



The Twig Bender



Greenwood United Methodist Church

March 2024

CELEBRATING OUR 150TH YEAR

Pastor TaeWon: Are You With Me?

Lenten Disciplines Speak to Us

Grace and Peace of Christ to you!

It's March! We are having the Lenten Season, which is the time from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday in Passion Week to prepare for the Easter celebration. During Lent, we are called to focus on honestly looking at ourselves as mortals, heartily repenting our sins, practicing self-control through fasting, serving others by almsgiving, reading, studying, and meditating on the Holy Scripture, praying daily, and so on. All those Lenten disciplines speak to us, "Fix ourselves on Jesus Christ" (Hebrews 12:2).

Some may feel or understand this sacred call and command as gracious duties and the means of grace from God. They proactively behave to implement the Lenten disciplines in their daily lives. However, some may feel or understand the same call and command as a burdensome and even impossible thing for various reasons. I, as your pastor, hope and encourage you all, my dear friends in Jesus' name, to get to feel the former more.

The season of Lent is the time for God to give grace upon grace to you. Therefore, fixing yourself on Jesus Christ through the Lenten disciplines is understood as the means of grace, in which we can experience God's grace.

Fixing yourself on Jesus Christ is as follows. When our cellphone battery 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

Lewis Daniel, Elaine DeAtley, Roger Eckwright, John Johnston, Lori Lohr

Riley Patteson, Lacye Ryan, Juanita Sharpe, Bob Stapleton

Tom Stephens, Catherine Wallace, Adam Womack



Pastor TaeWon: Are You With Me?

The Imperishable Power Plant

(Continued from page 1)

low or out, we find a charger and connect the cell phone to the power station. This may be an excellent parable to help us understand our relationship with the Triune God - the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer. Simply speaking, God the Trinity is the Power Plant that is imperishable. Therefore, fixing yourself on Jesus Christ means plugging your life into the Power of God.

On Ash Wednesday, the ashes were imposed on our foreheads. And we heard the words of Lent: **“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. And so repent and believe in Jesus Christ.”** Every living one in the universe is finite, mortal, and perishable. The ashes on our foreheads spoke this fact and truth to us. And so, the ashes imply the dust, meaning the end, nothingness, impossibility, and so on, literally.

However, see the Creation Story in Genesis 2:7: “The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground.” What does this mean? God gathered the dust and labored with it to create a man. God took even the dust of the ground, meaning nothing or uselessness, and formed it into the best figure. **How great our God is!**

However, it's not all. **The Lord God, who is the Artist**, “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” How awesome God is! The dust is not the end. But it becomes a new beginning when it is in God's hands, and it becomes a living one when it receives the breath of God. In this season of Lent, fix yourself on Jesus Christ. The hands of the **Triune God - the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer**- will renew and strengthen all your heart, soul, mind, and deeds.

AMEN.



Sunday, March 24: Palm/Passion Sunday; 11 a.m. Worship.

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday; Commemorating the Last Supper and Jesus' arrest.

Friday, March 29: Good Friday: Noon Worship Service, remembering Christ's sacrifice for us.

Saturday, March 30: 10 a.m. Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday; 11 a.m. Worship.



Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

Mark your Calendars! Get ready! Greenwood’s Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt is set for Saturday, March 30 on the Greenwood Campus starting at 10 a.m.

We’re planning on hiding lots of candy filled plastic Easter Eggs on the lawn. After the hunt, there will be a cake walk and an opportunity to help assemble UMCOR Hygiene Kits, plus more.

You are welcome to help. Greenwood needs volunteers to take home a dozen or two plastic eggs from the narthex, fill them with individually wrapped candy (no hard candy, please) and bring them to the Education Building by Thursday, March 28.

Bake a cake or other confection and bring it to the Fellowship Hall by 9 a.m. on the morning of the Hunt. You can donate items for the UMCOR Hygiene Kits (see the list on page 13). We’ll have bean bag tossing and other activities for kids of all ages.

