

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**10:00 AM**

Watch on:

**Greenville First UMC website**

**Facebook page**

**YouTube Channel**

# The Connection

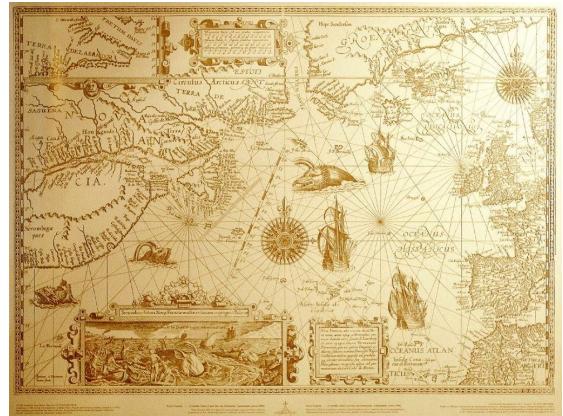
*Greenville First United Methodist Church*

**M A R C H ~ A P R I L 2 0 2 4**

## Easter Maps with Intentional Empty Spaces

Look, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed... (1 Corinthians 15:51).

For the first time in the 15th and 16th centuries, **mapmakers began to draw maps with intentional empty spaces. It was the first admission that they did not know what was out there**, prompted by what they were learning through expeditions of discovery about what really was out there. **Prior to this time, maps simply left unfamiliar areas out or filled them with imaginary monsters** (Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World, 29).



This method of demarcating spaces by incorporating monsters also characterizes maps and accounts of distant places from the ancient world to the Enlightenment era. Old maps frequently depict hideous monsters in the unexplored regions of the known world

(<https://historycollection.com/where-the-wild-things-werent-a-dozen-map-monsters-from-history/>).

Ancient mapmakers "may have been motivated by what art historians call **horror vacui, the artist's fear of leaving unadorned spaces on their work**. Chet Van Duzer, a historian of cartography, has found dozens of maps on which cartographers appear to have filled the empty spaces on their maps with non-existent mountains, monsters, cities, and other gratuitous illustrations" (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/maps-history-horror-vacui-art-cartography-blank-spaces>).

The desire to fill or remove empty spaces on our maps, in our world, and within our souls reflects our anxiety and uneasiness at not knowing everything. It also reflects our determination to solve the mysteries of our existence. We want to move from mystery to mastery of our lives. Here is how the writer of Ecclesiastes names this condition:

God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

We live with multiple unsolved mysteries in our Christian faith:

- Trinity ("God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!"; Father/Son/Holy Ghost)
- Sacraments (baptism and communion; sacraments are even called Mysteries in the Eastern Church)
- Resurrection

**Holy Week and Easter bring us face to face with the mysterious depths of sin, death, grace, and love.** The drama of Holy Week reveals the betrayal and violence against Jesus for revealing God's loving presence and judgment to the world. Resurrection then is the ultimate mystery we live with and learn from. It resists final explanations which for me is a sign of hope. We cannot account for everything in the world through our human understanding alone. God joins us in this existence through Jesus Christ who has died, is risen, and will come again. May the mystery of Holy Week and Easter bring you closer to God and bring us closer to each other as we travel together using the maps of resurrection and hope and love through Jesus Christ.

Peace, Pastor Jeff

## March 2024 WORSHIP

### **March 3 - Lent 3**

*Holy Communion*

**Summer: The First  
Big Moves**  
Acts 16:6-15

### **March 10 - Lent 4**

*Daylight Savings Time*

**Fall: Bursting Forth  
and Burning Out**

Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19

### **March 17 - Lent 5**

*3rd Sunday Mission Offering*

**Winter: Looking Up  
& Letting Go**

Acts 20:17-36

### **March 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday**

Mark 11:1-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

### **March 28 - Maundy Thursday**

*Holy Communion*

### **March 29 - Good Friday**

*Community Good Friday Service*

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

305 S. Clay Street, Greenville

12:15 pm—1:15 pm

### **March 31 - Easter**

***The Trouble with Resurrection***

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8

## April 2024 WORSHIP

*Easter Series: Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow:  
The Apostles' Creed*

### **April 7 - Easter 2**

*Holy Communion*

***"I believe in God,  
The Father Almighty,  
Maker of Heaven & Earth"***

### **April 21 - Easter 4**

*3rd Sunday Mission Offering*

***"Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended to the dead."***

### **April 14 - Easter 3**

*Native American Offering*

***"And in Jesus Christ his  
Only son our Lord; who  
Was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit, born of the  
virgin Mary. . ."***

### **April 28 - Easter 5**

***"On the third day he rose again; he  
ascended into heaven, is seated at  
the right hand of the Father, and  
will come again to judge the living  
and the dead."***

# Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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## HOMEBOUND

