

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024

Renewing Our Built-In Features

Along one branch of my family tree I am a 3rd generation US-born citizen. My great grandparents on my Mom's side emigrated from Prussia to Wisconsin. Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, and Ripon were among the Wisconsin places I remember hearing about growing up. I am writing this article at the end of my spiritual renewal leave, an annual leave available to pastors.

This year we were in Wisconsin Dells at a resort we have visited in the past. Beverly and I, and our youngest daughter and her husband had the weekend together and I stayed through last Friday. On Saturday, we toured Taliesin ("shining brow" in Welsh), the home and estate of Frank Lloyd Wright near Spring Green, Wisconsin. I bought the book, *Frank Lloyd Wright and His Manner of Thought* by Jerome Klinkowitz, and Wright became an unexpected companion with me on this year's leave.

One of the most powerful stories is about his designing The Imperial Hotel in Tokyo and how it survived two earthquakes. Louis Sullivan, one of Wright's earliest employers in Chicago, commented on his work, "This man...began his solution with the fixed fact of earthquakes as a basis and made an emotional study of their nature and movements." Sullivan continued "*The second move was...to devise a system of construction such as should absorb and dispose of the powerful shocks, waves and violent tremors, and yet maintain its integrity as a fabricated structure.*"

Klinkowitz summarizes, "**The Imperial survives not because it is stronger than an earthquake but because the earthquake's nature is built into its design.**"

I am returning in time for Election Day, Tuesday, November 5. Earthquakes, shocks, waves, and violent tremors are apt descriptions of the political campaigning we have endured these last several months. The vile, racist, and menacing rhetoric about immigrants that has incited threats and violence against immigrant communities is one example of the tremors that are designed to divide us and reverberate throughout our shared political life. **These threats and effects seem to be built into the design of our political system and clearly harm the integrity of our community relationships.**

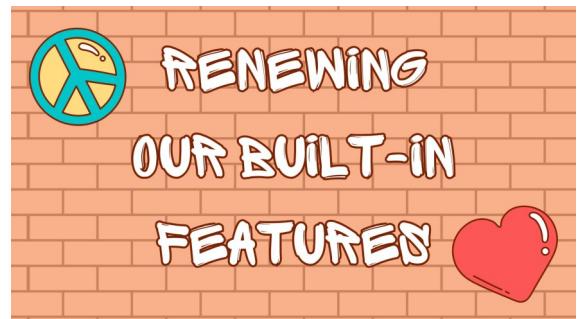
But you know what else is built into our design? Being created in the image of God. We have clear and intimate access to God's love and justice in Jesus Christ. You know what else we can claim? The divine energy affirmed in our baptism vows to "renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world" and "resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves."

We are this very human-divine creation full of grace and sin; blessed and burdened with loving God, our neighbors, and ourselves. We are preparing to celebrate Christ's birth again this year. An affirmation of faith that God joins this human-divine life with us in person to show us the ways that make for peace. And his mother Mary reminds us of the tremors that come to those who seek to consolidate power and control the lives of citizens and neighbors:

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty (Luke 1:52-53).

I don't know what the coming months will hold for us as a nation, community, or Church. But I know that **renewing the built-in features of our humanity that God provides will give us the strength we need to keep building a loving community for people to experience God's redeeming love.**
Peace, Pastor Jeff

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.



November 2024 Worship

November 3
All Saints Day
FALL BACK
Daylight Savings Time ends
Saints Show Us God's Coming Attractions
Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1-6a

November 10
Holy Communion
Veterans Day
Bind Us Together, Lord
Jeremiah 18:18;
Deuteronomy 6:1-9;20-25

November 17
3rd Sunday missions offering
Disrupt Us for Justice, Lord
Jeremiah 18:1-11;18

November 24
Reign of Christ
Thanksgiving Sunday
Help Us Find Wisdom, Lord
Job 28:12-28



December 2024 Worship

Advent Series Adjusting to God's Ways

December 1 - **Advent 1**
Holy Communion
Our Advent Adjustments
Luke 3:1-6, 15-16
John 3:30
Psalm 25:1-10

December 8 - **Advent 2**
(Pastor Jeff vacation)
Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 15 - **Advent 3**
No 3rd Sunday missions offering
The Sights and Sounds of Joy
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Matthew 11:2-6
Blue Christmas 5 pm

December 22 - **Advent 4**
Choir Cantata
God's Advent Adjustments
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55

December 24 - **Christmas Eve -7pm**
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96

December 29 - **Christmas 1**
Well Dressed for Growing Up
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52
Luke 2:1-20

Mortgage Update

Thanks to your faithful contributions over the years, As of Oct. 23, 2024, the mortgage balance was \$384,778.71 -a reduction of more than \$106,000 since the beginning of the year.

