



February 2023



The Twig Bender

God's Gift of Free Love

By Steve Stalaker

February is here so our thoughts are turned towards love and St. Valentine's Day, dragged there by the international candy-flowers-greeting card conspiracy.

St. Valentine's Day love is mostly about physical love – *eros*. But let's consider a more important love – *agape*¹. And let's consider what exemplifies that Love and what it costs.

In his Hugo-award winning science fiction novel *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, author Robert Heinlein popularized the acronym *TANSTAAFL* – "there ain't no such thing as a free lunch." Meaning, of course, that nothing is really free; there's a cost – open or hidden – for anything.

Over beers in a bar, Heinlein's protagonist explains to an Earthling visiting the fictional Moon colony:

... " 'TANSTAAFL' means 'there ain't no such thing as a free lunch.' And isn't," I added, pointing to a FREE LUNCH sign across room, "or these drinks would cost half as much. ... anything free costs twice as much in long run or turns out worthless ... One way or other, what you get, you pay for."

There's a popular song: "The Best things in Life Are Free." Which is true in the sense that the best things in life cannot be purchased with money, but those

(Continued on page 9)

¹ "The love of God for man and of man for God".

Our Nation — Lord, Heal Our Land
The Greenwood and Laurel Park Church Families, GLC,
Levi Draper, Roger Eckwright, Riley Patteson, Patty Prout,
Lacye Ryan, Willis Sheffield, Robbie Smith, Karen Thomas,
Michelle Thomas, Robbie Tyree, Adam Womack, Jennifer Yeary
Greenwood prayer request email:
greenwoodprays@gmail.com



From the Pastor

Meet the New VAUMC Bishop

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson is the new Residing Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference. She was assigned to the post by the Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Conference of The United Methodist Church in November 2022.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson was first elected bishop by the SEJ in 2016 and consecrated July 15, 2016. Her first assignment as bishop was to the North Georgia Episcopal Area beginning Sept. 1, 2016.

A Florida native, Bishop Hauptert-Johnson (or “Bishop Sue”) is a graduate of the University of Florida (B.S. in Business Administration), University of Florida College of Law (J.D.), and Candler School of Theology at Emory University (M.Div.). She was a federal law clerk and a litigator with the Tampa law firm of Carlton, Fields before she answered her call to ministry.

After graduating summa cum laude from Candler, she was ordained a deacon in the Florida Annual Conference in 1996 and an elder in 1998. She subsequently served pastoral appointments throughout Florida. From 2013-2016, Bishop Hauptert-Johnson was the North Central District Superintendent of the UMC’s Florida Annual Conference.

As district superintendent, Bishop Hauptert-Johnson guided a diverse area of very large and very small churches, urban, suburban, and rural churches; African American, Haitian, and Hispanic churches; a Native American ministry; a



Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

In This Issue

From the Pastor	2
GLC Update	3
FunRaisers	4
Women’s Circles	4
Medicare Update	5
Streaming Services	6
Food Connection	8
February Scriptures	8
Stewardship	11
Mission Opportunity	13
Vital Statistics	15
Calendar	14
Upcoming Dates	15

(Continued on page 7)

Greenwood Learning Center

Supporting the Salvation Army

By Trish Hayes, GLC Director

Greetings to everyone! We are so excited about everything the new year has been offering us! This month we have been catching up on our thank you cards and coming up with exciting ideas for special Valentines crafts so we may play Cupid.

We had the opportunity to take everyone's generous donations of socks, hats and mittens to the Salvation Army. They were so very happy and welcoming; they told us we can come back any time! The kiddos were really proud of themselves, and they enjoyed seeing where their hard work was going.

We would also like to thank our special friends for the donations of art and craft supplies. As always, if there is anyone you may know who needs a little extra special "love you" that our gang can help with – cards, one-of-a-kind artwork, or if they want to come and visit for an afternoon – please let me know.

We hope everyone has a blessed February and a Happy Valentine's Day! Smiles!



GLC Kiddos drop off hats, gloves and mittens donated in December.



