

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15 AM

Watch on:

[**Greenville First UMC website**](#)

[**Facebook page**](#)

[**YouTube Channel**](#)

The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

JULY & AUGUST 2023

What Do You Bring to the Open Table?

One of the strong and appealing affirmations of being United Methodist is the invitation I am privileged to give each time we celebrate Holy Communion. ***It is the invitation to an open table.*** The communion table does not belong to us - it is the Lord's Table and the Lord's Supper that we share. All who desire to know the forgiveness, love, mercy, and salvation that come in Christ Jesus are welcome.

It is an understanding of Holy Communion as both a confirming and a converting ordinance that leads United Methodists today to practice an open Communion. All who desire to live and lead a Christian life, regardless of age, ability, or denomination, are invited to the Lord's table for the holy meal ([**The Meaning of Holy Communion in The United Methodist Church**](#), 23).



Another part of the invitation is to speak about who we are or what we bring to the Lord's Table. A lot may be going on for us in the celebration of Holy Communion. In the New Testament, at least six major ideas about Holy Communion are present: thanksgiving, fellowship, remembrance, sacrifice, action of the Holy Spirit, and eschatology ([**This Holy Mystery**](#), 8).

So, coming to the Lord's Table may be an experience of:

CONFIRMATION - Your walk with God is strong and time in the Word is enlightening. You come to the Table saying, "Yes."

CONVERSION/CONFESSON - John Wesley called open communion a "converting ordinance." You come to the Table saying, "It's time to change."

CONFUSION - God's grace or personal events have called into question beliefs or perspectives you hold. You come to the Table saying, "I need help understanding."

CONCERN - There is a burden on your heart or distress in your soul. You come to the Table saying, "I need resolution, relief, or peace."

CURIOSITY - There is a desire to pursue knowledge, wisdom, or a deeper experience of grace. You come to the Table saying, "Show me more."

As a means of grace, Holy Communion is a vital part of knowing God's love no matter our condition. It gives all of us the opportunity to receive what God most wants to give us for faithful and fruitful lives in our part of God's world.

See also [**An open table: How United Methodists understand communion.**](#)

Peace, Pastor Jeff

JULY 2023 WORSHIP

July 2
Holy Communion
Integrity
[Luke 8:26-39](#)

July 9
Being Whole Adults
[Ephesians 4:1-16](#)

July 16
3rd Sunday Mission Offering
Listen & Talk in the Deep End
[Psalm 42](#) (NIV)

July 23
Hold on Loosely
Until Our Distant Day
[1 Corinthians 13:8-13](#) (The Message)

July 30
Break the Crust
[Mark 14:3-9](#)

August 2023 WORSHIP

August 6
Holy Communion
Spiritual Disciplines
[Malachi 3:7](#)
Wesley's Means of Grace"

August 13
Pastor Jeff Vacation

August 20
3rd Sunday Mission Offering
Nurture Growth
[Micah 6:1-8](#)

August 27
Holy Spirit Wisdom
[1 Corinthians 2:6-13](#) (CEB)

Sunday Small Group

Adult Faith Connections Bible Study will resume in the fall.

Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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HOMEBOUND

Corla Morgan
Neil Sergent
Harley VanHoose
Linda VanHoose
Louise Noble
Kay Welsch
Fran Wilson



**THOSE WHO HAVE
CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE**
Menno Haan

Caitlin Jensen
Ken Workman
Bob Knapp
Betty Knapp
Liz Campbell
Ron DeYoung
Linda VanHoose
Fran Wilson



