

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Watch on:

[Greenville First UMC website](#)

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[YouTube Channel](#)

The Connection

Greenville First United Methodist Church

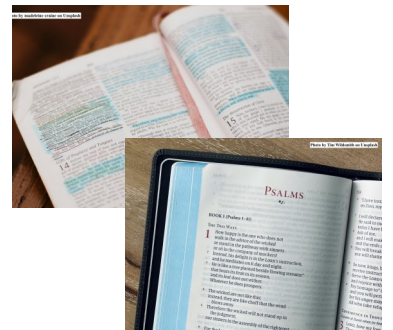
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2025

I am interested in talking to people with old Bibles and with new Bibles.

The old Bibles and their people have stories to tell about notes in the margins or highlighted text or flowers pressed in the pages or scraps of paper or photographs placed between the pages. Or perhaps a family history filled out in the first pages of it. I'm interested in the seasons of their learning about the Bible. Were there Lenten or Advent studies that highlighted portions of the Bible? Were there extended times in a single book that were revealing or inspiring? I'm interested in how they made the time and took the time to read and study God's Word.

The new Bibles and their people have ideas and aspirations about incorporating and embracing God's Word in their lives. What was the occasion of receiving their Bible? How important is the version they have? Are they connected or related to a congregation that they are getting to know and that is getting to know them? What are they curious about? What are some of the most helpful sections of the Bible? Like an alphabetical listing of the Bible books instead of their literary order. What helps new people get to know their Bibles?

Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. Scripture is primary, revealing the Word of God "so far as it is necessary for our salvation." Therefore, our theological task, in both its critical and constructive aspects, focuses on disciplined study of the Bible (2020-24 Book of Discipline, Paragraph 105).



Our standards affirm the Bible as the source of all that is "necessary" and "sufficient" unto salvation (Articles of Religion) and "is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice" (Confession of Faith). We properly read Scripture within the believing community, informed by the tradition of that community (2020-24 Book of Discipline, Paragraph 105).

The power and importance in doing this is to understand how the Bible is used in the life of believers, churches, and even nations. Christian Nationalism is dangerous in their interpretations of the Bible to support the domination and degradation of groups of people while exalting a narrowly defined acceptable picture of the Church and nation.

"Christian nationalism identifies the nation with God's will and action in the world; conflates national and Christian identity; and identifies service of the nation with service of God," writes Dr. David W. Scott, who is a Methodist historical researcher and the Director of Mission Theology at the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. "Christian nationalism gives moral cover for actions, even unseemly ones, taken in pursuit of national or political goals" (What is Christian Nationalism?, Rev. Ryan Dunn; <https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-is-christian-nationalism>).

I believe this movement will continue to influence congregational and national life in the years ahead. And so I am thankful for Bibles and their people who with humble hearts desire salvation in Christ. And I have come to see the power of being grounded in a believing community where we can hear and respond to God's call to love God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Faithful people with old and new Bibles have contributions to make and roles to play in sustaining and strengthening the common good.

Peace, Pastor Jeff
269-944-9231

September 2025

Worship

September 7

Holy Communion

"Remember"

[Genesis 9:14-16;](#)

[Deuteronomy 7:17-18;](#)

[Psalms 119:50-56](#) (NIV)

September 14

"Love"

[Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Micah 6:8](#)

Fall Series

Saving Power for the Church

September 21

3rd Sunday missions offering

"Thanks for All the Help"

[Psalms 145:1-5, 17-21;](#)

[Luke 19:1-10](#)

September 28

"Christ Died for Us by Taking Our Place"

[Romans 3:21-26](#)

October 2025

Worship

October 5

World Communion Sunday

**World Communion Sunday Offering

"Christ Puts Us Right with God by Grace through Faith"

[Romans 5:1-11](#)

October 12

Missions Pancake Breakfast

"Christ Liberates Us from Sin and Death"

[1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Luke 4:16-20](#)

October 19 - **Laity Sunday**

"Christ Reconciles Us to God and Others"

[2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#)

October 26

"Fall Back" next week

Sing "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" and "And Can It Be That I Should Gain"

"What Wondrous Love Is This?"

