

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 11

NOVEMBER 2022

Take More Time, Cover Less Ground

Carrie Newcomer shared this phrase and song with us at the Michigan Annual Conference this year. She learned that it is based on Thomas Merton's writings (<https://carriewcomer.substack.com/p/take-more-time-cover-less-ground>).

She writes, **"Its about living at the speed of our own souls and living with presence."**

I was blessed with a week for spiritual renewal leave in October that I took for the first time in my ministry. Turns out it is something available each year.

Throughout their careers, clergy shall engage in continuing education for ministry, professional development, and spiritual formation and growth in order to lead the church in fulfilling the mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ...A clergy member's continuing education and spiritual growth program shall include professional formation leaves at least one week each year (2016 Book of Discipline, Paragraphs 350.1 & 350.2).

It truly was a week of renewal and rest. Part of the time I was with family (daughter, son-in-law, and grandson near Disney) and best friends in Ft. Myers. The main part of the week though I was in solitude in the home of our son-in-law's parents. I went at the speed of my soul through sleep, meals, reading, journaling, praying, and exercising.



My focus was on mindfulness. One of the three books I read that week was Right Here Right Now by Amy Oden.

“The goal of Christian mindfulness is . . . an experience of our lives in God, our true home.” Christian mindfulness leads not only to greater physical and mental well-being but clearer discernment of divine activity and guidance, both personally and collectively (Oden, Right Here Right Now).

These are some of the insights I had during the week.

- I actually lose sight of the dimensions, textures, and abundance of the world and my being when I am anxious and afraid.
- I rediscover the joy of writing each time I do it.

I appreciate the wisdom that we write in order to find out what we are thinking.

Jesus urgently calls his followers to grasp this reality ruled by love, already embedded in our lives. Often in the Gospels Jesus describes God’s reign as today, near, or at hand: “Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom!” (Mark 1:15) and “the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matt 10:7) (Oden, Right Here Right Now).

In a recent sermon on Sabbath as a sanctuary in time, I shared the insight from Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann, **"Sabbath is an unspoken prayer for the coming of a new sanity shaped by the power and graciousness of God."**

John Wesley called "upon Christians who truly want to deepen their life in God to be ever watchful, going so far as to list watchfulness as a general means of grace" (Oden, Right Here Right Now).

I like the affirmation that we can live in a reality ruled by love and embedded in our lives. Slowing down or being still enough to ask what is guiding my sense of the present moment can be a helpful corrective to being so outwardly focused that I exceed the speed of my soul.

Spiritual renewal may seem less important in the face of so many threats and burdens in our lives. We are tempted to hurry up and cover more ground. Yet, **devoting time to seek more of God's strength for today can be one of the best ways to move at the speed of our souls and keep us present in the ongoing ministry of Christ's outreaching love.**

Peace, Pastor Jeff

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



Aliviah Maag
Caitlin Jensen
Chuck Hill

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.



From Your Missions Team

November 27th is United Methodist Student Sunday. Right now, there are United Methodist young people who might not have the resources to attend a school of their choice or, for some, any school at all. However, because of people like you, they will be sent into the world with gifts made through United Methodist Student Day. Your contribution is an acknowledgment that the church has confidence in them and in their abilities. The needs exceed what we can fund and your gifts can further growth and success. Please help deserving students continue their education and their faith journeys. Supporting this ministry allows us to invest in future missionaries, engineers, teachers, pastors, film producers and so many other careers. Our students are depending on your support.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP



November 6 *Pastor Jane Duffey*

"God's Forgiveness"

Psalm 32:1-7

Romans 8:31-39

Luke 15:20-32

November 13 *Pastor Craig Pahl*

"To Go From & Come To: Abraham & Sarah"

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

November 20 *Noisy Offering*

"Hunger & Thirst That Stop with Jesus"

John 6:25-35

November 27 *First Sunday of Advent*

"God's Very Present Strength & Help"

