

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**10:00 AM**

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

# The Connection

*Greenville First United Methodist Church*

JULY ~ AUGUST 2024

## I Thank God Again for Educators This Year

Teach me your way, O Lord,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.  
(Psalm 86:11)

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.  
(Psalm 16:11)

It is now as a grandfather that I connect with the rhythm of a new school year. This year the youngest child of our oldest daughter and her husband goes to Kindergarten or as she refers to it "five-year old school." We are not in on the decisions about outfits, lunches, and homework for the next day but I am still drawn to the importance of the season.

**I am reminded of the collective effort that makes a school system successful and I thank God again for educators this year.**

The picture about the best teachers inspires me. I feel that is how Jesus used parables in his teaching. And the teacher--student relationship is described by Lao Tzu, the ancient Chinese sage and philosopher, who is credited with the proverb: "When the student is ready the teacher will appear."

This is the life we share as disciples of Jesus Christ. **If I am curious and eager to learn, it also reflects my belief that there are valuable teachers to find.** Having a teachable spirit allows us to respond with more wisdom and compassion and insight in current situations. Especially situations of conflict and disturbance.

Rev. Gil Rendle, congregational consultant and author, identifies an important contrast to discern as we walk together on the path of life. If technical work is the application of solutions to problems, then adaptive work is needed when one is faced with a situation that is not a problem but is instead a changed environment...**If technical work leads directly to action, then adaptive work requires learning** (Rendle, Quietly Courageous, 28).

I struggle with learning to live in a harshly divisive environment that is intentionally provoked by misinformation and disinformation. And I strive to remember the desire of the Psalmist to be given an undivided heart that is filled with wonder at the greatness of God and the fullness of joy that God provides. I am drawn to Jesus and other educators who show us where to look and allow us to see what is needed in our time of ministry.

**Who is appearing in your life these days and what are you learning about how to live well?** May God bless us in our life-long learning.

Peace, Pastor Jeff

"The best teachers are those  
who show you where to look,  
but don't tell you what to see."

Alexandra K. Trenfor



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.

## September 2024

### Worship

#### **Fall Series 1** **"How to Pray Like a Tree"**

September 1

#### **Holy Communion**

The Deep Roots: Conversation

[John 1:1-5](#)

[Psalm 19:1-4,14](#)

September 8 - Pastor Craig Pahl  
The Solid Trunk: Relationship

[2 Corinthians 1:3-7](#)

September 15

*3rd Sunday missions offering*

The Many Branches: Journey

[Mark 1:16-20](#)

[Genesis 12:1-9](#)

September 22

The New Leaves:

Transformation

[2 Corinthians 3:17-18](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:16-17](#)

[Luke 24:13-35](#)

September 29

The Fragrant Fruits: Presence

[Psalm 73:21-26](#)

[John 14:1-3,18-21](#)

## October 2024

### Worship

October 6

#### **World Communion Sunday**

**\*\*World Communion**

People of Earth, We Have Work  
to Do

[Psalm 8](#)

October 13 - Pastor Jane Duffey  
(Pastor Jeff Vacation)

Laity Sunday

October 20

(Pastor Jeff spiritual renewal)

Pete Blinkilde preaching

#### **Missions Bacon Breakfast**

October 27

(Pastor Jeff spiritual renewal)

Kirk Perry preaching

#### **Stephen Ministry celebration**

[Galatians 6:2](#)

[John 15:12-17](#)



## Calling all Crafters Join Us to Make this Ghostly Lite Halloween Center Piece



Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup>  
Brotherhood Hall 12:30-3:00  
(\$25.00 All Materials Included.)



