

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**10:00 AM**

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

# The Connection

*Greenville First United Methodist Church*

JULY ~ AUGUST 2024

## The Years It Takes to Make Disciples

I recall Walter Wangerin, Jr., pastor and author, telling the story of an invitation for a home visit he received early in his ministry from an elderly woman. He said it felt more like a summons to appear. She formally received him in her home and they had tea. When he inquired about her interest in having him visit, she said that she knew his father and wanted to see how his son had turned out.

I appreciate serving a relatively older congregation in my early 60s and seeing what we look like or how we have turned out through years of discipleship.

The mission of The United Methodist Church follows the Great Commission from Jesus to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Relationships usually do not mature in a moment, but are nurtured and grown through the years. At this point in my life I am grateful for disciple-making that happens over time.

I am interested in this aspect of ministry now because of the contentious and divisive atmosphere of the larger church and our political climate in these most recent years. The corrosive and combative nature of our rhetoric with each other is painful. I sometimes feel exhausted and discouraged in the midst of it.

So, I got to thinking about the long-term effects of acting and speaking and thinking in certain ways. I find I am less interested in the content of theological or political arguments these days because many of them are approached in bad faith and not for the purpose of learning from each other. My greater concern is how we turn out because of the beliefs we hold and actions we take.

Theology is a major contributing factor to the kind of disciples of Jesus Christ we become through the years. What we believe about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, humanity, and salvation both shape and are shaped by our worldview. That's why we focused on the Apostle's Creed after Easter.

So, how might we assess the quality of our discipleship? How might we figure out how we are turning out? John Wesley felt that good places to learn these qualities included the Ten Commandments and Old Testament Prophets, and the teachings of Jesus especially the Sermon on the Mount. We can add the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and Micah 6:8.

Our current worship series on "A Church that Loves Like God" reflects our commitment to growing a loving community while we gather, connect, learn and serve. We care about how people turn out because of their involvement in our congregation. As we enter our 5th year of ministry together I am grateful for your faithfulness and the ways we are turning out because we have been summoned by God to be full of love.

Peace, Pastor Jeff

## July 2024 Worship

**Last week of Summer  
Series 1  
"A Church That Loves  
Like God"**

July 7

### **Holy Communion**

Love as a Unified  
Community

[Ephesians 2:11-22; John  
17:20-24](#)

**Summer Series 2  
"Some Short Stories  
Jesus Told"**

July 14

**The Kingdom of Heaven  
Is Like Yeast**

[Matthew 13:33-35](#)

July 21

*3rd Sunday missions  
offering*

**The Widow and the  
Judge**

[Luke 18:1-8](#)

July 28

**The Pharisee and the Tax  
Collector**

[Luke 18:9-14](#)

## August 2024 Worship

August 4

### **Holy Communion**

**The Pearl of Great Price**

[Matthew 13:45-46](#)

August 11

### **The Mustard Seed**

[Mark 4:30-32](#)

[Matthew 13:31-32](#)

[Luke 13:18-19](#)

August 18

*3rd Sunday missions offering*

**The Laborers in the Vineyard**

[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

August 25

**Let There Be Joy in This Place**

*Hymn Sing and Special Music*

**Baptism Remembrance/**

**Anticipation**

[Psalms 40:1-5](#)



# **LET'S STAY CONNECTED!**

**In-Person  
and  
Online Anytime**

## **STREAMING SERVICES**

**[greenvillefumc.org/watch-live](http://greenvillefumc.org/watch-live)**

## **ONLINE GIVING**

**[greenvillefumc.org/give](http://greenvillefumc.org/give)**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

**[greenvillefumc.org/prayer-request](http://greenvillefumc.org/prayer-request)**

## **FACEBOOK GROUP**

**FUMC of Greenville**

# Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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## HOMEBOUND

Harley VanHoose  
Jim Westbrook



## RECOVERING AT HOME

Caitlin Jensen  
Bob Knapp  
Liz Campbell

## THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE

Russell Armstrong  
Kay Welsch  
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](#)

## 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!





United  
Women  
in Faith

**Wednesday, August 14**

10:00 am - Brotherhood Hall

Inviting all women and friends of FUMC,  
hope you can join us!

“From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown  
to you”  
Isaiah 48:8

### *Esther-Lois Circle*

*Meets the third Tuesday of the month  
2:00 pm Brotherhood Hall  
July 16 & August 20*

*A time for fellowship and mission service.*

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

*Matthew 18:20 NIV*



## Hello, Church Family!

We hope you are having a good summer. Please let us know if you feel the need of a Stephen Minister. Below is a wonderful description of what we do!

