



From the Pastor's Desk

Legacy, Mission, and Hope

Wow! Did you see that?

Did you see the way Greenwood welcomed eleven people, seven dogs, one cat, and one fish to the Blessing of the Animals service on Saturday, October 5? It was a sacred time of participants sharing about the impact their furry family members have on their lives. Did you see the way we joined together on Sunday, October 6 to celebrate World Communion Sunday with breads from around the globe and a liturgy which remembered the contexts of Christians from every corner? What about - on Sunday, October 20th, when we celebrated Children's Sabbath with an opportunity to hear about the life-changing work at United Methodist Family Services from President Nancy Toscano. Then there was the West End Church Cluster Charge Conference where Greenwood shared its plans to look for the lost by reaching out to new neighbors, as well as strengthening its partnerships with ecumenical churches and interfaith houses of worship in the area.

Who could have missed the Fall Festival, Saturday, October 26? Once more Harry Shuler rose to the occasion of Stewmaster and helped Greenwood produce 421 quarts for sale which will go to United Methodist Missions and Greenwood's operating budget. And what about Susan Johnston, Janice Olsen, and Lori Lohr who hosted the yard sale for Aggie's Attic? Did you see Gay Stapleton working the silent auction? Or Betty Ritchie and June Brewster slinging hot dogs and condiments?

Did you see the 20+ children who attended Trunk or Treat with Cub Scout Pack #744 on our campus? Kids and adults alike enjoyed candy, scary decorations, and *It's the Great Pumpkin*, *Charlie Brown* movie on the west lawn. And what about the five new members we received at All Saints, Sunday, November 5, with photos of the saints who have gone before us surrounding us in the sanctuary as part of that "great cloud of witnesses." It was a joy to welcome Theresa Hayes, Sarah Jones, Dann Ladd, Diane Ladd, and Steven Shaw!

As your pastor, it's my privilege to bear witness to the Body of Christ expressed in the hands, feet, and gifts of Greenwood United Methodist Church. Long may we run,

Pastor Crystal



Celebrating 150 Years of Greenwood



What Greenwood Means to Me: Roger Eckwright

On Sunday, November 10, Greenwood recognized veterans for their service during worship. One such veteran is longtime member Roger Eckwright who served in the US Army. Mr. Eckwright has served Greenwood for decades as a greeter and usher offering a warm welcome to all who cross Greenwood's threshold. While transportation is sometimes a challenge, whenever he makes it to campus, Mr. Eckwright resumes helping with the ushering duties. Mr. Eckwright has fond memories of helping with the Brunswick Stew Sale, participating in men's breakfast, and the special events in the life of Greenwood. As a widower, Mr. Eckwright shared that church members have been a great support to him during challenging times. Mr. Eckwright's service and experiences at Greenwood bear witness to the church's willingness to use the gifts of all, and to care for members no matter what they're going through.

SAVE THE DATE: *Sesquicentennial Celebration*



We're turning 150 plus one!

On May 3, 1874, the first meeting of Greenwood United Methodist Church took place under an arbor located at the current corner of Greenwood and Francis Roads. On Sunday, May 18, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will preach as Greenwood turns the page from its 150th to its 151st year.

A Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee has been formed and they will begin meeting in December. Plans to catalog numerous historical items in the church are underway with Sesquicentennial Committee member Nancy Lloyd at the helm.

Some long standing items as well as some new ones, have begun to be assembled for viewing in the main office hallway. Ms. Helen Schermerhorn Wood (formerly of Greenwood, Chamberlayne Heights, and currently Good Shepherd UMC) has provided some of these newer pieces on display.

Do you have historical items from Greenwood, Brookland Park, or Laurel Park UMCs which you would like to include in the Greenwood United Methodist Church archives? Please contact Nancy Lloyd to explore next steps: nlloyd354@gmail.com

STARTING THE YEAR OFF RIGHT:

LONGDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Many thanks, again, to all who helped us with our school supply drive for Longdale Elementary School in August. Together, we were able to deliver 16+ grocery size bags of supplies along with oodles of backpacks. Now, we're beginning 2025 with another school supply drive. Our friends at Longdale Elementary have let us know their specific needs and they are as follows:

- Colored Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Colored Folders
- Pencil pouches/boxes

We'll be collecting school supplies through the month of December to be delivered after the first of the year when school begins in 2025.



