



## Prayer List

### Our Nation

Our Church Families  
 GUMC Learning Ctr.  
 Troy Eckwright  
 Michelle Gibbs  
 Mounayar Family  
 Jean Mowatt  
 Adamarye Patteson  
 Lacye Ryan  
 Leonaett Reese  
 Arline & David Shafer  
 Carolyn Smith  
 Cameron Smucker  
 Frances Stalnakar

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## For What are You Thankful?

By Steve Stalnakar

**T**hanksgiving Day. Turkey Day. The last Thursday in November. Family gathering. Stuffing oneself on roast turkey and all the trimmings. A comfy afternoon nap. Football games on TV. Preparing to fight the Black Friday crowds. Macy's Parade.



Arguably the biggest date in the month of November is Thanksgiving Day — November 25 this year. It eclipses even November 11, Veterans Day. Thanksgiving Day is the opening of a holiday season that runs through the first day of the upcoming new year.

Thanksgiving Day commemorates the “first” Thanksgiving in 1621 when the Massachusetts Bay Colonists (Pilgrims) met with Wampanoag First Immigrants (Indians) to feast and celebrate the successful harvest. Americans celebrated varied days of giving thanks over the next two centuries until President Abraham Lincoln – in the midst of the Civil War – declared that a National Day of Thanksgiving would be celebrated in November. Later, President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill designating the last Thursday in November as *the* Thanksgiving Day. Readers can find much more about the history of Thanksgiving Day at the [History Channel](#), [Wikipedia](#) and other online sources.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## *From the Pastor*

# The Sacrifice of Praise

*<sup>15</sup> Through Him, therefore, let us at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name. Hebrews 13:15 AMP (Amplified Bible).*

In September 1998 my first husband died. At 30 years old, I became a widow and a single mother to our two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Lydia. At the wake the evening before the funeral, the pianist who had been playing music had to leave early. So, I got up and went to the piano and continued the music until the wake was over. The morning of the funeral I sang a duet with my sister Linda. We sang "His Eye is On the Sparrow" and I also sang the recessional hymn with the choir: "We Shall Overcome."

You should know my husband became ill a month before our daughter's first birthday. He had to have a pass from the hospital to attend her first birthday party. A couple of months went by, and he was doing so much better. But the following year within a matter of a month he got ill again and died. So many prayers were lifted in that year on his behalf, but he did not survive.

Fred Cuffy II was a husband, father, son, brother, cousin, nephew and a friend to many. He was also a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And the prayers for him to survive and to be healed to stay here to father his child were not answered in the ways I had hoped. God did not come through the way I thought God would. I was heartbro-

*(Continued on page 11)*



*Greenwood's  
November  
Communion Offering:*



**Children's  
Hospital**  
of Richmond at **VCU**

## Advent Bible Study Starts Nov. 30

*The Heart that Grew Three Sizes* by Matt Rawle will be this year's Advent Bible Study, led by Pastor Josette beginning Tuesday, Nov. 30.

The Bible Study will be exclusively virtual, either on Zoom or by telephone; there will be no in-person meetings. Zoom/telephone information is listed below.

Subsequent Study dates are the first three Tuesdays in December: the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The Study book is available online from [Amazon](#) or [Cokesbury](#). Note that

the Amazon Kindle version

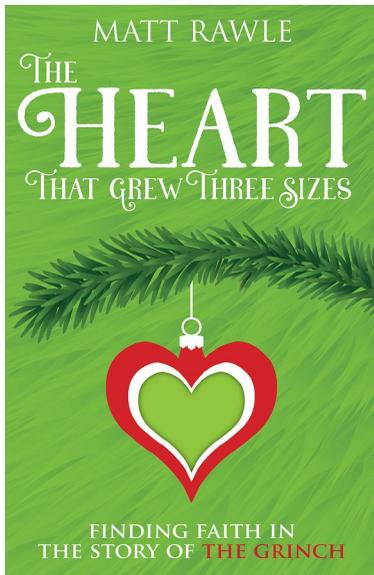
is acceptable for use in this Study. Those who wish to participate but can't afford the study book should contact Pastor Josette no later than Sunday, Nov. 7.