Harley VanHoose  
Kay Welsch  
Fran Wilson  
Jim Westbrook  
Russ Armstrong



Caitlin Jensen  
Bob Knapp  
Liz Campbell



## 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!



## 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)



Be sure to mark your Calendars for the **ALL CHURCH POTLUCK DINNER**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> GATHERING 5:30 DINNER 6:00**

**Program: Mission Trip to Gauatemala, Guest Brenda Lobbezoo**

A time of fellowship and welcoming back our snow birds. To keep things simple, we are asking everyone to bring their own dishes, silverware and a dish to pass. Some suggestions are;

**POTATO DISH:** Potato Salad, Scallop Potatoes. Sweet Potato Casserole, etc.

**SALAD:** Veggies, Pasta, Lettuce, Caesar, Coleslaw, etc.

**MEAT DISH:** Lasagna, Meat Loaf, Meatballs, Pulled Pork, Chicken legs/wings, etc.

**DESSERTS:** Cookies, Fruit, Cake, Cupcakes, etc.

**BREADS:** Rolls, Crackers/Cheese/Salami, Fancy breads, etc.

Drinks will be provided.

**PLEASE SIGN UP AFTER CHURCH APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> OR THE 14<sup>TH</sup>**

*If you decide to join us at the last minute, we would love to have you.*

**SPONSORED BY:** UWF - United Women in Faith

### Ester-Lois Circle

Meets the third Tuesday of the month

2:00 pm Brotherhood Hall

March 19th ~ April 16th

A time for fellowship and friendship.

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

Matthew 18:20 NIV

# Stephen Ministry



## Hello, Church Family!

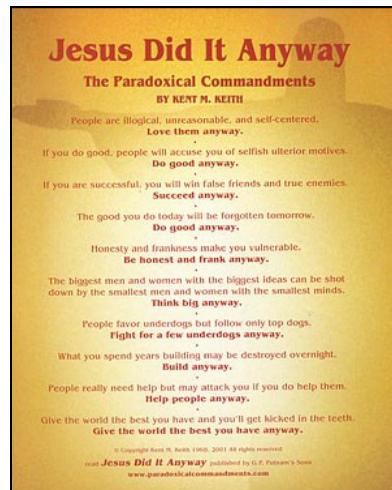
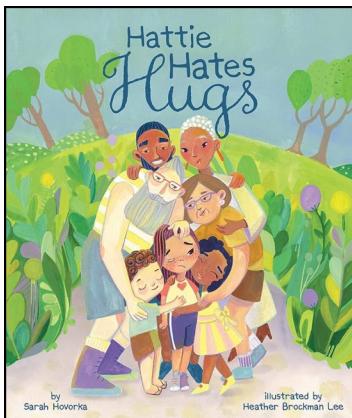
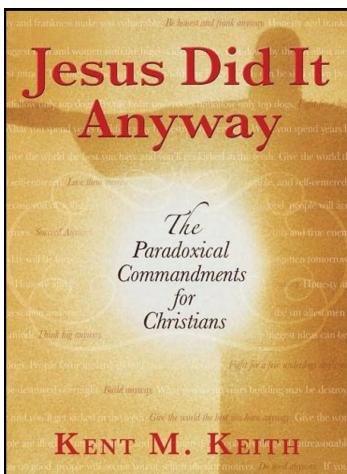
We hope you are enjoying this unusual winter. It's made it possible for people to get out of their homes and not be as isolated as they would be in a normal winter. Getting out and connecting with others is something we need to do to stay mentally and emotionally healthy. As Stephen Ministers, we are trained to be Christian friends to those who are undergoing some kind of crisis who may need just one person to listen to them. We'd love to have you join us in the unique ministry! Just let one of us Stephen Leaders - Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, Barb Perry, or Pastor Jeff know that you'd like to be part of a Stephen Ministry training class!

Stephen Ministers, our next monthly meeting is **Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30** in the conference room. Hope to see you there!

Blessings,  
Barb Perry  
Stephen Leader



# Library Link



## ADULT NON-FICTION

### **Jesus Did It Anyway: the Paradoxical Commandments for Christians/Kent Keith**

Paradox: a person, thing or situation that exhibits inexplicable or contradictory aspects. Jesus lived a paradoxical life, and author Kent Keith distilled those paradoxes into ten ‘commandments.’

**People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.  
Love them anyway.**

**The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.  
Do good anyway**

Those are only 2 of the ten ‘commandments;’ there are eight others that help us understand how to live the life that Jesus wants us to live.

**Into No Man’s Land/ Irene Miller** If you didn’t get to see and hear Irene Miller tell her own story when she visited Greenville—or even if you did—you can experience her life escaping the Holocaust in her autobiography.

## CHILDREN’S BOOKS

**Little Mole Goes to School/Glenys Nellist** Little Mole is worried about starting school because his hearing and his eye sight isn’t as sharp as his friends.

