

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 5

I Keep Having Second Thoughts

I heard a comedian say recently that one key to a happy marriage is to not say the first or second thing that comes to your mind. I take that as encouragement to consider the third thing that may represent the fruit of further thought.

On September 21, 2005, I entered the blogging world with "Second Thoughts" (<https://grace-on-first.blogspot.com/>). Since then Second Thoughts has migrated here: <https://jw4grace.net/>.

I described the meaning of Second Thoughts like this:

I have named my blog, Second Thoughts, intentionally. Such a title may refer to doubt, like, "I'm having second thoughts about some decision/matter/question, etc." However, I use second thoughts in the more positive light of giving further consideration to matters of faith and life. Second thoughts suggest that first thoughts and impressions may not convey the deepest meaning... The late Howard Thurman, a theologian/pastor/author, referred to the need to allow our decisions and questions to "simmer."

Closing out 2024 and entering 2025, I came across this notion of second thoughts from my favorite Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann:

The biblical text functions among us as a "second thought," coming after the initial description of our life in the world according to the dominant narrative of our society. One function of redescription is to protest against that initial description and to insist that the initial presentation of reality is not an adequate or trustworthy account (Brueggemann, The Word That Redescribes the World: The Bible and Discipleship).

This insight adds a prophetic quality to thinking about what we are being told. Language that demonizes immigrants, and attempts to enact authoritarian measures beyond the constitutional framework of our nation make this kind of "second thought" more urgent.

One example of this practice is when authoritarian messages are presented, we can have second thoughts about Jesus' teaching on leadership, "You know that the rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority. **This, however, is not the way it shall be among you.** If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of the rest (Matthew 20:25-26).

Closing out 2024 and entering 2025, our Thursday Bible study is going through the book of Jeremiah. It is a painful account of a nation who lost their way by forgetting God's ways and consuming themselves with their own worst tendencies.

Every time we gather, connect, learn and serve as a congregation we have the opportunity to have second thoughts about the Kingdom of God, what it means to follow Jesus Christ, and what it means to be empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit. I am grateful for these faithful sources of second thoughts that allow us to grow more deeply in love with God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

Peace, Pastor Jeff



March 2025 Worship

March 2 - **Transfiguration**
Holy Communion
Exodus 34:29-35
Luke 9:28-36

March 5 — **Ash Wednesday**
5-7 pm Drop in style service
Personal time of Ashes,
Prayer & Meditation

Lenten Series
Moving from Darkness to Light

March 9 - **Lent 1**
Spring Forward
Daylight Saving Time begins
Paul according to Paul /
Saint Teresa of Avila
Galatians 1:11-17

March 16 - **Lent 2**
**UMCOR Sunday offering
Holy Communion
Paul again / Saint Catherine of
Sienna
Acts 26:12-18

March 23 - **Lent 3**
Ethiopian Eunuch / Saint
Augustine
Acts 8:26-40

March 30 - **Lent 4**
Holy Communion
Lydia / John Wesley
Acts 16:11-15



April 2025 Worship

April 6 - **Lent 5**
Holy Communion
Nicodemus / Bishop Marjorie
Matthews
John 3:1-15
1 Peter 1:3-5

Holy Week

April 13 **Palm/Passion Sunday**
Luke 19:28-40
Luke 22:39-23:56

April 17 **Maundy Thursday**
5-7 pm Drop in style service
Personal Holy Communion,
Prayer & Meditation

April 18 **Good Friday Community Service**
12:15pm -St Paul's Episcopal Church,
305 S Clay St, Greenville

April 20 Easter!
No 3rd Sunday missions (noisy) offering
Christ is Risen!
Acts 10:34-43
Luke 24:1-12

Easter Series
HDJDI: How Does Jesus Do It?
The Ways that Jesus is the Way

April 27 - **Easter 2**
Jesus is the Way, the Truth,
and the Life
John 14:1-7



This is how we finished with all of our collective ideas put on these fish.

On behalf of your Leadership Board- Thank you!

This is just a start for us as a congregation, as the hands and feet of Jesus, to do our best, to put as many ideas to action as we can.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

In-Person

and

Online Anytime

STREAMING SERVICES
greenvillefumc.org/watch-live

ONLINE GIVING
greenvillefumc.org/give

PRAYER REQUESTS
greenvillefumc.org/prayer-request

FACEBOOK GROUP
FUMC of Greenville

Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

PAGE 4

Homebound or Minimal Travel

Harley VanHoose
Liz Campbell
Judy Nulf
Tom & Judy VanSickle
John Washburn
Caitlin Jensen
Bob & Betty Knapp
Jim Humble
Betsy Irish



Recovering at Home

Dorothy Sampson

Recovering From Surgery

Hunter Hollenbeck
Doug Lamborne

THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE

John Lee

Hospitalized

Mike Osmolinski
Julie Johnston



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 Church Library **Sundays after worship at 11:30 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!

