



## Prayer List

### Our Nation

Those Affected by COVID  
 All Members of the  
 Greenwood/Laurel Park  
 Church Families  
 Michelle Gibbs  
 John Marano's Family  
 Lacye Ryan  
 David and Carroll Shafer  
 Carolyn Smith  
 Nancy Yeary

## In This Issue

Faith .....	2
Paperless.....	3
Road Trip! .....	4
More Travel Advice.....	5
Virtual Worship.....	6
Groundskeeping.....	7
Food Connection.....	8
Stewardship .....	8
Emergency Numbers .	10
July Scriptures .....	12
Circles.....	12
Vital Statistics.....	13
Calendar .....	14
Upcoming Dates .....	15

From the Pastor

## COVID Begone!

**N**ow that we are in Stage 3 of the Virginia Annual United Methodist Conference (VAUMC) COVID-19 Protocols, Pastors are being given the authority to make decisions based on their individual congregations. This



will allow the Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge to relax some of its in-person indoor worship and meeting restrictions. It has been a long pandemic year for everyone and we are glad we can return to some normalcy at our churches.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis announced a shift in the way the VAUMC will address the current pandemic. On May 1, a new Post-COVID Re-entry Group (PRG) took over the duties of the COVID work groups (Back to In-Person Worship and Mission & Ministry). The PRG, led by the Rev. Seungsoo 'RJ' Jun will provide guidance and technical assistance to our churches' post-COVID moving forward.

While many members of the Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge have been fully-vaccinated, we still have members and visitors who either are not fully vaccinated or cannot be vaccinated. So we want to be sensitive to everyone's needs and continue to create an environment where everyone is welcome and feels safe.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Faith

*By Steve Stalaker*

Back on June 10, the Oklahoma University women's softball team won their fifth NCAA national championship at the Women's College Softball World Series.

That victory, in itself, isn't especially significant to most folks at Greenwood. What is of note is that, in the post-game interviews, two of the four OU players interviewed each thanked God several times for their win.

One of those is winning pitcher Giselle Juarez, pictured at right.



These young women's courage in expressing their faith in God, on national TV – ESPN, no less – was both refreshing and uplifting. It's gratifying to see the Lord at work through young people who aren't afraid to speak out about their faith, especially in the toxic, anti-Christian culture so many of us see in this country now.

Praise God for these two women and young people like them! In the face of discouragement, derision, social media bullying and so on, many young men and women across the country are stepping up to share their faith and give the Glory to God.

The Apostle Paul told us: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (*Hebrews 11:1, NIV*). The Bible is brimming with stories of faith in action. One of my favorites is the woman who sought to just touch the hem of Jesus' robe, related in Mark 5:25 – 34 and Luke 8:44 – 48.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Go Paperless

If you're receiving a paper copy of *The Twig Bender* through the snail mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service), consider going paperless. Save Greenwood the cost of postage, paper, toner, labels, stickers and labor involved in printing, folding, stamping and mailing out paper copies of our newsletter.

Remember, *The Twig Bender* is always available online at Greenwood's web site at <https://www.gumcva.org/twig-bender-archives>. There you'll also find newsletter archives going back through the beginning of 2019 (and we'll be adding more archives as the webmaster gets the time).

We realize, however, that many of us (including your editor) prefer a "hard copy" to hold in our hands while we read. That's OK, and we'll continue to publish paper copies of *The Twig Bender*.

To go paperless, email the church office at [admin@gumcva.org](mailto:admin@gumcva.org), call the office at 804-266-5341 or just tell your newsletter editor.

Likewise, if you no longer want to receive the monthly *Twig Bender* in any form – paper or by email – please let us know.

But, don't select a paperless *Twig Bender* if you think paperless saves the environment. It doesn't necessarily. Think about it:

- Paper is a biodegradable, renewable, sustainable product made from trees.
- Growing and harvesting trees provides jobs for millions of Americans.
- Forests are good for the environment and provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat and carbon storage.
- Thanks to improved forest management, we have more trees in America today than we had 100 years ago, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



# Road Trip!

*Downloaded from AAA*

After way too much time at home, we're all anxious to break free and hit the road. The quintessential road trip is all about making memories, exploring new terrain and having fun.

To help create a memorable experience with ease, here are some dos and don'ts when it comes to hitting the road:

**Consider Your Travel Companions.** If you're heading out with your family or children, consider shorter drive-days, more frequent stops, and ending your day in the late afternoon, rather than driving into the evening. Choose hotels that will be a welcome destination at the end of the day. Consider family-friendly brands that offer hotels with pools, hot tubs, or waterslides. With a shorter drive-day, you can arrive with time to relax and enjoy the hotel amenities.