Genesis 12:1-9

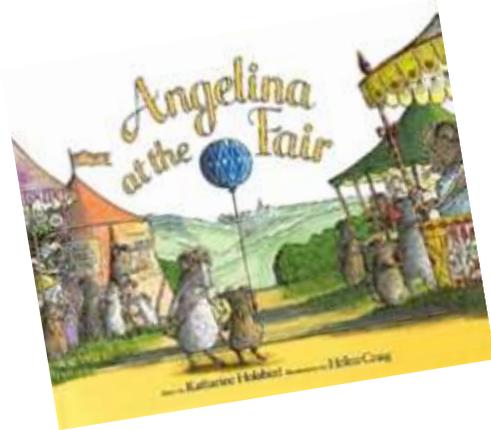
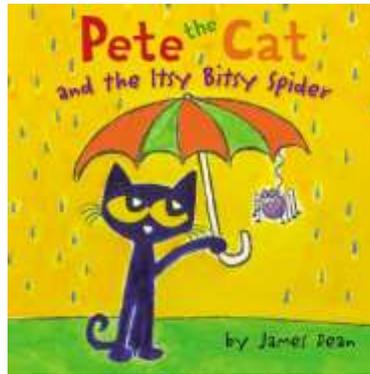
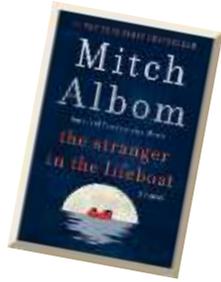


Workers Needed

Are you looking for a way to be involved in the church you love? One way may be to help keep the building and grounds looking inviting!

We are looking for help for painting, gardening, weeding, and general grounds sprucing. Please let the church office know if you are able and willing to help, we appreciate any time available.

Building Maintenance Team



The picture books have it this month, with four lovely new books for young children and their readers to enjoy. Angelina is back. The last time we saw her, she was excited because she was going to be a big sister. This time she is excited because she is going to the fair with her friends, but then she finds out that she has to take her small cousin Henry with her. Big Bummer! Will Henry survive his day at the fair with resentful Angelina? It doesn't look good!! **ANGELINA AT THE FAIR/Katherine Holabird**

OTTER B KIND/Pamela Kennedy Otter B isn't happy when he finds out that his friend can't come outside to play with him, but he makes a disappointing day better with kindness.

CHLOE AND THE CLOSET OF SECRETS/Ginger Hubbard Chloe has fallen into the bad habit of making up stories, but these lies are showing up as crazy little fluffs that she tries to hide in her closet. How many lies can one closet hold - and where will Chloe find the courage to confess?

Pete the Cat is back, and once again he is the hero in **PETE THE CAT AND THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER** by **James Dean**. As long as any of us can remember, the Itsy Bitsy spider has been trying to climb that old water spout, and keeps getting washed out by the rain. Pete knows the answer to helping him, and the spider finally has success!

For adult readers, there is **Mitch Albom's** latest novel, **THE STRANGER IN THE LIFEBOAT**. Adrift in a raft after a deadly ship explosion, ten people struggle for survival at sea. Short on food, water, and hope, they spot a mysterious man floating in the waves. They pull him in. "Thank the Lord we found you," a passenger says. "I *am* the Lord," the man whispers. And thus the scene is set for this book. What would **you** do if you cried out to God for help and someone claiming to be God actually appeared before you?



