



The Twig Bender



Greenwood United Methodist Church

February 2024

CELEBRATING OUR 150TH YEAR

Grace and Peace of Christ to you!!

It's February, the second month of this year. We began 2024 by celebrating the birth of Jesus through the story of the wise men. And we remembered once again our baptism through Jesus' baptism. Jesus' birth and baptism simply teach us that all those are the beginning of **God's Salvation event for us and all lives**. Therefore, both Jesus' birth and Jesus' baptism are for us as well as for the whole universe about the **beginning of a new life**. Both ask us to see God's new creation: "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1).

Believing in Jesus Christ asks a believer to newly understand and construct one's life in and through Jesus Christ. Let us compare this spiritual life work to driving a vehicle. The meaning of January is like starting the engine. The meaning of February is like shifting gears to run. And, our spiritual life direction is set up already. In our faith, the **goal is to imitate Jesus Christ**. In other words, it's to be changed and grown into a new being who is Christ-like. The Apostle John understands that it is like abiding by/with Jesus Christ, who is the **love of God**. The Apostle Paul understands that it is like clothing oneself with Jesus Christ, who is God's humility and righteousness. Also, through the Synoptic Gospels, which are Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we can see that Jesus very strongly taught of embodying God's mercy, holiness, righteousness, and so on inwardly and outwardly. All these scriptural understandings commonly point to us about one vital thing. It's the life of **being one with Jesus Christ**.

Let us go back once again to the metaphor of driving a vehicle. February in our spiritual life work is like shifting gears to run. In February, we will begin, on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14**, the season of Lent, which is the 40 days, not including Sundays, to Easter Sunday. Lent is the time of repentance and forgiveness. Lent is the time to do self-denials. **Lent is a time to embody Jesus' teachings** on discipleship. Lent is the time to remember Jesus' suffering and death. Lent is the time to carry one's own cross. Lent is the time to bear Jesus' cross by our hands and shoulders. Lent is the time to crucify us on the cross of Jesus. And, Lent is

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Greenwood Prayer Ministry

Our Nation

The People of Greenwood and Our Mission Projects

People in Harm's Way Around the World

Roger Eckwright, Lori Lohr, Riley Patteson, Lacye Ryan, Dorothy Powell

Emma Roberts, Juanita Sharpe, Robbie Smith, Bob Stapleton

Tom and Lucy Stephens, Briana Walker, Catherine Wallace



Pastor TaeWon: Are You With Me?

3 Things for the Season of Lent

(Continued from page 1)

the time to bury us – our old selves together with the crucified Jesus, and it is the time to wait in solitude for the resurrection. Yes, Lent is the time to shift gears and run toward Jesus Christ - the love of God and the Salvation of God.

I'd like to **invite you to come and join three things for the season of Lent:** 1) Ash Wednesday Service at 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 14; 2) the Lenten Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday beginning February 21 (see page 14); and 3) Reading through the whole New Testament.

Ash Wednesday service will give you a very meaningful moment for you to rediscover who you are really in Jesus Christ. Through the Bible Study, we will search for the meanings and power of the Lord's Prayer. The book *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught* written by Rev. Adam Hamilton, will help our study. And I also encourage you all to get the opportunity to read the whole book of the New Testament for forty days.

Therefore, I'd like to strongly say to you all, "Never lose anything of these three opportunities to be one with Jesus Christ." Let us shift gears. **Let us run toward Jesus Christ.** Let us do our best to know more about Jesus. Let us be one with Jesus Christ!

Amen.

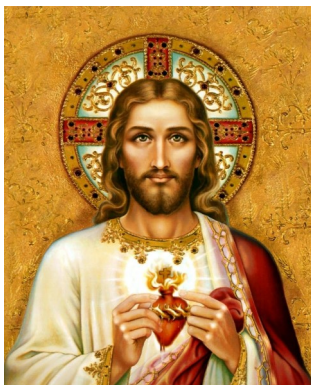
*Greenwood's February
Communion Offering*

HEART
HAVENS



American Heart Month

God's Valentine



By Jim Calderone

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

(Continued on page 3)



God's Valentine: Continued

(Continued from page 2)

Most Americans love Valentine's Day because it is a day when love is celebrated with hugs, kisses, cards, flowers, chocolates – and hearts. Throughout human history the human heart is celebrated as the center, the character of a person – “She has a good heart.” The heart is the love one has for self and others, the source of feeling, and even thinking – “He needs to think more with his heart.” The heart is also a symbol of life, spirit, and sacrifice – especially in Christian Tradition.