Journeying Together From Advent Through Epiphany



At Greenwood, we treasure the opportunity to anticipate Christ's coming during Advent, his arrival during Christmas, our renewed commitment to him over the New Year with the Wesley Covenant Service, and his incarnation during Epiphany. This year we will be exploring what it means to prepare ourselves for Christ's arrival in our world, then and now, both in our Christian Education hour and our worship. This series promises to be both reflective and playful as we explore the overarching theme of Preparation:

First Sunday of Advent, Dec 1: **Preparing for Hope**

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec 8: **Preparing for Peace**, with guest preacher Rev. Kendra Grimes, Chaplain, Randolph Macon College

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec 15: **Preparing for Joy**

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec 22: **Preparing for Love**

Christmas Eve Service, 3:00 p.m. Dec 24: **Preparing for Wonder**

Wesley Covenant Service, Dec 29: **Preparing for Commitment**

Epiphany Observed, Jan 5: **Preparing for Pilgrimage**

The seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are wonderful times to invite friends and neighbors to journey with us, to get to know God and Greenwood during such a rich time in the liturgical calendar.

CALENDAR 2024-2025

11-30	Hanging of the Greens
12-01	Advent Begins
12-03	Ruth Circle Christmas Party
12-04	SPPRC Meeting, and every first Wednesday
12-10	Financial Committee Meeting, and every second Tuesday
12-10	Admin Council Meeting, and every second Tuesday
12-14	Men's Breakfast
12-15	White Christmas Offering
12-21	The Friendship Quilters, and every third Saturday
12-24	Christmas Eve Worship
12-25	Christmas Day Observed, Church Office Closed
12-29	Wesley Covenant Service
12-28	River City Rug Hookers, and every fourth Saturday
01-05	Epiphany Observed
01-30	UMC Day at General Assembly

Greenwood Generosity

Members continue to give with faithfulness. Funds are used for staff salaries, church operations, and programming. These ministries are possible because of your generosity- thank you!

To provide the clearest financial picture, the Administrative Council and the Finance Committee are informing members regarding the amount of giving needed to maintain Greenwood's annual budget and the current level of giving.

Members will have the opportunity to contribute toward any shortfall in the annual budget on Sunday, December 15 with the White Christmas Offering. Everyone is invited to bring their gift in a white envelope to be offered in worship.

DATE	PRESENT	GIVING
10-06	35	\$2,837
10-13	33	\$1,775
10-20	32	\$1,175
10-27	33	\$ 694
11-03	34	\$2,844
11-10	40	\$2,175
11-17	29	\$1,492
11-24	26	\$ 945



Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Lloyd • November 3
 Betty Ritchie • November 5
 Jim Calderone • November 17
 Penney Walsh • November 24

Janice Banks • December 13
 Mary Cullom • December 13
 Jon Lohr • December 16
 Dann Ladd • December 21

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Cullom and Wayne Wilmoth • November 6
 Frank and Penney Walsh • November 11
 Jon and Lori Lohr • November 16
 Jim and Annette Calderone • December 30th

LAST MEN'S BREAKFAST OF 2024

Saturday, December 14

8:00am-9:30-ish

Fellowship Hall

Bring your appetite and pull up a chair at the Men's Breakfast. Pastor Crystal will be joining us and we hope you will, too! For more information contact: CharleyBanks@aol.com.



Deck the Halls

Saturday, November 30 10:00am

Join us for the Hanging of the Greens as we decorate the sanctuary, and set up the Christmas tree and advent wreath. For more information, contact Gay Stapleton: rbrtstapleton@yahoo.com or call Betty Ritchie.



AGGIE'S ATTIC:

A Little Shop With a Big Impact



We had a wonderful day for our Aggie's Attic Annual Fall Yard Sale on October 26 in conjunction with Greenwood's Annual Fall Festival and Brunswick Stew Sale. Thanks so much to all of the volunteers that helped to move and unload boxes, assist customers, and box up the "leftovers" when it was all said and done. A very special thank you goes out to the Scout troop from Glen Allen Baptist Church, who did a lot of moving of boxes for us early that morning. We were able to make \$1,204.80 that day and made a lot of space in the sheds for more inventory!

One of the biggest missions of Aggie's Attic is the Backpack Program, where food-insecure students are provided with 4 weekend meals and snacks each week. We got an updated count of students at our last board meeting, and we are currently serving 154 students! That's 616 total meals for hungry children in one week. We are so grateful to our partners in the Backpack Program, Glen Allen Baptist Church. They use their facility for food storage and packing, and also provide volunteers to pack and deliver the bags to local schools. We couldn't do it without them! We're still following Aggie's directions to this day – she was often heard saying "feed my babies" – and that's exactly what we're doing, Aggie!