Greenwood's
February Communion Offering:
HEART HAVENS

FunRaisers

FunRaisers in 2022

By Betty Ritchie

In 2022 the FunRaisers donated:

1. \$225 to Fix the choir room piano.
2. \$70 for three new trash cans for the Fellowship Hall.
3. \$62.49 for a cart for Food Donation Connection volunteers to use to carry and distribute donated food. Thanks to Harry Shuler for buying and assembling the cart.

Bless each and every one who made this possible by buying the sweet and dill pickles and buying bag lunches. The FunRaisers' bank balance is now \$1,249.12. The next project is to look into buying a screen door for the Education Building kitchen.

We cannot thank everyone enough!

Greenwood's Women's Circles



THE RUTH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. in the home of Adamarye Patteson. We will continue with our Bible study and be discussing our plans for the coming year. Anyone interested in coming give Adamarye a call at 804-690-9808 to get directions.

THE WILLING WORKERS CIRCLE meets Thursday, Feb. 2 at the church at 5:30 p.m. We'll work, in a joint effort with the Ruth Circle on "activity bags" for children visiting Greenwood during worship services.

Medicare Update

Preventive and Screening Services

By the Medicare Team

Looking for a way to stay on top of your health in 2023? Medicare covers many preventive and screening services. These services can help keep you from getting sick, and

can help find health problems early when treatment is most likely to work best. Talk to your doctor about which ones might be right for you.



Medicare

See what's covered [here](#).

If you have Original Medicare (Part A and/or Part B), [sign in to your secure Medicare account](#) to see a personalized list of current and upcoming preventive services. If you don't already have an account, it's free — and easy — to sign up.

If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan, contact your plan for a list of covered preventive services. MA Plans must cover all the same preventive services as Original Medicare, and some may offer additional services.

Good news: Now people with Medicare Part D drug coverage will pay nothing out-of-pocket for even more vaccines, including the shingles vaccine, that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.



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



A Guide to Streaming Services

By Ashley Chorpenning of AAA With Comments by Your Editor

Ed. note: This article should not be construed as an endorsement of any TV, cable or streaming service. It's presented merely as a guide. Or, you could just read a book.

Colder weather is here, and what better way than to spend it indoors, cozying up on the couch to watch a TV show or movie with your loved ones. With all the video



streaming services these days, it's hard to know where to start. The last thing you want to do is waste endless hours searching. Streaming services vary wildly in cost, content, and platform availability. Here's a guide to streaming services to help you maximize your couch time this winter.

New streaming services seem to pop up every month, meaning plenty of companies are competing for your business. Because there are so many options, it takes some research to find the right one. Consider what you want in your streaming service before subscribing. Track the shows, channels and movies you enjoy. Streaming services can be grouped – somewhat – by type:

- Mega providers: HBO Max, Netflix, Hulu, etc.
- Add-on services: Starz, Showtime, ESPN+, YouTube TV, etc.
- Specialized services: Acorn, Britbox, Shudder, etc. (*Your editor and his wife like British detective shows, which we stream through Acorn TV for \$5 a month.*)
- Free platforms: Tubi, Crackle, Shout! Factory TV, Pluto TV, etc.

What's provided can vary and change. Netflix recently began prioritizing its own original productions rather than content from other providers. Services like Sling TV help cable-cutters watch their favorite channels like ESPN, Discovery, Hallmark, and National Geographic, live, without breaking the bank.

Some streaming services actually come free of charge, but there are some limitations. They have commercial breaks, like cable or broadcast TV and usually offer a more limited (and sometimes outdated) library. But free streaming services aren't

(Continued on page 10)

Meet the New Bishop

(Continued from page 2)

large camp and retreat center, and a vibrant campus ministry. She was the “missional strategist” for this region, equipping and resourcing churches for ministry and helping them work together to reach their mission fields for Jesus Christ.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson was the **Florida Conference’s clergy delegation** leader for the United Methodist General Conference 2016. She has represented the Florida Conference at the quadrennial United Methodist Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference four times and the United Methodist General Conference in 2008, 2012 and 2016. She also was chairperson of the Judicial Administration Legislative Committee at the 2012 General Conference.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson is **married to Rev. Allen Johnson. They have a daughter, Samantha.** Bishop Sue enjoys NCAA football and basketball, all things Broadway, reading and movies.

