



From the Pastor's Desk

Greenwood Begins 2025 with Epiphanies of All Kinds

On Sunday, January 5, we observed the Feast of Epiphany with communion and the recent Christian practice of Star Words- where members receive a star with a word upon which to focus their spiritual journey for the New Year. During worship we shared the words with one another. Even though the words were chosen at random, each one seemed to touch each person in the right way: as a new mantra, meditation, or practice.

The month of January will see the 38th Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. As United Methodists we support “the prophetic witness of Dr. King for justice and peace embodies the spirit of the Social Creed, the Social Principles and the inclusiveness of our denomination. His words continue to inspire and guide our commitment to the whole Gospel. As Rev. King said himself, ‘We cannot be truly Christian people so long as we flaunt the central teachings of Jesus: brotherly love and the Golden Rule.’ We will observe MLK Day as a way to enrich and strengthen Greenwood’s already strong social witness.”

In the wake of insights from the Feast of Epiphany, and MLK Day dreams, Greenwood will have an opportunity to envision its future with a discernment event. On Sunday, January 26, from 12 noon - 3:00 p.m. the entire congregation will gather for an afternoon retreat with lunch in the Fellowship Hall with Rev. Dr. Jonathan Page, Director for Connectional Ministries for Church Innovation and Creativity (VAUMC). You can RSVP via email, or by signing up with the bulletin insert on Sundays.



The month of January will give us the chance to follow new Epiphany stars, increase our witness for justice, and dream a new future for Greenwood. Adventure awaits!

Celebrating 150 Years of Greenwood

What Greenwood Means to Me: Jeannette Jackson



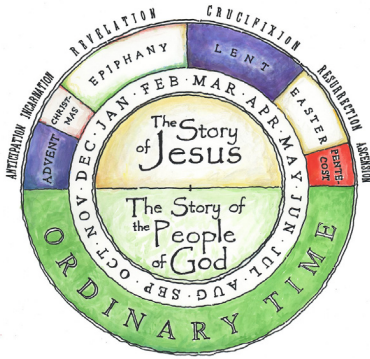
In the month of December, Greenwood signed Christmas cards for all of our semi/homebound members to share glad tidings. Pastor Crystal was able to visit these legacy members to deliver the cards as well as share handmade Christmas ornaments from the Hayes Honeybees (the newest iteration of Greenwood's former after school program). Jeannette Jackson- and her daughter Patricia Rios- were two such recipients. Both shared memories of Greenwood's ministry with children and youth: the different kinds of programs and the ways members looked out for each other as they raised families together. They also shared memories of Mr. Jackson's longtime leadership at the church. Pastor Crystal invited the Jackson family to attend the Sesquicentennial Celebration scheduled to take place on May 18th. "Greenwood is such a special place, with such sweet people," said Mrs. Jackson. "I will do everything I can to be there!"

A Tree With A Story: **A Church With 150 Years Worth of Memories.**

As part of the 150th Anniversary, the beloved tree which sits in the middle of our church campus will receive some tender love and care this early spring and play a special role in our sesquicentennial celebration. The tree is believed to have been planted by young members of the church roughly 50 years ago. However, the tree's exact origins remain a mystery. Do you know the story of the tree? Can you share with us? What other stories about Greenwood matter to you? Email us: admin@gumcva.org



Greenwood Worship: Where Liturgical Tradition and Creativity Meet



The Christian Liturgical Calendar is designed to educate believers on the biblical story and support the celebration of high holy days. This graphic shows how the calendar spends the winter and spring sharing the story of God, while the summer and fall are designed to share the story of God's people. Our worship team works hard to bring this Christian heritage to life through the five senses.

What do you see? Worship Team Members Mrs. Gay Stapleton and Ms. Jean Mowatt use their creativity each week to make altarscapes which describe the liturgical theme for each Sunday in three dimensional form. Communications Support Lori Lohr creates the slideshow each week using graphics that illustrate the scriptures in vivid colors.



What do you hear? Each week the choir leads the congregation by singing hymns and anthems that help us explore theological concepts through music and by raising our own voices in song. Pastor Crystal typically preaches from the lectionary so that members can hear the totality of the bible over three years. Pastor Crystal uses the lectionary - which is a compilation of the holy scriptures that are tied to the liturgical calendar - which allows the story of God and God's people to be told with a different focus over the course of three years.

What do you feel? During Advent, members received a spoon, a wooden dove ornament, a battery operated votive, and a felt cloth heart; during Wesley's Covenant Service, members received commitment cards for 2025, and on Epiphany, everyone received a Star Word to guide them into the new year. These items all provide a tactile experience in worship and help teach the scriptures through sense of touch.

