

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

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 Connection

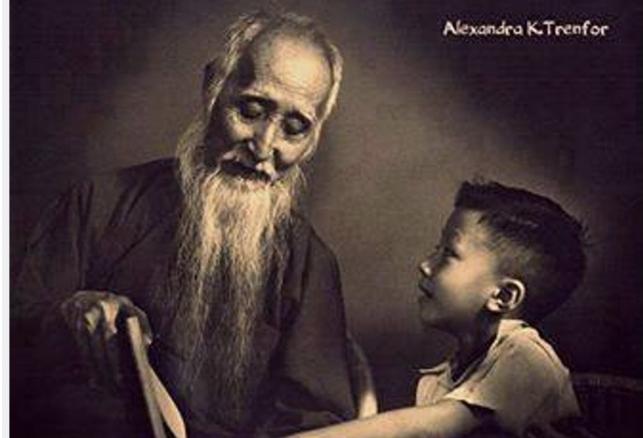
Greenville First United Methodist Church

J U L Y ~ A U G U S T 2 0 2 4

"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 25th
Brotherhood Hall 12:30-3:00
(\$25.00 All Materials Included.)**



Call Ruth Hansen 616-302-4933



sweetclipart.com

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

**3rd Monday of the Month
September 16 & October 21
11:30AM – GREENVILLE WINTER INN**

**Sign up sheet in Brotherhood Hall
or**

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

ONLINE GIVING
greenvillefumc.org/give

PRAYER REQUESTS
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!





United Women in Faith

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September 11th - 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 9th - 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 13th - 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 FUMC:

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 &
Alydee Maack



To my church friends,

Thank each one of you for your thoughts, prayers and cards after the passing of my son Joe. He had been ill for over a year but was able to continue with most of his activities until the day he passed away.

He grew up attending Sunday School and youth activities here and was active in Calvary Reformed Church in Kalamazoo after his marriage.

Again, thank you for your prayers and cards. With love, Eleanor



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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>October</h1>	Oct 1 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Parkinson's Exercise Group	2 6:00pm Stephen Minister Leader Meeting (First United Methodist Church, 204 W Cass St, Greenville, MI 48838)	3 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	4	5	
6 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	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 Hall)	10 10:30am Bible Study with Pastor Craig Pahl (Conf Rm or Zoom)	11	12
13 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm) 2:30pm Church	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	17 10:30am Bible Study with Pastor Craig Pahl (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's Meeting	18	19
20 Missions Team all-church breakfast 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat	21 11:30am Ladies Luncheon (Winter Inn, 100 N Lafayette St, Greenville, MI 48838)	22 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	23	24 10:30am Bible Study with Pastor Craig Pahl (Conf Rm or Zoom)	25	26
27 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:15am Pastor Chat (Conf Rm)	28 7:00pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	29 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville)	30	31 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom)	Nov 1	2



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

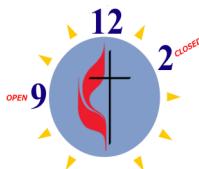
Tom & Judy VanSyckle	9/2
Robert & Barb Schuster	9/2
Dwight & Janice Wheelock	9/7
Eldon & Ann Lutz	9/9
George & Lynne Bosanic	9/11
Bob & Betty Knapp	9/12
Roger & Barb Blumberg	9/19

October

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

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, October 15** Please forward your submissions to the church office by calling 616-754-8532 or email at: office@greenvillefumc.org.