**Hattie Hates Hugs/Sarah Hovorka** How do you feel about being touched or hugged when you don’t invite it? Hattie was very uncomfortable with it until Grandma taught her how to say “No.”

**Walter Does His Best/Eva Pilgrim** Walter, the French Bulldog, truly wants to be kind and helpful, but his efforts don’t always go as planned!

## ADULT FICTION

**From A Far and Lovely Country/Alexander McCall Smith** In this 24th title in the No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series, two confounding cases compete for Mma Ramotswe’s attention.

**The Heirloom/Beverly Lewis** This newest Lewis title is a prequel to the first book in the Heritage Of Lancaster County series. If you haven’t read that series yet (it’s in library!) be sure to read this prequel first.

# United Methodist Women of Faith

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*United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.*

The United Methodist Women In Faith of Greenville meet the second Wednesday of the month excluding June and December.

We meet at the Greenville First United Methodist Church in Brotherhood Hall at 10:00AM.

Our program includes an opening prayer, spiritual focused program and a short business meeting.

We invite all women from the community to join us for faith, food and friendship.

## 2024 DATES:

February 9<sup>th</sup>

March 13<sup>th</sup>

April 10<sup>th</sup>

May 8<sup>th</sup>

June 12<sup>th</sup>

Summer Break

August 14<sup>th</sup>

September 11<sup>th</sup>

## OUR REACH:

Ladies Luncheon

Christmas Candle Light Tea

Esther/Lois Circle

Food Pantry

Fill The Pew



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, March 4<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

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 ~ March 2024

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00 am- Choir Practice 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>4</b> 11:30 am - Ladies Luncheon @ Winter Inn 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	<b>5</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy 6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting	<b>6</b> 10:00 am - Spiritual Direction Group 6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting	<b>7</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study 6:30 pm- Lenten Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study 6:30 pm- Lenten Choir Practice	<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b> Daylight Savings Begins 9:00 am- Choir Practice 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>11</b> 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting	<b>12</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy Meeting	<b>13</b> 10:00 am - UM Women of Faith Meeting	<b>14</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study 6:30 pm- Lenten Choir Practice	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>17</b> 9:00 am- Choir Practice 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	<b>19</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy 2:00 pm - Esther-Lois Circle Meeting	<b>20</b> 10:00 am - Spiritual Direction Group 11:00 am - Parkinson's Support Group 6:30 pm- Lenten Choir Practice	<b>21</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study 11:00 am - Parkinson's Support Group 6:30 pm- Lenten Choir Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>24</b> Palm Sunday 9:00 am- Choir Practice 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm - Leadership Board Meeting	<b>26</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Maundy Thursday 10:30 am - Bible Study 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service	<b>29</b> Good Friday 12:15 pm- Community Good Friday Service @ St. Paul Episcopal Church	<b>30</b>	
<b>31</b> Easter Sunday 9:00 am- Choir Practice 10:00 am - FUMC Worship							

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.



## March Birthdays

Justin Slating	03/07	Loretta Lockwood	03/18
Kim Weller	03/08	Dorothy Sampson	03/18
Chris Larsen	03/08	Kathleen Harmelink	03/20
John Ritter	03/09	Alexandra Woodward	03/23
Katy McDonough	03/09	Shirley Harris	03/24
Karen Peterman	03/12	Lee Frisbey	03/28
Diana Surrell	03/12	Ron DeYoung	03/29
Jack Waber	03/13	Judie Leach	03/31
Barb Schuster	03/14	Kim Ward	03/31
Ruth Hansen	03/15		



Doug & Jan Lamborne	03/08
Lee & Lauri Bahlman	03/10
James & Carolyn Humble	03/21
Rory & Kim Frisbey	03/28

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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 ~ April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 11:30 am - Ladies Luncheon @ Winter Inn 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	<b>2</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	<b>3</b> 10:00 am - Spiritual Direction Group 6:00 pm - Stephen Minister Leader Meeting	<b>4</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00 am - Choir Practice 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>8</b> 5:45 pm - Missions Meeting	<b>9</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy	<b>10</b> 10:00 am - UM Women of Faith Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study Practice	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Stevens Wedding Shower
<b>14</b> 9:00 am - Choir Practice 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>15</b> 6:00 pm - Optimist Club	<b>16</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy 2:00 pm - Esther-Lois Circle Meeting	<b>17</b> 10:00 am - Spiritual Direction Group 6:00 pm- All Church Pot Luck	<b>18</b> 10:30 am - Bible Study 11:00 am - Parkinson's Support Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 am - Choir Practice 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> 9:00 am - Choir Practice 10:00 am - FUMC Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy				

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.