PastorChat



United Women In Faith

MARCH 12th - 10:00AM Brotherhood Hall

PROGRAM: Commission On Aging

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*

2 Corinthians 5:17



United Women In Faith

APRIL 9th - 10:00AM Brotherhood Hall

PROGRAM: Serving – Sally Armstrong

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.* 1 Peter 4:10



Play Group Playing is Learning

Wednesdays 5:45pm - 7:00pm

Greenville First United Methodist Church
204 W. Cass St, Lower Level

First United Methodist Church

204 W Cass St, Greenville

Drop off donations beginning in April

Place donations on the floor in front of the stage in Celebration Hall



Sale Days

Thursday May 15
9am-3pm

Friday May 16
9am-3pm

Saturday May 17
9am-Noon

Looking for a place for the things you no longer need? Things like clothing, toys, video games and gaming systems, lamps, furniture of all kinds (Please no mattresses or box springs), books, Christmas decorations, housewares, linens, board games, puzzles..., the list goes on.

Some help may be available to transport larger items.

Please contact the church office or Sally Armstrong with questions.



Our church family includes many members who can't or don't attend church in person. They may connect with us online through the church service or Bible Study or Pastor Chat. We Stephen Ministers want them to feel included. We would like to connect and check on them through a weekly phone call and/or a visit. If you would like to help us do this important ministry, please let the office, Pastor Jeff, Virginia Curtis, Tammy Youmans, or me know. You are welcome to text me at 231-349-1811 or e-mail me at: grandmadaisybarb@icloud.com Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

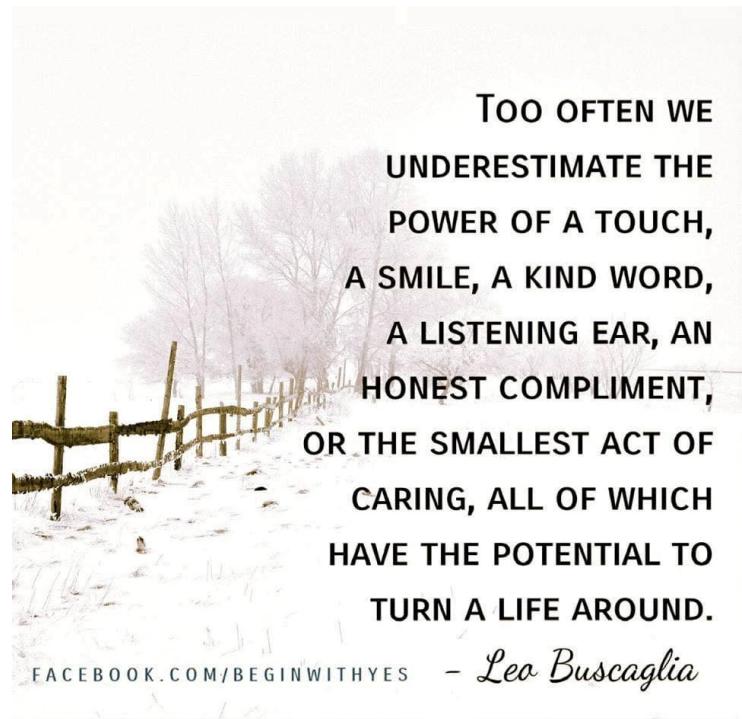
Our Ash Wednesday service will be a different one this year. It will be a drop-in service between 5:00 and 7:00 on Wednesday, March 8. The Stephen Leaders and Ministers will be assisting Pastor Jeff in the administration of the ashes and praying with those who desire it. We hope to see you there.

Happy Spring!
Blessings,
Barb Perry
Stephen Leader

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Hello Church Family,

Our church family includes many members who can't or don't attend church in person. They may connect with us online through the church service or Bible Study or Pastor Chat. We Stephen Ministers want them to feel



- Leo Buscaglia

Prayer Warriors Needed!
If you are not already part of
our Prayer Chain, you can join!
Text Barb Perry: 231-349-1811
or e-mail: Grandmadaisybarb@icloud.com
to be part of this very important ministry of
our church. ❤️ 🙏 😊



1st United Methodist Church

Wednesday April 23rd

Gathering 5:30PM – Dinner 6:00PM

**Bring a DISH TO PASS & Your Own Dishes/Silverware/Etc.
Coffee, Tea, Water Furnished**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK DINNER

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23rd GATHERING 5:30 DINNER 6:00.

