

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

# The Connection

*Greenville First United Methodist Church*

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

## Gratitude, Grief, and Retirement (but NOT TODAY)

On Sunday, September 28, at the end of the worship service Linda Custer (our Leadership Board Chairperson) and I announced my intention to retire from active ministry on July 1, 2026. This was the official announcement of what has been for Beverly and me an evolving discernment process.

**Just as being the Church makes no sense apart from Christ, being a pastor makes no sense apart from a congregation, and my being a pastor makes no sense apart from Beverly.** She and I have been parents, grandparents, and ministry partners through 36 years of active service in eight different appointments. I have grown as a pastor because of your faithfulness and support. There will be more transition work ahead of us but NOT TODAY.

Now back to September 28. As Beverly and I were enjoying an evening visit with Bob and Carole Boyce, we got the call that my mom had fallen in her assisted-living apartment and broke her hip. She was going to the ER and eventually was transferred to the ICU.

She developed breathing difficulties and could not keep up her oxygen levels without substantial assistance. On Monday morning, she decided to forego the surgery and receive comfort measures. These were her choices. So, my sister, brother, and I were with her Monday afternoon as the breathing support was removed. We were at her side as she took her last breath. It was a peaceful death and in accordance with her wishes. I feel at peace even in the midst of grief.

We celebrated her 90th birthday with a big party the week before and the day before she fell Beverly took her and our three grandkids to Meijer Gardens. I feel like Mom had those two golden moments in her last days. And I am grateful that we moved her from South Bend, Indiana, to StoryPoint in Rockford in April 2022. I feel it added time, maybe even years of quality life closer to her family and in a supportive caring environment.

I enjoy this time of year every year. October is my favorite month, and November begins with All Saints Day and ends with Thanksgiving. I think this season of gratitude could be longer. And I know my thanksgiving season this year is deepened by grief.

Earlier this year I wrote, "In the Kingdom of Heaven, God cultivates concentrated sources of grace for us to grow in faith."

Grief is one of my concentrated sources of grace and has been a positive element in my life and ministry. I affirm Susan Piver's observation that **"Despair is what happens when you fight sadness. Compassion is what happens when you don't."**

At the end of my remarks on September 28, I shared that **"We are going to be alright because God is going to lead us; Jesus is going to be the Way; and the Spirit is going to be upon us which is the love we have known all along."** The Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas season is a gift to us that opens room to rejoice and grieve and love our neighbors. Thank you for your care and faithfulness with Beverly and me, and your open heart for those in need. I praise God for our joyful, active ministry.

Peace, Pastor Jeff  
269-944-9231



## November 2025 Worship

November 2 - **All Saints Day**

**Fall Back: Daylight Saving Time ends**

Saints Know How to Use God's Power

[Ephesians 1:11-23](#)

[Luke 6:20-31](#)

November 9

Pastor Jeff Spiritual Renewal Leave

Pete Blinkilde preaching

**Holy Communion**

November 16

*3rd Sunday missions offering*

Pastor Jeff Spiritual Renewal

Leave

Pastor Jane Duffey preaching

November 23 - **Christ the King**

**Sunday**

**Thanksgiving**

Thanks for All Your Good Work

[Jeremiah 23:1-6](#)

[Colossians 1:11-20](#)

[Luke 1:68-79](#)

**Advent Series**

**The Difference God Makes**

November 30 - **Advent 1**

**\*\*United Methodist Student Day**

[Isaiah 2:1-5](#)

[Matthew 24:36-44](#)

## December 2025 Worship

December 7 - **Advent 2**

**Holy Communion**

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

[Romans 15:4-7](#)

[Matthew 3:1-12](#)

December 14 - **Advent 3**

**Blue Christmas 5 pm**

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#)

[Psalm 146:5-10](#)

[Luke 1:46b-55](#)

December 21 - **Advent 4**

*Choir Cantata*

[Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#)

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

December 24 - **Wednesday**

**Christmas Eve - 7pm**

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

[Psalm 96](#)

[Luke 2:1-20](#)

December 28 (Pastor Jeff vacation)

[Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18](#)

[Matthew 2:13-23](#)

# Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

## Homebound or Minimal Travel

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



## THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE

Hugh "Butch" Johnson

## Recovering at Home

Eleanor Budge

## Hospitalized or Rehab

Julie Johnston  
Eldon Lutz  
Chris Varney



## 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!



**United Women in Faith**  
2nd Wednesday at 10:00 am  
**All Women are invited!**



**United  
Women  
in Faith**



**All Ladies  
Luncheon**  
**1st Tuesday  
11:30 am  
At the Winter Inn**

**Christmas Candlelight Tea**  
**Wednesday, December 3**  
**6:00 PM**

Call the church office or Beckie Pfaff to join the fun.

Collection for Non-perishable Food Donations

An evening of warmth, coffee, tea, festive treats,  
and the glow of Christmas cheer.