**Consider Breakfast.** Breakfast is the most skipped meal of the day, with 58% of Americans opting out. Don't miss a good start, particularly when preparing for a day of driving with the kids. Look for hotels that offer breakfast – either complimentary continental or hot, or an on-site restaurant.

**Leverage Loyalty Programs.** Many attractions, restaurants, gas stations and hotels offer loyalty programs. Find the programs that are right for you and make sure your loyalty pays off. Consider planning hotel stays and other stops along your route with just one brand. Take advantage of membership benefits and discounts like AAA or



*(Continued on page 11)*

GREENWOOD ON FACEBOOK:  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA)



# More Travel Security Advice

*Downloaded from Navy Federal Credit Union's website.*

You pack sunscreen to protect your skin at the beach, but do you take steps to protect yourself from identity theft and other forms of fraud when you travel? An Experian® survey found that 20% of participants had sensitive information like credit or debit cards, personal identification or smartphones stolen while on vacation.

You could be more vulnerable to identity theft and fraud when you travel. Protect yourself with this handy checklist. Don't let a stressful and potentially harmful event spoil your vacation—take these simple steps to reduce your risk.

## Before You Leave

Remove non-essential items from your wallet. Take only the ID, credit and debit cards you need. Never travel with your Social Security card.

Secure your devices with passwords. Make sure you have strong passcode locks on your smartphone, tablet or laptop and use data encryption.

Contact your financial institution and credit card issuers and inform them of your travel plans. Some institutions allow you to place travel notifications on your account via mobile or online banking.

Temporarily stop mail through the USPS if you're on a trip longer than three days. Don't forget to stop or hold the newspaper.

Make copies of important documents and credit cards you'll be taking with you and leave the copies with a trusted friend or relative.

Set up a smartphone locator app so if your smartphone is lost or stolen, you can find it and block it from use.

## While You're Away

Use ATMs at financial institutions instead of freestanding ones in high-traffic tourist areas, which are ripe for skimming—a method of collecting your information and PIN from your card. Cover the keypad with your hand while entering your PIN.

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Relaxing COVID Restrictions

*(Continued from page 1)*

With this being said, anyone attending services or meetings or events at our churches who have been fully vaccinated are welcome to be indoors without a mask as



long as they continue to practice social distancing. Those who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask to keep themselves safe from contracting COVID-19 and any variants out there. Additionally, we will operate on an honor code system and continue to take temperatures over the summer and use hand sanitizer entering and exiting. Everyone can participate in congregational speaking and singing masked or unmasked if fully vaccinated.

I am praying everyone will consider returning to in-person worship services. We miss you!

Peace and blessing to all.

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*



## Sunday Virtual Worship

Every Sunday at 11 a.m. at Greenwood

And on Zoom (click [here](#)) or dial 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 829 5710 1589; password: 929829

Also on Facebook Live

## Tuesday Prayer Call

Every Tuesday, 8 to 8:15 a.m. on Zoom (click [here](#)) or dial 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 851 1374 4202; password: 452446



# Faith

*(Continued from page 2)*

Oh, to have that much faith! To believe, to know, that if she only could touch the Messiah's robe she would be healed. She stuck to her faith; amidst a pressing crowd around Jesus, she succeeded in just touching his garment. Jesus felt power going out from him to the afflicted woman and asked who touched Him. She 'fessed up and Jesus said to her: "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace" (*Luke 8:48, NRSV*).



This is a story of faith I've written about before, and will do so again because the lesson, the impact, is awesome and worth telling and re-telling.

That's it, nothing profound here, just giving a shout out to those who live their faith, to have assurance in what they don't see, but know to be true.

Thank God for those lessons in His Word that bolster our faith.

## Enjoy the Outdoors?

Do you like being in the great outdoors? Like fresh air and sunshine? Then Greenwood has a wonderful opportunity for you! Join our grass cutting and weed eating detail. If you would like to volunteer for this uplifting opportunity call Bob Stapleton at 804-672-8408 or email [rbrtstapleton@yahoo.com](mailto:rbrtstapleton@yahoo.com).

### July Grass Cutting Detail

Your Trustees have established a volunteer rotation for cutting the grass on the church grounds this summer. This month's schedule is:

- Week of July 5 .....Lewis Daniel
- Week of July 12 .....Harry Shuler
- Week of July 19 .....Bob Stapleton
- Week of July 26 .....Lewis Daniel



# Food Donation Connection

Thanks to everyone who picks up food and gives the bags to put it in. We still need someone who would be willing to give out food on Fridays. Call Adamarye at 804-266-6364.

