

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

MAY - JUNE 2025

You're Grounded!

Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive?" (Luke 24:5)

I looked at Luke's Easter story from a new-for-me angle this year. I gained an appreciation for the reaction of the women in the tomb upon seeing the two men in bright shining clothes. They bowed to the ground as they heard from the messengers, "He is not here. He has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.'" (Luke 24:6-7)

Fear in Scripture is often more related to reverence or awe than fright. **The women moved closer to the earth to receive the message that Christ was raised from the dead.** With them, we feel humbled in the divine presence (of messengers and messages) and move closer to the earth with reverence. They were overwhelmed in that instant and I wonder if it was a spontaneous reaction with their bodies that allowed them to stay in the present moment and hear what came next.

In a way, they were grounded by divine glory represented by the two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning. **It's like bowing to the ground changed their orientation from expecting to anoint Jesus' dead body to being summoned to remember, return, and report the news of the Resurrection.** This is being grounded in a positive way.

We also use grounded in a negative way. It can be a kind of punishment, you're grounded! You can't go anywhere. You're deprived of privileges. You lose something when you're grounded this way.

Thankfully, the women were grounded in a way that allowed them to rise and respond with the power and proclamation of the Resurrection.



Being grounded by God's glory is affirmed by Paul in word and action in these eloquent ways:

- **I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light** so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called--his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance (Ephesians 1:18).
- **When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.** I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. **Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong** (Ephesians 3:14-17).

May we remember the power of physical expressions of reverence and awe in the presence of God's glory. May we be positively grounded in God's love so we may rise with power to remember, return, and report the news of the Resurrection in our day and time.

Peace, Pastor Jeff

May 2025 Worship

May 4 - **Easter 3**
Holy Communion
Abraham: The Way of Faith
[Genesis 22:1-19](#)

May 11 - **Easter 4**
Mother's Day
Sophia: The Way of Wisdom
[Proverbs 8:22-36](#)
[John 1:1-18](#)

May 18 - **Easter 5**
****Native American Ministries offering**
Graduate Recognition - UM
Student Day
Moses: The Way of Language
[Deuteronomy 6:1-9](#)

May 25 - **Easter 6**
Memorial Day weekend
Elijah: The Way of Marginality
[1 Kings 17:8-24](#)



June 2025 Worship

June 1 - **Easter 7** (Pastor Jeff at Annual Conference May 30-June 1)
Let There Be Joy in This Place
Hymn Sing and Special Music

June 8 - **Pentecost Sunday**
Holy Communion
The Power of God to Live and Love
[Acts 2:1-21](#)
[Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#)
[Romans 8:14-17](#)

June 15 - **Trinity Sunday**
Father's Day
****Peace with Justice offering**
Faith Brings Peace, Hope, and Love
[Romans 5:1-5](#)
[John 16:12-15](#)

Summer Series 1 ***Resisting the Powers that Dominate***

June 22
What's the Big Deal about Domination?
[Genesis 1:1-5, 31-2:4](#)
[Jeremiah 6:16-21](#)

June 29
Jesus, What Do You Have to Say?
[Luke 22:24-27](#)

Bring Living Water and Hope of a New Day to those who have served the church well.

We have many homebound folks in our church; we can connect through phone calls, cards, or visits.

- Could you regularly reach out to one of them?
- Do you already?



**Please contact the church office, 616-754-8532
or Julie Brown, 616-260-2959; she is organizing a list
so no one is missed.**

**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

**Wednesdays 11:30 am - Yoga: Beginner & Chair
* Until the end of May.***

Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Homebound or Minimal Travel

Harley VanHoose
Liz Campbell
Tom & Judy VanSyckle
John Washburn
Caitlin Jensen
Bob & Betty Knapp
Betsy Irish
Dan Sandie
Ben Chapman
John and Clarice Thorlund
Dorothy Sampson
Jan Carpenter



