



Our Nation

- Our Church Families
- GUMC Learning Ctr.
- Katie Corson and family
- Troy Eckwright
- Kent Messamore
- Lacye Ryan
- Leonett Reese
- Arline Shafer and family
- Carolyn Smith
- Cameron Smucker
- Frances Stalnaker

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Do the Right Thing

By Steve Stalnaker

January brings with it a celebration of the life of American civil rights icon, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the anniversary of his birth, January 15, 1929. Of course, in order to make his memory a federal holiday, we now honor Dr. King on the third Monday of January. And let’s not forget those Martin Luther King Day sales and specials.

**The time is
always
right
to do the
right thing**
-Martin Luther King Jr.

When we think of Dr. King, many remember his oft quoted “I have a dream” speech. I’m no different, but I also remember some other words of this great American: “The time is always right to do the right thing.”

One of my favorite captains in the Navy taught me early on to ask myself “what’s the right thing to do?” whenever I was trying to

make a decision or take an action. While I can’t say I always apply this lesson to everything I do, I like to think I do so more often than not.

As we enter 2022, we should strive to do the right thing, because it’s always the right time to do so. This is true whatever that right thing may be: participating in a church committee, helping with the Food Donation Connection, mowing the church grounds, and so on.

(Continued on page 10)

From the Pastor

Just Say “Yes” to God!

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19 NRSV

Relocating to Richmond, Virginia for my very first position as Pastor, as a transferring Baptist to a two-point cross racial/cross cultural assignment, to Greenwood UMC and Laurel ParkUMC, was and has been one of the biggest and most important decisions of my life.

The year I started earnestly praying for God’s will and not my own, things began to change. And boy, did they! I moved out on faith, left behind what I knew and stepped out into the unknown. I chose to follow where God was leading.



I arrived here struggling with my health. As a bonus my allergies and asthma had to be addressed immediately as the air here in Richmond was nothing like what I was used to. I had to find a new pulmonologist and a new primary care physician. The new pulmonologist changed my meds and required me to see a gastroenterologist and my new primary care physician required me to see ear, nose and throat and vascular specialists. I seemed to be falling apart.

They say it gets worse before it gets better and two

(Continued on page 9)

*Greenwood's January
Communion Offering:*

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



School Supplies Drive

Now's the time we begin part two of this year's Longdale Elementary School supplies drive, a continuation of our drive last fall.

Gather school supplies for less fortunate pupils at Longdale throughout the month and bring them to the Sanctuary before Sunday, Jan. 30. We'll organize the donations and deliver them to the staff at Longdale the first week in February.



On [page 15](#) you'll find the shopping list — what the kids at Longdale need. Download and print out the list, do your shopping and bring your loot to the church.

This is a major outreach ministry here at Greenwood so both Greenwood and Longdale could use an all hands effort.

Greenwood Learning Center

By Adamarye Patteson

I want to give a big “thank you” to everyone who has volunteered at the after school ministry — the Greenwood Learning Center. We will continue running the program through the next semester. We continue to pray that we will pick up more students in the coming year. This is a wonderful outreach to our neighborhood and Trish does a fantastic job organizing the program.

You can help: we need volunteers to help maintain the two-adult rule with Trish in the afternoons. It's fun hanging out with the kids. If you'd like to help, call the church office at 804-266-5341 or [email](#) us.



Greenwood Stewardship

Greenwood UMC's 2022 budget increased to \$129,419, as we reported in the [November 2021](#) edition of your *Twig Bender*. This means that our weekly financial obligation – the average weekly giving necessary to meet Greenwood's budget – is \$2,488 instead of \$2,424 per week last year.

In 2021, the Greenwood church family gave \$80,741 toward our operating budget of \$126,261 or just 64 per cent. We were able to make ends meet, but just barely and with the help of some generous "extra" giving by church members to help with things like air conditioner repairs and heating oil costs.

Last month, the average weekly giving was \$1,732, or 71 per cent of what was needed.

January, the beginning of a New Year, is the time for resolutions. Consider making a resolution this year to increase your giving and help Greenwood operate closer to budget.

Remember, too, that stewardship encompasses more than financial support. You can be good stewards by volunteering to help with the Food Donation Connection or with the Greenwood Learning Center (after school ministry). You can help by joining one of our small groups: the Men's Breakfast or the Ruth or Willing Workers Circles. Lay Leader Lewis Daniel is always looking for liturgists to help with worship service. The church office volunteers could use someone to fill in when one of them are on vacation. The possibilities for contributing to good stewardship at Greenwood are wide open.



