

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

# The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY 2024

### Tough Minds and Tender Hearts in 2024

30+ years ago we offered a choir cantata in the Church we were serving. I will not forget the grieving father who sang "When the River Gets High, Sail On." We had learned that he and his wife lost their young adult child. They preserved her room in their house and quietly held their faith as they were grieving. I was touched by his voice and willingness to sing in the presence of his grief.

Recently I found my grandparents' church membership booklets for Sunnyside Presbyterian Church in South Bend, Indiana. I was baptized there in 1962.

"When You Join the Church: A Booklet for those who are facing the question of their relationship to the Church. Issued as a part of the Adult Program of Christian Education" states this as the third element of practicing Christ's way of living:

The Christian way of living involves ***an intelligent courage, a persistent refusal to be discouraged regarding either oneself or the Christian program.*** The Christian religion makes much of ideals, and ideals are discouraging because they seem so far from attainment. But no worthy Christian ideal can ever be easy to attain. Bringing about Christian conditions in society is often a long process. It may take ages. ***All any Christian is called to do is to set the movement forward as much as (they) can.***

I am inspired by the combination of ***intelligent courage, hope*** (a persistent refusal to be discouraged), and ***a commitment to do what we can to move forward.***

Throughout my ministry I have returned to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Tough Minds and Tender Hearts* sermon (<http://www.onthewing.org/user/King%20-%20Tough%20Mind%20and%20Tender%20Heart.pdf>):

A French philosopher said, "No man is strong unless he bears within his character antitheses strongly marked." The strong man holds in a living blend strongly marked opposites. Not ordinarily do men achieve this balance of opposites. The idealists are not usually realistic, and the realists are not usually idealistic...Jesus recognized the need for blending opposites. He knew that his disciples would face a difficult and hostile world, where they would confront the recalcitrance of political officials and the intransigence of the protectors of the old order.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to receive the power of Jesus' tough mind and tender heart.

We have the opportunity to bring clear minds and peaceful hearts into 2024 and face the challenges it will hold. No doubt high rivers of concern and risk await us. And so I am grateful for another year of ministry together in Greenville and thank God for the long-term gifts of ***intelligent courage, hope, and a commitment to move forward.***

Peace, Pastor Jeff  
269-944-9231



## January 2024 WORSHIP



**January 7 - Epiphany**  
*Baptism Remembrance*  
*Different People Come*  
*From Far Away*  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Mark 13:24-3

**January 21- Epiphany 3**  
*3rd Sunday Mission Offering*  
*Jesus Creates New Groups*  
Mark 1:14-20

**January 14 - Epiphany 2**  
*Holy Communion*  
*When Did They Put*  
*That in There?*  
Isaiah 42:14;49:15,66:10-13

**January 28- Epiphany 4**  
*One for Us and*  
*Then the Others*  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13

## February 2024 WORSHIP

**February 4 - Epiphany 5**  
*Holy Communion*  
*What God is Praised for,*  
*Jesus Provides*  
Psalms 147:1-11  
Mark 1:29-39

**February 18 - Lent 1**  
*3rd Sunday Mission Offering*  
*God Started a Good Work*  
*in You*  
Philippians 1:3-11

**February 11 - Transfiguration**  
*Moving In and*  
*Through Our Fear*  
Mark 9:2-9

**February 25 - Lent 2**  
*Spring: What Do You Do*  
*with a Burning Bush?*  
Exodus 3:1-12

**February 14 - Ash Wednesday**

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# Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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## HOMEBOUND

Harley VanHoose  
Kay Welsch  
Fran Wilson  
Jim Westbrook



Caitlin Jensen  
Bob Knapp  
Liz Campbell  
Betsy Stevens

## Thursday Bible Study



Join us Thursday mornings at 10:30. We will delve into the words 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 Bailey Conference Room Sundays after worship at 11:15 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!



## 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.

**Make it a day for all God's children. "Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children."— Matthew 5:9, CEB**

## **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY – JANUARY 14, 2024**

The Human Relations Day offering supports social justice and outreach ministries that empower all God's children to realize their full potential as human beings in relationship with one another. This fund helps encourage that potential through ministries like the Community Developers Program, multiethnic ministries, and countless other projects across the United Methodist connection. These funds are administered by Global Ministries.