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

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month  
September 16 & October 21  
11:30AM – GREENVILLE WINTER INN

Sign up sheet in Brotherhood Hall  
or

Call Ruth Hansen 616-302-4933

**Scholarships Available**  
**Contact Pastor Jeff to use one.**

# Love Reaching Out

**SPONSORED BY CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT**

## Why Love Reaching Out?



Starting, sustaining, & transitioning  
 local church outreach



Hear from leaders about how they  
 started, connected, and restarted



Be renewed in prayer and worship  
 with District Superintendent John  
 Kasper preaching



Ask questions, reflect, and  
 imagine what might be in your  
 next setting

## When?

**Saturday, September 21, 2024**

**9:00am – 9:30am: Registration & Refreshments**

**9:30am – 2:00pm: Worship & Keynote Speakers**

## Where?

**Mount Pleasant First United Methodist Church**  
**400 South Main Street, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858**

## Registration:

- Register Early Before September 1
  - Individual: \$25 // Group of 3+: \$20 Per Person
- Register After September 1
  - Individual: \$35 // Group of 3+: \$30 Per Person
- Register online or mail attendee names & a check to
  - PO Box 5386, Saginaw, MI 48603

## Keynote Speakers

**John Kasper**

- District Superintendent

**Matt Witkowski**

- Director of Community Ministries  
 at Trinity United Methodist  
 Church Grand Rapids

**Amelia Kasper**

- Director of Community  
 Connections at Central Michigan  
 Health Department

**Kim Bos**

- Director of Wesley House at Ferris  
 State University



**Scan to  
 Register**





## **An outreach of United Women Of Faith**

### **Mortgage Update**

Thanks to your faithful contributions over the years, you have reduced the church's debt from \$2.59 million in 2006 to \$413,492 as of July 31.

The mortgage's maturity date is August 2026. If the mortgage is not paid off by then we will have to get a new loan at a rate of 8 percent to 10 percent - much higher than our current rate of 3.9 percent. The loan's principal/interest split will also change to a new loan, meaning less than half of our first payment will be applied to principal. Currently, 87 percent of our payment is applied to principal.

The good news is that we can pay off the loan before it renews. With the principal dropping about \$11,000 per month, the August 2026 balance is estimated to be \$148,000. At that time our cash balance - currently \$378,000 - should be about \$240,000. Paying off the mortgage will reduce expenses \$2,394.48/week, or \$124,512.96/year. The savings will allow the church to reach out to the community and expand its ministries.

We appreciate anything you can do to reduce the mortgage principal. The quicker we pay it off the less money we pay in interest and the sooner we can celebrate being debt-free.

As always, thank you for your support.

On behalf of the Leadership Board,  
Eric Januzelli, Treasurer

### **Family Support Group at Montcalm Alano Club**

117 E. Montcalm St, Greenville

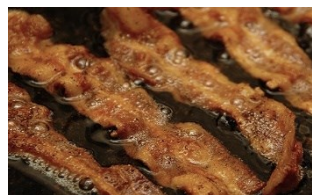


**5:00 pm – Wednesdays**

**This is a safe place for anyone who has a loved one in active addiction or recovery.**

Share your story, listen to others. And find a community ready to support you every step of the way.

**Leader/Contact: Jamee Gunn 616.835.7786**



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

## **Missions Bacon, Pancake and Bacon Breakfast Sunday, October 20**

**Begins at 9:30am; serving before and after Worship Service**

We'll serve Bacon, Pancakes, Bacon, Fruit, Bacon and beverages. Free will offering for missions to help fund various organizations locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.

**Please bring your appetite and join us in this annual fellowship opportunity.**



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

[This Photo](#) by Unknown

# **LET'S STAY CONNECTED!**

**In-Person  
and  
Online Anytime**

**STREAMING SERVICES**  
[greenvillefumc.org/watch-live](http://greenvillefumc.org/watch-live)

**ONLINE GIVING**  
[greenvillefumc.org/give](http://greenvillefumc.org/give)

**PRAYER REQUESTS**  
[greenvillefumc.org/prayer-request](http://greenvillefumc.org/prayer-request)

**FACEBOOK GROUP**  
**FUMC of Greenville**

# Those In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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## HOMEBOUND

Harley VanHoose  
Jim Westbrook



## RECOVERING AT HOME

Caitlin Jensen  
Bob Knapp  
Liz Campbell  
Dorothy Sampson

## THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE

Fran Wilson



## 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!

**PastorChat**



# United Women in Faith

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**September 11<sup>th</sup> - Nancy Cooley**

**Reading Strengthens Our Faith**

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture,  
to preaching and to teaching.” 1 Timothy 4:13 NIV

**October 9<sup>th</sup> - Virginia Curtis**

**Stephens Ministry – A Heart For Others**

“Bear one another’s burdens,  
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2, NRSV

