



Our Ministry of Prayer

Our Nation

Those Affected by COVID19

Our homebound and

Shut-in members

Our church leaders

Carol Collier

Lori Lohr

Fred Patteson

Riley Patteson

Dean Pittman

Billy Stapleton

Do You Trust God?

By Steve Stalnaker

If ever there was a time to worry, it might be now as the year 2020 draws to a close (more about that next month).

Worrying means giving way to anxiety or unease; allowing one's mind to dwell on difficulty or troubles. Yep. That's what goes on with *me* when *I* worry.

If you have faith in God, why worry? Do you have the faith of the woman who had been suffering through 12 years of hemorrhaging (Matthew 9:20–22, Mark 5:25–34, Luke 8:43–48)?

There's more to this woman's condition than just a chronic and debilitating health condition. Keep in mind that she wasn't just "inconvenienced" by twelve years of hemorrhaging. In Jewish law, she was ritually unclean and was ostracized – quarantined – from family and friends. Anything she touched was unclean. She had a lot more to worry about than many of us might have today .

This Gospel story tells us this long-suffering, "unclean" woman had used up all her resources being treated by a multitude of physicians. Yet her problem continued to beset her. She was at the end of her

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From the Pastor

Company is Coming!

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come. ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The First Sunday of Advent on Nov. 29 we lit our first candle for Hope. The following Sundays we will light the candles for Faith, Joy and Peace.

The beginning of the liturgical year, Advent is observed by Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the birth of Christ and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. This year the United Methodist Church's Advent theme is "Company Is Coming."

As I reflect on this theme, I am reminded many of us this holiday season will not be expecting the usual company of family and friends. Many of our loved ones have died. The health authorities have cautioned against large family gatherings. Family members are in nursing and retirement homes and quarantined. Some of us live alone. Others prefer not to put people at risk because of working outside the home. There are sick family members and even friends who are high risk because of pre-existing health conditions. And some of us live quite a distance away from one another.



Regardless of the reasons, the company we keep this holiday season will be different from years past. Still, we can expect there is One who will come if we are willing

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*Our December Communion
Offering Goes to:
Virginia a Institute of Pastoral Care*



Greenwood Christmas Traditions



Despite the restrictions imposed on us by the COVID pandemic, Greenwood will continue some of its Christmas traditions, albeit a bit modified to suit the circumstances.

White Christmas: Your *gifts to the Christ Child* during in-person worship on Sunday, Dec. 20. Place your gifts in the manger in front of the altar.

- Those who can't make it to in-person worship, can **mail their gifts to the church** office or drop them off with the office volunteers Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Alternatively, those with **CASHAPP accounts** can give their gift to the Christ Child online. Remember to have your gifts delivered or posted by Dec. 20.
- White Christmas gifts go to Greenwood's general fund and help sustain the church and its missions. As always thanks for your generosity.

Christmas Card Exchange: We'll be providing this postage saving ministry a little differently this year.

- Those who can make it to in-person worship should leave their cards in the bag in the narthex by **Sunday, Dec. 13**.
- Those who can't be at in-person services can **drop their cards off with the church office volunteers** during regular office hours. There's also a drop box on the railing of the church office entrance on the side of the Sanctuary building.
- Greenwood church family members can **pick up their bundled cards** in the Sanctuary during in-person services on Sunday, Dec. 20 or at the Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24, or once again, during office hours.
- For those who can't pick up their cards in person, we'll provide a very limited delivery service (please don't abuse this privilege); call or email the church office to arrange.

Christmas Cantata: We are looking at the possibility of a **virtual Christmas Cantata** on Dec. 20. Nothing has been firmed up yet. Keep an eye on your *Quarantine Quips*, the Greenwood website and Greenwood's social media for the latest news.

Poinsettias: *We will be ordering poinsettias*; see the form on page 15 for all the details and to place your order.

She Laid Him in a Manger

By Linda Walker

During the Advent season we often display nativity scenes in our homes and yards.

Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first live nativity scene in 1223. Prior to that Saint Francis had visited the Holy Land where he had seen Jesus' traditional birthplace. He set up a manger with hay and two live animals – an ox and donkey – in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio to encourage the worship of Christ. He invited villagers to come see the scene while he preached about “the Babe of Bethlehem.” From then on nativity scenes became popular all over the world.



Nativity scenes are a gathering of people and animals that we read about in the Gospels in the Bible, including the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph. An angel announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds who then visited Jesus. Wise men and their camels are often included, even though the Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus was about one or two years old when they visited Him in a house.

The picture included with this article is of a nativity scene I have from Puerto Rico, carved from a coconut. In the past I would take care of cats that belonged to my friend, Marilynn, while she spent two weeks with her family in Puerto Rico during Christmas. One year she brought the nativity back to me to thank me.