Blessings from the Stephen Leaders,  
Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, and Barb Perry

### STEPHEN MINISTERS

# The After People

Sometimes people ask,  
“What exactly *is* a Stephen Minister?”

Stephen Ministers are trained lay caregivers who provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through difficult times in life, providing hope and healing in the midst of their pain.

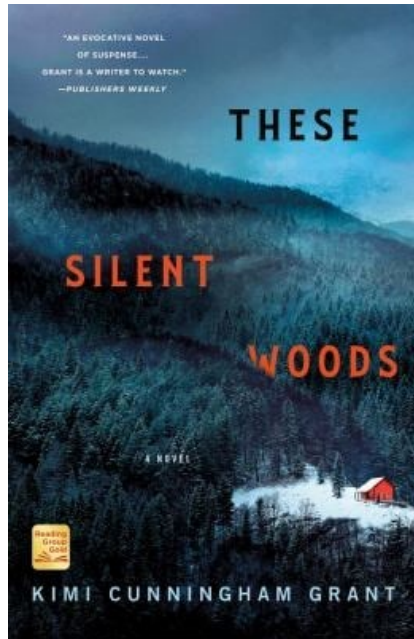
#### STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE THERE . . .

- ... *after* the phone call in the middle of the night that changes life forever.
- ... *after* after the baby comes home, demanding more of her than she ever imagined possible.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and his emotions held at bay come crashing in.
- ... *after* the email announcing a new round of layoffs suddenly appears in her inbox.
- ... *after* the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing else we can do.”
- ... *after* the youngest child pulls out of the hug and heads into the dorm—followed by a long drive back to an empty house.
- ... *after* the retirement community director says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- ... *after* the divorce papers are served and she wonders if she’ll ever trust anyone again.
- ... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and his loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the fire, when rebuilding a home feels impossible.
- ... *after* family and friends have heard his story one too many times, but he still needs to talk it out.

Through Stephen Ministry, your congregation can build a team of Stephen Ministers ready to come alongside members of your church and community. This proven system for high-quality lay caring ministry offers the structure, training, and resources for providing distinctively Christian care for people during the “afters” in life.

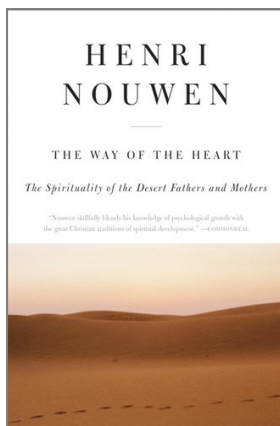


# Library Link



## ONE BOOK ONE COUNTY

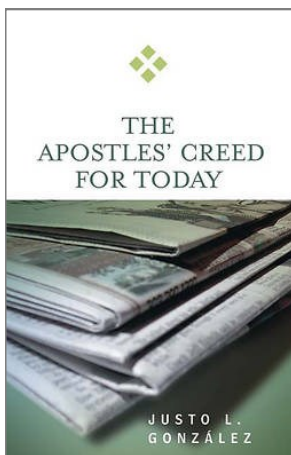
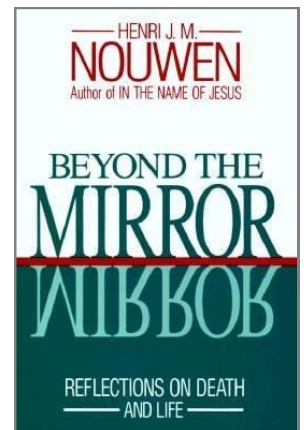
A father and young daughter live in remote isolation in a cabin in the northern Appalachian woods. Now the daughter is pushing against her sheltered life, but her father's secrets won't let her go.



### Henri Nouwen

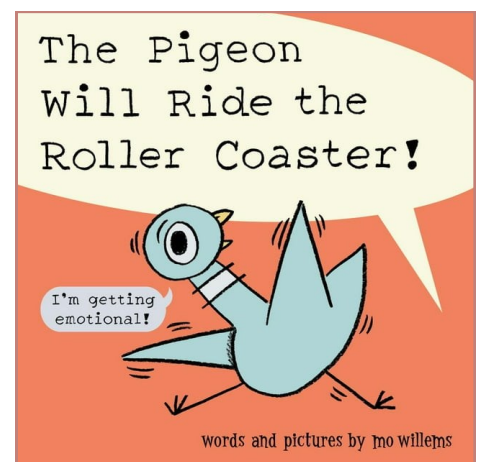
***The Way Of The Heart:*** Concerned about the state of The world as he looks forward to the Millennium, Nouwen provides guidance for those in ministry – and us, too!

