Brian Carpenter

31 Alison Weller
Kimberly Ward-Caverley
Danielle Bernatowicz

April Birthdays

1 Eldon Lutz
3 Jean Hudson
6 Miranda Holmberg
7 Steven Thomsen
8 William Dickinson
10 Judy VanSyckle

11 Liz Campbell
Nancy Olsen

14 Malorie Packard
15 Craig Pahl
Beverly Williams

21 Sally Jo Armstrong
Pastor Jeffrey Williams

22 Carole Boyce
23 Damian Pahl
24 Holden Lee
Tylin Sherman
26 Peter Januzelli

27 Derik Holmberg
30 Sherie Kosten

March

8 Doug & Jan Lamborne

10 Lee & Lauri Bahlman

April

9 Bob & Carole Boyce

12 Barb & Larry Parker

15 John & Beckie Pfaff

25 Keith & Jean Hudson

If you were accidently omitted from our birthday or anniversary list or have a wrong date, please let the church office know so we can update our records. If you wish to have your information removed please contact the church office. Email: office@greenvillefumc.org

Esther Lois Circle meets the <u>3rd Tuesday</u> at 2:00 pm
In Fellowship Hall
April - October

Ladies Luncheon
<u>First Tuesday</u> at 11:30 Winter Inn
No reservation needed just show up.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

In-Person
and
Online Anytime

STREAMING SERVICES
greenvillefumc.org/watch-live

ONLINE GIVING
greenvillefumc.org/give

PRAYER REQUESTS
greenvillefumc.org/prayer-request

FACEBOOK GROUP
FUMC of Greenville

Bring Living Water and Hope of a New Day to those who have served the church well.

We have many homebound folks in our church; we can connect through phone calls, cards, or visits.

- Could you regularly reach out to one of them?
- Do you already?

<u>Are you needing support</u>? Contact the church office, 616-754-8532, Email: office@greenvillefumc.org or Julie Brown, 616-260-2959

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

«Mailing label»
«Address1» «Address2»
«City State» «Zip code»

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 the church office at: 616-754-8532.

Submission Deadlines: Deadline For the March-April Newsletter is **Monday, April 20,** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.