As we all bring out our Christmas decorations this year, let us remember the “reason for the season” – the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Shop Safely Online

Downloaded from Various Internet Sources

'Tis the season to shop and a lot of us are shopping online now. Here are some tips to buy safely.

Know who you're dealing with. Anyone can set up shop online under almost any name. Confirm the online seller's physical address and phone number in case you have questions or problems. And if you get an email or pop-up message that asks for your financial information while you're browsing, don't reply or follow the link. Legitimate companies don't ask for information that way.

Know what you're buying. Read the seller's description of the product closely, especially the fine print. Words like "refurbished," "vintage," or "close-out" may indicate that the product is in less-than-mint condition, while name-brand items with bargain basement prices could be counterfeits.

Know what it will cost. Check out websites that offer price comparisons and then compare "apples to apples." Factor shipping and handling into the total cost of your purchase.



Check out the terms of the deal, like refund policies and delivery dates. When will you get your order? Many sites offer tracking options,

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Greenwood Women's Circles

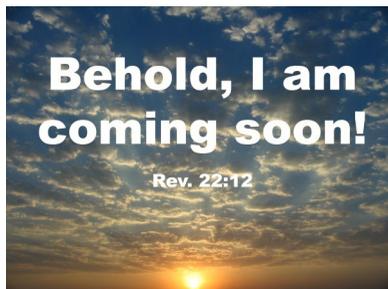
The Willing Workers Circle will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Cullom.

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 1 p.m. in the home of Betty Ritchie. Bring a light snack to share with everyone and also a gift to exchange.



Company is Coming!

(Continued from page 2)



to let Him in. His company will not put us at risk. His coming will not bring questions of possible exposure to the CORONA virus. He knows all about our troubles and hears our faintest cries. And we won't need a mask or social distancing to experience intimacy with Him. *Ready or not, Christ is coming.*

Yes, the Advent season is about preparing to celebrate Christ's birth. But what if Christ were to return for real? He is the most important guest ever! There are things we need to do to prepare! Look around — this place is a mess! 2020 turned things upside down and inside out. There is stuff everywhere.

The home of our hearts needs a good clean-up and purging so we can again know hope and have faith again that all things are possible with God. There is no point in putting up festive decorations if our minds are not transformed. The most important things need to be sorted. Whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing and commendable we need to refocus our thoughts and meditate on those things. So, we can once again know joy and experience peace.

There are just a few weeks left to prepare for Christmas. And no one knows the day nor the hour of His return and appearing, so there's that. I am waiting on the threshold with great expectation for Christ to show up! Prayers will be answered. Get ready. "Company is Coming." Time to clean-up and welcome the King!

Pastor Josette Franklin



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



Food Donation Connection

December Pick Up Rotation

Thanks to everyone who has been bringing in canned goods and fresh vegetables.



Wednesday, Dec. 2: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Dec. 3: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, Dec. 4: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Charley Banks; Thursday, Dec. 10: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, Dec. 11: Trish Hayes.

Wednesday, Dec. 16: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Dec. 17: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, Dec. 18: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, Dec. 23: Charley Banks; Thursday, Dec. 24: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, Dec. 25: Merry Christmas.

Wednesday, Dec. 30: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Dec. 31: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, Jan. 1: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

Pre-Packaged Communion Elements

Pre-packaged, already-consecrated Communion elements will be available for those not planning to attend monthly first Sunday in-person or drive-thru Communion services.

Elements can be picked up Wednesday — Friday at the Greenwood church office, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m. during the last week of each month for the next month's Communion.

The Virginia Annual Conference has authorized clergy to virtually bless the elements for those still listening or viewing services via virtual platforms.



Brunswick Stew Sale & Silent Auction

Another great outreach effort by the people of Greenwood back on October 31. We sold all that delicious stew by 2:30 p.m.

By the Numbers:

Stew Sales:\$2,972.00
 Silent Auction:.....\$ 586.00
 Less Expenses:-\$ 804.28
Net Profit.....\$ 2,753.72



So, we can send \$1,500 to our missionary in Cambodia and still have over \$1,200 for local missions and to help with Greenwood expenses.

Thanks to everyone who contributed and helped out!

Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures

December Lectionary Readings

Dec. 6: Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 13: Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 25: Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14
Dec. 27: First Sunday After Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Shop Safely Online

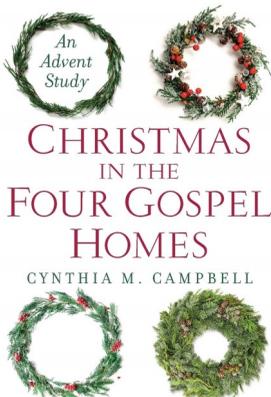
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so you can see exactly where your purchase is and estimate when you'll get it. Can you return the item for a full refund if you're not satisfied? Who pays return shipping costs or restocking fees.