Going as far back as the Second Century and St. Justin Martyr, the heart of Jesus has been seen as a symbol of love, sacrifice, the essence of God's gift of life itself – “The heart of existence.”

Through the centuries, many Roman Catholics have associated with and celebrated Jesus' Heart, calling it the “Sacred Heart of Jesus.” You may have seen pictures or statues of the Sacred Heart: a heart exposed and entrusted to humanity – God giving away His heart.

Some renderings of the Sacred Heart show it exposed on Jesus' chest, surrounded by flames and a crown of thorns with a cross on top. In these renderings, Jesus exposes God's “burning heart (radical love)” and makes it vulnerable in order to give it away (even though it may not be reciprocated).

A symbol of Jesus' love for humanity and his willingness to sacrifice it for us all, some pictures of the Sacred Heart will have several drops of blood, which with the crown of thorns, call to mind Jesus being lanced while hanging from a cross, after suffering so much from the hands of those he loves and forgives. Jesus becomes humanity's “Blood Brother.”


Regardless of one's religious tradition, one may contemplate Jesus' heart as “God's Valentine” gift, freely given (entrusted) in love to all – a love which generates love of self, others, all Creation, God.

Many of us can remember a popular song from the past, entitled “Heart of My Heart.” The first stanza begins:

*Heart of My Heart, I love that melody
Heart of My Heart brings back a memory ...*

This Valentine's Day may stir for many a memory of the pure, unconditional love God gives each one of us, without exception, radiating from the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is a gift given each moment – a gift which holds us in existence and enables us to mirror God's unending love for all and everything ... May it be so.

For God

so loved the world
that He gave His
only
begotten 
Son so
that whosoever
believes
in Him shall not
perish but have
eternal life.



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John 3:16



Dial in to Prayer Call

Hey! Got 15 minutes? Got 15 minutes on Tuesday mornings? Of course, you do, unless you're busy colonizing Mars.

So, why don't you spend those 15 minutes taking advantage of Jesus' promise in Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Join Pastor TaeWon and other members of the Greenwood church family gather at 8 a.m. every Tuesday on Greenwood's Prayer Call.

What's that? You're commuting to work? No problem: be sure you have a hands free system for your cell phone, dial in and listen to the prayers. Dialing in to Prayer Call while driving in Richmond traffic might help your road rage.

Or, if you're asleep that time of day, again, no problem. Set your alarm, dial in and, after all God's children on the call say "Amen," consider it a bedtime prayer and you can go back to sleep in peace.

All smart aleck aside, you're missing out if you're not on the Tuesday morning Prayer Call. Not only do we pray together, we also enjoy Christian fellowship. Pastor TaeWon presents a hymn and a devotional with a Bible lesson then leads us in intercessory prayers for those we want to lift up to God. Then we wrap it up with the Lord's Prayer.

While everyone on the call is welcome to sound off, it's not necessary to say anything. If you don't know what to pray for or about, remember what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome: "... the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26.) And in his letter to the Philippians, he wrote: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6.)



To join prayer call, dial in at (605) 313-5873, enter access code: 3108329, press #. Please mute your phone unless you're adding a prayer. In the spirit of full disclosure, we sometimes, to the enrichment of our souls, run over 15 minutes .

See you in church, and I'll be listening for you on Tuesday mornings.





Greenwood Learning Center

Planning for Valentine's Day

By Trish Hayes, GLC Lead

Happy New Year from all of us here at Greenwood Learning Center. January has been a mixed bag for us at here at the Greenwood After School ministry. We have missed a lot of school days already this year due to the winter holiday, scheduled days off and snow days. It also seems like everyone here got sick with some sort of winter illness. Our own Miss Dorothy was out the last part of December and the first part of January. We are so happy and blessed she is back to us feeling so much better.

We thank our substitute teachers for coming and filling in during our time of need, Nicholas Hayes who was home from college for Christmas break and Nana Jo, who has stepped in to help out with the kiddos before. I personally want to thank them both for their help because getting those kiddos ready for Christmas with all their projects and with all their high holiday energy would have been exhausting if not impossible without help.