### **Group Spiritual Direction**

*An opportunity to grow in faith in the company of others.*

Six Sessions: February 7, February 21, March 6, March 20, April 3, & April 17  
**10:00—11:30 am in the Bailey Conference Room**

Laurel Stravers, facilitator

Contact Pastor Jeff or

Laurel at 269-377-4045 or [Laurelkazoo@yahoo.com](mailto:Laurelkazoo@yahoo.com)



Do you have time to pray? Would you like to serve your church in a very meaningful way? Our prayer chain warriors would love you to join us.

We communicate through text and email and are ready to act whenever we are needed. This is a great way to serve others without having to leave home! There are no meetings to attend. If you are interested in helping this great, fulfilling group, please contact the church office at: [office@greenvillefumc.org](mailto:office@greenvillefumc.org).

Join us, and feel the power of prayer!





# Stephen Ministry



**Happy New Year, Church Family!**  
**May this year be better than the last for you!**

Stephen Ministers have a monthly meeting every first Monday of the month. So our meetings will be Wednesday, January 3 and Wednesday, February 7, 2024. The Stephen Leaders and Pastor Jeff meet at 6:00 and Stephen Ministers meet at 6:30, both in the Conference Room.

We have been doing a very interesting Bible Study about Jesus's Miracles, led by Tammy. Stephen Ministers, please join us!

When a Stephen Minister meets with a Care Receiver, his/her main concern is to listen and observe. We do not give advice, we pray and ask God to help our Care Receiver. Sometimes it's just a listening ear and knowing that someone cares. Of course, it's all confidential.

If you'd like to be trained in this wonderful individual ministry or would like a Stephen Minister yourself, please contact Pastor Jeff or one of the Stephen Leaders: Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, or Barb Perry.

Blessings,  
Barb Perry  
Stephen Leader

The first duty of  
love is to listen.

PAUL TILLICH

THE SIMPLICITY HABIT





## United Women In Faith

Wednesday, January 10th &  
Wednesday February 14th  
10:00 AM Brotherhood Hall  
Inviting all women and friends of  
1st United Methodist Church  
Hope you can join us.

### PROGRAM: The Christmas Elf

*"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
Come before him with joyful songs"*

Psalm 100:1-2

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All women and friends of 1st United Methodist Church  
are invited to the Ladies Luncheon


First Monday monthly 11:30 am @ Greenville Winter Inn  
Monday, February 5th  
Monday, March 4th

For reservations contact: Ruth Hansen 616-3025-4933  
Or [ruhansen@charter.net](mailto:ruhansen@charter.net)



A time to visit and get to know each other.  
Lunch is off the menu and at your own expense.  
Sponsored by United Women in Faith.

# First United Methodist Church ~ January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
			6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting 6:30 pm - Stephen Minister Meeting	10:30 am - Bible Study		<b>Sampson Party</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	<b>10</b> 10:00 am - UM Women of Faith Meeting 7:00 pm - Undecorating Party	<b>11</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>15</b> 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	<b>16</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study 11:00 am - Parkinson's Support Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm - Leadership Board Meeting	<b>23</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	<b>31</b>			



# January Birthdays

Kim Frisbey	01/05	Tammy Youmans	01/18
Larry Parker	01/06	Martin McDonough	01/20
Harley VanHoose	01/07	Barb Parker	01/21
Vanessa Palmer	01/10	Andrew Raven	01/24
Richard Palmer	01/18	Christine Cooper	01/25
Jamee Gunn	01/18	Carol Schnepf	02/28
Donald Spachman	01/18		
Kathryn Youmans	01/18		



Dick and Jemery Palmer 01/20

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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.*