Coming next month: 2 new Christmas storybooks



Stephen Ministry



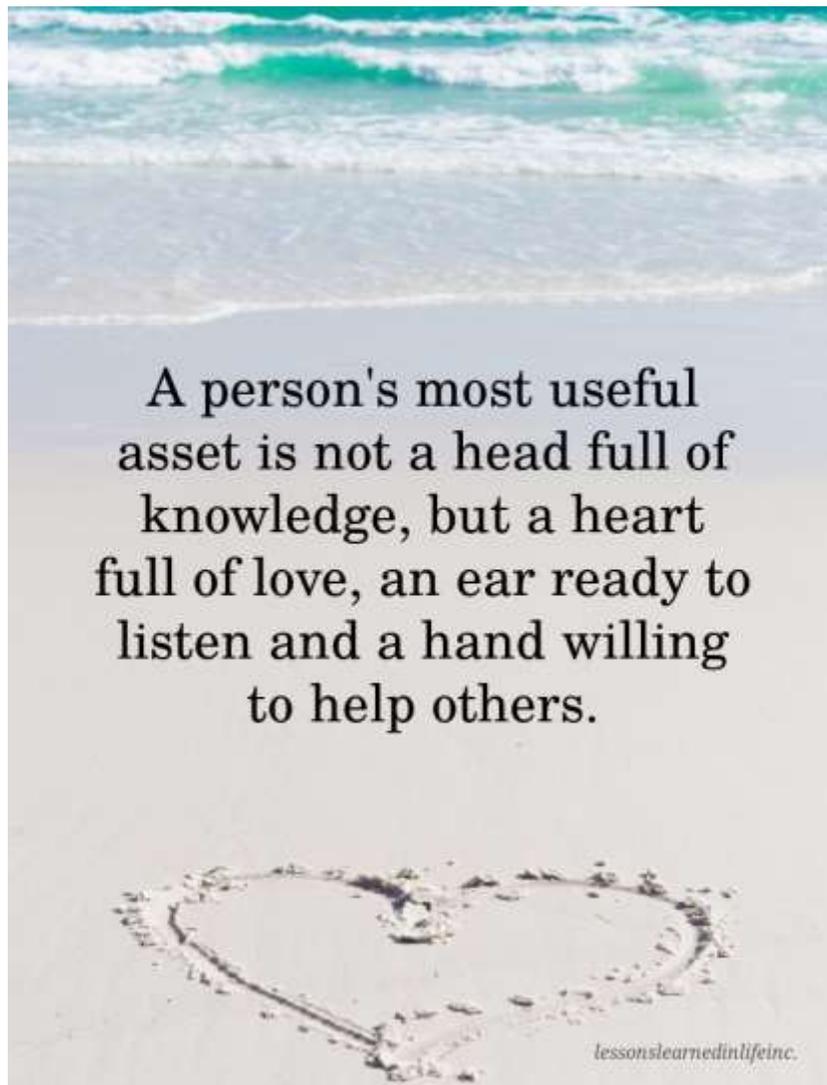
Stephen Ministers, our next meeting is Wednesday, December 7, at 6:30 in the Conference Room. Tammy is leading a very interesting Bible Study about the miracles that Jesus performed. Please plan to attend!

Being a Stephen Minister is a special ministry. It is actually a calling from God to an individual, confidential, caring ministry. To become a Stephen Minister, a person takes a class taught by trained Stephen Leaders. The class consists of 50 hours of class, with readings between classes and three useful books that go along with the class. The classes are interesting and fun, sometimes using lectures, videos, role playing, and discussions. Each person commits to two years of service, but many of us have been Stephen Ministers for much longer than that! After the class is completed, the Stephen Minister is commissioned in a church service and will receive a Care Receiver.

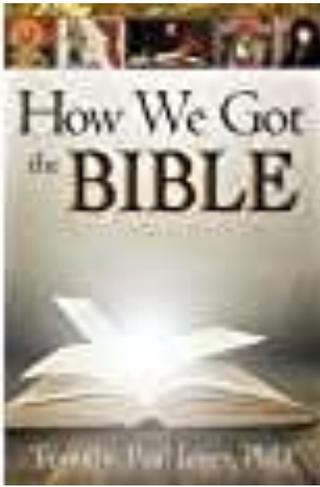
Please pray about this ministry and tell Pastor Jeff Williams, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, or Barb Perry if you are ready to join a class. And thanks for your prayerful support, Church Family!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving! We have so many blessings to be thankful for!

Barb Perry,
Stephen. Leader



Thursday Bible Study



Our Thursday class will participate in the video series, *How We Got the Bible*. Have you ever wondered who wrote the books in the Bible and how they ended up together? In this book, dive into the fascinating account of the most amazing and best-preserved book the world has ever seen. Dr. Timothy Paul Jones gives easy-to-understand answers to popular questions about the Bible. For example, how the Old Testament and New Testament came to us; fascinating facts about the Bible such as: there are more than 5,700 surviving manuscripts from the New Testament compared to 210 surviving copies of Plato.

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.

This quarter we will look at how God led the people from slavery toward the promised land and **specific leaders in Israel from the time of Joshua's death until the time of the monarchy.**

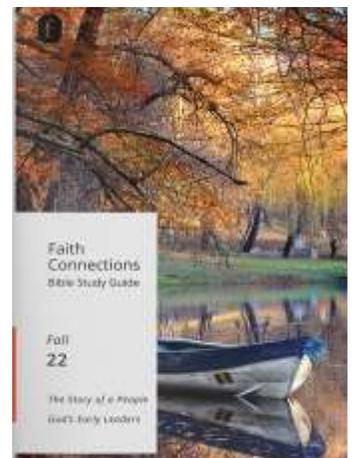
Unit 1: The Story of a People (Exodus)

Each story has a beginning. For the Israelites, their beginning was filled with miraculous encounters with God. During this study, we will see how God led the people from slavery toward the promised land.