Recovering at Home

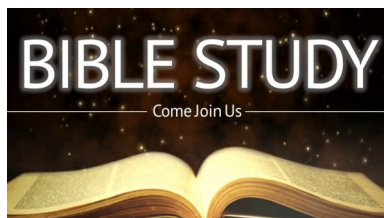
Mike Osmolinski
Julie Johnston

THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE

Jim Humble
Sharyl Hutchison
Nancy Kortes

Hospitalized or Rehab

Dr. Paul Cooley
Gloria McComb
Jack Waber



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

Ester Lois Circle meets the 3rd Tuesday at 2:00 pm
May 20
June 17

UWF meets the 2nd Wednesday at 10:00 am
May 14
June 11

**Inviting all women and
friends of FUMC
1st Tuesday
May 6 and June 3
Winter Inn Greenville
11:30am
Sign-up or Show-up**

**Questions or to sign-up
Contact Ruth Hansen
616-302-4933
ruhansen@charter.net**





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 Tues, Wed, & Thurs, 10:00-2:00

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.



Happy Spring, Church Family!

We Stephen Leaders have been blessed to be part of the Lenten Services. We have had opportunities to pray with people as we imposed ashes on Ash

Wednesday and to share Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. They were a new type of service which was very inspirational and individual, much like Stephen Ministry. A couple of folks have expressed interest in becoming Stephen Ministers, taking the 50 hour class. We would love to begin a class but would like to have at least a couple more people. Is God asking you to become part of this wonderful, confidential, individual Christian ministry? Please let me, Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, or Virginia Curtis know if you are interested!

**Blessings,
Barb Perry
Stephen Leader**



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. ❤️ 🙏 😊

Seminar: Leading in the Local Church as a Disciple and as a Servant

Calling all church leaders in the Central Bay District,

If you are a local church Lay Leader, Lay Representative to the MI UMC Annual Conference, a committee leader or member, if you lead a group in mission or are in ministry, if you are involved as a Lay Servant or Lay Speaker, or if you just want to grow your skills as a leader, **THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU!!**

Come and explore your gifts as a leader and grow your skills to better serve your church. Expand your leadership skills, gain abilities and strategies for leading missions and ministries in your local church, and explore leadership from a Christ-centered perspective.

Saturday, May 17 9:00 AM- 11:30 AM
Edmore Faith UMC, 833 S 1st St, Edmore, MI 48829

Cost: There is **no cost** to participate in the seminar. The Central Bay District is covering the cost of materials, and other items are being donated.

Registration: Although there is **no cost** for registration for this event, we do need those interested in attending to pre-register so that we are able to prepare materials accordingly.

[Click here to register.](#) (preferred method)

- Alternate registration: Call 989-588-2931 and leave your name, your phone number, your email address, your church name, and the date, time, and location of the seminar you wish to attend.

Questions? Contact Rev. Dr. Ray Francis: pastorraymi@gmail.com or 989-588-2931

Philippians 2:3-4 – Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

From Pastor Mark Shaw of Calvary Baptist Church:

We have a large garden area we have used as a **Community Garden Space** for many years. There are open plots available. Would anyone in your church have interest in a whole plot or even a portion to have a place to grow some veggies or flowers? **The charge is \$10 per year;** there are a few rules we ask people to observe for the courtesy and benefit of all the gardeners.



Garden Location: North end of Calvary's property at 12501 Montcalm Rd, Greenville.

Garden Coordinator: Please Email **Bruce Veldman**

bruceveldman@gmail.com or call Calvary Baptist Church 616-754-3811

The Native American Ministries offering bolsters the work of Native American ministries in annual conferences throughout the United States. These ministries exist in rural and urban settings, including reservation and other community ministries. The Native American Ministries offering also provides scholarships for Native Americans studying at United Methodist schools of theology and empowers congregations to find culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities through Christ's love.

Dear Congregation of the First
United Methodist Church and
Pastor Jeff,

I want to thank each of
you for everything you all did
for John Lee.