But the most important thing you can do is to invite someone to come enjoy the day with the People of Greenwood. Ask your kids, grand kids, nieces, nephews, the neighborhood tykes to come with you to the Greenwood’s Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt!



Easter Lilies!

Order yours by Sunday, March 17 using the form in the *Greenwood Grapevine* or call the church office at 804-266-5341. Lilies are \$20 each.

Greenwood’s March

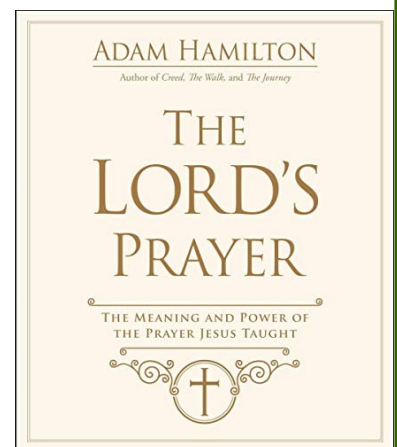
Communion Offering:



LAMB’S
BASKET

Lenten Bible Study

Continuing on Wednesdays through March 20. Join Pastor TaeWon in a Lenten Bible Study on the Lord's Prayer. All are welcome to join.





Aggie's Attic

A Good Beginning to 2024

By Lori Lohr

Aggie's Attic is happy to report that we had great numbers in January – a month that is typically very slow for us. This is great news! Overall, February seems to be looking pretty good as well.

We celebrated founder Agnes Dalton's birthday with a special "Aggie's Birthday Sale" on Wednesday, Feb. 28. We continue to keep the memory and the mission work of Agnes alive every day – but especially on her birthday!

There was some excitement in The Hub Shopping Center when Aggie's Attic neighbor, SB's Lakeside Love Shack restaurant had a film crew from the Internet series "America's Best Restaurants" visit on Monday, Feb. 26. We're hoping that the Aggie's Attic storefront may even get some airtime. We don't know exactly when the episode will be available online, but we'll be on the lookout for that bright yellow building at the corner of "The Hub."

As always, our dedicated volunteers have been working hard keeping the store well stocked, neat and clean. They continue to help customers in the store and provide the community with great deals on items. We have several new volunteers, including two from Greenwood UMC! A big thanks to Janet Pittman and Betty Ritchie for volunteering their time! We appreciate everyone that is supporting this important mission of the church. We can always use volunteers, and donations are always welcome and appreciated. Remember, all profits made from items donated to Aggie's Attic go back into the community.

One of the biggest missions of Aggie's Attic is the Backpack Program, where food-insecure students are provided with four weekend meals and snacks each week. We got an updated count of students at our last board meeting, and we are currently serving 151 students! That's 604 total meals for hungry children in one week. We're still following Aggie's directions to this day – as we heard the message "feed her babies" on more than one occasion!

Save the Date! Plans are currently underway for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, which is scheduled to be held on Sunday, April 21 in the Greenwood fellowship hall at 1 p.m. Be on the lookout for more information as the date gets closer.

If you are interested in **volunteering, donating**, or just **finding out more** about Aggie's Attic, feel free to contact Susan Johnston via email at ksngal@aol.com or call/text (804) 869-7098 or Lori Lohr via email at lori.lohr@comcast.net or call/text (804) 592-9222.



Aggie's Attic — a Greenwood UMC mission project — is located at 6913 Lakeside Avenue, Henrico. Hours: Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m. — 4 p.m. Find Aggie's Attic on [Facebook](#):



Greenwood Learning Center Making Valentines

By Trish Hayes, GLC Lead


Hello friends and family of Greenwood Learning Center. The kiddos and I hope everyone had a magical Valentine’s Day.

The kids had so much fun making the center pieces for the February’s Valentine Fellowship dinner. They made a “hand-crafted” bouquet of flowers for each table. Each child traced their hand and then cut out the tracings and then decorated them. We then glued them together to form the flowers of the bouquet. After the dinner we gave a vase to each of our Mothers and some Special Friends that we wanted to spread some extra special love to last month.