Men's Breakfast



... will be at 8 a.m. on **Saturday, Jan. 8** in the Greenwood Fellowship Hall. Join the men of Greenwood for food, fun and fellowship. Come hear what the Moose has to say this month!

Cyber Security Part 3

Cyber Scams and How to Avoid Them

Courtesy of McAfee Anti-Virus Software

When it comes to online scams, a little knowledge can save you a world of trouble. This month the *Twig Bender* continues our multi-part series on cyber scams. In the [November issue](#), we addressed web scams; going forward we'll look at computer, email,

online and senior citizen scams. Read on to learn about the most common types of scams, how to spot them, and how to avoid falling prey to them.

This month, **computer scams**. If you spend any time online, you've probably been the target of a *phishing attack*. This is when a scammer pretends to be from a reputable company in order to get you to reveal personal information they can use.

Phishing is a technique that's often deployed through emails, web



site pop-ups, and even mobile apps.

Common phishing scams:

The CEO/Executive: The scam appears as an email from a leader in your organization, asking for highly sensitive information like company accounts, employee salaries, Social Security numbers, and client information.

File sharing and DocuSign: Phony requests to access files in Dropbox and DocuSign accounts are on the rise, tricking folks into clicking on dangerous links.

The romance scam: This one can happen online, over the phone, or in person once contact is established. But the romance scam always starts with someone supposedly looking for love. The scammer often puts a phony ad online, or poses as a friend-of-a-

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Reprinted from July 2021

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, 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).



Greenwood's Women's Circles



The Ruth Circle is taking a break for the holidays and will meet again in February. Adamarye writes: "Thank you for all of the calls, cards and prayers you have sent me while I have recovered from surgery and have been in rehab. I am home now but will continue with outpatient therapy."

The Willing Workers will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 5 in the church office at 11 a.m. We'll be discussing our plans for 2022.



Sunday 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



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



Food Donation Connection

January Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, Jan. 5: Charley Banks; Thursday, Jan. 6: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Jan 7: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Jan. 12: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Jan. 13: Susan Johnston; Friday, Jan 14: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Charley Banks; Thursday, Jan. 20: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Jan. 21: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Jan. 26: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Jan. 27: Susan Johnston; Friday, Jan. 28: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Feb 2: Charley Banks; Thursday, Feb. 3: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Feb 4: Josette Franklin.



JANUARY SCRIPTURES

Jan. 2	Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Jan. 9	Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan. 16	Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
Jan. 23	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
Jan. 30	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Just Say "Yes" to God!

(Continued from page 2)

years in, I am a living witness this is the truth. It has not been easy. There were times, in my appointments and in the hospital, I didn't know how I was going to make it. But this new thing God is doing in my life is a process. And I must trust God, with great expectation God will fulfill God's promises, no matter what it looks like and regardless of how long it takes. Otherwise, it will be impossible for me to please God and follow where God leads.

The prophet Isaiah's audience, the Jewish community of God's chosen people, struggled receiving God's plan for their deliverance. Isaiah instructed, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old." (Isaiah 43:18) God did not want their "nostalgic relation to tradition" to threaten to tie the people to their past "and to stultify [give cause to lose enthusiasm and initiative] alertness to present realities, responsiveness to new opportunities, and the potential for growth into yet-unrealized possibilities."

For us to be open to the new thing God is doing we must be willing to let go. As you begin the year 2022 what are you insisting on holding tight to from the past? How is fear keeping you from staying on the path to your deliverance and salvation? And how will you get out of your own way? God is trying to get your attention. God is still speaking. Will you listen? Don't over-think it. Trust God's leading and the process. Transformation is coming. And the Church will never be the same again.

You are the church. So just say yes to God! God has already made a way.

Peace and blessing to all,

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*



Doing the Right Thing

(Continued from page 1)

The “right thing to do” is to keep Jesus’ commandments:

... “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” *Matthew 22:37-40, NIV.*

I’m mindful of all those in the Greenwood church family who quietly, without fanfare, not seeking credit, do the “right thing” by loving their neighbor. One good example of this came back in November, just before Thanksgiving. Two turkeys showed up in the Education Building’s Food Donation Connection freezer. No one knows who donated these birds but that didn’t prevent those turkeys going to help a couple of hungry families. Somebody did the right thing, at the right time.

