



August 2023



The Twig Bender

What are *Your* Pronouns?

By Steve Stalnaker

Pronoun – a part of speech – is a word or group of words that a speaker or writer may substitute for a noun or noun phrase for the sake of brevity or clarity. For example: “Steve found his computer ...” rather than “Steve found Steve’s computer.” Pronouns are a convenient writing tool.

Thus endeth today’s grammar lesson.

In the “anything goes” moral climate championed these days by some folks, the question “what are your pronouns?” has become fashionable. We will not go into that in this newsletter ... not this edition, anyway.

In a similar vein, I’ve noticed some people, including clergy, try to “neuter” God by going out of their way to avoid using a masculine pronoun when referring to God ... resulting in such awkward constructs as: “The Lord remembers the Lord’s covenant forever ...” Jesus referred to God as “Father” – a masculine noun – and called God “Him,” “He,” etc. What Jesus said is good enough for me.

Thus endeth today’s “social engineering” commentary: back to the issue at hand.

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Greenwood Prayer Ministry



Our Nation, The People of Greenwood

Dot Brown, Jim Calderone’s friend Pablo, Roger Eckwright, Donald Greene,
Bubba Harris, Lori Lohr, Dominic LeMerise, George Miles, Riley Patteson,
Lacye Ryan, Juanita Sharpe, Robbie Smith, Frances Stalnaker,
Esther Tyler, Catherine Wallace

From the Pastor

Who is the Church? We Are!

By The Rev. TaeWon Kang

Grace and peace of Christ to you all, people of Greenwood UMC!

First of all, I thank God for sending me to this Church. I've been spending the first month at Greenwood. I thank you for your warm welcome. Every Sunday, I see your welcoming face. It makes my day.

Last Sunday we sang together Hymn #558 "We are the Church." It says:

I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the Church together!

The Church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the Church is not a resting place, the church is a people.

Let's embody this beautiful hymn through our daily actions. The Church is a people. For this reason, we sang joyfully "I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together!" This means that although you and I are individuals, you and I are called to be the Church as individuals and as a community in this world.



Rev. TaeWon Kang

What's the Church? The Church is understood as a place for prayer, worship, mission, fellowship, etc. It does not mean a building or program. The place can be created every time and everywhere that you

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Greenwood Learning Center School Opens this Month

By Trish Hayes, GLC Lead

It's that time of year again for children everywhere...back to school!

We cannot wait to welcome the children back to Greenwood Learning Center. We are having a open house to welcome new and old students back to our program Thursday, Aug. 17, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. We are so excited for the start of a new year and new beginnings!

We still have openings in the program so please spread the word. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your support, Smiles Trish!



GREENWOOD ON FACEBOOK:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA



*Greenwood's
August
Communion Offering*

**Pastor's
Discretionary
Fund**



Sunday Adult Religious Education Class

People of Greenwood:

Just a quick note to invite everyone interested in joining our Religious Education Class discussions on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary.

Our group is taking a journey through the Bible, stopping at each Book to discern if there is a word from the Lord to support us in our journey. For example, one Sunday last month, we discussed the Book of Jonah, which, though short, is filled with experiences to which we all can relate.



Jonah tries to flee from God and makes some decisions that lead him into “the belly of a whale” (we all know what it feels like to want to pull the sheets over our heads, isolate ourselves, and detach from our problems for a while). Jonah learns (like each of us) that bad decisions still can be transformed into good, since God’s compassion, support, and love are boundless. Jonah is resistant throughout, but he realizes that God is with him always, even when Jonah is in the depths of fear and denial (“the belly of a whale”). His stubbornness cannot push God away; his life is changed.

A key question we ask in every class is: “Is there a word from the Lord for me today in the Scripture?” There always is!

If you can, come and join us. If you cannot join us, please take a look at some of the materials I will send to all each week; hopefully, they will add to your understanding of Scripture. Feel free to comment on them.

