



Prayer Requests

Our Nation

- Those Affected by COVID19
- Our homebound and Shut-in members
- Our church leaders
- Aggie’s Attic
- Brendon Elliott
- Maurice Hawkins
- Regina Ridgley
- Bobby Schultz
- Bob Smith
- Robin Smith
- Lawrence Stout

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Jesus 2021

By Steve Stalnaker

Back in January, while driving around a Glen Allen neighborhood, I saw a couple of houses, facing each other across the street, with campaign signs still on their lawns.

One house sported a “Biden 2020” sign and the other displayed “Trump 2020.” This was a couple of months after last November’s presidential election, so I assumed these two neighbors were engaging in a feud of sorts.

A different campaign sign graced a house next door to one of these feuding neighbors: “Jesus 2020.” I thought that was the best, and most appropriate, of the three campaign signs. I wish I’d seen a “Jesus 2020” sign back in October. I would have gotten one and put it in our front window, since our neighborhood association won’t let us put out yard signs of any sort, especially campaign signs.

Considering all that occurred last year and what’s been going on so far here in 2021 “Jesus 2020” is a particularly appropriate sign. And let’s upgrade it to “Jesus 2021.” Our country, our state and each of us need to get back to God, through His son, our Savior, Christ Jesus.

Think about what’s happened over the last several months. Regardless of one’s

(Continued on page 10)



From the Pastor

Lenten Bible Study

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. — Joel 2:12 NRSV

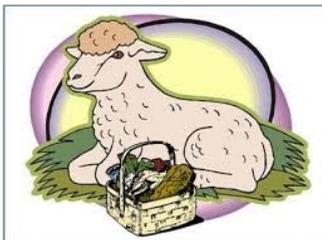
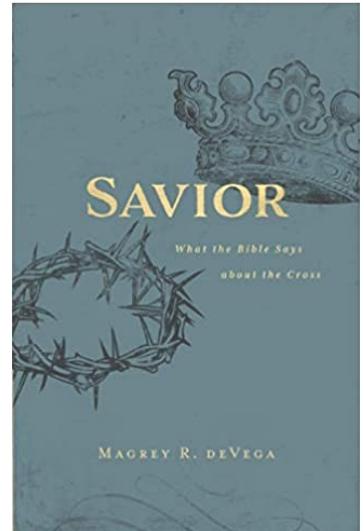
God has been gracious in allowing all of us to see another Lenten season. It is during this time Christians sacrifice something for 40 days, symbolic of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, as we remember Christ's journey to the cross.

The Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge from Feb. 25 to April 1 is in a Lenten Bible Study using the book *Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross* written by Magrey R. deVega, the Senior Pastor at Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida. I like doing a Bible Study specifically during Lent because it provides us with the discipline of studying the Bible as a community of faith during one of the most sacred times in our liturgical calendar.

Giving up something, fasting for Lent is commendable, a symbol of sacrifice, and a good starting place for Lent. But it should be accompanied by repentance and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection.

I believe one of the most significant and necessary things we must do during Lent is remembering why Jesus came, and what He did for us on the cross. The thing we give up for Lent should aid us in redirecting our attention so we can be focused on prayer,

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*Our March
Communion Offering Goes to
The LAMB's Basket*

Drive-By Easter Egg Hunt 2021

COVID will again this year prevent us from holding our traditional neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt at Greenwood. But the Just Friends Sunday School class has an alternate plan: a drive-by Easter Egg Hunt.

This year, on April 3 – the Saturday before Easter – Pastor Josette will carry pre-assembled Easter bags to predetermined Greenwood children, wherever [within reason] they may be.

So, readers, you need to do two things:

1. **Let the church** know which of your kids, grandkids, great grandkids, nieces, nephews, godchildren and so forth you want to participate in the drive-by Easter Egg Hunt. That way we can pre-assemble a bag full of plastic, candy-filled Easter Eggs for each of them. We need their names, relationship to you and where they'll be on the Saturday before Easter and we need it no later than Palm Sunday, March 28. Use the form on page 15.
2. **Pick up a dozen or two plastic Easter eggs** from the box in the narthex, fill each egg with one piece of wrapped, store-bought candy (no hard candy, please). Return your filled eggs to the church by Palm Sunday, March 28. If you can't make it on Sundays to pick up or deliver your eggs, come by the church when the volunteers are in the office – Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you wish to participate in this year's Easter Egg Hunt, please **fill out the form** on page 15 and either drop it in the offering plate, email it to the church office or drop it off at the church office during office hours, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. by Palm Sunday, March 28.

Let's work together to keep this Greenwood tradition alive, albeit in this altered format, so the children of Greenwood can enjoy a not-so-traditional Easter Egg Hunt.