## *July Pick Up Rotation*

Wednesday, June 30: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, July 1: Susan Johnston; Friday, July 2: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, July 7: Charley Banks; Thursday, July 8: Susan Johnston; Friday, July 9: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

Wednesday, July 14: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, July 15: Susan Johnston; Friday, July 16: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, July 21: Charley Banks; Thursday, July 22: Susan Johnston; Friday, July 23: Riley and Adamarye Patteson.

Wednesday, July 28: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, July 29: Susan Johnston; Friday, July 30: Carolyn and Ray Smith.



## Greenwood Stewardship

Despite COVID quarantines and restricted gatherings, Greenwood's expenses still must be paid. Giving is down from last year. We need \$2,424 per week to meet expenses. In June, our weekly giving average was \$1,359 or 56% of what's required.

## Communion Elements

Pre-packaged, already-consecrated Communion elements are available for those not planning to attend in-person Communion services.

Pick up elements Wednesday through Friday at the Greenwood church office, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the last week of each month for the next month's Communion.



# More Travel Advice

*(Continued from page 5)*

Lock up valuables, including sensitive documents, in the hotel safe when you're out of the room.

Use a travel wallet, which can be worn under your clothes, for additional safety.

Turn off any geo-tagging features on your social media accounts. Avoid posting pictures until you get home. If you do post from vacation, don't include details of where or how long you're staying.

Use mobile banking apps to monitor your accounts for suspicious activity.

Clear browser histories and caches when you use public computers and don't transmit sensitive information or conduct banking over unsecured (public) Wi-Fi.



## When You Return

Review account and credit card statements for irregularities. Take advantage of your free credit reports at [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com). Request one from each credit bureau at four-month intervals so you can monitor for a full year.

## In Case of Fraud

Immediately call your financial institutions that may be affected by the fraud; put holds on accounts you suspect have been compromised. File a police report if you're the victim of a crime. File a report with the Federal Trade Commission.

Place a 90-day fraud alert on your credit reports, which will alert creditors to use extra caution when verifying account applicants.



# EMERGENCY

## BIBLE NUMBERS

<b>UPSET</b>	<b>JOHN 14</b>
<b>WEAK</b>	<b>PSALM 18:1-29</b>
<b>LONELY</b>	<b>PSALM 23</b>
<b>SINNED</b>	<b>PSALM 51</b>
<b>WORRIED</b>	<b>MATTHEW 8:19-31</b>
<b>ANXIOUS</b>	<b>PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9</b>
<b>UNHAPPY</b>	<b>COLOSSIANS 3:12-17</b>
<b>IN DANGER</b>	<b>PSALM 91</b>
<b>DEPRESSED</b>	<b>PSALM 27</b>
<b>LACK OF FAITH</b>	<b>EXODUS 14</b>
<b>NEED COURAGE</b>	<b>JOSHUA 1</b>
<b>NEED DIRECTION</b>	<b>PSALM 73:21-26</b>
<b>SEEKING PEACE</b>	<b>MATTHEW 11:25-30</b>
<b>LEAVING ON A TRIP</b>	<b>PSALM 121</b>
<b>STRUGGLING WITH LOSS</b>	<b>LUKE 15</b>
<b>STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY</b>	<b>PSALM 37</b>
<b>DISCOURAGED WITH WORK</b>	<b>PSALM 126</b>

# Road Trip!

*(Continued from page 4)*

AARP.

**Don't Wait Until The Last Minute To Do Research.** Having an idea of what to expect on your journey will help ease stress and remove potential frustrations. Consider local and state health protocols, what businesses are open and if they have modified hours, what kind of payment is accepted, etc. The more you know, the smoother the ride.

**Don't Skip Rest Or Scenic Stops.**

Don't undervalue the importance of rest. Give yourself the time to stretch your legs, rest your eyes, enjoy a snack and a necessary "nature break!" It's recommended when driving for an extended period to stop every two to three hours.

**Don't Text And Drive.** Few things are as dangerous as texting and driving. Put your phone down and considering using the "Do Not Disturb" feature

when behind the wheel. According to NHTSA, distracted drivers kill an average of nine people and injure over 1,000 people every day in America.

**Don't Forget The Snacks And Cooler... And Masks And Sanitizer!** Stock up on everyone's favorite snacks and drinks for an easy way to stick to any budget and time restraints. And remember masks; as you travel outside your local area, COVID protocols may change – attractions, restaurants, stores, and hotels may require masks and other health and safety measures.