Online meeting choices:

- [Zoom.us](#): Meeting ID: 871 4170 2344; Passcode: 669824.
- Or, use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87141702344?pwd=QSt5aXBiR1Zsb094cC9DNuHT0lpZz09>. Meeting ID: 871 4170 2344; Passcode: 669824.
- Or, listen in by telephone at 301 715 8592; Meeting ID: 871 4170 2344; Passcode: 669824.



*Advent Bible Study*



## Greenwood's Women's Circles

The Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, Nov. 2 in the home of Jean Mowatt at 1:30 p.m. Please bring your filled shoe boxes.

The Willing Workers will meet later in the month because of Election Day on Nov. 2. When we meet we will be finalizing support for our Thanksgiving Family.



# Aggie's Attic Will Carry On

When God called Agnes Dalton home late last month, many in the Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge wondered what would happen to "Aggie's Attic," the important mission she spearheaded.

*The Twig Bender* is happy to report that this great Laurel Park outreach tradition will continue to operate, now under the leadership of Susan Johnston. The mission will continue to be known as "Aggie's Attic."



"The Attic loves our volunteer," Susan said "We depend on them for everything, and we will need all the volunteers and prayers we can get."

She confirmed that the Attic, due to its new location in Lakeside, has storage issues. "If someone makes a sizeable donation of items, we have to go through them at Laurel Park," Susan added. "We are currently using part of the church's adult Sunday school room. Hopefully, after Christmas, we'll be able to give it back and get our things back into the shed for storage."

Aggie's Attic is located at The Hub, 6913 Lakeside Ave. and is open for business Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Read more [here](#).

## 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 Stewardship

# Charge Conference Approves 2022 Budget

Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge Conference last month approved Greenwood's 2022 operating budget of \$129,419, up \$3,158 from last year.



"The increase in the 2022 budget over 2021 is mainly due to inflation," said Greenwood treasurer Gay Stapleton. "With the Greenwood Learning Center, Friendship Quilters, Richmond Beekeepers Association, and requests from other groups to meet in the Fellowship Hall in 2022, we will need heat, A/C and other utility costs not needed last year. The largest increase comes in Trustees, Building and Grounds. The Finance Committee tried to hold down cost projections as much as we realistically could."

Notably, Greenwood's apportionments (line item 800) went down \$360 from 2021. Apportionments are the funds each church sends to the Virginia Conference for missions, finances and staffing.

This increase for 2022 raises the average weekly giving necessary to meet Greenwood's budget: \$2,488 instead of 2021's \$2,424. In October, our weekly giving average was \$xx or xx% of what's required

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## UMFS Children's Stocking Stuffer Fund

The United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) Auxiliary is collecting money for the residential students' Christmas Stockings. The students will decorate their own stocking and the staff will shop for the items going into the stockings.



There are 42 children of various ages, and we are hoping to collect enough to spend between \$30 and \$40 on each stocking. Last year the Auxiliary collected over \$1,600 and we're hoping to do the same or better this year.

If you would like to give to the UMFS children's stocking stuffer fund, please contact Susan Johnston at [ksngal@aol.com](mailto:ksngal@aol.com), text her at 804 869-7098 or call 804 515-5652. All donations are due by November 18. Please make checks payable to UMFS.

## Cyber Security Part 2

# *Cyber Scams and How to Avoid Them*

*Courtesy of McAfee Anti-Virus Software*

When it comes to online scams, a little knowledge can save you a world of trouble. This month the *Twig Bender* continues our multi-part series on cyber scams. Last month we addressed communication scams; going forward we'll look at chat, web, computer, email, online and senior citizen scams. Read on to learn about the most common types of scams, how to spot them, and how to avoid falling prey to them.

**This month: web scams.** These include:

- Fake commerce sites where scammers try to sell products that are not worth the price paid or are not delivered at all.
- Credit card fraud: asking for credit card information to proceed on a web site.

### **Avoiding web scams:**

- Keep your computer software updated. Your operating system, web browsers and apps are constantly updating to adjust to the scammers' new tricks. This includes keeping your anti-virus subscription updated as well.
- Buy from trusted sources. Do some research if you are not sure. Many anti-virus companies offer a web security and advice features that are great resources for helping identify some unsafe sites when you attempt to visit them.
- Talk to your kids. Make sure they are educated on the dangers of online scams.

**Malware:** Software designed to disable your computer system for the scammers' personal use or to simply damage it. Also, a general term used for viruses, spyware, worms, trojans, and more.