Unit 2: God's Early Leaders (Judges)

This study looks at **specific leaders in Israel from the time of Joshua's death until the time of the monarchy.**

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



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

UMW United Women In Faith

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.”

2 Thessalonians 1:3

GATHERING

Sunday, November 13

10:30 AM

Library



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®



United
Women
in Faith

**UMW-UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
CANDLE LIGHT CHRISTMAS TEA.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH AT 6:30PM**

There is no charge for the event, but we will accept donations to
The United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids.

We will be entertained by GHS Village Green Singer
under the direction of Andrew Samson.

Followed by a Candle Light Dessert in Celebration Hall.
Contact Ruth Hansen 616-302-4933 for more information

Items Needed For The United Methodist Community House – Grand Rapids

Sydney Watson - Development Director

Sweatshirts/Sweatpants (Size: M, L, XL)
New personal care items such as shampoo,
body wash, deodorant, and hand soap
Adult Diapers (Size: M, L, XL)
Underwear
Winter Coat (Size: L, XL)
Girl clothing: 18 months - 2T
Boy clothing: 3T, 4T, 5T
Children's hats & gloves
Art supplies (crayons, glue sticks, markers)

Ground coffee, creamer, sugar,
and artificial sweetener
Canned Goods
Blankets (Large Sized)
Books
Space heater
Tissue boxes
Disinfectant wipes/spray
New puzzles
Walker



First United Methodist Church ~ November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	2 6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting 6:30 pm - Stephen Minister Meeting 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High, Men's, & Women's Small Groups	3 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm - Advent Choir Practice	4 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing 9:30 am - UMW Candy Making	5
Church Office Closed November 1 - 3						
6 Daylight Savings Ends 9:15 am - FUMC Worship 9:15 am - CCG Leader Worship 10:30 am - Faith Connections 11:00 am - CCG Worship 2:00 pm - Rake & Run 6:30 pm - CCG Sr. High Group	7 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	8 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	9 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	10 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm - Advent Choir Practice	11 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	12
13 9:15 am - FUMC Worship 9:15 am - CCG Leader Worship 10:30 am - Faith Connections 10:30 am - UMF Gathering 11:00 am - CCG Worship 6:30 pm - CCG Sr. High Group	14	15 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	16 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	17 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm - Advent Choir Practice	18 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	19
20 9:15 am - FUMC Worship 9:15 am - CCG Leader Worship 10:30 am - Faith Connections 11:00 am - CCG Worship 2:00 pm - FUMC Church Conference 6:30 pm - CCG Sr. High Group	21 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	22 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	23 6:30 pm - City Church Jr High Small Groups	24 Thanksgiving	25 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning & sanitizing	26
27 First Sunday of Advent 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	28 7:00 pm - Leadership Board Meeting	29 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 4:00 pm - Christmas Tea Set Up 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	30 6:00 pm - UMF Candle Light Christmas Tea			

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 CCCC staff to leave their classrooms to let groups in.



November Birthdays

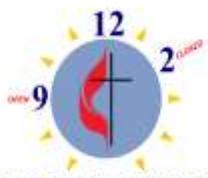
Cheryl Williams	11/02	Bryan Kading	11/17
Connor Clark	11/03	Steve Comer	11/22
Susan Ayres	11/04	David York	11/24
Joseph Vos	11/06	David Nulf	11/25
Cindy Hill	11/09	Ingrid Waber	11/26
Rhonda Falsetta	11/10	Alvin Helms	11/26
Julie Brown	11/10	Kay Welsch	11/27
Nancy Cooley	11/11	Judy Sandie	11/27
Jeff Ayres	11/11	David Hassan	11/27
Margaret Durga	11/12	Elaine Baxter	11/28
Cindy Raven	11/16		



John and Chris Ritter	11/06	Steve & Trish Lindeman	11/24
Art & Cindy Byington	11/15	Walt & Betsy Stevens	11/29
Jeff & Susan Ayres	11/18		

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 December Connection is Tuesday, November 29th. Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.