



Prayer List Our Nation

Our Church Families
 GUMC Learning Ctr.
 Katie Corson and Family
 Kent Messamore's Family
 Lacye Ryan
 Arline, David and Carroll
 Shafer
 Carolyn Smith
 Frances Stalnaker
 Linda Townshend

In This Issue

[From the Pastor](#) 2
[Easter Egg Hunt](#)..... 3
[School Supplies](#) 3
[UMFS](#)..... 4
[Food Connection](#)..... 6
[Feb. Scriptures](#) 6
[Stewardship](#) 8
[Circles](#)..... 8
[Vital Statistics](#)..... 9
[Calendar](#)..... 10
[Upcoming Dates](#) 11

My Favorite Uncle

By Steve Stalnaker

This month I am exercising an editor's personal privilege and dedicating this article to the memory of Jon Kent Messamore, my favorite uncle and de-facto big brother.

Kent passed away last month due to Covid complications; he'd been hospitalized since before Thanksgiving. He was 82.

Only 10 years older than me, Kent and I had a different uncle-nephew relationship than most; he was the big



Jon Kent Messamore
1939 — 2022

brother I never had. I am incredibly privileged and blessed to have been a small part of his life.

Kent taught me to play chess. At the height of the Rock 'n' Roll Era, he got me interested in classical music! Edvard Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" is still one of my favorite pieces of music.

My big brother sparked in me an interest in science and technology that I still enjoy. He exposed me to the basics of nuclear physics and chemistry. When I was in the sixth grade, I was a part of an accelerated learning program. Each of us "Rapid Learners" had to make a presentation to the class on something that interested us. All the other

(Continued on page 7)

From the Pastor

“Pray and Go”

¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in My name [as My representative], this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified and celebrated in the Son. –*John 14:13 Amplified Bible*

Wow. January 2022 has ended. With five Sundays, the month seemed to drag on. And maybe, like me, some of the things you had hoped to have gotten started on by now you have yet to achieve. Between the weather and the COVID-19 omicron variant it has been a challenge for all of us to get off to the start we had hoped for this new year. However, I am hopeful and trust God that all things are working out for our good because we love God and are called according to God’s purpose.

I am excited about preparing our churches to connect to our neighbors and being more **intentional in building relationships** so we can hear their stories, understand their fears, and needs, as we strive to do life alongside them. Yes, we have continued to keep the Friday Food Distribution going and collecting clothing items and school

supplies, but we want to go beyond this. If we are going to reach new people, we must learn how to care and invest in people.

One of the ways in which we will begin to learn how to care and invest in people will be to

(Continued on page 5)



PRAY & GO

Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge
 Starting Tuesday, March 8th thru April 5th @6:30 p.m.
 Zoom Meeting ID: 843 7918 5506 Passcode: 998428
 –or–
 Greenwood United Methodist Church
 10040 Greenwood Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060
 For More Information, Contact josettefranklin@vaumc.org

*Greenwood's February
Communion Offering:*



Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

Greenwood's Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt returns on Saturday, April 16 on the church lawn.



After a moratorium dictated by Covid pandemic restrictions, this annual Greenwood outreach tradition resumes, sponsored by the Willing Workers Circle.

The highlight of this year's Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt will, of course, be the hunt itself. Other traditional and first-time outreach projects are being planned. Watch the *Twig Bender*, *Greenwood Grapevine* or our [website](#) for updates as we get closer to Easter.

Those interested in helping with this wonderful neighborhood outreach event should contact Mary Cullom, Glenda Stalnaker or Gay Stapleton. We'll need people to take home plastic Easter eggs, fill them with candy and return them to the church. Empty plastic eggs will soon be available in the narthex.

Stay tuned for more details and timelines.

School Supplies Drive

By Greenwood Lay Leader Lewis Daniel

I want to thank all the people in the Greenwood family for your donations of school supplies for Longdale Elementary School. This school has served many Greenwood UMC families over the years, including my own.

We always appreciate your stepping up to help those in our community who are in need. This is a great way to let the Longdale folks know that we do care and want every child there to do well and be successful.



UMFS

Child and Family Healing Center

Submitted by Susan Johnston

United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) is excited to share that Phase 1 of their “Be a Champion Capital Campaign” has been completed. Construction of the new UMFS Child and Family Healing Center building is done, and residents are excited to begin moving into their new home.

This beautiful new facility will serve youth ages 11 - 18 who are struggling with acute mental health challenges. Youth live on the UMFS Richmond campus for 3 - 18 months while participating in customized therapeutic treatment to help them heal.

This state-of-the-art facility provides many meaningful upgrades to both the living space and therapy space. Each child has a private room which includes a private bathroom. Group and family therapy spaces are dramatically expanded, and all spaces have modern, soothing décor.

UMFS is grateful for the generous support of the “Be a Champion Campaign” donors. Thank you for making this beautiful, healing space possible!

Phase 2 of the campaign will help expand the UMFS Charterhouse School. Visit [UMFS.org/campaign](https://www.umfs.org/campaign) to learn more and be a part of the movement!



Pray and Go

(Continued from page 2)

“shift from attractational (expecting the community to show up at the building on Sunday) to dispatched movement (disciples sent to share the Good News).”

Prayer is key to intentional relationship building. Jesus taught us how to pray (*Matthew 6:9-13*), he prayed for his disciples and all believers while in the Garden of Gethsemane (*John 17:9-24*), and he instructed the disciples to pray for him (*Matt. 26:38, 40–41*). One of the four chief characteristics of the church in Jerusalem after Pentecost was that they devoted themselves to prayer (*Acts 2:42*). The apostle Paul pleaded on numerous occasions for the community of faith to pray for him and others (*see, for example, 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1*). And as believers we are commanded in James 5:17 to “pray for one another.” Praying for others is a vital part of being a disciple of Christ.