So now as we look forward to a new month and everyone returning to their optimal health, we are excited about all the projects we can plan for our friends and family for Valentine's Day. If anyone would like to join us for Valentine's Day or just a day of arts and crafts, please let me know. The kids and I would love to have you!


Smiles, Miss Trish!



Bad weather days are good puzzle



Aggie's Attic — a Greenwood UMC Mission Project
 6913 Lakeside Avenue, Henrico, 804-921-9385
 Hours: Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
 Click [here](#) for Aggie's Facebook page.






February Eating Opportunities

Men's Breakfast Returns!



The Moose is back and he invites all the men of Greenwood to breakfast at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3 in the Fellowship Hall.

Bag Lunches are Back!

Pick up after worship services on Sunday, Feb. 25. Menu: Meat balls, macaroni and cheese, roll, chocolate pie — only \$8/lunch. Sign up on the poster in the narthex before February 18.



Fellowship Dinner



Because it's getting dark so early in the winter, we're temporarily moving the monthly Fellowship Dinner to daytime. The February Fellowship Dinner will be Sunday, Feb. 11, right after worship service. Menu: Soups: chicken vegetable, potato and beef vegetable; grilled cheese sandwich; tossed salad; dessert — \$10/dinner. Sign up on the form in the insert.

Thanks from FunRaisers

The FunRaisers are proud to announce that you did it again. With your help in donations, buying home-made pickles and bag lunches. We were able to install LED lights in the Educational Building. Tribble Electric installed all for the price of \$1,240.00. We also had a problem with the piano in the choir room and this was taken care of by Joe Presko for \$240.00. The checking account balance is \$1,260.07 as of Dec. 29, 2023.

Bless each and everyone that made this all happen. We can not thank you enough!

Greenwood Stewardship

The People of Greenwood can take pride that we paid 100% of our apportionments in 2023. Not every United Methodist Church is able to achieve such a goal. We paid our obligations, kept the lights on and still contributed to various missions and charities — like Aggie's Attic. .

At right is December's attendance and giving.

January 2024		
Attendance and Giving		
Date	Present	Giving
01/07	26	\$2,734
01/14	35	\$2,939
01/21	30	\$3,128
01/28	26	\$1,077



Communications Survey Results

By Steve Stalnaker, Greenwood Communications Committee Chair

Thanks to everyone in the church family who participated in last December’s communications survey which focused on our monthly newsletter, *The Twig Bender*.

One result of that survey is that we’ll no longer print the paper edition of *The Twig Bender* in color as we had done a couple of times last fall. The overwhelming feedback we got — 80 % — indicated that respondents didn’t think a newsletter in color was worth the extra expense. So be it.

Another other result of the survey is that we’ll keep on doing what we’ve been doing: we’ll continue publishing all the regular newsletter features. In the table below, you can see how those regular features scored in the survey, on the one to five scale:

Those scores help me prioritize what I can leave out if necessary due to any emergent space limitation; although this hasn’t been much of a problem in the past.

Write-in comments received include: “More about our ministries like Aggies Attic, Food Donation Connection, etc.,” “World-wide happenings – war zone updates; Biblical prophesy coming true;” “High points or recap of Administrative Council, Trustees and Finance Committee meetings;” And (*my favorite*): “Keep up the good work!” And here’s an even more important comment: “God bless the new Greenwood!”



Newsletter Feature	Score
Pastor’s message.	4.9
Stewardship Recap of Previous Month’s Giving.	4.7
Editor’s Article.	4.6
Upcoming events (“Mark Your Calendar”).	4.6
Vital Statistics: Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries.	4.6
Women’s Circles News.	4.5
Calendar.	4.5
Monthly Communion Offering.	4.5
Monthly Scriptures.	4.4
Greenwood Learning Center (GLC) Update.	4.3
Feature Articles	4.1
Food Donation Connection News and Pick Up Rotation.	4.1

And here’s an even more important comment: “God bless the new Greenwood!”

So, we will continue to publish your newsletter as we’ve been doing, both in print and electronically. I urge any of our readers who can access the Internet to opt out of the paper copy and read the newsletter online.

going electronic:

- It’s in color.
- Less paper clutter in your mailbox and your house.
- Saves the church time and money on production and mailing paper newsletters.