Pastor Jeff you were so
wonderful to John. I will

always be grateful for you &
your church. You all were so
sincere in loving John!
The service and luncheon
was so beautiful. I am so
glad that John rest there at
the church.

God Bless you all,

Love Jane Wolf



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>May</h1>				May 1 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	2	3
4 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	5	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group 11:30am Ladies	7 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group	8 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	9	10
11 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	12 5:45pm Missions Meeting (Conf Rm)	13 Tables Set up for Rummage Sale -Men's Breakfast 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	14 10:00am United Women of Faith (Brotherhood Hall) 11:00am UWF Clean 11:30am Yoga -Beginner 5:45pm Play Group	15 9:00am Rummage Sale 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's Meeting	16 9:00am Rummage Sale	17 9:00am Rummage Sale 12:00pm Take Down Tables done by 1:00 3:00pm Jessica Brunink & Matt Delater
18 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	19 6:30pm Single Parent Group (Church Library and Nursery)	20 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group 2:00pm Esther-Lois	21 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group	22 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:30am Pre-School Graduation -CCCC	23	24
25 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	26	27 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	28 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group	29 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	30 Michigan Annual Conference	31 To Jun 1 →

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 1 ← Michigan Annual Conf 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship - Pastor Craig Pahl 11:30am Pastor Chat	2	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group 11:30am Ladies	4 5:45pm Play Group 6:00pm Stephen Minister Leader Meeting (First United Methodist Church)	5 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	6	7
8 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	9 5:45pm Missions Meeting (Conf Rm)	10 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	11 10:00am United Women of Faith (Brotherhood Hall) 5:45pm Play Group	12 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	13	14
15 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	16 6:30pm Single Parent Group (Church Library and Nursery)	17 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group 2:00pm Esther-Lois	18 5:45pm Play Group	19 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's Meeting (Brotherhood Hall)	20	21
22 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Dessert Auction 11:30am Pastor Chat	23 6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	24 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	25 5:45pm Play Group	26 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	27	28
29 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	30	<h1>June</h1>				



May Birthdays

Tom VanSyckle	05/06
Colby Legg	05/07
Betty York	05/11
A. J. Gunn	05/11
Kirk Perry	05/12
Beth Legg	05/12
Rachel Bahlman	05/12
Cheryl Springsteen	05/13
Dr. Paul Cooley	05/25
Bob Boyce	05/26
Janice Wheelock	05/26
Theresa Thomsen	05/26
John Thorlund	05/27
John Raven	05/29
Jocelyn Holmberg	05/29

June Birthdays

Caryl Hackett	06/02
Karen Blumberg	06/03
Ava Ward	06/05
Dan Sandie	06/07
Candy Larkin	06/10
Eleanor Budge	06/14
Clarice Thorlund	06/18
Kathy O'Donald	06/19
Judy Maxim	06/20
Paul Houghtaling	06/20
Matt Custer	06/21
Alexa Ward	06/22
Judy Shrader	06/22
Lois Edgar	06/24
Valerie Vos	06/24
Jake Januzelli	06/25
Cheryl Bailey	06/26
Judy Kading	06/27
Karin Blinkilde	06/27
Barb Perry	06/28
Chris Legg	06/28



May

Pastor Craig & Patricia Pahl	05/17
Steve & Sandy Wood	05/19
Lee & Barb VanHoose	05/19
Joe & Valerie Vos	05/26
Eric & Dr. Connie Januzelli	05/29

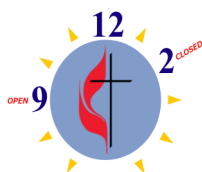
June

Jeff & Julie Brown	06/09
Craig & Kim Weller	06/12
Russel & Kathleen Harmelink	06/16
Chris & Virginia Curtis	06/20
Bill & Chris Slating	06/28
John & Ingrid Waber	06/29

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

«Mailing label»
«Address1» «Address2»
«City State» «Zip code»



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 June/July Connection is **Wednesday, June 18,** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.