



April 2023



# The Twig Bender

*From the Pastor*

## Resurrection Prepares and Sustains Us

*Jesus said to her, "I am the Resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" – John 11:25-26*

**A**s we prepare for Resurrection Sunday, the Revised Common Lectionary provides Scripture to prepare us. The gospel selection of John 11 speaks to the essence and purpose of it all. Jesus's raising of Lazarus from the dead is a foreshadowing of the real thing—the conquering of death forever. When Jesus tells Lazarus to come forth his burial cloths continue to cling to him. In contrast, Jesus' burial cloths are folded neatly



in a pile, and the resurrected Christ is no longer in the tomb. Every time I read this passage of Scripture, I think about all the possibilities, which are only found in the power of Jesus' resurrection. Not just the promise "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord," but also what the power of Jesus' resurrection can do in THIS LIFE. There is no limit to the power of Jesus' resurrection. God

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Greenwood Prayer Ministry

Our Nation

The Greenwood and Laurel Park Church Families, Greenwood Learning Center, Jim and Annette Calderone, Roger Eckwright, Trish Hayes, Donna Hunt, Dominic LeMerise, Carol McIntyre, Riley Patteson, Patty Prout, Lacye Ryan, David Shafer's Family, Willis Sheffield, Robbie Smith, Charlotte Staggs, Robbie Tyree, Catherine Wallace, Chase White  
Greenwood prayer request email: [greenwoodprays@gmail.com](mailto:greenwoodprays@gmail.com)

# Keeping Things in Perspective

By Steve Stalnaker

*This is NOT an April Fool story.*

Readers may recall that I like to write fictitious, outrageous, so-called “funny” articles for each year’s April edition of the Twig Bender. Not this year; there’s other stuff going on. If you miss my putative humor, go to Greenwood’s web page and check out the [Twig Bender archives](#).

Almost everyone in the Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge family knows that something’s up – things are happening which may affect the future of the Charge. But UMC rules and regulations prevent us from publicly discussing what’s

going on just now. I hope to be able to report to you in depth in next month’s edition of your *Twig Bender*. For now, [see the Pastor’s article on page 1](#).



Meanwhile, let’s not worry about what’s happening in the background and let’s concentrate on what’s important.

We begin this month with Palm Sunday, commemorating Jesus the Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem for Passover — see Mark 11:1-11 and Luke 19:28-40.

Then we begin “HOLY WEEK” going through MAUNDY THURSDAY and GOOD FRIDAY, arriving at EASTER SUNDAY. These days remind us of Jesus’ torture, death and Resurrection as He took over our sins, suffered, triumphed over death and saved us. Don’t forget also, that when all this took place, Jesus was celebrating Passover

*(Continued on page 8)*

## In This Issue

<a href="#">Perspective</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Holy Week</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Easter Egg Hunt</a> .....	3
<a href="#">GLC Update</a> .....	4
<a href="#">April Scriptures</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Women’s Circles</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Food Connection</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Stewardship</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Vital Statistics</a> .....	9
<a href="#">Calendar</a> .....	10
<a href="#">Upcoming Dates</a> .....	11

# Holy Week 2023

Saturday, April 1 ..... Charge Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m.  
 Sunday, April 2 ..... Palm Sunday  
 (Worship in person and online at 11 a.m.)  
 Thursday, April 6 ..... Maundy Thursday  
 Friday, April 7 ..... Good Friday  
 (Noon Worship Service at LPUMC)  
 Saturday, April 8 ..... Holy Saturday  
 Sunday April 9 ..... Easter Sunday  
 (Worship in person and online at 11 a.m.)

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt

*By Glenda Stalnaker*

By the time most folks read this, our Charge Easter Egg Hunt will have come and gone. This year we held the Hunt on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, rather than our traditional day before Easter. Despite this change, the Hunt was a great success with much fun and fellowship.



Thanks to everyone who participated. Those who helped organize, filled plastic eggs with candy, baked goodies for the cake walk and donated items for the UMCOR kits all helped make this event successful.

This was certainly a combined, Charge effort. We could not have done this without your help. Thanks and God bless you all.



*Greenwood's*  
*April Communion Offering:*  
**LAKESIDE RESCUE**



# Greenwood Learning Center April Activities

By Trish Hayes, GLC Director



Friday, March 31 is a half day at school and the day I go in to surgery to have my knee replaced. While I am gone my Mother, "Nana Jo" will be filling in for me and helping Miss Dorothy.