Thursday Bible Study

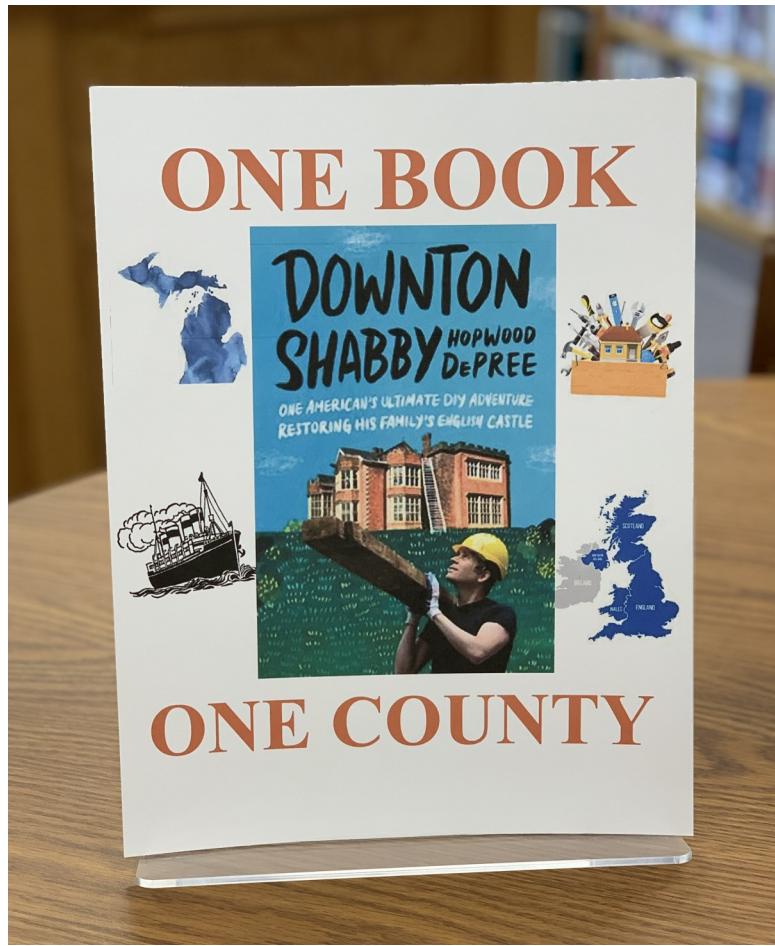
Join us Thursday mornings at 10:30. We will delve into the words of scripture. We meet in-person in the Bailey Conference room. You may also join us through Zoom Meeting. We look forward for the opportunity to discuss and learn from each other.

The Zoom link is: [**Thursday Bible Study**](#)



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.



Downton Shabby

Our featured book for this issue of the Connection is the 2023 One Book/One County selection DOWNTON SHABBY by Hopwood DePree. Mr. DePree was raised right here in West Michigan, graduated from USC in Los Angeles, and became a critically acclaimed writer-performer and independent filmmaker. He has also been very active in bringing the film industry to MI, and partnered with Art Prize in 2015 in launching ARTPRIZE ON SCREEN.

When Hopwood discovered that his grandfather's stories of Hopwood Hall in England chronicled a real place, and that it was still standing, he decided to move to England and restore it.

Just a few years ago he began those renovations; this book is the story of his project.



The Sunshine News

The Esther-Lois Circle has resumed! We welcome all women to join us on the third Tuesday of each month 2:00—3:00 in Brotherhood Hall. If you wish, please bring your own beverage.

We have prayer and a Bible related story, a “Work Bee” as needed, and always a sharing of ideas for new projects benefitting our church family and the community.

Recent project include preparing and giving Welcome Bags to visitors, and providing yarn for knitting/crocheting charity projects. Such items as Prayer Shawls, baby items, and wheelchair lap-ghans are always needed. We continue to send Get Well and Sympathy cards.

We are the “Sunshine Auxiliary” to United Methodist Women in Faith and support them with their projects.

Stephen Ministry

Happy Summer, Church Family!

I've borrowed this page from the Stephen Ministry's Official Website. It answers the question, Who Is A Stephen Minister? And why are we known as The After People? This explains why our ministry is so very much needed! If you are being called to become a Stephen Minister, please tell Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, or Barb Perry and we'd be glad to talk with you.



Blessings,
Barb Perry, Stephen Leader

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

... ***after*** the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

... ***after*** the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.

... ***after*** the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

... ***after*** the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."

... ***after*** the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."

... ***after*** the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.

