



March 2023



The Twig Bender

Women's History Month

By Steve Stalaker

When preparing the calendar for each month's edition of your *Twig Bender*, I surf the Internet to find fun things to put in most of that calendar's days – something to provide a smile or two, as well as to note important dates, like Ash Wednesday, the U.S. Navy birth-day and so on.

One part of that prep work is noting that a particular month is dedicated to a group, industry, organization or whatever. One of the web

sites I use tells me that March is, among other things: Music in Our Schools Month; National Celery Month (!); National Craft

Month, National Frozen Food Month; Irish American Heritage Month (by act of Congress in 1995 – St. Patrick take note); National Nutrition Month; National Peanut Month; Red Cross Month; Social Workers Month; and last but decidedly not least,

National Women's History Month. Phew!

In today's identity driven society, it seems that every group has its own "history" month which strikes me as inadequate. I agree with Oscar™ winning

actor Morgan Freeman that black history shouldn't be relegated to one month. Nor

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Greenwood Prayer Ministry

Our Nation — Lord, Heal Our Land



Greenwood and Laurel Park Church Families, Greenwood Learning Center, Roger Eckwright, Dominic LeMerise, Ted Malbone's family, Riley Patteson, Patty Prout, Lacye Ryan, Willis Sheffield, Robbie Smith, Karen Thomas, Michelle Thomas, Robbie Tyree, Linda Walker, Adam Womack
Greenwood prayer request email: greenwoodprays@gmail.com

From the Pastor

An Introduction to the Season of Lent

The English word “Lent” comes from the Anglo–Saxon word *lencten*, which means “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Lent can be one of the most powerful and awesome times in the Christian year. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.

One of the most important seasons in the Christian faith, Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash



Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday [the day before Easter Sunday]. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

During this period, Christians around the world participate in a season of penitence, prayers, fasting and self-denial, just as Jesus did when he spent 40 days in the wilderness (*Matthew 4:1-25 and Luke 4:1-13*). Many believers pray and fast during the 40 days of Lent. Others pray, meditate, and give up daily rituals, such as soda, candy, or coffee. Prayer and fasting prepare us for a spiritual awakening.

Holy Week is the final week of Lent, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday and concluding with Holy Saturday. During these days, the com-

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Greenwood Learning Center The Old Fashioned Way

By Trish Hayes, GLC Director

A big hello to everyone from the Greenwood Learning Center! The kiddos and I hope you had a wonderful Valentine's Day last month and we are looking forward to the weather warming up so we can go outside and play in the sun and maybe catch a leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day this month!

In school we are learning about how to tell time "the old fashioned way" on a clock and some of us are learning our multiplication tables. So, we are keeping very busy.

Next month we have Spring Break from April 3 — 7, with Easter Sunday being on April 9. I will not be here for a few weeks when the kids come back from break. I am having a complete knee replacement on Friday, March 31. I will return as soon as I can. I plan on keeping in touch with the kiddos via FaceTime and as soon as I'm up to it they can come for a class field trip visit. In my absence Miss Dorothy and Nana Jo will be taking care of things in the classroom. If anyone has any spare time and would like to join in on the fun, that would be wonderful. Just let us know.

As always, we would like to thank everyone for their support and kindness and we hope you have a wonderful and blessed month! Smiles, MISS TRISH!



GLC Kiddos and their Valentines.



Greenwood's
March Communion Offering:
LAMB'S BASKET

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

By Glenda Stalaker

The annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt is going through some changes this year. The Easter Egg Hunt is now a combined Greenwood — Laurel Park Charge outreach event. Instead of holding the Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Easter Sunday as we have in the past, this year's hunt will be on Saturday, April 1 *[no, this isn't one of Steve's doofus April Fool jokes]*.

The Easter Egg Hunt will still be held on the Greenwood lawn and will start at 10 a.m. The event will feature some of the traditional fun from past years and maybe something new. Planning continues and volunteers are more than welcome. Contact Greenwood's Glenda Stalaker at 804-755-6767 or Laurel Park's Carrington Johnston at 804-515-5652 if you'd like to help or have ideas to add to the fun.

Be sure to save the date and note that it's different this year – not the Saturday before Easter Sunday, but the Saturday before Palm Sunday.



March Fellowship Dinner



Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Menu: salad, baked spaghetti, garlic bread, with Jell-O and cookies for dessert — \$10/plate. Deadline to reserve yours is Friday, March 10. Sign up with the form on [page 15](#) and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office at the address on [page 14](#). Alternatively, call (804-266-5341) or email (admin@gumcva.org) the church office or call Betty Ritchie at (804-266-5747). Carry out available.

Medicare Update

Finding a New Doctor

By the Medicare Team

Are you looking for a new doctor — or specialist — and not sure where to start? [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) makes it quick and easy to find and compare doctors and other providers in your area.