Aggie's Attic is Moving

By Linda Walker

Aggie's Attic, the Laurel Park United Methodist Church thrift store, will close its current location and move to "The Hub" in Lakeside as of April 1. *(No, this isn't one of Steve's April Fool stories!)*

The owner of the Laurel Park Shopping Center, where the Attic is presently located,



informed Aggie that the building will be demolished around May 1 in preparation for a 350-unit apartment complex that will be built there.

The Attic's new address at The Hub will be 6913 Lakeside Ave., Richmond.

Aggie's Attic was started by Agnes Dalton and our former pastor, Dean Pittman, as a way for Laurel Park UMC to help the community. Their mission was

to provide items to members of the community who need them, while donating all net proceeds to worthwhile charities. And that's what they have done for the past 11 years.

They have given backpack items for weekend meals, snacks, and holiday gift cards to Holladay, Lakeside and Maude Trevvettte Elementary Schools. The Attic has provided scholarships for students at the Hermitage Technical School, donated thousands of dollars to families in need (like payments for their electric bills), and they have reached out in many other ways.

Check out the Attic's Facebook page to view photos of some of their inventory for sale (<https://www.facebook.com/Aggies-Attic-288839537890110/>). (That set of Elvis Presley glasses brought a smile to my face.)

Please join Aggie in praising God for this next phase of Aggie's Attic and for God's continued blessings on this endeavor and for His guidance.

St. Patrick's Day

This month we observe St. Patrick's Day on March 17, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick (c. 385 – c. 461), the foremost patron Saint of Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day has become an occasion to visit [Irish] pubs, drink green-dyed beer, eat corned beef and cabbage and promote a possibly offensive stereotype.

Regardless, the *Twig Bender* wishes the Irish Blessing at right on all the members of the Greenwood and Laurel Park church families and all our other readers.

God bless us all and may God hold us in the hollow of His hand.



Greenwood's Women's Circles

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, March 3, at 1 p.m. in the home of Agnes Dalton.

The Willing Workers Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 3 at 1 p.m. at Mary Cullom's house.



UMCOR Sunday This Month

The United Methodist Church sets aside several special Sundays during the year to highlight important ministries around the world and to give us an opportunity to contribute offerings to those programs. March 14 has been designated as UMCOR Sunday.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) acts as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together they are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

UMCOR was there:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma.
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS.
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan.



And they will be there when the next mass crisis occurs.

(Left) Donna-Grace Orbong, 5, sits with her family's food bag following a distribution by the United Methodist Committee on Relief for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan in Tacloban, Philippines.

Thank you in advance for your generous offerings on Sunday, March 14.

Sign Up for Altar Flowers

Don't forget the 2021 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.



Pre-Packaged Communion Elements

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

Pre-packaged, already-consecrated Communion elements will be available for those not planning to attend monthly first Sunday 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.

GREENWOOD'S ON FACEBOOK:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA



Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures

March Lectionary Readings

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| March 7 | Exodus 20:1-7; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22 |
| March 14 UMCOR Sunday | Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21 |
| March 21 | Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33 |
| March 28 Palm Sunday | <i>Liturgy of the Palms:</i> Mark 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 <i>Liturgy of the Passion:</i> Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philipians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54 |

Food Donation Connection

Church volunteers collect food from Starbucks and WaWa each week and distribute the food to visitors to Greenwood United Methodist Church each Friday evening. Sometimes we have food left over, either because we received an abundance of food or not many people stopped by for the food. You can rest assured that the food will not be wasted.



After our food distribution, Ruth Wilkenson stops by our church to collect the leftover food and takes it to Ginter Park United Methodist Church on Laburnum Avenue. Ginter Park UMC conducts a weekly drive-thru food pantry. They serve between 45 to 80 family units a week.

Bring your donations to the church office Tuesday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

March Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, March 3: Charley Banks; Thursday, March 4: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, March 5: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, March 10: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, March 11: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, March 12: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

Wednesday, March 17: Charley Banks; Thursday, March 18: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, March 19: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

Wednesday, March 24: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, March 25: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, March 26: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, March 31: Charley Banks; Thursday, April 1: Susan Johnston and Lewis Daniel; Friday, April 2: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 14. Set your clocks ahead 1 hour: Spring Forward!



What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17, this year) and ends on Holy Saturday (this year on April 3).

The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.



Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance for all Christians.

Today, we Christians focus on our relationship with God, on growing as disciples and on extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. The term "Lent" comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring.

Downloaded from Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

Sunday Virtual 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



Jesus 2021

(Continued from page 1)

political outlook, one has to admit that for a long time the “stuff” has been hitting the fan around this country. Plague, riots, economic turmoil, accusations of election fraud, males being allowed to compete in female sporting events – all these, and more, are indications to me that this culture, this society has gotten away from God.

And it’s us who have distanced ourselves from God, not the other way around. Remember what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans:

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord — *Romans 8:38-39, NRSV.*

Don’t forget all the unpleasant things that happened to the Israelites when they turned away from God: conquest, destruction of their temple and exile to Babylon in the 5th century B.C. among other disasters.