The kiddos have a bad case of Spring Fever. March is going to be an exciting month for our kiddos, we look forward to St. Patrick’s Day and Easter at the end of the month. If anyone would like to join us for an afternoon or craft project, please let me know. Smiles, Miss Trish.



GLC children and their “hand” made Fellowship Dinner table decorations.

UMCOR Sunday (the fourth Sunday in Lent: March 10) is a UMC special giving Sunday that enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. Your special gifts are always appreciated.



Prayer Request Email



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



Communicating with You

By Steve Stalnaker

One of my duties as Communications Committee chair is making sure we have a means of quickly and efficiently disseminating information – principally prayer requests – to the People of Greenwood. And that’s our Prayer Chain.

There’s much more to what we use the Prayer Chain for besides intercessory prayers. We disseminate through the Prayer Chain information of interest to the People of Greenwood, including good news like birth announcements and procedural news like notice of an upcoming meeting.

Traditionally the Greenwood Prayer Chain has relied on a “phone tree” to broadcast information. You all know about phone trees. One person calls five or so, each of those calls another few persons and we quickly get the word out. At Laurel Park UMC, the traditional method of communicating was by email. Since our brothers and sisters in Christ have come over from LPUMC to Greenwood, we’ve been doing a hybrid method: phoning some, emailing others. Emailing is quick and easy, but not everyone in the newly expanded church family has email or checks their email often.



Initiating these phone calls and emails has fallen on me as the communications geek and Glenda as the Prayer Chain Shepherd. So, we’re taking it upon ourselves to streamline and standardize the procedure.

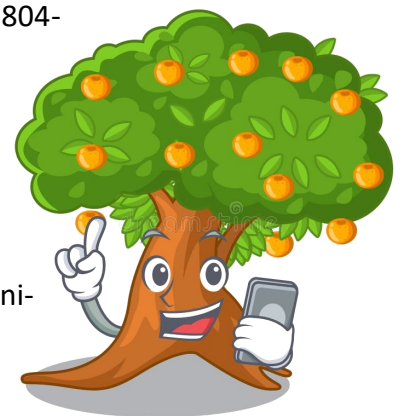
Asking around has convinced us that while emails are effective, phone calls are more likely to reach people in a timely manner. Therefore, we’re going to put everyone in the Prayer Chain phone tree. We’ll keep sending out emails as we can, but the principle means of communication going forward will be by telephone, since I’m not always at my computer to send out an email. The last time I sent a prayer chain email from my so-called smart phone, a lot of unnecessary and confusing attachments got added, so that’s not a good option.

A person or household at the “bottom” of the phone tree will only be asked to pray for someone or take note of an event. There’s no obligation other than to pray.

If there’s anyone who just absolutely doesn’t want to receive telephone communications asking for prayers or disseminating other information, please let me or Glenda know, or call (804-266-5341) or email (admin@gumcva.org) the church office.

We’re presently looking for a volunteer to take over one of the prayer chain “flocks” for one of our prayer chain “shepherds” who is retiring. That volunteer would be responsible for telephoning four to six other people and putting out the information we’re trying to disseminate.

Our Greenwood Prayer Chain is one of the church’s most effective communications tools; we urge everyone to take part.





UMCOR Hygiene Kits

Contents

- **One hand towel** (15 by 25 to 17 by 27 inches) – no kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels.
- **One washcloth** – no kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels.
- **One comb** – must be sturdy, with at least 4-7 inches of teeth; no pocket combs or picks. Rattails and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 4-7 inches of teeth.
- **One toenail or fingernail clipper** – no emery boards or metal nail files.
- **Bath-size soap** (3 oz. bar or larger) – no Ivory or Jergen’s soap; do not remove from packaging.
- **One adult toothbrush** – do not remove from packaging.
- **10 adhesive bandages** (¾ by 3 inches) – common household bandages acceptable.
- **One one-gallon size re-sealable bag.**
- **Two dollars** — to cover the cost of toothpaste (to be added by UMCOR.)

Notes

- Please don’t try to assemble the kits yourself; UMCOR has a specific process that we have to follow.
- Personal advertising not acceptable.
- All items must be new; do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials.
- Nothing should be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.