Here's how:

Visit [Medicare.gov/care-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare). Select "Doctors & clinicians," and enter your location. You can also search by specialty, like general practice or internal medicine.

Review details about the doctors you're interested in, like their contact information, practice locations, hospital affiliation, or if they offer telehealth services.

You can also select the "compare" button to compare up to 3 different doctors you're interested in.

Once you're ready to schedule a visit with a new doctor, be sure to call ahead to verify general information, like office location, if they're accepting new patients with Medicare, and if you need a referral.

Brunswick Stew Sale Follow Up

Greenwood's finance committee recommended taking \$1,500 of the \$4k+ the church made at last October's Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair and donate it as follows: \$500 to UMCOR, with the specification of it being used in the United States; \$500 to Aggie's Attic for scholarships and \$500 to Shalom Farms. At their January 17 meeting, the Greenwood Administrative Council approved this distribution. The remainder of the profits will go into the church's general fund.



Host an Exchange Student



Compass USA

Have an amazing experience this summer! Students from Spain and France need host families in July.

Host one of these students, ages 13-17, in your home for three to four weeks. Learn about their culture while they learn about living with an American family by just being a part of what you regularly do.

Compass USA has a variety of programs to suit the host family's schedules. Host families receive stipends to help out with expenses. Compass USA can help work out transportation or vacation concerns. This will be a rich experience for your family!

Families wishing to host must be either married couples with or without children, or single parents with at least one child living at home. English must be the primary language spoken in the home. The foreign student must have a private bedroom or share a private room with a family member of the same sex and similar age. The student must have her or his own bed.

Please contact Compass USA Regional Manager Debbie Hardy at 804-909-3190 or email debbiehardy2003@yahoo.com.

Compass USA is committed to the promotion of quality international education and cultural training. Their enthusiastic staff works closely with the best international educational organizations to offer students from around the world the opportunity to live the "American Experience." Read more about Compass USA at their website: <https://www.compass-usa.net/>.

Save the Date: Good Friday Service



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

Greenwood's Women's Circles

THE RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, March 7 at 1 p.m. in the home of Jean Mowatt.

We will be finishing our Bible study and fixing bags to give out to any child who might be visiting. In these bags we will include a coloring sheet, crayons, a fidget toy and a stuffed animal. If you have anything you think might be good for the bags give it to Adamarye Patteson.



THE WILLING WORKERS CIRCLE will meet at the church on Thursday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m. We'll be planning how we can assist with the Greenwood — Laurel Park Charge Neighborhood Easter Egg hunt now scheduled for Saturday, April 1 at 10 a.m. More details on this Greenwood tradition to follow.



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



Food Donation Connection

We helped 36 families in January. When you are picking up food keep these families in your prayers. Also we would like to thank whoever is leaving food for our pantry. The people who are coming to pick up food really enjoy getting to pick up some canned goods plus cereal and noodles.

March Pick Up Rotation



Week of March 6

Wednesday, March 8: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday,
March 9: Susan Johnston; Friday, March 10: Josette Franklin.

Week of March 13

Wednesday, March 15: Charley Banks; Thursday, March 16: Gay and Bob Stapleton;
Friday, March 17: Glenda and Steve Stalnakar.

Week of March 20

Wednesday, March 22: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, March 23: Susan
Johnston; Friday, March 24: Josette Franklin.

Week of March 27

Wednesday, March 29: Charley Banks; Thursday, March 30: Gay and Bob Stapleton;
Friday, March 31: Glenda and Steve Stalnakar.

MARCH SCRIPTURES

March 5	Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17.
March 12	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42.
March 19	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.
March 26	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.

Introduction to Lent

(Continued from page 2)

munity journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, and to the tomb. It is during these days that the lectionary readings focus primarily on the last days and suffering and death of Jesus.

The Great Three Days—sometimes called the Triduum or Pasch — from sunset Holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day are the climax of Lent (and of the whole Christian year) and a bridge into the Easter Season. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

This year I want to encourage each member of our church to invite three people who are looking for a church home to our Easter Service. A personal invitation goes a long way and Easter is the perfect time for those desiring a connection and to join with a community of faith. We are Loving, Growing, and Serving—everyone is welcome!

Peace and blessings to all,

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*

Resource: article is edited, 2013, by the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church and notes for worship on the United Methodist Discipleship website.

Lent



Having Faith

(Continued from page 1)

should women's history be limited to a single month. The accomplishments, influence and achievements of everyone should be celebrated all the time.

Women's History Month brings to mind some famous women of history like Empress Livia (an accomplished poisoner and power behind Caesar Augustus' throne); Catherine d' Medici (another suspected poisoner and mother of three kings of France); Nell Gwynn (one of the first actresses on the English stage and long-time mistress of King Charles II of England). But that's just my cynical nature.