Is it possible that America is experiencing all its current unpleasanties because we’ve turned away from God? We haven’t – yet – experienced anything like being exiled from our homeland. It’s arguable that my point here is a paranoid stretch, but readers must admit that things aren’t going as well as we might like.

How do we get back in right relationship with God? We can start by remembering, and carrying out, Jesus’ commandments: Love God, love one another — *John 13:34-35.* And to help us, keep in mind what else Paul wrote: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” — *Romans 8:31b.*

And maybe, instead of just “Jesus 2020” or “Jesus 2021,” our campaign should be “Jesus Every Year!”



Lenten Bible Study

(Continued from page 2)

study, and remembering Jesus and growing in our relationship with Him. If what we give up for Lent does not do this, then it is a waste of our time.

In our Lenten Bible Study, we are examining six (6) atonement theories: substitutionary, ransom, moral example, reconciliation, cleansing, and Christus Victor. DeVega leads us on an exploration of various biblical metaphors for how Jesus' death brings atonement, as well as the larger frameworks theologians have used to bring them together. The hope is that these new ways of seeing the cross and the different approaches to the atonement will offer new life-giving possibilities for our faith journey, a greater awareness of our own sin, and a deeper view and appreciation for God's faithful love and Christ's sacrifice.

I am praying for our Lenten Bible Study as we stretch our belief and understanding of what Christ did for us on the cross. And I am praying for all of us as we participate over the phone or on video for our relationship with God to change and grow as we mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. I am praying for those of you in our congregation who have been apprehensive about using the Zoom video or phone options, as these platforms are our new normal – we need to take advantage of opportunities to come together even if it is outside our comfort zone. Even if you do not have a book, the video presentation, the Scripture, and discussion questions still provide a great time of learning and study during this Lenten season.

I invite you to join us on this journey!

Pastor Josette Franklin





Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Janet Pittman | 3/10 | Austin Stanley | 3/18 |
| Jeffrey Patteson | 3/12 | Roger Robillard | 3/20 |
| Samantha Stanley | 3/15 | Amanda Banks Langston..... | 3/21 |

Anniversaries



Dean & Janet Pittman 3/11

*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**.*



Twig Bender

is a publication of Greenwood United Methodist Church

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



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Greenwood United Methodist Church

March 2021



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | 1 Peace Corps Es- tablished 1961 | 2 8 a.m. Prayer Call | 3 "Star Spangled Banner" desig- nated U.S. Nat'l Anthem—1931 1 p.m. Ruth Circle 1 p.m. Willing Workers | 4 6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study | 5 World Day of Prayer 6 p.m. Free Food | 6 No Men's Breakfast Dentist's Day |
| 7 Commu- nion Sunday 11 a.m. In- Person and Virtual Worship | 8 Int'l Working Women's Day | 9 8 a.m. Prayer Call | 10 Mario Day | 11 Johnny Appleseed day 6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study | 12 Girl Scouts Day 6 p.m. Free Food | 13 Genealo- gy Day |
| 14 UMCOR Sunday Daylight Sav- ing Begins 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship | 15 The Ides of March | 16 8 a.m. Prayer Call | 17 St. Pat- rick's Day | 18 6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study | 19 6 p.m. Free Food | 20 Spring Begins Extraterrestri- al Abduc- tions Day |
| 21 11 a.m. In- Person and Virtual Worship | 22 National Pack Your Lunch Day | 23 8 a.m. Prayer Call | 24 Nat'l Chocolate Covered Raisin Day | 25 6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study | 26 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 6 p.m. Free Food | 27 Passover Begins |
| 28 Palm Sun- day 11 a.m. In- Person and Virtual Worship | 29 Vietnam War Veter- ans Day | 30 Nat'l Doc- tor's Day 8 a.m. Prayer Call | 31 World Back Up Day | April 1 Maundy Thursday | 2 Good Fri- day | 3 Drive-by Easter Egg Hunt |

Mark Your Calendars

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| April 1 | Maundy Thursday |
| April 3 | Pastor's Drive-By Easter Egg Hunt |
| April 4 | Easter Sunday |
| May 9 | Mother's Day |
| May 31 | Memorial Day |
| June 20 | Father's Day |
| July 4 | Independence Day |



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

Greenwood's 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



Drive-By Easter Egg Hunt 2021

To participate in the Drive-by Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, please tear out this page, fill in this form and drop it in the collection plate, or email a scanned copy to admin@gumcva.org or drop it off at the church office during office hours Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Forms must be received by Palm Sunday, March 28.

Your name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Children(s)' name(s): _____

Their Relationship to you: _____

Address where they'll be on Saturday, April 3: _____

Comments/Notes: _____

If you'd like to help put together the Easter bags for this event, please call Glenda Stalnaker at 804-755-6767 or Linda Walker at 804-262-7720. They'll be working on the bags the week of March 29.