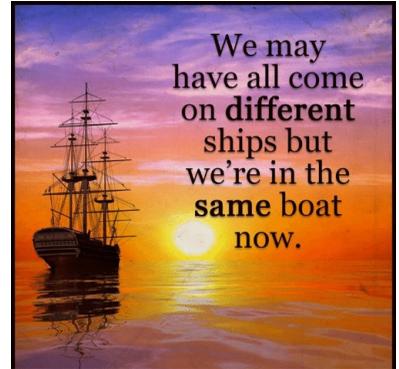
There may be times when we don’t know what the right thing to do is. That’s where training, education and communication come in. If in doubt about what’s the right thing to do, ask somebody – communicate.

As we strive to do the right thing, the company of Christians and the preaching of the Word of God are absolutely essential. Worship, Bible studies, participation in small groups like the women’s circles or the men’s breakfast, can help provide us with the tools we need to know what’s the right thing to do.

With the dawn of each new year, we look forward with hope – hope that this year will be better than last year, hope that we’ll each be “better” persons in the coming months. Hope that we’ll each find the right time to do the right thing, and just do our duty to God by keeping Jesus’ commandments.

It’s always the right time to do the right thing.

Happy New Year; see you in church.



We may
have all come
on different
ships but
we’re in the
same boat
now.

Here’s another one from
MLK I like.



Cyber Scams

(Continued from page 5)

friend on social media and contacts you directly. But what starts as the promise of love or partnership often leads to requests for money or pricey gifts. The lure here is simple: love and acceptance.

The mobile phish: Scammers distribute fake mobile apps that gather your personal information in the background or they send text messages containing dangerous links.

Surveys: You get a request to take a survey for a social issue you may care about. When you click that link, you could be getting infected with malware.

The urgent email attachment: Phishing emails try to trick you into downloading a dangerous attachment giving a bad actor access to your computer. Such emails ask you to download attachments confirming a package delivery, trip itinerary, or prize.

General questions to ask yourself to avoid computer scams:

Is this asking for too much information? Be wary of anyone who asks for more information than they need, even if you are talking to a company or bank you do business with.

Do I know you? Ask this simple question before responding to a message. First check to see if you recognize the sender's name and email address.

Is that a legitimate link? Before clicking on a link, hover over it to see if the URL address looks legitimate.

Am I on the web page I think I'm on? Before logging into an online account, make sure the web address is correct. Phishers often forge legitimate websites, like online storage accounts, hoping to trick you into entering your login details.

Is it too good to be true? Avoid "free" offers or deals that sound too good to be true.

Is my security software active? Always use comprehensive security software to protect your devices and information from malware and other threats that might result from a phishing scam.



Greenwood Church Family *Birthdays*

Linda Walker	1/6	Kaye Powell.....	1/20
Jeremy Coleman.....	1/10	Jalayah Shuler	1/26
Patricia Davis Lawson.....	1/16	Jayden Shuler	1/26
Warren Murphey	1/20		

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



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™



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Greenwood United Methodist Church

January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
 JANUARY IS NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH AND NATIONAL HOBBY MONTH 						
2 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	3 Festival of Sleep Day 	4 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	5 Nat'l Bird Day 	6 Cuddle Up Day 	7 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	8 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 
9 Epiphany Sunday 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	10 Houseplant Appreciation Day 	11 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6 p.m. Finance 6:30 p.m. Church Admin Council	12 Nat'l Pharmacist Day 	13 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers 	14 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	15 Nat'l Bagel Day 
16 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	18 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	19 Nat'l Popcorn Day 	20 Nat'l Cheese Lover Day 	21 Twig Bender Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution Friendship Quilters	22 Nat'l Blonde Brownie Day
23 11 a.m. In-Person & Virtual Worship	24 Nat'l Peanut Butter Day 30 11 a.m. In-Person & Virtual Worship	25 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	26 Spouse's Day 	27 Chocolate Cake Day 	28 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	29 Nat'l Puzzle Day 

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 14..... St. Valentine’s Day
 March 2 Ash Wednesday
 April 15 Good Friday
 April 17 Easter Sunday
 May 8..... Mother’s Day
 June 5 Pentecost
 June 19 Father’s Day
 June 16 – 18 VAUMC Annual Conference
 July 4..... Independence Day



GREENWOOD ON FACEBOOK:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA



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

School Supply Drive Donation List

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

Clip out this shopping list and use it to pick up some supplies for the Longdale pupils. Please have your donations in the Sanctuary by Sunday, Jan. 31