All are welcome at the Sunday adult religious education class; join us at any time. Thanks for listening. Peace and All Good.

Your brother in Christ,
Jim Calderone



Visit Hermitage Richmond

By Arline Shafer

Welcome! As Greenwood welcomes our neighbors from Laurel Park and Brookland, and our new Pastor, Rev. Kang. Here are some thoughts from Greenwood's former Hermitage Representative and present Hermitage Richmond resident — me.

New beginnings? New leadership; new members; new school year at local public schools and Greenwood Learning Center.

Let's be proud of the wonderful outreach at Laurel Park as it grafts into Greenwood: Aggie's Attic, hosting birthday celebrations for residents. In a way this last one would fill a wish I have had that Greenwood would want to do this.

Please come to HR to see conditions, volunteer opportunities (some done by RESIDENTS!) Point someone here as a wonderful place to live. We're neighbors, not patients; folks here are so ready to hold the door for someone, write a letter, etc. Come visit with me!

You'll be in good company with other Believers, including two resident former chaplains still doing spiritual leadership.

We of HR and Hermitage Guild want you to know more about us, the Samaritan Fund helping needy residents, and grow more connections between HR, the Guild, and the churches.



Thank You

Adamarye Patteson and Jean Mowatt would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers that were sent to us at the passing of William Gibbs. Thanks also for all of the donations made to the church in memory of William.

GUMC Stewardship

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also – Matthew 6:21

Stewardship is a personal, spiritual discipline that goes beyond necessary financial support. Each of us should prayerfully consider what to give, not only financially, but our time and talent as well – fully using our gifts from the Holy Spirit in support of the body of Christ. Pray also in thankfulness to God that He meets our personal needs, while enabling us to support His Church.

Greenwood Stewardship July 2023

Date	Present	Giving
7/2	36	\$2,991
7/9	25	\$2,597
7/16	35	\$2,306
7/23	33	\$2,198
7/30	29	\$2,013

Regardless of what's going on around us, Greenwood's financial needs must be met. Each week in 2023 we need \$2,612 to support Greenwood's missions and operating expenses. In July, we averaged \$2,421 each week, or 92 percent of our budget. [*Praise God!*] The table at left shows each Sunday's giving.

Note that Greenwood has **suspended taking donations via CashApp.**



FunRaisers Pickles

Pickles! The FunRaisers are selling sweet and dill pickles again this year for \$7.50 per pint. Please contact Betty Ritchie by phone at 804-266-5747 or see her at church on Sunday morning to place your order. All proceeds go to the church. Thanks for helping out.



Tuesday Prayer Call is Back On!

8 a.m. every Tuesday

Dial in at (605) 313-5873, enter access code: 3108329, press #.

Please mute your phone unless you're adding a prayer.





Prayer Request Email



For prayer requests only: greenwoodprays@gmail.com

Monitored daily by Pastor TaeWon; all emails in strict confidence.



August Men's Breakfast

Due to scheduling and logistic conflicts, Greenwood's Men's Breakfast is deferred to Saturday, August 12 at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for fellowship, food and fun. The Moose is expecting you!

Greenwood's Women's Circles

THE RUTH CIRCLE is taking the summer off. They'll be back again in September.



THE WILLING WORKERS CIRCLE is excited to announce the resumption of our **Sunshine Ministry**, spearheaded by *Catherine Wallace*. She will be mailing birthday and anniversary cards members of the Greenwood church family. If you'd like to be remembered, be sure your anniversary or birthday day and month are in the church office.

August Grass Cutting Detail

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

- Week of July 31Lewis Daniel
- Week of August 7Bob Stapleton
- Week of August 14Harry Shuler
- Week of August 21Lewis Daniel
- Week of August 28Bob Stapleton



If you'd like to help with this summer's grass cutting, please call Bob Stapleton at 804-672-8408. **Thank you from your Trustees.**

Food Donation Connection



The food pantry can still use canned fruit and cereal. Next time you're shopping for groceries pick up 1 or 2 cans or a box of cereal. We served 61 families in the month of June.

August Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, Aug. 2: Charley Banks; Thursday, Aug. 3: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Aug. 4: Open.

Wednesday, Aug. 9: Jean Mowatt; Thursday, Aug. 10: Susan Johnston; Friday, Aug. 11: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Aug. 16: Charley Banks; Thursday, Aug. 17: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Aug. 18: Open.

Wednesday, Aug. 23: Jean Mowatt; Thursday, Aug. 24: Susan Johnston; Friday, Aug. 25: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Aug. 30: Charley Banks; Thursday, Aug. 31: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Sept. 1. Open.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

AUGUST SCRIPTURES

Aug. 6	Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21.
Aug. 13	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
Aug. 20	Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28
Aug. 27	Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

You are God's Dwelling Place

(Continued from page 2)

pray, worship, and do mission and fellowship, etc. **Your home, your living room, your kitchen, your workplace, even your bathroom, can be the church.** For this reason, the church thus means a sacred time and space, meaning sanctuary. It can be created by you anywhere and at any time. Where and when you pray, where and when you sing hymns, where and when you read and meditate on the Scripture, all places and all times can be a sanctuary.

You may know how **Muslims pray every day.** They kneel down at the designated time every day and pray towards their holy temple in Saudi Arabia, in the Middle East. In the evening of one day, I was driving and saw the red light in the traffic signal. I stopped and waited for the green light. At that moment, I found that there was a man at the corner of the intersection. He was bowing down repeatedly. His praying figure let me know certainly that he was a Muslim. He was praying in their religious way. He was concentrating on praying. His praying was like worshipping. At that time, there were many vehicles on the street. At that time, air quality caused by pollution was low and poor. The street was covered with traffic noise. However, the Muslim man looked like he was not considering such things but concentrating on praying. He looked like he was presenting his best figure to his deity. He was making his sanctuary at the street. **Every time and place can be a sacred time and space.**

My brothers and sisters, **you are the Church**, and I am the Church too. And we are the Church together. Let us make the Church in our daily life and place.

Lastly, **the Church is God's dwelling place.** John's Gospel understands Jesus as God's dwelling one. At this point, it is right that the Church is not a building but a people. You are God's dwelling place. It's important to care for your body physically and spiritually. Let us be a healthier Church! Let us make our church Greenwood UMC healthier!

I pray for you and me to be more holy before God at any time and at any place. O God, help us and guide us. Fill us with your Spirit, O Lord. **Praise God's holy name.**

AMEN.

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.



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, 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 electronic – please let us know.

But, don’t select a paperless *Twig Bender* just because you might think that 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).

It’s your choice: paper or plastic ... er ... electronic. Let us know, please.

WE ARE THE CHURCH

(Continued from page 1)

As we welcome new members – wherever they’re coming from – to God’s church at Greenwood, one pronoun is paramount: “we” – and its objective form “us.”

Too often I’ve overheard church members – old and new – talk about how “they” did something as we work together on Greenwood United Methodist Church’s missions and outreach. This is not correct.

There is no “they” among the People of Greenwood, whether those folks have been members of this church for centuries or are just joining. There is only “we” and “us.” We are all in this together and we all need to remember that as we get used to the way missions, outreach, worship and so on are conducted.

I’m reminded of a famous Declaration of Independence quote, often attributed to Benjamin Franklin: “We must all hang together, or we will surely hang separately.” Notice that Ben said “we” not “they” or “them.”



o therefore
and make
disciples
of all the
nations



And this is true for Greenwood United Methodist Church: we must all hang together. We all must focus in unity on the United Methodist Church’s mission to make disciples of all the world (Matthew

28:19) and Greenwood’s vision of loving, growing and

serving. We have to keep in mind that “they” will never succeed in making disciples. Only “we” – by the grace of God – will succeed. Only “we,” working together in Christian love, can bring Greenwood to where God wants His church to be.