Begun in September 2019, we continue every Tuesday at 8 a.m. to gather for corporate prayer on our “open to all” Zoom Prayer Call. And this year, I am happy to announce, we will engage in teaching, to learn how to **create a prayer-centered culture** in our church that leads to outward focus and community impact. We will walk through all the steps we need to make prayer a core component of our church’s outreach strategy and take prayer into our communities—around the church and around our homes.

Every Tuesday, March 8 through April 5 at 6:30 p.m., in-person and virtual, our churches will study together using the “Pray and Go” Outreach Program. Participants at the end of this program will design a plan and apply what was learned to go outside the church building, into their own neighborhoods, and the community around our churches. It’s going to be great – join us!



Peace and blessing to all,

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*

Food Donation Connection

February Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, Feb 2: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Feb. 3: Susan Johnston;
Friday, Feb 4: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Feb 9: Charley Banks; Thursday, Feb. 10: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday,
Feb 11: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Feb. 16: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Feb. 17: Susan Johnston;
Friday, Feb 18: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Feb. 23: Charley Banks; Thursday, Feb. 24: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday,
Feb. 28: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, March 2: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, March. 3: Susan Johnston;
Friday, March 4: Josette Franklin.



FEBRUARY SCRIPTURES

Colossians Series 2022: "The Answer Is Jesus Christ"

Feb. 6	Colossians 1:1-10	"Continual Prayer"
Feb. 13	Colossians 1:11-23	"Steadfast Faith"
Feb. 20	Colossians 1:24-2:5	"Powerful Inspiration"
Feb. 27	Colossians 2:6-15	"Whole Fullness of Christ"

My Favorite Uncle

(Continued from page 1)

11-year-old boys made presentations about baseball; mine was on the basic design of a nuclear reactor – because of Kent.

In the process of earning his B.S. degree in physics at the University of Oklahoma, Kent was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Air Force. I didn't hold this against him. Kent served as a radar officer, helping protect his country during the Cold War.

He introduced me to the hobbies of model railroading and plastic model airplanes. An accomplished photographer, Kent tried to get me interested in that art form, but my muse led me to writing, journalism and editing. Kent was an expert in Photoshop and the techniques he taught me have helped enhance your newsletter.

Fascinated about our family's ancestry, Kent wrote three books about our genealogy. He identified one of our ancestors from an insurance claim filed after the Great Fire of London, England in 1666. I've stood on that property – it's now a parking lot. Another branch of our family settled in southwestern Virginia in an area that was eventually named for us: Dickenson County.

My first ship in the Navy was homeported in Boston, near where Kent and his wife Regie lived. When we joined that ship, Glenda was pregnant with our first son, Mike, and Regie was expecting a baby boy who would become my Godson, Wade. Kent and Regie provided local family support to Glenda and me, two young newlyweds far from home.

As we moved about the country from one Navy duty station to another, we were not able to be as close to Kent and his family as I wish we could have been, but we have stayed in touch. When Kent was first hospitalized with Covid, I was able to talk to him on the phone. He didn't sound like any 82-year-old with Covid; he sounded his usual robust, life-loving self. That's how I will remember my favorite uncle, my big brother, my mentor. God bless him and his family and may he rest in peace. Thanks, Kent for all you did for me and our family.



Kent (right), his son Wade and grandson Evan.

Greenwood Stewardship



Despite COVID quarantines and restricted gatherings, Greenwood's expenses still must be paid. We need \$2,489 per week to meet expenses. In January, our weekly giving average was \$2,315 or 93% of what's required each week.

Greenwood's Women's Circles

The Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 1 p.m. in the home of Adamarye Patteson.

The Willing Workers will meet Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 2:30 p.m. in the church office. They'll be planning this year's Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt ([see page 3](#)) and other out-reach projects.



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 month's Communion.



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





Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Gay Stapleton	2/1	Jordan Stapleton.....	2/20
Teresa Coleman	2/1	Alison Smith.....	2/22
Lorrie Bowie.....	2/7	Joseph Stanley	2/22
Riley Patteson	2/19	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**.*

**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

© 2022 Greenwood UMC — all rights reserved



Greenwood United Methodist Church

February 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle 	2  Ground Hog Day 2:30 p.m. Willing Workers Circle	3 The Day The Music Die 	4 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	5 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 	
6 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	7 Send a Card to a Friend Day 	8 Boy Scout Day 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	9 Nat'l Pizza Day 	10 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers 	11 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	12 Lincoln's Birthday 	
13 Scout Sunday 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship 	14 Valentine's Day 	15 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6 p.m. Finance Cmte 6:30 p.m. Church Administrative	16 Susan B. Anthony Day 	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day 	18 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	19 Nat'l Chocolate Mint Day 	
20 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	21 Presidents Day 	22 George Washington's Birthday 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	23 Tennis Day 	24 Nat'l Tortilla Chip Day 	25 Twig Bender Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	26 Carpe Diem Day 	
27 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	28 Nat'l Peanut Butter Day 	March 1 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	2 Ash Wednesday 	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #cccccc;"> <h3>FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH</h3> </div>			

Mark Your Calendars

March 2.....Ash Wednesday
 March 8..... Pray & Go Starts
 March 13.....Daylight Saving Time Begins
 April 15 Good Friday
 April 17 Easter Sunday
 May 8.....Mother’s Day
 June 5.....Pentecost
 June 16 – 18..... VAUMC Annual Conference
 June 19.....Father’s Day
 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