Stewardship

Last month we took up a love offering for a member of our church family who was in need. Your generosity brought in over \$1,400! Praise God!

At right are the attendance and giving figures for last month.

February 2024		
Date	Present	Giving
Feb. 4	32	\$3,885
Feb. 11	47	\$3,126
Feb. 18	37	\$1,879
Feb. 25	31	\$1,193



MARCH FELLOWSHIP DINNER

SUNDAY, March 17 in the Fellowship Hall right after Worship Services.

MENU:

- Baked Spaghetti
- Tossed Salad
- Garlic Bread
- Cake and Jello



We need to know ahead of time how much food to prepare.

Therefore, **please make your** reservations **by Sunday, March 10**. Diners are \$10 per plate.

Sign up on this bulletin insert and drop it in the collection plate. Or call the church office at (804) 266-5341 or e-mail admin@gumcva.org.

We will be playing a game at dinner; you might win a Kroger gift card!

Name: _____ Number of Diners: _____

Download this form, fill it out and drop it in the offering plate at church or mail it to the church office at the address on [page 12](#).



Fellowship Meal

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





Food Donation Connection

We served 35 families in January

March Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, March 6: Jean Mowatt and Lori Lohr; Thursday, March 7: Susan Johnston; Friday, March 8: James Calderone.

Wednesday, March 13: Charley Banks; Thursday, March 14: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, March 15: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, March 20: Jean Mowatt and Lori Lohr; Thursday, March 21: Susan Johnston; Friday, March 22: James Calderone.

Wednesday, March 27: Charley Banks; Thursday, March 28: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, March 29: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.



Welcome Richmond Beekeepers

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
















MARCH SCRIPTURES

Mar. 3	Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.
Mar. 10	Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.
Mar. 17	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.
Mar. 24	Palm Sunday: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 Passion Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47.
Mar. 28	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10) 11-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35.
Mar. 29	Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42.
Mar. 31	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-18.



Greenwood United Methodist Church March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH AND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH						1 6 p.m. Food Distribution	2 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast
3 Communion Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	4 Hug a GI Day 	5 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle 	6 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 	7 5:30p.m. Willing Workers Circle 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	8 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	9 Genealogy Day 	
10 UMCOR Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	11 Johnny Appleseed Day 	12 Girl Scouts Founded 1912 8 a.m. Prayer Call 3 p.m. Finance & Admin Council	13 Nat'l Good Samaritan Day 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 	14 π Day 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers	15 The Ides of March 6 p.m. Food Distribution	16 Nat'l Quilting Day 	
17 St. Patrick's Day 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner	18 Supreme Sacrifice Day 	19 Vernal Equinox Spring Begins 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	20 Extraterrestrial Abductions Day 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 	21 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	22 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	23 Puppy Day  RIVER CITY RUG HOOKERS	
24 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 31 Easter Sunday 	25 Medal of Honor Day 	26 Live Long and Prosper Day 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	27 Little Red Wagon Day 	28 Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	29 Good Friday Noon: Worship 	30 10 a.m. Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt 	



Mark Your Calendars

- April 15 Tax Day
- April 21 Aggie's Attic Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- 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



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.



Greenwood's Women's Circles

THE RUTH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, March 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Jean Mowatt.

THE WILLING WORKERS CIRCLE will meet Thursday, March 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the church and work on the Easter Egg Hunt.



It's a Boy!

Riley and Adamarye Patteson welcomed their 13th great-grandchild recently. Bodhi Loving was welcomed into this world on February 16. The proud parents are Lauren and Matt Loving and the grandparents are Teresa and Darrell Coleman.





Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Janice Olson	3/4	Samantha Stanley	3/15
Janet Pittman	3/10	Bill Anderson.....	3/15
Cheril McLaughlin	3/10	Austin Stanley.....	3/18
Lori Lohr	3/11	Iris Williams	3/20
Jeffrey Patteson	3/12	Amanda Banks Langston	3/21
MiRhang Baek	3/13		

*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 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	»	Participating in church ministry and community outreach



The Twig Bender

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