If I back off from cynicism a bit, I'm reminded of some really special, influential women from the history of our faith: Eve (first woman created by God); Sarah (mother of the Jewish Nation); Ruth (ancestor of King David and Jesus the Christ); Mary (Jesus' mother) and many more.

Not only during this month, but all the time, I think of the unnamed woman of faith whom we meet in Mark 5:24-34. This is the woman who had suffered from a "flow of blood for twelve years" — both a medical and a religious problem. When she encountered Jesus — who was on His way to save another female — her faith caused her to believe that if she could only touch the hem of Jesus' garment, she would be healed. She did this and was immediately cured of her affliction. After identifying to whom power had flowed out from Him, Jesus declared: "daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

What faith! I know I've written about this in previous *Twig Benders*, but I just can't stop marveling at this woman's faith. She believed that Jesus had the power to heal her, and He did, just because she believed in Him.

I wish I could muster such faith.

See you in church.

GUMC Stewardship

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

Stewardship is a personal, spiritual discipline that goes beyond necessary financial support. Each of us should prayerfully consider what to give, not only financially, but our time and talent as well – fully using our gifts from the Holy Spirit in support of the body of Christ. Pray also in thankfulness to God that He meets our personal needs, while enabling us to support His Church.

Regardless of what's going on around us, Greenwood's financial needs must be met. Each week in 2023 we need \$2,612 to support Greenwood's missions and operating expenses. In February, we averaged \$1,802 each week, or 69 percent of our budget. The table above shows each Sunday's giving.

Greenwood Stewardship February 2023		
Date	Present	Giving
Feb. 5	33	\$2,992
Feb. 12	36	\$ 986
Feb. 19	35	\$2,149
Feb. 26	33	\$1,078



Communion Elements

Pre-packaged, already-consecrated Communion elements are available for those not planning to attend in-person 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.



Prayer Request Email



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

Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Janet Pittman	3/10	Austin Stanley	3/18
Jeffrey Patteson	3/12	Amanda Banks Langston.....	3/21
Samantha Stanley	3/15		

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**.



Sign Up for Altar Flowers

Don't forget the 2023 flower calendar posted in the back hall. You're invited to donate altar flowers in memory of or in honor of, those you'd like to remember.

Cost of the altar flowers is \$20; please pay in advance.



The Twig Bender

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

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MARCH FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Greenwood Fellowship Hall

MENU:

Salad

Baked spaghetti

Garlic bread

Jell-O and cookies

All for only \$10/plate.



We need to know ahead of time how much food to prepare. Therefore, **please make your reservations by Friday, March 10.**

Sign up on this bulletin insert, or

Call the church office at (804) 266-5341 or

E-mail: admin@gumcva.org.

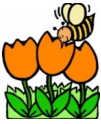
Name: _____

Number of Dinners: _____

Carry Out? (Circle one)

Yes No





Greenwood United Methodist Church

March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p>RED CROSS MONTH WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</p> </div>			1 Nat'l Peace Corps Day 	2 5:30 p.m. Willing Workers Circle 6:30 p.m.	3 Nat'l Anthem Day 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	4 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10 a.m. Electronics
5 Communion Sunday 11 a.m. Worship 	6 Nat'l Oreo Cookie Day 	7 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	8 Int'l Working Women's Day 6:30 p.m. Charge Admin	9 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers	10 Fellowship Dinner Reservations Due 6 p.m. Food Distribution	11 Genealogy Day
12 Girl Scouts Day 2 a.m. Daylight Saving Time Ends 11 a.m. Worship	13 Jewel Day 	14 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 7 p.m. Admin Council	15 Ides of March 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner	16 Freedom of Information Day 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	17 St. Patrick's Day 6 p.m. Food Distribution <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 5px;"> Friendship Quilters </div>	18 Nat'l Quilting Day
19 11 a.m. Worship 	20 Spring Equinox 	21 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	22 Nat'l Goof Off Day 	23 Nat'l Puppy Day 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	24 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution	25 Int'l Waffle Day
26 11 a.m. Worship 	27 Nat'l Joe Day 	28 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	29 Nat'l Mom & Pop Business Day 	30 Take a Walk in the Park Day 	31 World Back Up Day 6 p.m. Food Distribution	April 1 April Fool's Day 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Mark Your Calendars

April 1.....	Easter Egg Hunt
April 2.....	Palm Sunday
April 6.....	Maundy Thursday; Passover Begins
April 7.....	Good Friday
April 9.....	Easter Sunday
April 18.....	Tax Day
May 14.....	Mother's Day
May 28.....	Pentecost Sunday
May 29.....	Memorial Day (Observed)
June 15.....	Virginia Annual Conference
June 18.....	Father's 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	»	Growing	»	Serving
Learning to love and connect with God and People		Acquiring tools for being transformed into the image of Christ		Participating in church ministry and community outreach

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