Please consider making a year-end gift so we can reduce the balance even further and hit our next goal of \$300,000.

On behalf of the Leadership Board, thank you for your support.

Eric Januzelli, Treasurer



Missions

United Methodist Student Day

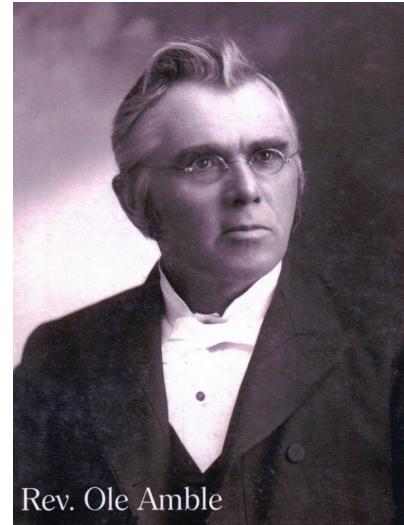
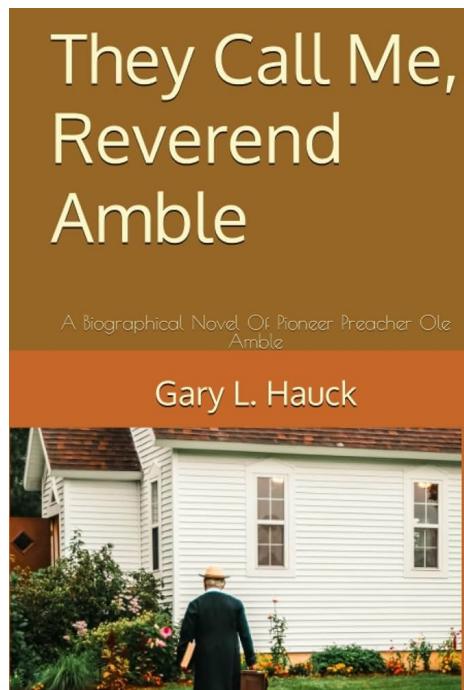
An offering is taken on a Special Sunday, November 24th, to support and advance the education of our children.

► **One-hundred percent** of the funds collected on United Methodist Student Day are used to fund over 70 scholarships. The scholarship program awards members of the church who are pursuing higher education, from incoming college freshmen through doctoral level students. With the general online application, a student may be considered for any of the scholarship programs. Learn more about how to apply or donate to the scholarships [here](#).

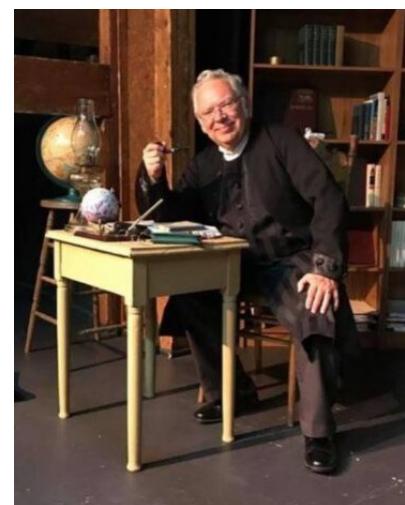
Together, we can achieve much more than we could alone. Your generosity shows the church's confidence in our students and their ability to share the love of Jesus Christ as the next generation of leaders.

You Tube: [United Methodist Student Day | Did You Know? \(youtube.com\)](#)

Library Link



From 1874-1927, Rev. Ole Amble ministered to seven churches in Montcalm County, including Settlement Church (north of Gowen), the South Sidney Church, pictured below on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and the Amble Church in Amble, MI, a village now named for the good Reverend. This is local history, fun and interesting to read, written by local author Gary L. Hauck, who is shown below beside Rev. Amble's Tomb (left), and in costume in the role of Rev. Amble (right). This book is available now in the Church Library for your reading enjoyment.



Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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HOMEBOUND

Harley VanHoose
Jim Westbrook
Liz Campbell



THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE

RECOVERING AT HOME

Caitlin Jensen
Bob Knapp
Dorothy Sampson
Cindy Raven



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 11:30 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

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Ladies Luncheon

All Women and Friends of
First United Methodist Church
are invited to the Ladies Luncheon

3rd Monday of the Month
November 18 & December 16
11:30AM – GREENVILLE WINTER INN

Sign up sheet in Brotherhood Hall
or
Call Ruth Hansen 616-302-4933

An outreach of United Women Of Faith



Christmas Candy Sale
December 8
(Before and After Church)

Baked Goods Too!
Makes great gifts!

Proceeds for the Mortgage

HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHT TEA

Wednesday, November 13

DOORS OPEN at 6:00PM

PROGRAM at 6:30PM

SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Barb Schuster (616) 984-2146

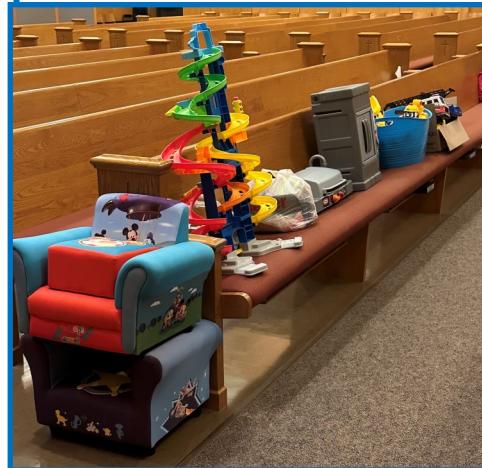
Ruth Hansen - 616-302-4933



November Fill A Pew

Collecting new and gently used toys
for the Wednesday Play Group
beginning weekly at
5:45 pm, December 4,
here at our church.

Questions contact:
Tammy & Olivia Youmans



**Join Us
To Create A
Christmas Angel
Wednesday
December 4th
Brotherhood Hall
1:00PM**

**If you would like more than
ONE ANGLE let Sue know.
(\$10.00 Includes all Materials)
Sue Matthews (616) 754-7765**

CRAFTERS





Hello Church Family!

We hope you enjoyed and learned from the Stephen Ministry Sunday Service we put together. We also got some good questions and feedback from the program about Stephen Ministry that Virginia Curtis presented at the Women of Faith Meeting. We hope you will agree that this ministry is very important in our church, and perhaps you will be called to join us. We would love to hold a new class that consists of

50 hours of learning and fun to be commissioned as a Stephen Minister. There is a charge but the church can cover part of it or all of it, if there is a need. If you would like to take this class, have questions about it, or would like to have a Stephen Minister yourself, please contact the church office, Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, or Barb Perry.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Barb Perry
Stephen Leader