We're looking forward to the annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 1. This is always tons of fun for the GLC children and their families. After that, our students are on Spring Break from April 3 through 7. I hope everyone has a blessed Easter on Sunday, April 9.

When the kiddos come back from Spring Break, Miss Dorothy and Nana Jo will be ready for them. I will make sure they have enough curriculum and arts and crafts projects to keep everyone busy. I will also be available via FaceTime and my cell. As soon as I'm strong enough for visitors, the children can come by for a visit.

It is important to me that the GLC children, as well as their parents, don't feel like they are being left hanging. I'm just a phone call away and I will still be working with Miss Dorothy and Nana Jo on the weekly curriculum.

I plan on coming back as soon as I can, but right now I do not know when that might be. But look out for when I do, these kids will not know what hit them! Smiles!



## 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



## APRIL SCRIPTURES

April 2	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66.
April 6	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.
April 7	Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42.
April 8	Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4; Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66.
April 9	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10; John
April 16	Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31.
April 23	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35.
April 30	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10.

## Greenwood's Women's Circles

**THE RUTH CIRCLE** will meet Tuesday, April 4 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Ann Via. If you would like good fellowship and a Bible study, please Adamarye 804-690-9808. We would love for you to join us.

**THE WILLING WORKERS CIRCLE** will meet Thursday, April 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend.



## Good Friday Service

Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge Good Friday Service with Holy Communion at Laurel Park UMC Friday, April 7 at 12 noon.

# Food Donation Connection

We helped 54 families in February. Lets keep all of those families in our prayers and also the people who pick up the food and give it out on Friday night. Trish Hayes, who has been so faithful giving the food out on Friday night, will be out for the month of April because of knee surgery. If you might be able to fill in for her on Friday night please give Adamarye a call at 804-690-9808.



## ***April Pick Up Rotation***

Wednesday, April 5: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, April 6: Susan Johnston; Friday, April 7: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, April 12: Charley Banks; Thursday, April 13: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, April 14: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, April 19: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, April 20: Susan Johnston; Friday, April 21: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, April 26: Charley Banks; Thursday, April 27: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, April 28: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

## GUMC Stewardship

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also – Matthew 6:21*

Each week we need \$2,612 to support Greenwood's missions and operating expenses. In March, we averaged \$1,613 each week, or 62 percent of our budget. The table at right shows each Sunday's giving.

### Greenwood Stewardship March 2023

Date	Present	Giving
03/05	39	\$2,661
03/12	34	\$1,759
03/19	28	\$1,201
03/26	25	\$ 830

## *Resurrection Gives Us Hope*

*(Continued from page 1)*

raises Jesus from the dead on the third day with all power! And Jesus promises this same power to all of us.

The Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge is experiencing a transformation which has been difficult to reconcile in many of our hearts. Laurel Park UMC is a sixty-five-year-old ministry which has made many disciples of Jesus Christ, confirmed, and baptized many young people, and transformed so many for the glory of God in the Henrico community. Laurel Park's former pastor the late Dean Pittman and faithful disciple the late Agnes Dalton, and members, birthed Aggie's Attic, one of the outreach arms of Laurel Park, which will continue to serve the community. While sadly, the church is no longer sustainable with the current membership. The remaining faithful and active members of Laurel Park UMC have resolved to merge with Greenwood UMC in the hopes of continuing to be connected as a community of faith and living into the possibilities of this season. While this decision has been really difficult for the members of Laurel Park, the power of Jesus' resurrection gives us hope.

The glory of God's work in us is continuing to be revealed. But we must decide to follow Jesus and believe he is the resurrection and the life. Because of Jesus' resurrection, when something dies, something new can grow in its place. If we only BELIEVE. We see death in so much of our lives—in marriages, friendships, churches, self-esteem, energy, motivation, love, and hope—but Jesus "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us," if we only BELIEVE.

We are believing God's glory to be revealed in the merging of Laurel Park and Greenwood UMC. All glory be to God in God's church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Peace and blessings to all,

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*





## Keeping Things in Perspective

*(Continued from page 2)*

ver, commemorating an earlier event where God was looking out for us.

Those are momentous events, unlike the local financial and bureaucratic peccadillos we're facing. While we may feel we're being confronted with some seemingly daunting decisions and circumstances, these are actually minor issues in the larger context of our remit to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (Matthew 28:19) and our vision of Loving, Growing and Serving.