Bishop Sharma Lewis, former VAUMC resident bishop has been assigned to the Mississippi Conference. Bishop-elect Tom Berlin – episcopal nominee from the Virginia Conference – has been assigned to the Florida Conference.

Click [here](#), or go to YouTube @vaumcvideos, to **view an online message from Bishop Hauptert-Johnson.**

We will **gather** on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Woodlake UMC in Chesterfield to give thanks to God and covenant with Bishop Sue in this new chapter of the VAUMC. Please pray for our Bishop, our conference, our local churches, and the global ministry of the United Methodist Church. “If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need Him now!”

Peace and blessings to all,

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*



Food Donation Connection

February Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, Feb. 1: Charley Banks; Thursday, Feb. 2: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Feb. 3: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Feb. 8: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Feb. 9: Susan Johnston; Friday, Feb. 10: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Feb. 15: Charley Banks; Thursday, Feb. 16: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Feb. 17: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Feb. 22: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Feb. 23: Susan Johnston; Friday, Feb. 24: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, March 1: Charley Banks; Thursday, March 2: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, March 3: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.



FEBRUARY SCRIPTURES

Feb. 5	Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20.
Feb. 12	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-
Feb. 19	Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9.
Feb. 22 Ash Wed.	Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.
Feb. 26	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11.

God's Gift of Free Love

(Continued from page 1)

"best things" are never free. Quoting from another Heinlein Science Fiction novel – *Starship Troopers*: "Nothing of value is free. Even the breath of life is purchased at birth only through gasping effort and pain."



Cynics say that nothing is free. Pretty grim? Not really — just truth when you think about it. All the money in the world won't buy you anything but transitory luxuries or pleasures.

But wait: saying "*nothing* is free" isn't strictly true. The most valuable commodity in creation — God's love — is yours for the taking and it

can't be acquired with money.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Romans 8:38 – 39 NRSVUE*)

There's no "cost" to God's love. God bestows His love on each of us through the power of the Holy Spirit and His grace. If the Creator of the Universe, the God Who keeps the galaxies and the sub-atomic particles in their places, offers us this *agape* love, how can we turn it down? How can we not reciprocate God's love by showing love to others as Jesus told us to do in John 13:34 and many other places in the Gospels. Treat others as we would have them treat us (*Matthew 7:12*).

You can't do anything, buy anything, build anything that will bring you God's Love; God offers *agape* love to all of us freely. In response, all that is required of you is to garb yourself in *agape*; love God back and love your neighbor as yourself.

And that beats a box of Valentine's chocolates any day.

See you in church.

STREAMING SERVICES

(Continued from page 6)



meant to compete with providers like Netflix. Ads are the tradeoff “cost” for free streaming service.

Remember that none of this is totally “free.” You must have cable TV or an Internet connection to stream shows from these services. Some services come bundled with other products. For example, your editor’s son’s cell

phone package with AT&T includes HBO Max.

Paid subscriptions’ basic plans are cheaper. For instance, the Paramount+ Essential package costs \$4.99 per month. Upgrading to Premium costs \$9.99 per month and removes ads. Some services offer better deals if you pay annually instead of monthly, e.g. paying monthly for Disney+ costs \$95.88 over 12 months, while paying annually for the same package costs \$79.99.

You don’t have to restrict yourself to one streaming service. You can subscribe to as many as you’d like to access all your favorites. You can choose the services that best fit into your life and budget, for example: Disney+ for the kids; ESPN+ for the sports fans; HBO Max and Netflix Standard for the family.

So, with many streaming options out there and the ability to mix and match, streaming must be cheaper than cable. Right? It depends. A 2022 report found that 82% of U.S. households pay a cable and Internet bill averaging \$1,122 per year, or \$114 per month. With that monthly \$114 as the baseline, you can save money with a streaming service lineup of your choosing.

Remember that **even the “free” services aren’t actually “free.”** You must have cable TV or an Internet connection to stream video.