We continue to support our local schools, not just through the Backpack Program, but also through donations of gift cards to families in need of a little bit of help during the holiday season. This year, we have donated a total of approximately \$1,800.00 worth of gift cards to nine local elementary schools. School counselors, students and families alike were so thankful and grateful for the gift cards. We love our community and work hard to give back as much as we possibly can.

As always, our dedicated volunteers have been working hard keeping the store well stocked, neat and clean. They continue to help customers in the store and provide the community with great deals on items. Most recently, the store has been transformed into a winter wonderland and is ready to offer great deals on holiday items. Stop by Wednesday through Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm and say hello! We can always use volunteers, and donations are always welcome and appreciated. We are currently not accepting spring and summer clothing – that will resume in early March. Remember, all profits made from items donated to Aggie's Attic go back into the community.

If you are interested in volunteering, donating, or just finding out more about Aggie's Attic, feel free to contact Susan Johnston via email at knsngal@aol.com or call/text (804) 869-7098 or Lori Lohr via email at lori.lohr@comcast.net or call/text (804) 592-9222

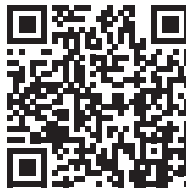
Opportunities for Mission and Service as One Year Closes and Another Begins

Food Connection... Needs Another Connection

For many years, Greenwood has been a proud member of the Virginia Community Food Connection program. As followers of Christ, it is our heartfelt conviction to help alleviate hunger within our community. The program is currently staffed weekly by two volunteers Trish Hayes and Peter Carty, with Rev. Sygeel attending on the first Friday of every month. As we continue to grow into this mission it has come to our awareness that we need a third person to staff the line in the parking lot to offer a warm welcome and to set the tone for conduct for recipients. For more information, please contact Trish Hayes: Hayeshoneybees@gmail.com

United Methodist Day at General Assembly

Members are invited to join with clergy and laity across the Virginia Conference for a morning program and afternoon meetings with state legislators at the Capitol. Rev. Sygeel will attend and carpooling to the event will be available. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with lawmakers and voice your concerns. Early bird registration before December 20 is \$20.



SCAN HERE

UMCOR Recovery Efforts for Hurricane Helene

UMCOR is continuing its relief efforts to help the areas impacted by Hurricane Helene. To learn about these efforts, as well as contribute donations, please visit: <https://umcmision.org/united-states-disaster-response>

Honored Visitors

Greenwood UMC was honored to have Bishop Gaspar João Domingos (pictured far right) and his wife Lucretia Manuel Alexandre in worship on Sunday, November 10 along with members of his extended family. Bishop Domingos serves the West and East Conferences of Angola as well as the African University in Zambia.



Greenwood
United Methodist Church
10040 Greenwood Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060
Return Service Requested

Our Prayer Ministry

Prayer Call, Tuesdays at 8:00 am: Everyone is invited to join via conference call in prayer for our community and the world. Dial 605-313-5873, enter access code: 3108329#

Bulletin Prayer List: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, you may leave requests with the main office for the bulletin and/or with Pastor Crystal.

Joys And Concerns: During worship all are welcome to share challenges and celebrations for which they would like prayer.

In our prayers currently: Our Nation, Victims, Survivors, and Responders in Situations of All Kinds, and Greenwood Ministries, Gladys McDonald, Micah Thomas, Kristen Coleman, Darrell Coleman, Tommy Harper, Dave Roberson, Jaunita Sharpe, Cathy Ellis, Anne Bowen, Lynn Vogel, Lauren Mercier, Bodhi Loving, Brian Bushnell, Diane Lohr, Marianna Heath, Robert Lewelyn, Mike Walsh, Robert Clatterbuck, Penney Walsh, Lathan Fulcher, Jayden Shuler, Angela Burttis, Jeannette Jackson, Robbie & Robin Smith, Karen Thomas, Roger Eckwright, John Johnston, Riley Patterson, Lacye Ryan, Arline Shafter, Trish Hayes

OUR MISSION

The mission of
The United Methodist
Church is to make
disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world.

—Matthew 28:19

OUR VISION

Loving
Growing
Serving