**Candy & Bake Sale**  
**Sunday**  
**December 7**  
**A wide variety**  
**Homemade Treats**



**Making Chocolate Covered Cherries!**



## Survivors Group –

## **Grief, Divorce, loss of Pet, or other losses**

# FUMC Church Library

## Open to All

**Tuesdays  
10:00 – Noon**



# Chair Yoga

1st Thursday  
11:00 am  
Celebration Hall

**\*No Yoga  
January 1**

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Clay Street Center, Adult Day Services may be the perfect place for you! Are you looking for a rewarding Volunteer opportunity? Are you kind, caring, patient and enjoy older adults? Conversation, games, walking, chair exercises and listening to people's stories are daily activities. Volunteering will give back to you as much or more as you give to others. Call Sally Fox, 616-835-9080.



# Hanging of the Greens

**November 24 @ 10:00 am**

## Decorating, Coffee, Hot Cocoa & Warm Fellowship



**We are celebrating 50 years of Stephen Ministry nationally! Our local Stephen Ministry was founded in 1997 by Kay Hair and Pastor Ted Bailey. Here is what we are:**

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit

Christian education organization founded in 1975 that produces training and resources known for their excellence, practicality, psychological integrity, and theological depth. These resources cover topics such as caring ministry, assertive relating, spiritual gifts discovery, grief support, spiritual growth, and more.

Congregations and other organizations use these resources to strengthen and expand ministry. Individuals use them to improve their ability to relate to and care for others, grow in faith, and journey through life crises. Our 30-person staff is based in St. Louis, Missouri.

Let us know if you'd like to be trained as a Stephen Minister! Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, and I would be happy to talk to you!

Blessings,

Barb Perry

Stephen Leader



Sometimes we need someone to simply be there. Not to fix anything, or do anything in particular, but just to let us feel that we are cared for and supported.

LilHeartToons.com

~ Unknown

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#### 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](mailto:Grandmadaisybarb@icloud.com)  
to be part of this very important ministry of  
our church. ❤️ 🙏 😊

## Words of Appreciation and Thanks

Dear Pastor Jeff -

10/6/25

We would like to take the time to thank you and your congregation for making the surprise 95th birthday party for Joyce so special! Everyone we met was so helpful and gracious.

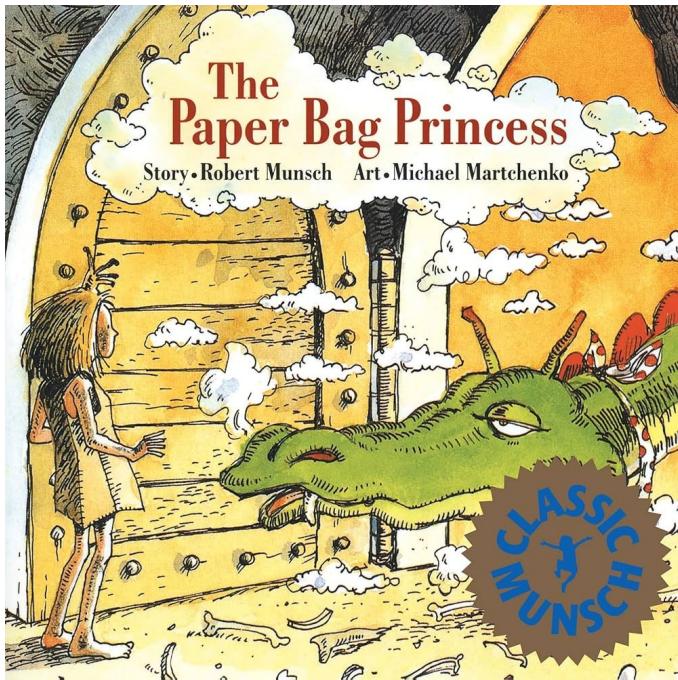
We could not have pulled the celebration off without all the support. With gratitude & thanks,  
Ron & Mary Price



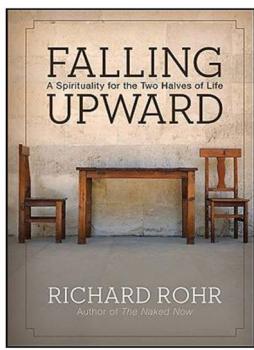
Huge Thanks to John & Cindy Raven and their family for facilitating and Cooking the fabulous Wild Game Dinner!!!!

Many thanks to the expansive crew of FUMC folks who without all of you to Prep, Serve, Attend and Clean-up the dinner could not have been possible!!!