# First United Methodist Church ~ February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:30 am - Bible Study	2	3
4 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	5 11:30 am - Ladies Luncheon @ Winter Inn 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	6 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	7 10:00 am - Spiritual Direction Group 6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting	8 10:30 am - Bible Study	9	10
11 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	12 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting	13 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	14 Ash Wednesday 10:00 am - UMI Women of Faith Meeting	15 10:30 am - Bible Study 11:00 am - Parkinson's Support Group	16	17
18 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	19 6:00 pm - Optimist Club 7:00 pm - Leadership Board Meeting	20 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	21 10:00 am - Spiritual Direction Group	22 10:30 am - Bible Study	23	24
25 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	26	27 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	28	29 10:30 am - Bible Study		



# February Birthdays

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



John and Clarice Thorlund 2/02  
 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.*

# Leadership Board Recordings

September 25, 2023

Guests: Jemery and Dick Palmer, Elaine Baxter, Pastor Jane Duffey, Kirk Perry, Frank McLachlan  
Call to Order (Pastor Jeff) and Opening Prayer (Julie Brown). Thank you, Linda, for being the Recordings Secretary.

Check-in with City Church (Pastor Chad Zudweg).

Return to Sunday morning worship from the Farm moving back into the building.

No real complications or tech issues.

Small groups start next week.

Progress at the Farm. Still struggling with the Dome, still taking offers.

Linda invited CC to help clean on Thursday at noon.

Music rehearsal on Tuesday - asked that they take down white panels and rehang curtains.

Coordinate Christmas Eve afternoon/evening. We both will have regular morning services. CC will probably be at the Farm for any additional Christmas Eve services.

Share Art's daily and long term work schedule (Linda Custer). Just the daily cleaning is more than we are able to keep up the building. Keiffs roof inspection??? (Linda Custer)

City Church 2024 contract update (John Raven). Sent update and 4 options for the next meeting October 4, at 5:00pm. Inventory of tech. equipment to determine what we want. We need to list/mark things we own, like mic. stands.

Nominations report (Pastor Jeff): Immediate Leadership Board additions Kirk Perry, Pete Blinkilde, and Sally Armstrong. Moved by Pastor Jeff, seconded by Linda Custer, PASSED.

Nominations Report: Pastor Jeff shared his nominations as our chairperson. Jeff shared the responsibilities of a Lay Leader from the DISCIPLINE. 251.1. Additions to the list were made. The list was approved for nomination at our church conference and additions can be made before the Church Conference. Moved by Jeff, seconded by Linda. PASSED. We need to select a new Chairperson.

Other issues, questions, matters, and announcements: Pastor Jeff is on Spiritual Renewal Leave October 6 - 15. Pete Blinkilde is preaching Sunday, October 8, and Pastor Craig Pahl is preaching Sunday, October 15.

**Our annual Church Conference is Sunday, October 22, at 6 pm at New Life UMC in Lakeview.**

We are to bring a ministry opportunity invitation to share with the full group. Julie and Jeff will be responsible for the presentation.

Confirm our next meeting for Monday, October 23, at 7 pm. **Note:** This is the day after our Church Conference and we will plan to meet. Audience comments and questions: Pastor Jane found the conversation with CC to be encouraging.

Thank and dismiss guests and move into consideration of Staff Pastor Parish Relations matters.

Custodian/Maintenance Person (20 hours per week) (Linda Custer) Moved we hire a custodial/maintenance person for what we were paying Art. Moved by Linda, seconded by Julie. PASSED.

Pianist interviews (Linda Custer) Contact local colleges for possible players. Central Bay District Communications, Ask funeral homes for possible players.

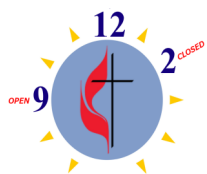
Hire an interim pianist to cover November and December at \$100.00 per Sunday. Moved by Linda, seconded by Julie. PASSED. Interview team Jemery, Jamee, Pastor Jeff, Sally, possibly Pete.

Pianist Search Committee: Sally Armstrong (Chairperson)

Pastor Jeff's evaluation and meeting with DS on 10/4 (Linda Custer) Linda suggested we select a goal for the next year. Linda will send out evaluations to all members again.

Closing prayer (John Raven) and adjournment at 8:45pm.

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/April Connection is **Tuesday, February 27th.** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: [office@greenvillefumc.org](mailto:office@greenvillefumc.org).