Let's keep things in perspective

and continue to worship God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Let's remember to love God and love each other as Christ commanded (Mark 12:29). And let's keep praying for God's guidance, remembering that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13) and that if God is for us, no one can be against us (Romans 8:31).

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH** where we will continue to lift up Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World.



### Finance Committee

Greenwood's Finance Committee will meet will meet  
Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.



## Prayer Request Email



For prayer requests only: [greenwoodprays@gmail.com](mailto:greenwoodprays@gmail.com)  
Monitored daily by Pastor Josette; all emails in strict confidence.





# Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Arline Shafer .....	4/1	Lydia Cuffy .....	4/15
Bill Prout .....	4/7	Teresa Rios McCartney .....	4/20
McKenzie Fulcher .....	4/9	Roger Eckwright .....	4/22
Barbara Lewis .....	4/11	Douglas Banks .....	4/24
Carolyn Smith .....	4/12	Josette Franklin .....	4/29
Lou Gammon .....	4/13		

## Anniversaries

Glenda & Steve Stalnaker..... 4/10



*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.*



## The Twig Bender

is a publication of Greenwood United Methodist Church

Office Phone: 804-266-5341

Office email: [admin@gumcva.org](mailto:admin@gumcva.org)

10044 Greenwood Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

In-Person and Virtual Worship: 11 a.m. Sunday

Pastor:	Pastor Josette L. Franklin	Lay Leader:	Lewis Daniel
Phone:	804-238-9318	<i>Twig Bender</i> editor:	Steve Stalnaker
Email:	<a href="mailto:josettefranklin@vaumc.org">josettefranklin@vaumc.org</a>		
Office hours:	9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Tuesday — Friday	Web site:	<a href="http://www.gumcva.org">www.gumcva.org</a>
Fax:	804-266-2019		
Education Building Phone:	804-266-6668		

© 2023 Greenwood UMC — all rights reserved



# Greenwood United Methodist Church

## April 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL IS KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL MONTH</b></p>						<p>1 April Fool's Day  <b>NO</b> Men's Breakfast            10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt</p>
<p>2 Palm Sunday            Communion Sunday            11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>3 Find a Rainbow Day</p> 	<p>4 8 a.m. Prayer Call            1 p.m. Ruth Circle            6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts</p>	<p>5 Passover Begins</p> 	<p>6 Maundy Thursday            5:30 p.m. Willing Workers            6:30 p.m. Choir Prac-</p>	<p>7 Good Friday            Noon: Good Friday Service at LPUMC            6 p.m. Food</p> 	<p>8 Holy Saturday</p> 
<p>9 Easter Sunday            11 a.m. Worship</p> 	<p>10 Nat'l Siblings Day</p> 	<p>11 8 a.m. Prayer Call            6:30 p.m. Finance Cmte.            6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day</p> 	<p>13 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice            7 p.m. Richmond</p>	<p>14 Nat'l Dolphin Day            6 p.m. Food Distribution</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friendship Quilters</b></p>	<p>15 Titanic Remembrance Day</p>
<p>16 11 a.m. Worship</p> 	<p>17 Haiku Poetry Day</p> 	<p>18 Tax Day            8 a.m. Prayer Call            6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts</p> 	<p>19 Nat'l Garlic Day</p> 	<p>20 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p> 	<p>21 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline            6 p.m. Food Distribution</p>	<p>22 Jelly Bean Day</p> 
<p>23 11 a.m. Wor- 30            11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>24 Nat'l Pig in Blanket Day</p>	<p>25 8 a.m. Prayer Call            6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts</p>	<p>26 Pretzel Day</p> 	<p>27 Morse Code Day            6:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>28 6 p.m. Food Distribution</p> 	<p>29 Zipper Day</p> 

# Mark Your Calendars

May 14 ..... Mother's Day  
 May 28 ..... Pentecost Sunday  
 May 29 ..... Memorial Day (Observed)  
 June 15 — 17 ..... Virginia Annual Conference  
 June 18 ..... Father's Day  
 July 4 ..... Independence Day.  
 Aug. 21 ..... First Day of School; GLC Opens  
 Sep. 4 ..... Labor 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

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

SEE GREENWOOD ON FACEBOOK  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA)