***Beyond The Mirror:*** This is Nouwen's own story of a near lethal accident and his resultant journey to that shadowland between life and death. It is a short, very personal, account of the ultimate challenge everyone must face.



Pastor Jeff recently did a wonderful sermon series on the Apostles' Creed. His companion book, *The Apostles' Creed For Today*, is now available in the library.

What can we say. The Pigeon is back, with a deep desire to ride a roller coaster, but the experience is not exactly what he anticipated!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JULY</b>		2	3	4	5	6
		8:00am Men's Breakfast; Big Boy, Greenville 10:00am Parkinson's Exer...				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat; Co...	No July Missions Meeting; First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St, Greenville, MI 48838, USA	8:00am Men's Breakfast; Big Boy, Greenville		10:30am Bible Study; Conf Rm or Zoom		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat; Co...		8:00am Men's Breakfast; ... 10:00am Parkinson's Exer... 2:00pm Esther-Lois Circle...		10:30am Bible Study; Conf Rm or Zoom 11:00am Parkinson's Me...		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat; Co...	7:00pm Leadership Board Meeting; Conf Rm	8:00am Men's Breakfast; Big Boy, Greenville	12:30pm Crafting	CCCC Bike Day -NE Parking lot reserved 10:30am Bible Study; Con...		
28	29	30	31	<b>Aug 1</b>	2	3
9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat; Co...		8:00am Men's Breakfast; Big Boy, Greenville 10:00am Parkinson's Exer...		10:30am Bible Study; Conf Rm or Zoom		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>August</b>				<b>Aug 1</b>	2	3
				10:30am Bible Study; Conf Rm or Zoom		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat; Co...		8:00am Men's Breakfast; Big Boy, Greenville		10:30am Bible Study; Conf Rm or Zoom		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat; Co...	5:45pm Missions Meeting; Conf Rm	8:00am Men's Breakfast; Big Boy, Greenville 10:00am Parkinson's Exer...	10:00am United Methodist Women; Brotherhood Hall	10:30am Bible Study; Conf Rm or Zoom 11:00am Parkinson's Me...	CCCC Danish Festival Parking Lot; First United Methodist	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat; Co...		8:00am Men's Breakfast; Big Boy, Greenville 2:00pm Esther-Lois Circle...		10:30am Bible Study; Conf Rm or Zoom		
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# July Birthdays

Becki Pfaff	07/02	Jeff Brown	07/13
Janet Carpenter	07/04	Jemery Palmer	07/15
Chris Curtis	07/05	Todd Holmberg	07/15
Bill Slating	07/05	Ian McDonough	07/16
Becky Clark	07/08	John Pfaff	07/24
Patricia Pahl	07/10	Nora Godfrey	07/29
Alyssa Ward	07/11		

# August Birthdays

Carolyn Humble	08/01	Amanda Leitch-Lee	08/18
Richard Wenger	08/01	Sharon Pinckney	08/24
Robert VanHoose	08/06	Jaydon Woodward	08/25
James Humble	08/11	Easton Smith	08/21
Steve Homich	08/11	Earl Sampson	08/22
Keith Hudson	08/12	Ann Lutz	08/29
Robert Clark	08/18	Lee Bahlman	08/29

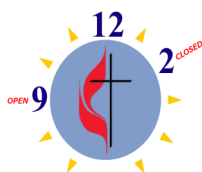


John & Donna Campbell	07/05	John & Cindy Raven	07/27
Chris & Beth Legg	07/18		
Brandon & Kristie Smith	08/04	Kirk & Barb Perry	08/16
Blaine & Judy Kading	08/05	Pastor Jeff & Beverly Williams	08/13
Steve & Amy Homich	08/05	Darrell & Carolee Rickabaugh	08/16
Martin & Katy McDonough	08/09	Dr. Peter & Karin Blinkilde	08/22
Todd & Miranda Holmberg	08/12	Ed & Cheryl Williams	08/30

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*If you were accidentally 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.*

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 the church office at: 616-754-8532.

**Submission Deadlines:** Deadline For the September/October Connection is **Tuesday, October 25th.** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: [office@greenvillefumc.org](mailto:office@greenvillefumc.org).