What do you taste and smell? Communion is the most obvious place where our sense of taste and smell is engaged. At Greenwood for World Communion Sunday we experienced holy communion with breads from around the globe heightening our sense of a faith shared throughout the earth's four corners. In the fall of 2024, Greenwood experimented with Taize worship during a Sunday morning service.

What do you experience? When we put together the liturgical calendar and the sensory elements of worship it adds up to exploring our faith in palpable ways. We get to align ourselves with what American Methodist historian and theologian Albert C. Outler (1908 -1989) described as Wesley's Quadrilateral where we engage all four sources of insight: scripture, reason, tradition, and experience. This allows us to bring ALL of ourselves to worship, and allows all of our SELVES to be shaped by it.

CALENDAR

WINTER 2025

- 1-11 Richmond BeeKeepers, Every Second Saturday
- 1-12 God's Trombone Service, 2:00pm, Asbury UMC
- 1-14 Finance Committee Meeting, 2:00pm
Administrative Council Meeting, 3:00pm
- 1-18 The Friendship Quilters, Every Third Saturday
- 1-19 MLK Day Observed
- 1-21 Sesquicentennial Committee, 10:00am
- 1-25 Richmond City Rug Hookers, Every Fourth Saturday
- 1-26 Greenwood, Dream and Discernment Event, 12:00-3:00pm
- 1-30 UMC Day at General Assembly
- 2-05 Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee Meeting, 2:00pm
- 2-16 Fellowship Dinner and Valentine's Day Celebration
- 3-01 Men's Breakfast Resumes, 8:00am

Greenwood Generosity : A Historic White Christmas Offering

Members continue to give with faithfulness. Funds are used for staff salaries, church operations, and programming. These ministries are possible because of your generosity- thank you!

On Sunday, December 15, the church took up its annual White Christmas Offering, which is used to address gaps in the estimated budget and actual giving. The first offering totaled \$4,508, with another \$220 shortly following for a total of \$4,728. This total is the highest level of giving on record for Greenwood UMC in years. The Administrative Council, the Finance Committee and Pastor Crystal extend their deep appreciation to our members who gave generously this holiday season!

DATE	PRESENT	GIVING
12-01	33	\$2,549
12-08	26	\$1,910
12-15	32	\$1,153
plus White Christmas		\$4,508
12-22	50	\$1,441
plus White Christmas		\$ 220
12-29	30	\$1,294
01-05	28	\$2,755



Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Susan Johnston • January 4

Steven Shaw • January 4

John Johnston • January 29

ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries to share this month.
Anniversaries will return in April.

LOOKING FORWARD TO FELLOWSHIP IN 2025

**Men's Breakfast will resume on
Saturday, Mar 1, 2025**

**8:00am-9:30-ish
Fellowship Hall**

Contact Charley Banks for more details:
CharleyBanks@aol.com



LONGDALE ELEMENTARY AND GREENWOOD UMC:

A Partnership in Community Service



In November, Longdale Elementary staff member Ms. Demetris delivered 11 boxes of food and clothing which Longdale families had collected as part of their Thanksgiving donation drive. As a result, the church was able to give several community members extra food for the holidays as well as supply new school clothing for two local families with a total of nine grade school children.

In December, a lay member donated seven blankets which the Food Connection volunteers were able to distribute to the community. In addition, Greenwood embarked on its second School Supply Drive for the year. Continuing into early January members donated: Colored Markers, Colored Pencils, Glue Sticks, Colored Folders and Pencil Pouches/Boxes. The supplies are scheduled to be delivered mid-January.

Because of this decades-long partnership between Greenwood UMC and Longdale Elementary many people in need had food, clothing, and extra supplies during the chilly holiday season. A wonderful embodiment of Greenwood's mission to be "loving, growing, and serving"!

Opportunities for Mission and Service

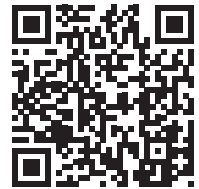
Food Connection... Needs Another Connection

For years, Greenwood has been a proud member of the Virginia Community Food Connection program partner. As followers of Christ, it is our heartfelt conviction to help alleviate hunger within our community. The program is currently staffed weekly by two volunteers, Trish Hayes and Peter Carty. As we continue to grow into this mission it has come to our awareness that we need a third person to staff the line in the parking lot to offer a warm welcome and to set the tone for conduct for recipients. For more information, please contact Trish Hayes: Hayeshoneybees@gmail.com

United Methodist Day at General Assembly

January 30, Pace Center, 700 West Franklin, Richmond. 7:30am-3:00pm.