# April Birthdays

Jean Hudson	04/03	Oliver Larsen	04/17
Ryan Wenger	04/03	Tyler Rasmussen	04/20
Miranda Holmberg	04/06	Sally Armstrong	04/21
Darla DeYoung	04/07	Pastor Jeff Williams	04/21
Steven Thomsen	04/07	Bob Knapp	04/26
Judy VanSyckle	04/10	Peter Januzelli	04/26
Elizabeth Campbell	04/11	Michael Campbell	04/27
Nancy Wilson	04/11	Derik Holmberg	04/27
Ryan Timiney	04/12	Sherie Kosten	04/30
Beverly Williams	04/15		
Darrell Rickabaugh	04/16		



Larry & Barb Parker	04/12
John & Becki Pfaff	04/15
Keith & Jean Hudson	04/25
Chris & Tamara Larsen	04/28

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# Leadership Board Recordings

Nov. 27, 2023

Members present: Sally Armstrong, Pete Blinkilde, Julie Brown, Linda Custer, Eric Januzelli, Kirk Perry, John Raven, Pastor Jeff Williams, and Tammy Youmans

Guests: Linda Leroux, Frank McLachlan, Mike Pfaff

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Linda Custer. Julie Brown provided an opening prayer.

1. City Church departure
  - a. City Church's last service will be Dec. 17. CC members will remove equipment and furniture between Dec. 17 and Dec. 31.
  - b. Linda Custer met with Pastor Tim and clarified the ownership of several items: the HH1 and HH2 microphones and the three floor boxes in the state will remain at FUMC.
  - c. Mike Pfaff videotaped a walk-through with CC, documenting all items CC would be removing. He produced a technology map, showing generally what equipment FUMC will need and the associated costs. He and Pastor Jeff will research the specifics and provide the list to the office.
  - d. One of the two lost coffee pots for the kitchen was found.
  - e. CC has received several physical keys. Although the keys will open an entry door a current key code must still be used to not set off the building alarm. Key codes will be changed when CC departs.
  - f. Technology fundraising
    - g. The needed equipment will cost about \$25,000. Since CC will depart Dec. 17 funds are needed quickly. Several Leadership members indicated that church members expressed an interest in contributing to the upgrade. It was understood that most of the funds should be raised before ordering equipment. Eric motioned and Sally seconded that members who contribute at least \$250 will have plaques with their names placed on the technology booth in the back of the church. Motion passed unanimously.
    - h. Sally motioned and Kirk seconded that the Christmas Eve offering be designated for the technology upgrade. Motion passed unanimously.
      - i. Pete motioned and Kirk seconded to approve the Oct. 23 Recordings. Motion passed unanimously.
      - j. Kirk motioned and Sally seconded that, beginning Jan. 7, 2024, the FUMC worship time change from 9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. The later start time will allow choir and tech team members - who must be at church about one hour before service - to arrive later. The new time will also allow time for a Bible study prior to service. Motion passed unanimously.
      - k. A letter will be sent to the congregation on Nov. 28 describing the tech upgrade and change in worship time.
      - l. Decorating for Advent and Christmas was discussed. Sally will talk to the United Women in Faith and Pete will speak to the Tuesday Men's Group about finding and installing decorations.
      - m. The parsonage carpets will be cleaned Dec. 1. Pastor Jeff will take the remainder of his 2023 vacation Dec. 6-15 and Dec. 26-30.

The Board's next meeting will be Jan. 22, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Pastor Jeff provided a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by Eric Januzelli

# Leadership Board Recordings

Jan. 4, 2024

Members present: Sally Armstrong, Julie Brown, Linda Custer, Eric Januzelli, Kirk Perry, John Raven, and Pastor Jeff Williams

Members absent: Pete Blinkilde, Tammy Youmans

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Linda Custer and Julie Brown provided an Opening Prayer.

1. Faithful AVL technology invoices
  - a. On Dec. 20, 2023, the owner of Faithful AVL provided Pastor Jeff an oral estimate of \$7,000 for technology installation. The actual bill was \$11,761.
  - b. On Jan. 3, 2024, Linda emailed the owner to discuss the extra cost, specifically the Emergency/Holiday rate of \$225/hour. The owner called back and spoke to Pastor Jeff. The owner indicated the high rate was due to the compressed time schedule, which included Christmas Eve. Also, the labor rate would have been lower if the church had purchased the equipment from Faithful instead of from Sweetwater.
  - c. Billing analysis showed that Faithful AVL had to provide services beyond installation. After a part was returned to Sweetwater, Faithful provided a substitute (\$1,599), plus additional cables (\$1,297) and an extra lift rental (\$440), making the installation-only cost \$8,425.
  - d. Sally motioned to approve the Faithful invoices. John seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board's next meeting will be Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

Pastor Jeff provided a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Submitted by Eric Januzelli

## 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.



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 May/June Connection is **Thursday, April 25th.** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: [office@greenvillefumc.org](mailto:office@greenvillefumc.org).