Be prepared and enjoy a safe, fun road trip.



# Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures

## July Lectionary Readings

July 4	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13.
July 11	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29.
July 18	2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.
July 25	2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21.

## Greenwood's Prayer Chain



... is a dynamic communications tool that we can use to disseminate prayer requests and other important information. We need a volunteer to step up and be one of our Prayer Chain Shepherds, responsible for calling four to six church members when news needs to get out. Call Glenda at 804-755-6767.

## Greenwood's Women's Circles

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, July 7 at 1 p.m. at O'Char-  
leys. This will be our final meeting until September.

The Willing Workers are taking the summer off. They'll resume  
meetings in September.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church™**

# Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Isaiah Robinson.....	7/3	Raymond Ritchie.....	7/24
Dorothy Powell .....	7/7	Lauren Coleman.....	7/28
Kristen Bray.....	7/15	Sue Anne Blanton .....	7/29
Lucas Langston .....	7/18		

## Anniversaries



Janice & Charley Banks.....	7/12
Robert & Gay Stapleton .....	7/12
David & Jonae Shuler .....	7/12

*Don't see your birthday or wedding anniversary in The Twig Bender and would like to have us publish it? Send your dates to [admin@gumcva.org](mailto:admin@gumcva.org) or call the church office at 804-266-5341; likewise, let us know if you'd like your birthday or anniversary removed.*



## Twig Bender

is a publication of Greenwood United Methodist Church

Office Phone: 804-266-5341

Office email: [admin@gumcva.org](mailto:admin@gumcva.org)

10040 Greenwood Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

In-Person and Virtual Worship: 11 a.m. Sunday

Pastor:	Pastor Josette L. Franklin	Lay Leader:	Lewis Daniel
Phone:	804-238-9318	Acting Music Director:	Jackie Schultz
Email:	<a href="mailto:josettefranklin@vaumc.org">josettefranklin@vaumc.org</a>	Twig Bender editor:	Steve Stalnaker
Office hours:	9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Tuesday — Friday	Web site:	<a href="http://www.gumcva.org">www.gumcva.org</a>
Fax:	804-266-2019		
Education Building Phone:	804-266-6668		

© 2021 Greenwood UMC — all rights reserved



# Greenwood United Methodist Church

## July 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>JULY IS CELL PHONE COURTESY MONTH</b></p> 				<p>1 Canada Dominion Day</p> 	<p>2 World UFO Day 6 p.m. Food Distribution</p>	<p>3 Compliment Your Mirror Day <b>No Men's Breakfast</b></p>
<p>4 Independence Day Communion Sunday 11 a.m. In-Person</p>	<p>5 Independence Day (Observed)</p> 	<p>6 8 a.m. Prayer Call</p> 	<p>7 Global Forgiveness Day 1 p.m. Ruth Circle</p>	<p>8 Nat'l Blueberry Day</p> 	<p>9 6 p.m. Food Distribution</p> 	<p>10 Teddy Bear Picnic Day</p> 
<p>11 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship</p>	<p>12 Pecan Pie Day</p> 	<p>13 8 a.m. Prayer Call</p> 	<p>14 Bastille Day</p> 	<p>15 Cow Appreciation Day</p> 	<p>16 6 p.m. Food Distribution</p> <p>17 World Emoji Day</p>  <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px;"><b>Friendship Quilters</b></p>	
<p>18 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship</p>	<p>19 Nat'l Daquiri Day</p> 	<p>20 8 a.m. Prayer Call</p> 	<p>21 Nat'l Hot Dog Day</p> 	<p>22 Hammock Day</p> 	<p>23 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution</p>	<p>24 Amelia Earhart Day</p> 
<p>25 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship</p>	<p>26 Aunt and Uncle Day</p> 	<p>27 8 a.m. Prayer Call</p> 	<p>28 Nat'l Milk Chocolate Day</p> 	<p>29 Int'l Tiger Day</p> 	<p>30 Int'l Day of Friendship 6 p.m. Food Distribution</p>	<p>31 Mutt's Day</p> 

# Mark Your Calendars

Sep. 6..... Labor Day  
 Oct. 11..... Columbus Day  
 Oct. 31..... Halloween  
 Nov. 1..... All Saints Day  
 Nov. 25..... Thanksgiving Day  
 Nov. 28..... First Sunday of Advent



## Greenwood UMC Mission

*The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. — Matt. 28:19*

## Greenwood Vision

### **Loving**

Learning to love and connect with God and People



### **Growing**

Acquiring tools for being transformed into the image of Christ



### **Serving**

Participating in church ministry and community outreach