There’s a number of advantages to



Communications Survey: Continued

(Continued from page 7)

The online version of *The Twig Bender* is always available at our website along with archives going back to 2019. We may be able to get more archived editions of the newsletter uploaded in the coming months. We'd be happy to have some help with this.



The links in the online *Twig Bender* are active; the reader need only click on the imbedded link to jump to that website, page or email.

Many of us like a paper copy to read, so readers can always print out the newsletter to read when they're offline – print it in color, gray scale or black and white as you choose.

And did I mention that the online version of *The Twig Bender* is in living color?

If you're currently receiving a paper copy – like 60% of the respondents to our communications survey – consider opting out and if you decide to do so, you can email the church office at admin@gumcva.org, or call 804-266-5341. Or you can just tell the editor.

Thanks to our authors, proofreaders and production team for helping to make *The Twig Bender* the quality communications tool that the People of Greenwood deserve.



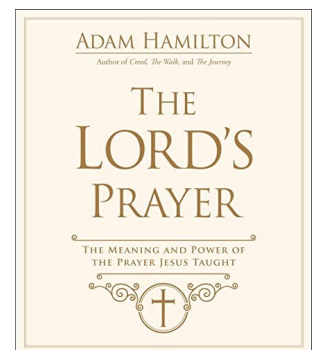
Greenwood's Women's Circles

THE RUTH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. in the home of Ann Via. We will continue with our Bible study, *Bad Girls of the Bible*.

THE WILLING WORKERS CIRCLE meets Friday, Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at the church.

Lenten Bible Study

Starting Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 10:30 a.m., Pastor TaeWon will lead us in a Bible Study in Lent using the book *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught* by Rev. Adam Hamilton. The study will run for five Wednesdays through March 20. All are welcome to join. The book is available online from Amazon [here](#) or from Cokesbury [here](#).





































Greenwood United Methodist Church

February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH				1 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	2 6 p.m. Food Distribution 6 p.m. Willing Workers Circle 	3 Men's Breakfast 
4 Communion Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	5 National Weather-person Day 	6 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle 	7 Send a Card to a Friend Day 	8 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers </div>	9 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	10 Umbrella Day 
11 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	12 Clean Out Your Computer Day 	13 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	14 Ash Wednesday St. Valentine's Day 	15 Gumdrop Day 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	16 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	17 Random Act of Kindness Day 
18 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	19 Presidents Day 	20 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	21 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 	22 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	23 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> RIVER CITY RUG HOOKERS </div>
25 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day 	27 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	28 National Tooth Fairy Day 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 	29 Leap Day 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	  	  



Food Donation Connection

We served 40 families in December 2023.

February Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, Jan. 31: Charley Banks; Thursday, Feb. 1: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Feb. 2: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Feb. 7: Jean Mowatt and Lori Lohr; Thursday, Feb. 8: Susan Johnston; Friday, Feb. 9: James Calderone.

Wednesday, Feb. 14: Charley Banks; Thursday, Feb. 15: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Feb. 16: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Feb. 21: Jean Mowatt and Lori Lohr; Thursday, Feb. 22: Susan Johnston; Friday, Feb. 23: James Calderone.

Wednesday, Feb. 28: Charley Banks; Thursday, Feb. 29: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, March 1: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.



FEBRUARY SCRIPTURES

Feb. 4	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39.
Feb. 11	2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.
Feb. 18	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.
Feb. 25	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.

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





Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Gay Stapleton..... 2/1	Billy Anderson..... 2/21
Teresa Coleman 2/1	Alison Smith..... 2/22
Lorrie Bowie..... 2/7	Joseph Stanley 2/22
Riley Patteson 2/19	Tom Stephens..... 2/26
Jordan Stapleton 2/20	Harry Shuler 2/28

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.



Tuesday Prayer Call

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.



Welcome Richmond Beekeepers

The Richmond Beekeepers Association meets in the Greenwood Fellowship Hall the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™



Prayer Request Email



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





Mark Your Calendars

- March 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- March 24 Palm Sunday
- March 29 Good Friday
- March 31 Easter Sunday
- April 15 Tax Day
- April 23 — May 3..... UMC General Conference
- May 12..... Mother’s Day
- May 27..... Memorial Day
- June 16 Father’s Day
- June 20 — 22..... Virginia Annual Conference
- July 4..... Independence Day

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



The Twig Bender

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