**Next month** in Part 3: Computer Scams



## Biltmore Baptist Clothes Closet

By Mary Cullom and the Twig Bender Staff

If there's not room at Aggie's Attic for your clothing donations, consider the Biltmore Clothes Closet. There they provide free, gently-used clothes to a number of families each month.



What started on a wing and a prayer, serving two families in 2017, says Norma Evenson, head of the Clothes Closet, is now reaching out to approximately 85 families, staffed by 15 volunteers (*including Greenwood's Mary Cullom*).

Norma added: "it has been such a blessing to the neighborhood! It's an honor that the Lord picked this church, and it has exploded beyond belief, because of the generosity of those who donate their no longer needed clothes to us."

Clothes can be dropped off on the second and fourth Saturday each month when the Clothes Closet is open – 9 a.m. to noon – or there's a collection box outside of the building that is checked daily.

Twice a year Biltmore holds a yard sale with proceeds going towards the Clothes Closet and other church needs. The last yard sale helped provide a new roof.

This is an outstanding mission, open to all and not too far away from Greenwood UMC. Stop by sometime. You'll be glad you did and it's all free!

## DST Ends Nov. 7



## Nov. 18

# Food Donation Connection

Each week on Free Food Fridays Greenwood serves 15 to 20 families. Those who come are always so happy and grateful for the food assistance and we want to keep it going!

Our food pantry stock is extremely low. So **WE NEED YOU!** Our Food Pantry Drive is underway **NOW**. We are asking that you share this. Tell your neighbors, family, and friends. Help us fill our food pantry so the families who depend on us each week will have the food they need. The items we need are:

Soups (can/carton)

Meats & Fish (canned only)

Beans (dry or canned)

Pasta (dry)

Sauces (jar/canned)

Vegetables (canned)

Fresh fruit and vegetables

Cereals

Milk (can/carton--dairy, almond, soy, etc.)

You may drop off your donations at the Church Office between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Tuesday through Friday or bring them to church on Sunday. Thanks!!

## ***November Pick Up Rotation***

Wednesday, Nov. 3: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Nov.

4: Susan Johnston; Friday, Nov. 5: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Nov. 10: Charley Banks; Thursday, Nov. 11: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Nov. 12: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Nov. 17: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Nov. 18: Susan Johnston; Friday, Nov. 19: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Nov. 24: Charley Banks; Thursday, Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Day; Friday, Nov. 26: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Dec. 1: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Dec. 2: Susan Johnston; Friday, Dec. 3: Josette Franklin.



# Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair

Many thanks to everyone who helped make last month's Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair another huge success.

As we go to press, not all receipts are in, but we've taken in over \$3,000, so far! Profits will go to missions and church expenses.

We appreciate those who helped prepare and stir the stew and those who contributed to the Silent Auction and the Bake Sale.

More Greenwood generosity in action!



## Hangin' of the Greens

*Traditional Greenwood Sanctuary holiday decoration, Saturday, Nov. 27.*

*Watch the Greenwood Grapevine for times and schedules.*

*Talk to Roger Eckwright if you'd like to help.*

## Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures

### November Lectionary Readings

Nov. 7	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44.
Nov. 14	1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8.
Nov. 21	2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4-8; John 18:33-37.
Nov. 28	Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.

# For What are You Thankful?

*(Continued from page 1)*

It's the day when we're called on to give thanks for ... what? We shouldn't limit giving thanks to only one day; we should be giving thanks every day, every minute. We should constantly be thanking God for all the blessings He's laid on us. Most readers will agree with this. We acknowledge that giving thanks isn't confined to just one day.



Many might think it's trite to even contemplate that thanksgiving is a once-a-year occurrence. God tells us throughout His written Word to give thanks all the time. In the Psalms alone are we exhorted to give thanks:

- Psalm 7:17: I will give thanks to the Lord ...
- Psalm 9:1: I will give thanks to you, Lord ...
- Psalm 69:30: I ... glorify him with thanksgiving.
- Psalm 100:4: Enter his gates with thanksgiving...
- Psalm 106:1: ... Give thanks to the Lord...
- Psalm 147:7a: Sing to the Lord with grateful praise ...

Preparing for this article, I thought I'd ask some folks what they are thankful for. I used the tried-and-true reporter's tactic of "ambush" journalism: "Quick! What are you thankful for?" Universally the response was some form of thankfulness for God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, family and Christ's church. None of which surprised me.