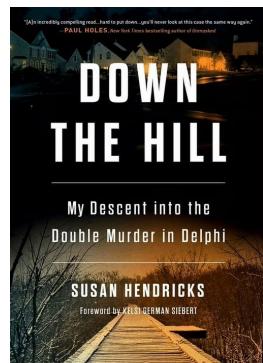
# Library Link



**The Paper Bag Princess** by Robert Munsch - it's all about self-confidence, knowing yourself, and loving yourself. In this book, it's about a girl who has those attributes, and decides she doesn't need to marry a prince who doesn't love and appreciate her for whom she really is. Hooray for Girl Power!



**Falling Upward** by Richard Rohr  
Author Richard Rohr talks about how our failings can be the foundation of our ongoing spiritual life, that we grow spiritually more by doing it wrong than by doing it right.



**Down the Hill** by Susan Hendricks  
A former CNN & HLN anchor and veteran broadcast journalist takes you inside the investigation of the double homicide of two teens in Indiana.

## Fill the Basket

### Weekly Deliveries to the Ecumenical Food Pantry

#### Items Needed:

- Boxed/bagged cereal, peanut butter, jelly.
- Canned fruit, vegetables, beans, and meat.
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta.
- Soup, crackers, boxed potatoes.
- Chili spice/flavor packets.
- Toilet paper

*The mission team thanks you for your generosity at the Pancake Breakfast. It was a wonderful time of fellowship as we served 55 people and collected \$468. This is money that is used to help fund organizations right here in our community. We couldn't do it without your support.*

**THANK YOU!**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>November</h1>						Nov 1
2 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	3 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St, Greenville)	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast 10:00am Survivors 10:00am Parkinson's 11:30am Ladies'	5 6:30pm Advent Choir Rehearsal	6 10:30am No -Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Chair Yoga (Celebration Hall)	7 9:30am Candy Making	8 6:00pm Wild Game Dinner -Raise the Roof Campaign
9 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	10 5:45pm Missions (Conf Rm)	11 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Survivors Group - Grief,	12 10:00am United Women of Faith (Fellowship)	13 6:30pm Advent Choir Rehearsal	14 10:30am No -Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	15
16 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	17 10:00am Central Bay Connexion Zone 5 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United)	18 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Survivors 10:00am Parkinson's	19 6:30pm Advent 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 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	24 10:00am Hanging of the Greens 6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf	25 8:00am Men's Breakfast 10:00am Survivors 6:00pm VFRP Craft Club	26 Church office Closed 6:30pm Advent Choir Rehearsal	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30	Dec 1 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St, Greenville, MI 48838,	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast 10:00am Survivors 10:00am Parkinson's 11:30am Ladies' 6:00pm Stephen	3 6:00pm UMF Christmas Tea (First United Methodist 6:30pm Advent Choir Rehearsal	4 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Chair Yoga (Celebration Hall)	5	6
7 Candy & Bake Sale 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	8 5:45pm Missions (Conf Rm)	9 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Survivors Group - Grief, Divorce, Loss of Pet	10 10:00am United Women of Faith (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Advent Choir Rehearsal	11 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 4:30pm CCCC Christmas Program	12	13
14 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library) 5:00pm Blue Christmas	15 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St, Greenville, MI 48838,	16 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Survivors Group - Grief, 10:00am Parkinson's	17 6:30pm Advent Choir Rehearsal	18 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's Meeting	19 5:00pm CCCC Staff Christmas Party	20
21 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Cantata -FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	22 6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	23 Church Office Closed 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	24 Church Office Closed 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	25 Church Office Closed 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	26	27
28 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	29	30 Church Office Closed 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	31 Church Office Closed New Year's Eve			

# December



## November Birthdays

Cheryl Williams	11/02
Jaxe Clark	11/03
Joe Vos	11/06
Julie Brown	11/10
Nancy Cooley	11/11
Margaret Durga	11/12
Marge Haney	11/14
Cindy Raven	11/16
Marty Packard	11/20
Stephen Comer	11/22
Sarah Dickinson	11/22
David York	11/24
Scott Lindquist	11/25
Ingrid Waber	11/26
Gary Kluzak	11/28
Parker Rickert	11/29

## December Birthdays

Lee Rasmussen	12/5
Connie Januzelli	12/7
Blaine Kading	12/8
Doug Lamborne	12/16
Chris Slating	12/17
Chad Olsen	12/18
Sheila Miller	12/19
Dave Scramlin	12/20
Michelle McComb	12/21
Joshua Januzelli	12/26
Ryan Lee	12/27
Marty Posekany	12/29



## November

John & Chris Ritter 11/06

## December

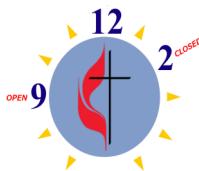
Nick & Cheryl Springsteen 12/24  
Norice & Lee Rasmussen 12/27

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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. Email: [office@greenvillefumc.org](mailto: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](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 January-February Newsletter is **Wednesday, December 17,** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: [office@greenvillefumc.org](mailto:office@greenvillefumc.org).