... ***after*** the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

... ***after*** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

... ***after*** you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

... ***after*** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

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First United Methodist Church ~ July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 am - CCG Worship @ Farm 9:15 am - FUMC Worship	3	4 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm - CCG Prayer Time 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	5 6:30 pm - City Church Youth Group	6 10:30 am - Bible Study 4:00 pm—Church Clean Up	7 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning Lisa Vos Wedding in Chapel	1 / 8 4:30 pm - Emmaus Gathering
9 9:00 am - CCG Worship @ Farm 9:15 am - FUMC Worship	10	11 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm - CCG Prayer Time 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	12 6:30 pm - City Church Youth Group	13 10:30 am - Bible Study 4:00 pm—Church Clean Up	14 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning	15
16 9:00 am - CCG Worship @ Farm 9:15 am - FUMC Worship	17 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting	18 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 2:00 pm - Esther Lois Circle 6:30 pm - CCG Prayer Time 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	19 6:30 pm - City Church Youth Group	20 10:30 am - Bible Study	21 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning	22
23 9:00 am - CCG Worship @ Farm 9:15 am - FUMC Worship	24 7:00 pm - Leadership Board Meeting	25 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm - CCG Prayer Time 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	26 6:30 pm - City Church Youth Group	27 10:30 am - Bible Study	28 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning	29
30 9:00 am - CCG Worship @ Farm 9:15 am - FUMC Worship	31					

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.



July Birthdays

Becki Pfaff	07/02	Jemery Palmer	07/15
Janet Carpenter	07/04	Todd Holmberg	07/15
Chris Curtis	07/05	Sam Loding	07/15
Bill Slating	07/05	Garett Schoenfelder	07/16
Jim Wise	07/06	Ian McDonough	07/16
Cindy Byington	07/07	Linda VanSickle	07/17
Becky Clark	07/08	Frank Falsetta	07/20
Ken Workman	07/10	John Pfaff	07/24
Bruce Schnepp	07/10	Aaron Bates	07/26
Alyssa Ward	07/11	Nora Godfrey	07/29
Jeff Brown	07/13	Chuck Hill	07/30



John & Donna Campbell	07/05	Don & Karen Peterman	07/15
Jim & Mari Wise	07/05	Chris & Beth Legg	07/18
Dave & Kris Hassan	07/06	John & Cindy Raven	07/27

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.

First United Methodist Church ~ August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm - CCG Prayer Time 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	2 6:30 pm - City Church Youth Group	3 10:30 am - Bible Study	4 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning	5
6 9:00 am - CCG Worship @ Farm 9:15 am - FUMC Worship	7	8 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm - CCG Prayer Time 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	9 6:30 pm - City Church Youth Group	10 10:30 am - Bible Study	11 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning	12 4:30 pm - Emmaus Gathering
13 9:00 am - CCG Worship @ Farm 9:15 am - FUMC Worship	14	15 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm - CCG Prayer Time 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	16 10:00 am - UMW Meeting 6:30 pm - City Church Youth Group	17 10:30 am - Bible Study	18 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning	19
	20	21 9:00 am - CCG Worship @ Farm 9:15 am - FUMC Worship	22 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 2:00 pm - Esther Lois Circle 6:30 pm - CCG Prayer Time 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	23 6:30 pm - City Church Youth Group	24 10:30 am - Bible Study	25 8:00 am - Noon - Church wide cleaning
	27 9:00 am - CCG Worship @ Farm 9:15 am - FUMC Worship	28 7:00 pm - Leadership Board Meeting	29 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm - CCG Prayer Time 7:00 pm - CCG Band Practice	30 6:30 pm - City Church Youth Group	31 10:30 am - Bible Study	

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August Birthdays

Carolyn Humble	08/01	Earl Sampson	08/22
Richard Wenger	08/01	Sharon Pinckney	08/24
Robert VanHoose	08/06	Jaydon Woodward	08/25
Morgan Bates	08/06	Nancy Kortes	08/27
Kathy Shepard	08/08	Ann Lutz	08/29
James Humble	08/11	Lee Bahlman	08/29
Steve Homich	08/11	Alison Stark	08/29
Keith Hudson	08/12	Cole Stark	08/30
Valerie Dudzik	08/15	Katie Wood	08/30
Robert Clark	08/18	Linda Custer	08/31
Easton Smith	08/21		



Brandon & Kristie Smith	08/04	Kirk & Barb Perry	08/16
Blaine & Judy Kading	08/05	Darrell & Carolee Rickabaugh	08/16
Steve & Amy Homich	08/05	Russ & Sally Armstrong	08/19
Martin & Katy McDonough	08/09	Dr. Peter & Karin Blinkilde	08/22
Todd & Miranda Holmberg	08/12	Alison & Cole Stark	08/29
Pastor Jeff & Beverly Williams	08/13	Ed & Cheryl Williams	08/30

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United Women In Faith

Wednesday, August 9th
10:00AM Fellowship Hall

All Women Are Invited.



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 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.

Join us, and feel the power of prayer!



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 September/October Connection is **Tuesday, August 22nd.** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.