So, while gorging on Turkey or binging on the Macy's parade on Thursday, Nov. 25, remember to give thanks for all the blessings with which God has blessed you. Remember the Hymn:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
 Count your blessings, see what God hath done;  
 Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
 Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

So, remember to give thanks every day to God for all the ways He continually blesses you, your family, your country and your people. And, see you in church.

# The Sacrifice of Praise

*(Continued from page 2)*

ken and even angry. Through Jesus the continual sacrifice of praise draws me closer to God and deepens my faith.

It was a personal sacrifice and an act of my will to go to the piano and play at my husband's wake, and to sing hymns the day of his funeral. In my pain I chose to believe that, even though my husband and my baby's father was gone, God was still good, and God could be trusted. I chose to praise God despite my husband's death, despite the fact my daughter would grow up without knowing her father, and despite the fact my best friend had been taken from me. This is what the sacrifice of praise looks like and feels like. Living life to honor God and giving praise to God continually from a worshipping heart in good times and in bad times.

As we approach another Thanksgiving Holiday, we have a decision to make. Will we allow loss, sadness and pain to overtake us? Will we curse God and die? Or will we draw closer to God? It's your choice.

Peace and blessing to all,

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*



GOD  
is  
GOOD

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## Medicare Open Enrollment Runs Through Dec. 7

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

MEDICARE



HEALTH INSURANCE

# Farm Country Biscuits

A visiting Pastor was attending a men's breakfast in Virginia farm country. He asked one of the older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began: "Lord, I don' like butter-milk."

The Pastor opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I'm not too partial to lard."

Now the Pastor was worried. However, without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, "And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour."

Just as the Pastor was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued, "But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I do love fresh biscuits. So, Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are sayin' to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till You are done mixin', and probably it will be somethin' even better than biscuits!"

*(Editor's note: bet you thought this was going to be a biscuit recipe. LOL)*



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## Greenwood Learning Center

Thanks to all of the individuals who are volunteering at the Greenwood Learning Center.

Without the volunteers we would not be able to keep open. We feel like this is such an important ministry, serving the children in our neighborhood, we would like to be able to continue.

The hours are 2 to 5:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer call Trish Hayes at 804-704-2566.





## Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Nancy Lloyd .....	11/3	Seth Stanley .....	11/6
Betty Henley .....	11/4	Frank Miner .....	11/21
Betty Ritchie .....	11/5		

*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](mailto: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**.*

## 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.



### ***Twig Bender***

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 Office hours: 9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Tuesday — Friday  
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Greenwood United Methodist Church November 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 All Saints Day 	2 Election Day 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle 	3 Housewives Day 	4 King Tut Day 	5 Guy Fawkes Day 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	6 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 	
7 2 a.m. Daylight Saving Time Ends 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	8 Tongue Twister Day 	9 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Church Administrative Council	10 USMC Birthday 	11 Veterans Day 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers 	12 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	13 Chicken Soup for the Soul Day 	
14 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	15 America Recycles Day 	16 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	17 Homemade Bread Day 	18 Great American Smoke Out 	19 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	20 Nat'l Adoption Day <div style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                         Friendship Quilters                     </div>	
21 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	22 JFK Assassinated 1963 	23 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	24 Nat'l Jukebox Day 	25 Thanksgiving Day 	26 Twig Bender Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution <div style="background-color: #d62728; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                         SMVTrain Show                     </div>	27 Hanging of the Greens	
28 First Sunday in Advent 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship <div style="background-color: #d62728; color: white; padding: 5px;">                         SMV Train Show                     </div>	29 	30 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study 	<div style="background-color: #4169e1; color: white; padding: 10px;">                         NOVEMBER IS AVIATION HISTORY MONTH                     </div>				

# Mark Your Calendars

Dec. 24..... Christmas Eve  
 Dec. 25.....Christmas Day  
 Jan. 1, 2022 ..... New Year’s Day  
 Jan. 9, 2022 ..... Epiphany  
 Jan. 17, 2022 ..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
 Feb. 14, 2022.....St. Valentine’s Day  
 March 2, 2022 ..... Ash Wednesday  
 April 15, 2022 ..... Good Friday  
 April 17, 2022 ..... Easter Sunday  
 June 5, 2022 ..... Pentecost



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