Members are invited to join with clergy and laity across the Virginia Conference for a morning program and afternoon meetings with state legislators at the Capitol. Rev. Sygeel will attend and carpooling to the event will be available. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with lawmakers and voice your concerns.



SCAN HERE

UMCOR Recovery Efforts for Hurricane Helene

UMCOR is continuing its relief efforts to help the areas impacted by Hurricane Helene. To learn about these efforts, as well as contribute, please visit: <https://umcmmission.org/united-states-disaster-response>

SAVE THE DATE: *Sesquicentennial Celebration*



We're turning 150 plus one!

On May 3, 1874, the first meeting of Greenwood United Methodist Church took place under an arbor located at the current corner of Greenwood and Francis Roads. On Sunday, May 18, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will preach as Greenwood turns the page from its 150th to its 151st year.

A Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee met on Tuesday, December 17 to discuss plans for the historic occasion. The committee is collecting photos and historical items for display and for the church archive. If you have historical items from Greenwood, Brookland Park, or Laurel Park -we'd love to have them! Please contact Nancy Lloyd to explore next steps: nlloyd354@gmail.com

Did Someone Say, “Un/Deck the Halls”?



The week of November 25 saw eleven Greenwood members coming together on two separate occasions to transform our sanctuary from the liturgical season of Ordinary Time to the wonder and majesty of the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. Many hands made light work as members decked the halls to the sound of Christmas carols playing in the background.

The practice of Hanging of the Greens is when “...congregations may hang the greens closer to or even just before the beginning of Advent for use throughout Advent and Christmas Season,” according to Ask the UMC. “When hung for Advent, the symbolism of evergreens points to the unending life of the age to come when Christ returns, the dead are raised, and the righteous enter life in the new creation.”



Inclement weather allowed Greenwood more time to enjoy the lights, the tree, banners, trimmed pews and doors beyond Epiphany, and continue our witness to the “unending life of the age to come.”

Top:

The Greens Gang: Gay Stapleton, Peter Carty, Lawrence Stout, Steven Shaw, Mary Cullom, Libby Stout, Janice Banks, Charley Banks, and Nancy Lloyd.

Bottom:

Libby Stout finds a branch that needs some decoration.



Making the Season Bright

Greenwood members gathered throughout the holidays to enjoy merriment. The Ruth Circle celebrated the Christmas season on December 3 with a party at Mrs. Betty Ritchie’s with a homemade potluck, a gift exchange, and merriment. The Men’s Breakfast gathered on December 8 to break bread over a feast while sharing hot coffee, stories of faith, and plans for spring pruning for the church campus. The Willing Workers met for lunch and conversation. The Hayes Honeybees exchanged gifts with Pastor Crystal and the whole church exchanged seasons greetings through the Greenwood Christmas Mail with Mrs. Ritchie as our “postmaster.”

Greenwood
United Methodist Church
10040 Greenwood Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060
Return Service Requested

Our Prayer Ministry

Prayer Call, Tuesdays at 8:00 am:

Everyone is invited to join via conference call in prayer for our community and the world. Dial 605-313-5873, enter access code: 3108329#

Bulletin Prayer List: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, you may leave requests with the main office for the bulletin and/or with Pastor Crystal.

Joys And Concerns: During worship all are welcome to share challenges and celebrations for which they would like prayer.

In our prayers currently: Our Nation, The People and

Missions of Greenwood, People in Harm's way at Home and Around the World, our Food Donation Connection Recipients, The May Family, Cheryl & Jack Lucke, Dale Coleman, Steven Shaw, Jean Tichreign, Sarah Jones, Adam Womack, David Roberson, James McFarland, Wanda Jean Baumgardner, Gladys McDonald, Michael Thomas, Kristen Coleman, Darrell Coleman, Tommy Harper, Juanita Sharpe, Cathy Ellis, Bodhi Loving, Brian Bushnell, Diane Lohr, Marianna Heath, Robert Lewelyn, Mike Walsh, Lathan Fulcher, Jayden Shuler, Angela Burtis, Jeannette Jackson, Robbie & Robin Smith, Karen Thomas, Roger Eckwright, John Johnston, Adamanye & Riley Patterson, Lacye Ryan, Arline Shafer, Trish Hayes.

OUR MISSION

The mission of
The United Methodist
Church is to make
disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world.

—Matthew 28:19

OUR VISION

Loving
Growing
Serving