**November 13<sup>th</sup> - Sally Armstrong**

**Funeral Luncheon Ministry – Service**

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,  
because you know that the Lord will reward each one

**Holiday Candle Light Tea**

**Wednesday November 13**

**Call Ruth Hanson - 616-302-4933 - to Host a Table**

## *Esther-Lois Circle*

*Meets the third Tuesday of the month  
2:00 pm Brotherhood Hall  
September 17 & October 15*

*A time for fellowship and mission service.*

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



**Happy Fall, Church Family!**



We resume meeting monthly, the **1st Wednesday in September, September 4, at 6:30 in the Conference Room.** Stephen Ministers, hope you can join us!

**We welcome new church members from our sister churches, Belding UMC and Turk Lake UMC!** At least one Stephen Minister is joining us! We would love to have a new Stephen Minister Training Class to fill the great need we have for Caregivers. There is no age limit on this

wonderful private, caring, confidential ministry. Please let Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis or me know if you are interested.

**On October 27, we will celebrate Stephen Ministry Sunday!** Kirk Perry will be joining us, speaking about our ministry and how it fits in the Christian Tradition. If you are a trained Stephen Minister, feel free to wear your shirt and name tag, if you still have them! I chose this cartoon because it is exactly what we do - being a Christian friend to those who need one right now.

Blessings from the Stephen Leaders,

Barb Perry, Tammy Youmans, and Virginia Curtis



"Don't walk behind me;  
I may not lead.  
Don't walk in front of me;  
I may not follow.  
Just walk beside me  
and be my friend."

# Words of Appreciation and Thanks

Pastor Jeff and Church Family,

Thank you for thinking of me and praying for me my first year of college. I appreciate the card, well wishes and Starbucks gift card as I finished up the school year! I completed my freshman year in South Carolina and have transferred to Central Michigan University beginning this fall. I spent the summer working for the State of Michigan – DNR at a state park up north. I have really enjoyed my summer position and hope to return to the camp next season. I'm looking forward to classes starting the end of August, meeting new friends, and settling in to a new routine. I'll need to adjust to the snow again, but the bonus is I'm closer to home! ☺

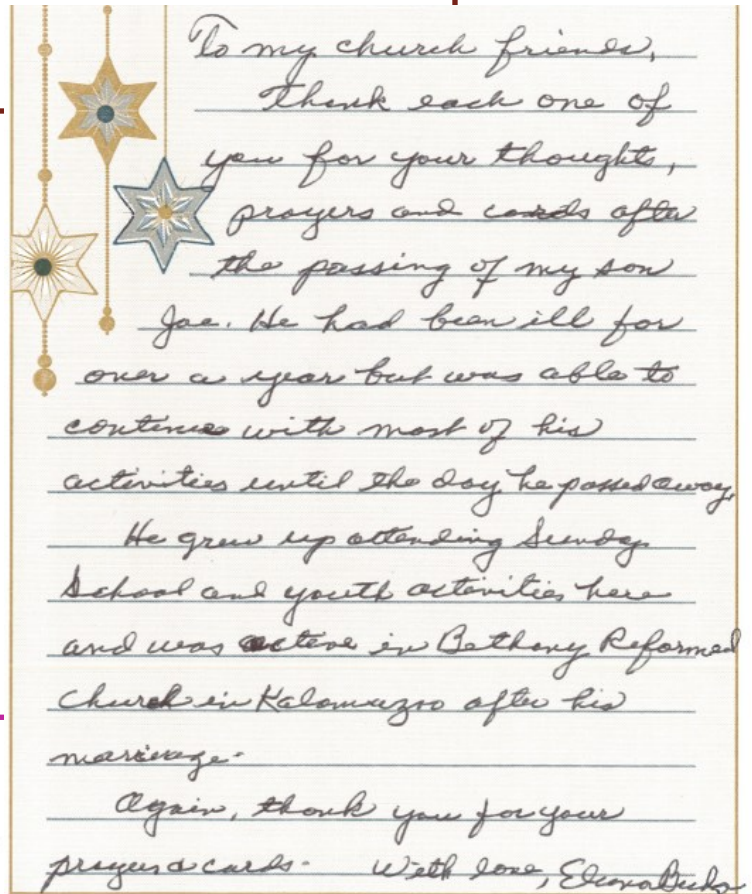
Rachel Bahlman



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Dick and I want to thank you all from the bottom of our "singing" hearts for your prayers, cards, visits, meals, and thoughtfulness. We are truly blessed by knowing all of you and humbled by your love and well wishes.