Keep in mind hymn # 558: “We Are the Church” quoted by Pastor TaeWon on [page 2](#).

So, when asked “what are your pronouns?” our response is: we, us, ours.

See you in church, where we – as in all of us – will continue to lift up God, His Son, Jesus the Christ and His Holy Spirit.



Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Linda Wagner	8/2	Jeannette Jackson.....	8/14
Victoria Olson.....	8/3	Madison Elliott.....	8/15
Alan Daniel	8/9	Javier Frazier	8/22
Ray Smith	8/13		

Anniversaries

Alan & Emily Daniel	8/11
Teresa & Darrell Coleman	8/24
Carolyn & Ray Smith.....	8/29



*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 or call the church office at 804-266-5341; likewise, let us know if you'd like your birthday or anniversary **removed**.*



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Worship: 11 a.m. Sunday



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 Musical Accompanist: Joseph Maher
 Twig Bender editor: Steve Stalnaker
 Web site: www.gumcva.org

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School Supply Drive Donation List

Use this shopping list to pick up some supplies for the Longdale pupils.
Please have your donations in the Sanctuary by Sunday, Aug. 13.

Baby wipes	Hand wipes, antibacterial
Backpack or book bag	Headphones or earbuds, pair, inexpensive
Binder two-inch, 3-ring	Highlighters
Binder, 1-inch white w/clear sleeve on front, 3-ring	Index cards, 3x5, package
Binder, re-enforcers	Markers, broad line, "classic colors"
Box, pencil/crayon, no zippers	Markers, dry erase
Clay, 4-pack - yellow, green, red, blue	Notebook, spiral, wide ruled
Composition books, black & white marble	Paper, loose-leaf, wide-ruled, 3 hole
Crayons 24 pack, "classic colors"	Pencils #2
Divider, notebook, plastic tab, 3-ring	Pencils, pre-sharpened
Eraser, caps	Plastic bags, gallon size, slider closure
Erasers, large pink	Plastic bags, quart size, slider closure
Folder, plastic, 2 pockets	Plastic bags, snack size, slider closure
Folder, plastic, 3-pronged	Pouch, pencil, zippered, binder, 3-hole
Glue sticks, large	Scissors, child-safe, metal
Glue sticks, small	Scissors, child-safe, plastic
Hand sanitizer, liquid, bottle	Tissues, box



Greenwood United Methodist Church

August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AUGUST IS FAMILY FUN MONTH		1 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	2 Ice Cream Sandwich Day 	3 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	4 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	5 Campfire Day 
6 Communion Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	7 Lighthouse Day 	8 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	9 Book Lovers Day 	10 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers	11 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	12 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 
13 Longdale School Supplies Due 9:30 a.m. Sunday	14 Nat'l Creamsicle Day 6 p.m. Aggie's Attic Board Meets	15 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	16 Tell a Joke Day 	17 Thrift Shop Day 4 p.m. GLC Open House 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	18 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	19 Nat'l Potato Day 
20 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	21 GLC Fall Session Opens 	22 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	23 Nat'l Sponge Cake Day 	24 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	25 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	26 Dog Appreciation Day 
27 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	28 Bow Tie Day 	29 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	30 Frankenstein Day 	31 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	AUGUST IS NAT'L WELLNESS MONTH	

Friendship Quilters

Mark Your Calendars

- Sep. 4 Labor Day
- Oct. 9..... Columbus Day
- Oct. 31..... Halloween
- Nov. 1..... All Saints Day
- Nov. 7..... Election Day
- Nov. 11..... Veterans Day
- Nov. 23..... Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent



Aggie's Attic — a Greenwood UMC mission project — is located at 6913 Lakeside Avenue, Henrico. Hours through the end of August: Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. — 6:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. — 4 p.m. Click [here](#) for Aggie's Facebook page.

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	»	Growing	»	Serving
Learning to love and connect with God and People		Acquiring tools for being transformed into the image of Christ		Participating in church ministry and community outreach