Keep Records. Print or save records of your online transactions, including the product description and price, the online receipt and the emails you send and receive from the seller. Read your credit card statements as you receive them; be on the lookout for charges that you don't recognize.

Protect Your Information. Don't email any financial information. Email is not a secure method of transmitting financial information like your credit card, checking account or Social Security number. If you begin a transaction and need to give your financial information through an organization's website, look for indicators that the site is secure, like a URL that begins https (the "s" stands for secure). Unfortunately, no indicator is foolproof; some fraudulent sites have forged security icons.

Enjoy your holiday shopping, but do it safely and securely.



Advent Bible Study

How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it?

On Thursdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, at 6:30 p.m. we will engage in this Advent Study on Zoom only (telephone and/or video). The final installation of the Advent study will be a part of our Christmas Eve Service at Greenwood on Thursday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. which will also be on Zoom and Facebook Live.

Trusting God

(Continued from page 1)

rope. In her desperation, she threw herself on Jesus' mercy, faithfully believing that just touching his garment would heal her. And she was absolutely correct.

⁴⁶ ... Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." *(Luke 8:45—47, NIV)*

This demonstration of the power of faith is one of my favorite Bible stories. Imagine believing so strongly in Jesus' power that one only needed to touch His garment to be healed! I wish I had that woman's faith. "Daughter," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

God has repeatedly told us He has our best interests at heart and that He knows what's best for us: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" *(Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)*.



In several places in the Gospels, Jesus tells us not to worry. For example, "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" *(Matthew 6:27 – NIV.)* And never forget what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" *(Romans 8:31b NIV.)*

So, quit worrying and go in peace, for your faith will heal you.



Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Clarence Powell	12/9	Jamie Smith.....	12/15
Jonae Shuler	12/10	Kathryn Walker	12/21
Betty Coleman	12/11	Gail Stanley	12/28
Cindy Jo Daniel	12/11	Daniel Langston	12/28
Janice Banks.....	12/13	Jackie Schultz	12/31
Mary Cullom	12/13		

Anniversaries



Clarence & Kaye Powell 12/19

*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 **re-moved**.*



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Greenwood Poinsettias 2020

*Order Poinsettias through Sunday, Dec. 13
Poinsettias will be on the altar on Sunday, Dec. 20.*



Number of poinsettias: _____

Ordered by: _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

*Each poinsettia plant is \$15; **payment must accompany order.***

Use this page to order yours; clip it out and either mail it to the church office or drop it in the collection plate in the narthex, along with your payment. Please make checks out to Greenwood UMC with "Poinsettias" on the memo line.

Thanks for helping decorate Greenwood for Christmas!



Greenwood 2021 Offering Envelopes

... will be available for pick up after next Sunday, Dec. 6. You can pick up your envelope boxes during in-person worship, or come by the church during office hours: Tues. — Fri., 9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Those who can't make it, call the church office at 804-266-5341 and we'll make arrangements.



Greenwood United Methodist Church

December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 LPUMC UMW Blessing Bags Due 8 a.m. Prayer Call	2 1 p.m. Ruth Circle 6:30 p.m. Willing Workers Circle	3 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	4 6 p.m. Free Food 	5 No Men's Breakfast Prohibition Repealed 1933
6 Commu- ion Sun- day 11 a.m. In- Person and Virtu-	7 Pearl Har- bor Day 	8 8 a.m. Pray- er Call 	9 Nat'l Pastry Day 	10 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	11 6 p.m. Free Food 	12 Nat'l Poin- settia Day
13 Poinsettia Orders & Card Exchange Cards Due 11 a.m. In- Person and Virtual Wor- ship	14 Roast Chest- nuts Day 	15 8 a.m. Pray- er Call 	16 Nat'l Choco- late Coved Anything Day	17 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	18 6 p.m. Free Food 	19 Oatmeal Muffin Day
20 11 a.m. White Christmas In- Person and Virtual Wor- ship	21 Winter Solstice Winter Be- gins 	22 8 a.m. Pray- er Call 	23 Couldn't find something funny for this date.	24 Christmas Eve 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day— Merry Christmas! From the <i>Twig Bender</i> staff	26 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline
27 11 a.m. In- Person and Virtual Wor- ship	28 Boxing Day 	29 8 a.m. Pray- er Call 	30 Bacon Day 	31 New Year's Eve Watch Night 		



Mark Your Calendars

January 1.....New Year’s Day
 January 18.....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 January 19.....Church Admin Council 2021 Planning Meeting

Our Mission

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

Matt. 28:19



Our Vision

*Loving
 Growing
 Serving*