Jemery Palmer



Church family of Greenville Fume:  
Thank you for all you did for Linda's celebration of life service. We so appreciate all the food and preparation and service. Linda would have been so pleased. The meal was wonderful. Thank you so much!

Ben Chapman &  
April Maack



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Sep 1</b> 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	<b>2</b> Labor Day Holiday	<b>3</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group	<b>4</b> Office Closed 6:00pm SPRC with DS 6:00pm Stephen Minister Leader Meeting (First United)	<b>5</b> 10:30am No Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	<b>6</b> <div data-bbox="1136 184 1494 262" data-label="Section-Header"> <h1>September</h1> </div>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	<b>9</b> 5:45pm Missions Meeting (Conf Rm) 7:00pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	<b>10</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	<b>11</b> 10:00am United Women of Faith (Brotherhood Hall)	<b>12</b> 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm) 11:15am Pastor Kay	<b>16</b> 11:30am Ladies Luncheon (Winter Inn, 100 N Lafayette St, Greenville, MI 48838, USA)	<b>17</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group 2:00pm Esther-Lois	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's Meeting (Brotherhood Hall)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	<b>24</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	<b>25</b> 12:30pm Crafters	<b>26</b> 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	<b>30</b> 10:00am Central Bay Connexion Zone 5 clergy (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St,	<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div data-bbox="121 1108 462 1186" data-label="Section-Header"> <h1>October</h1> </div>		<b>Oct 1</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Stephen Minister Leader Meeting (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St,	<b>3</b> 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	<b>7</b> 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St, Greenville, MI 48838,	<b>8</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	<b>9</b> 10:00am United Women of Faith (Brotherhood Hall)	<b>10</b> 10:30am Bible Study with Pastor Craig Pahl (Conf Rm or Zoom)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm) 2:30pm Church	<b>14</b> 5:45pm Missions Meeting (Conf Rm)	<b>15</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group 2:00pm Esther-Lois	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:30am Bible Study with Pastor Craig Pahl (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Missions Team all-church breakfast 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat	<b>21</b> 11:30am Ladies Luncheon (Winter Inn, 100 N Lafayette 6:00pm Optimist Club (First United	<b>22</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:30am Bible Study with Pastor Craig Pahl (Conf Rm or Zoom)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
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## September Birthdays

Brant Gunn	9/5
Betsy Stevens	9/11
Homer Shrader	9/11
Betty Knapp	9/11
Dwight Wheelock	9/17
Kristie Smith	9/17
Nick Springsteen	9/18
Mike Pfaff	9/22
Elaine Pendrick	9/24
Char Johnson	9/28
Chris Ritter	9/28

## October Birthdays

Eric Januzelli	10/06
Gloria McComb	10/09
Lauri Bahlman	10/14
Donna Campbell	10/19
Brandon Wood	10/20
Madison Homich	10/21
Norice Rasmussen	10/23
Beverly VanHoose	10/25
Toni Wenger	10/25
Emily Weller	10/25
Olivia Youmans	10/25
Craig Weller	10/26



## September

Tom & Judy VanSyckle	9/2
Robert & Barb Schuster	9/2
Dwight & Janice Wheelock	9/7
Eldon & Ann Lutz	9/9
George & Lynne Bosanic	9/11
Bob & Betty Knapp	9/12
Roger & Barb Blumberg	9/19

## October

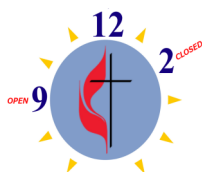
David & Judith Nulf	10/1
Bruce & Carol Schnepf	10/16
Dr. Eugene & Connie Shatz	10/26

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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.*



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 the church office at: 616-754-8532.

**Submission Deadlines:** Deadline For the November/December Connection is **Tuesday, October 15** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: [office@greenvillefumc.org](mailto:office@greenvillefumc.org).