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

— Leo Buscaglia

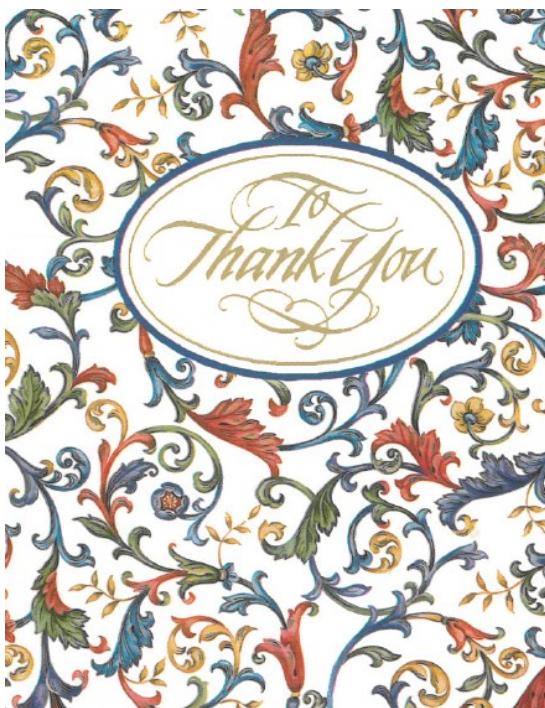


Blue Christmas ***Sunday December 15*** ***5:00pm***

We gather as those who grieve and those being prepared to comfort those who grieve. Not all of us experience joy in the Advent/Christmas season. Many of us find grief, depression, sadness, and loneliness. The reality of grief and loss may be our primary condition during this time. Thankfully, there is room for us in the shared life of worship and in the heart of God. We are here to praise the God who grieves and accepts tears and sadness as gifts in a life of faith and love.

Photo by Almos Bechtold on Unsplash

Words of Appreciation and Thanks



Thank you all so much for the many well wishes, cards & prayers before, during, & after my recent back surgery. Everything went well & I am doing very well in my recovery. I feel the love! PTL!
Cheryl Williams

FUMC Family,

Thank you for your kindness and generosity during a very hard time in our lives this year. Losing a loved one, a mom and wife, is never easy, but the care shown to us during that time was so thoughtful and appreciated. I can not fully express our gratitude for the meals and prayers during that time and how those blessings have continued with us. Serving dishes have been returned to the church kitchen. Thank you for everything!

Ericka Guernsey & Family
(Director Christian Child Care Center)



**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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Nov 1 United Women in Faith candy making	2
3 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	4 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United Methodist Church, 7:00pm Tea Dance Rehearsal	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group	6 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 6:00pm Stephen Minister Leader 6:30pm Choir Practice	7 Fire Inspection Set up tables for Tea 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	8	9
10 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	11 5:45pm Missions Meeting (Conf Rm) 7:00pm Tea Dance Rehearsal	12 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Setting Tables for Tea	13 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:15pm Holiday Tea -sound checks 6:00pm UWF Holiday	14 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 6:30pm Choir Practice	15	16
17 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	18 11:30am Ladies Luncheon (Winter Inn, 100 N Lafayette 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United	19 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group	20 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 6:30pm Choir Practice	21 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's Meeting (Celebration Hall)	22	23
24 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	25 6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	26 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	27 No Yoga -Beginner & Chair 6:30pm Choir Practice	28 No Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) Thanksgiving -Church office closed	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	2 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St, Greenville, MI 48838,	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group	4 11:30am Yoga -Beginner 1:00pm Crafters 5:45pm Play Group 6:00pm Stephen 6:30pm Choir Practice	5 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	6	7 UWF candy wrapping
8 UWF Candy Sale for mortgage 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat	9 5:45pm Missions Meeting (Conf Rm)	10 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	11 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group 6:30pm Choir Practice	12 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 12:00pm Set-up for CCCC program 4:30pm CCCC Christmas	13	14
15 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm) 5:00pm Blue Christmas	16 11:30am Ladies Luncheon (Winter Inn, 100 N Lafayette 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United	17 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group	18 11:30am Yoga -Beginner & Chair 5:45pm Play Group 6:30pm Choir Practice	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 Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	23 7:00pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	24 Office Closed 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 7:00pm Christmas Eve worship	25 Office and Church Closed Christmas Day	26 No Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) Office Closed	27	28
29 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	30	31 Office Closed 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)				

December



November Birthdays

Cheryl Williams	11/02
Connor Clark	11/03
Joseph Vos	11/06
Julie Brown	11/10
Nancy Cooley	11/11
Margaret Durga	11/12
Cindy Raven	11/16
Steve Comer	11/22
David York	11/24
David Nulf	11/25
Ingrid Waber	11/26
Alvin Helms	11/26

December Birthdays

Emma Larsen	12/04
Connie Januzelli	12/07
Blaine Kading	12/08
Doug Lamborne	12/16
Chris Slating	12/17
Chad Olsen	12/18
Michelle McComb	12/21
Josh Januzelli	12/26
Marty Posekany	12/29



November

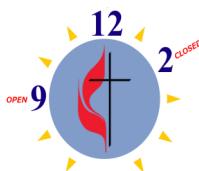
John and Chris Ritter	11/06
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December

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

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.

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 November/December Connection is **Tuesday, December 12** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.