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.

Regardless of what's going on around us, Greenwood's financial needs must be met. Each week in 2023, we need \$2,600 to support Greenwood's missions and operating expenses. In January, we averaged \$1,494 each week, or 57 percent of our budget. The table above shows each Sunday's giving.

Greenwood Stewardship January 2023

Date	Present	Giving
1/1	26	\$2,150
1/8	23	\$1,050
1/15	27	\$1,093
1/22	31	\$2,323
1/29	33	\$863



Prayer Request Email



For prayer requests only: greenwoodprays@gmail.com
Monitored daily by Pastor Josette; all emails in strict confidence.



Sign Up for Altar Flowers



Don't forget the 2023 flower calendar posted in the back hall. You're invited to donate altar flowers in memory of or in honor of, those you'd like to remember.

Cost of the altar flowers is \$20; please pay in advance.



The Highland Support Project and the Pace Center at VCU

Young Adult Mission Trips to Guatemala and Arizona



Come join us for a week of fellowship in Guatemala **or** Arizona! Alongside the Pace Center at VCU, the Highland Support Project is organizing two young adult trips to Guatemala and Arizona! These trips are meant for **all** high school and college aged students!

Guatemala June 24 - July 1

In Guatemala, we will build stoves for families in the community, engage in art education initiatives and build relationships with members of the community.

Arizona June 24 - July 1

Our Arizona trip will focus on food sovereignty and culturally relevant STEM education!

For more information:

🌐 highlandsupportproject.org
 ✉ hello@highlandpartners.org
 ☎ (804) 464-3467

Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Gay Stapleton.....	2/1	Alison Smith.....	2/22
Teresa Coleman	2/1	Joseph Stanley	2/22
Lorrie Bowie	2/7	Tom Stephens.....	2/26
Riley Patteson	2/19	Harry Shuler.....	2/28
Jordan Stapleton	2/20		

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

**GREENWOOD ON FACEBOOK:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA**



Twig Bender

is a publication of Greenwood United Methodist Church

Office Phone: 804-266-5341

Office email: admin@gumcva.org

10040 Greenwood Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

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

Pastor: Pastor Josette L. Franklin
 Phone: 804-238-9318
 Email: josettefranklin@vaumc.org
 Office hours: 9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Tuesday — Friday
 Fax: 804-266-2019
 Education Building Phone: 804-266-6668

Lay Leader: Lewis Daniel
 Acting Music Director: Jackie Schultz
Twig Bender editor: Steve Stalnaker
 Web site: www.gumcva.org

© 2023 Greenwood UMC — all rights reserved



Greenwood United Methodist Church

February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BLACK HISTORY MONTH			1 Nat'l Freedom Day 	2 Ground Hog Day 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	3 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	4 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10 a.m. Electronics Recycling
5 Communion Sunday 11 a.m. Worship	6 Lame Duck Day 	7 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle	8 Boy Scout Day 	9 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers	10 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	11 10:30 a.m. Meet New Bishop 
12 Abraham Lincoln's B'Day Scout Sunday 11 a.m. Worship	13 Clean Out Your Computer Day 	14 Valentine's Day 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	15 Nat'l Gum Drop Day 	16 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice Nat'l Almond Day	17 6 p.m. Food Distribution Friendship Quilters	18 Nat'l Battery Day 
19 11 a.m. Worship 	20 Presidents Day 	21 Mardi Gras 8 a.m. Prayer Call	22 Ash Wednesday 	23 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice Nat'l Banana Bread Day	24 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution	25 World Sword Swallower Day
26 11 a.m. Worship 	27 Nat'l Strawberry Day 	28 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH			

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 11.....	Meet the New Bishop
Feb. 14.....	St. Valentine's Day
Feb. 20.....	Presidents Day
Feb. 21.....	Mardi Gras
Feb. 22.....	Ash Wednesday
March 12.....	Daylight Saving Time Begins
April 2.....	Palm Sunday
April 6.....	Maundy Thursday; Passover Begins
April 7.....	Good Friday
April 9.....	Easter Sunday
April 18.....	Tax Day



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

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