[John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:13-19](#)

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



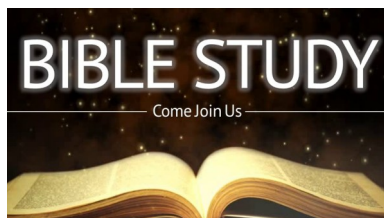
Recovering at Home

THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMED ETERNAL LIFE

Gloria McComb
Paul Cooley

Hospitalized

Julie Johnston



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](#)

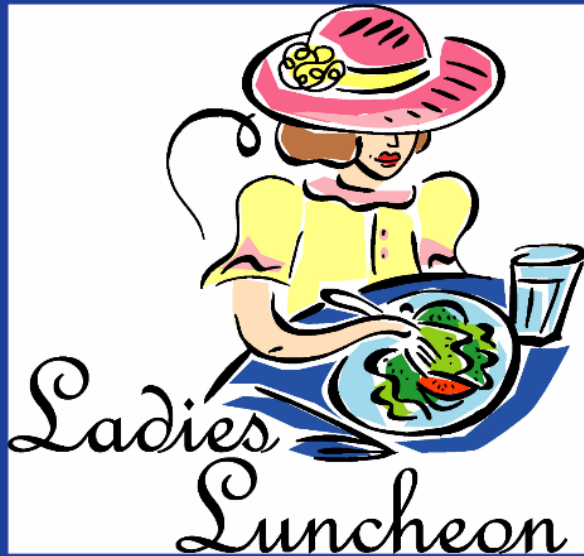
Sunday Pastor Chat

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

**NO sign-up
just show-up**



**All Ladies Luncheon
Resumes
1st Tuesday monthly
October 7**

11:30 am @ Winter Inn

See you there!

**Esther Lois Circle meets the 3rd Tuesday at 2:00 pm
September 16
October 21 (last meeting till April 2026)**

**United Women in Faith
2nd Wednesday at 10:00 am
September 10
October 8**

All Women are invited!



United
Women
in Faith

**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



Play Group

Playing is Learning

****Moved to Thursdays****

Thursday 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Greenville First United Methodist Church

204 W. Cass St, Lower Level



Survivors Group –

Grief, Divorce, loss of Pet, or other losses

FUMC Church Library Open to All

Tuesdays
10:00 – Noon



Chair Yoga

1st Thursday monthly

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Play Group is looking for more volunteers. If you love kids and love to watch them learn, and grow, Tammy Youmans is looking for a helper to assist with this Outreach Ministry. Connect with Tammy at church or call the church office, 616-754-8532**
- **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.**

Happy Fall, Church Family!



We Stephen Ministers and Leaders have many tools to help those who are going through tough times in their lives. One of my favorites and one which I have

shared many times in the past few years is a set of small books written by our founder, Dr. Kenneth Haugk. The set is called "Journeying Through Grief". It consists of 4 small books which are given at various times during the first year after the Loved One's passing. I hope and pray these books have been helpful.

Please contact Pastor Jeff, Tammy Youmans, Virginia Curtis, or me with questions about Stephen Ministry and how you can join a class to become a Stephen Minister!

**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

to be part of this very important ministry of

our church. ❤️ 🙏 😊

Words of Appreciation and Thanks

Thank you Church Family for your prayers and support for my mom, Gloria McComb, and myself, these past few weeks.

Thank you Pastor Jeff for your visits to see Mom during her hospital days and at home.

Thank you for everyone who worked to make the funeral service, and luncheon so nice.

Also, thank you for those who came to visit us. At the visitation, funeral, and luncheon. I enjoyed visiting with everyone there.

Thank you,
Michelle McComb



Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, texts, flowers, and healing wishes I received after my shoulder replacement surgery!
Barb Perry

Many thanks to our church family,

Bob and I have appreciated the prayer support, cards, and letters that we received over the last few months. We are now settled in at StoryPoint-Rockford, making new friends and figuring out the system.

We have many fond memories of First United Methodist, and the family and friends that we've met there over the years. You were and will continue to be a great part of our lives. May God richly bless you all as you continue with Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

We will Miss you. **Bob and Ruth Hansen**

Our new address.