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. Suggestions:

Potato Salad, Scallop Potatoes, Sweet Potato Casserole,
Veggies, Pasta, Lettuce, Caesar, Coleslaw, etc.

Lasagna, Meat Loaf, Meatballs, Pulled Pork, Chicken legs/wings,
Cookies, Fruit, Cake, Cupcakes, etc.

Rolls, Crackers/Cheese/salami, Fancy breads, etc.

DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

PLEASE SIGN UP AFTER CHURCH APRIL 13th OR THE 20th.

It is not necessary but helpful for set up.

if you decide to join us at the last minute, there is always room for more.

SPONSORED BY: UWM - United Women in Faith

UMCOR Sunday

Sunday - March 16

Every year, the world experiences devastating hurricanes, storms, wars, and other crises. As these events unfold and the number of those in need of help increases, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is there to help. UMCOR, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. Working in more than 80 countries worldwide, UMCOR provides survivors with temporary relief and long-term education, training, and support. UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated gifts on the projects that donors specify. None of these designated gifts support administrative or operating costs.

How then are UMCOR's administrative costs covered? This Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for the ministry of The United Methodist Committee on Relief – otherwise known as UMCOR. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs to ensure 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing to those most vulnerable.

YouTube video Link: [United Methodists: UMCOR's "Feet on the Ground"](#)

Inviting all women and
friends of 1st UMC
1st Tuesday Of The Month
March 4th - April 1st
May 6th - June 3rd
LUNCH AT WINTER INN
Greenville - 11:30
Sign Up After Church
or Contact Ruth Hansen
616-302-4933
ruhansen@charter.net



Ladies
Luncheon

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Mar 1
2 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	3 11:00am John Lee Memorial & 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United)	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's 11:30am Ladies	5 Ash Wednesday 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:00pm 5-7pm Drop in	6 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	7	8
9 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	10 5:45pm Missions Meeting (Conf Rm)	11 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	12 10:00am United Women 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	13	14	15
16 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	17 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St.)	18 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group	19 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	20 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's Meeting	21	22
23 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship - Pastor Jane Duffey 11:30am Pastor Chat	24 6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	25 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	26 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	27 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	28	29
30 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Apr 1 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group 11:30am Ladies	2 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group 6:00pm Stephen 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	3 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	4	5
6 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	7 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St, Greenville, MI 48838)	8 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	9 10:00am United Women of Faith (Brotherhood) 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	10 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	11	12
13 Beginning of Holy Week 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat 12:00pm Bridal Shower	14 5:45pm Missions Meeting (Conf Rm)	15 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group 2:00pm Esther-Lois	16 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	17 Maundy Thursday 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's 5:00pm Maundy	18 Good Friday 12:15pm Good Friday Community Worship (St Paul's Episcopal Church, 305 S Clay St.)	19
20 Easter Sunday 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	21 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St, Greenville, MI 48838)	22 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	23 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:30pm Potluck - All Church 5:45pm Play Group	24 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	25	26
27 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	28 6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	29 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	30 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group	May 1	2	3



March Birthdays

Kim Weller	03/08
Chris Larsen	03/08
John Ritter	03/09
Katy McDonough	03/09
Diana Surrell	03/12
Jack Waber	03/13
Barb Schuster	03/14
Ruth Hansen	03/15
Loretta Lockwood	03/18
Dorothy Sampson	03/18
Kathleen Harmelink	03/20
Alexandra Woodward	03/23
Shirley Harris	03/24
Kim Ward	03/31

April Birthdays

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



March

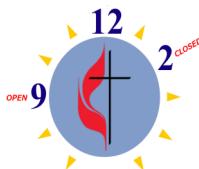
Doug & Jan Lamborne	03/08
Lee & Lauri Bahlman	03/10
James & Carolyn Humble	03/21

April

Larry & Barb Parker	04/12
John & Becki Pfaff	04/15
Pastor Craig & Patricia Pahl	04/17
Keith & Jean Hudson	04/25
Chris & Tamara Larsen	04/28

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. Email: office@greenvillefumc.org

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 the church office at: 616-754-8532.

Submission Deadlines: Deadline For the May/June Connection is **Wednesday, April 16,** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.