Bob and Ruth Hansen

c/o StoryPoint-Rockford Apt. 18

2885 10 mile Road NE

Rockford, MI 49341



Words of Appreciation and Thanks

Dear Friends,
Heartfelt thank you's to everyone for your love and support after Paul's death, and for coming to honor his life at his service. Your cards, hugs, and expressions of condolence are helping to fill the huge void left by his loss. Special thanks to the kitchen volunteers who prepared and served the meal, to the office staff who are guiding me, and to our wonderful Pastor Jeff for being such a rock of comfort. God bless all of this church family.

Nancy Cooley



*Dear First United Methodist Church,
Thank you to everyone who helped with Bob's Celebration of Life. I hope I don't forget anyone; audio visual and music was wonderful. The luncheon was delicious. The programs were beautiful. The love and support throughout Bob's illness is greatly appreciated! The Cross sits on Mom's fireplace mantel as a reminder of God's great love shared through you - the Body of Christ.*

*Blessings,
Kim & the Betty Knapp Family*



Fill A Pew September

We are collecting food items for **IM Kids 3rd Meal**. They prepare and deliver healthy meals for students in Montcalm and Ionia counties for after school consumption. Over 840 kids benefit from this program.

A partial list is included here.

Non-Perishable Healthy individually wrapped items
Granola bars, juice boxes, fruit snacks, large and small bags of chips, individual cups/containers of applesauce, pastas (ravioli, mac and cheese, canned meats, etc).

We can help make life better for the youngest of us.



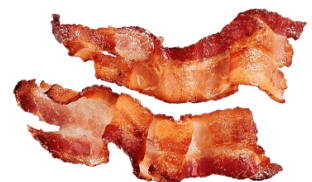
[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Missions Bacon, Pancake and Bacon Breakfast Sunday, October 12

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 31	Sep 1	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Survivors 10:00am Parkinson's 6:00pm Stephen	3	4 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Chair Yoga (Celebration Hall) 5:45pm Play Group	5	6
7 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 or Other	10 10:00am United Women of Faith (Fellowship Hall)	11 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 5:45pm Play Group	12	13
14 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	15	16 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Survivors 10:00am Parkinson's 2:00pm Esther-Lois	17	18 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 11:00am Parkinson's Meeting 5:45pm Play Group	19	20 9:00am District Lay Ministry classes
21 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	22 6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting (Conf Rm)	23 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Survivors Group -Grief, Divorce, Loss of Pet or Other	24	25 10:30am Bible Study (Conf Rm or Zoom) 5:45pm Play Group	26	27 9:00am District Lay Ministry classes
28 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am FUMC Worship 11:30am Pastor Chat (Library)	29 6:00pm Leadership Board meeting with District Superintendent by Zoom	30 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Big Boy, Greenville) 10:00am Survivors Group -Grief, Divorce, Loss of Pet or Other	<div>September</div>			

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September Birthdays

Brant Gunn	09/5
Michael Lindquist	09/6
Betty Knapp	09/11
Betsy Stevens	09/11
Sylvia Petersen	09/13
Wilma Stevens	09/15
Nick Springsteen	09/18
Dwight Wheelock	09/17
Bill Willison	09/19
Homer Shrader	09/21
Mike Pfaff	09/22
Elaine Pendrick	09/24
Nancy Finch	09/28
Char Johnson	09/28
Chris Ritter	09/28

October Birthdays

Brandyn Dickinson	10/5
Eric Januzelli	10/6
Hunter Hollenbeck	10/7
Lauri Bahlman	10/14
Heather Bignall	10/15
Carolee Rickabaugh	10/16
Brenda Gillman	10/17
Norice Rasmussen	10/23
Beverly VanHoose	10/25
Toni Wenger	10/25
Olivia Youmans	10/25
Craig Weller	10/26
Peter Blinkilde	10/28
Annette Comer	10/29
Jim Hamilton	10/31
Grant Packard	10/31



September

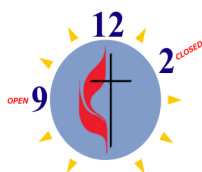
Barb & Robert Schuster	09/2
Tom & Judy VanSyckle	09/2
Sharon & Leon Pinckney	09/3
Dwight & Janice Wheelock	09/7
Eldon & Ann Lutz	09/9

October

Steven & Theresa Thomsen	10/22
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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

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