



May 2023



The Twig Bender

From the Pastor

Acknowledge God's Sovereignty

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." –
Philippians 4:6 NRSVUE*

Over these next two months we will be **preparing for change**. The Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge will merge and become one church and the congregation will receive a new pastor, *Reverend TaeWon Kang*. Both will be effective July 1, 2023. My new appointment will be in the Northern District as the new pastor at Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church.

In this season of change and transition it is **easy to become anxious**. There are many unknowns and adjustments to be made. Things will be different from how things are right now and what we have known as we have walked together the past four years will become our past. You are being invited to move forward, to keep loving, growing, and serving, but with new leadership and new vision.



Change and transition stretches us. Change and transition is a part of our spiritual growth as we mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. And as disciples of Jesus Christ, we already know what to do to know peace during times of change and transition—PRAY.

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Greenwood Prayer Ministry

Our Nation



The Greenwood and Laurel Park Church Families, Greenwood Learning Center,
Roger Eckwright, Trish Hayes, Donna Hunt, Dominic LeMerise,
Riley Patteson, Lacye Ryan, Robbie Smith, Charlotte Staggs, Robbie Tyree

Greenwood prayer request email: greenwoodprays@gmail.com

GUMC, LPUMC Merger

Pastor Franklin Leaving



Rev. TaeWon Kang

By Steve Stalnaker

So, the cat's out of the bag: Pastor Franklin is leaving the Greenwood – Laurel Park Charge.

That Pastor Franklin was eventually going to be reassigned was one of the least well-kept secrets in Glen Allen. Many of us have long known that she was headed for larger roles in the United Methodist Church. Her moving on was inevitable.

Now it is official: Rev. Franklin is being reassigned. The Rev. TaeWon Kang will become Greenwood's pastor. Read more in

Rev. TaeWon Kang Pastor Franklin's article on [page 1](#).

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What caused this upheaval? Why is our pastor leaving after only four years here? Why is the VAUMC taking away the pastor that the Charge Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) voted in January to retain for another year?

Pastor Franklin's love for the Lord, along with her background, education and prospective ordination all mean that she's destined to move up in the United Methodist Church. Don't be surprised if one day we hear of **BISHOP** Josette L. Franklin. Then we can say "we knew her when."

The Twig Bender welcomes Pastor Kang and respectfully reminds him that the *Twig Bender* deadline is the last Friday of each month.

As Pastor Franklin has made clear, **the**

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GUMC, LPUMC Merger

A Laurel Park Perspective

By Lori Lohr of LPUMC

CHANGE. It's constant. It's inevitable. Ask the members of Laurel Park UMC and they'll tell you that change is also sad. And hard.

We now know that, effective July 1, Laurel Park will be closing its doors and merging with Greenwood UMC. This decision comes on the heels of Covid and the many losses that have occurred in our (already small) congregation over the last few years. Average attendance dwindled to 12 people at Sunday morning worship service, and it became impossible to meet our weekly budget goals. All of the major leadership roles/responsibilities were being done by about six church members. We had to decide about what we should do, as we knew we couldn't continue along that path.

"There's a lot of history here, and it makes me sad to see Laurel Park close after all these years. This is the church where I grew up and my daughter grew up here, too", said one member whose mother was a charter member of Laurel Park back in 1958.

Personally, Laurel Park has been my church home for over 15 years. I love this church and its people so much. It's difficult for me to think about worshipping anywhere else. I've had the pleasure to meet some of the most wonderful people and share my Christian journey with them. Over the years, Laurel Park has been a source of love and support for my husband and I in more ways than I can count. They truly are our family. Members of Laurel Park often joke that we are "small but mighty", but in

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Greenwood's
May Communion Offering:
CARITAS

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 April, we averaged \$2,402 each week, or 92 percent of our budget. The table at right shows each Sunday's giving.

Greenwood Stewardship April 2023

Date	Present	Giving
4/2	29	\$3,171
4/9	62	\$4,448
4/16	22	\$1,483
4/23	30	\$1,440
4/30	33	\$1,466



Prayer Request Email



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

Greenwood's Women's Circles

THE RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, May 2 at 1 p.m. in the home of Jean Mowatt. We will be starting a new Bible study: *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Anyone interested call Adamarye at 804-690-9808.

THE WILLING WORKERS CIRCLE will meet at the church on Thursday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m. We'll be working on making more gift bags for newcomers so they'll be welcome in our congregation.



Medicare Update

More Vaccines Available

By the Medicare Team

We've got good news to share! Thanks to the prescription drug law that went into effect this year, even more vaccines are free for people with Medicare Part D which could be an average savings of up to \$70 in out-of-pocket costs each year.



This means more people with Medicare can be protected against disease and severe illness. Vaccines now covered under Medicare Part D include:

Shingles.

Tetanus/diphtheria (Td)

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) (Tdap).

Hepatitis A.

Hepatitis B.

Flu shots, COVID-19 vaccines, and pneumococcal (pneumonia) shots are still covered by Medicare.

Serious diseases can impact our health and quality of life. That's why it's so important to stay up-to-date with vaccines. Talk with your doctor about which vaccines are right for you!

Sign Up for Altar Flowers

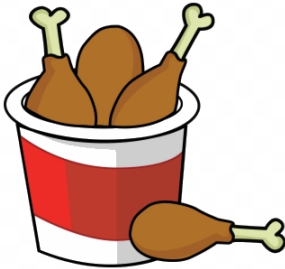


Don't forget the flower calendar posted in the back hall. You're invited to donate altar flowers in memory of or in honor of, those you'd like to remember.

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

Eating Opportunities!

Like all good United Methodists, the People of the Greenwood — Laurel Park Charge never pass up an opportunity to join in fellowship and chow down. Here are some upcoming opportunities. Mark your calendars and bring your appetites.



Fellowship Dinner: May 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Menu: fried chicken, cole slaw, oven fried potatoes, string beans, homemade applesauce and dessert: \$10/plate. Sign up on the form on page 15 by Sunday, May 7.

Bag Lunches: Turkey and cheese sandwich, potato salad, cheese balls, blueberry salad. Sign up on the poster in the narthex by Sunday, May 21. \$8/bag. Pick up after worship on May 28.



Farewell reception for Pastor Franklin and Madison: Sunday June 25 in the Fellowship Hall after church services.

Welcoming reception for Pastor Kang: Sunday, July 2 also in the Fellowship Hall, right after worship services.

Say Your Prayers

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:17-19

“Whether you like it or not, read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way; else you will be a trifler all your days ... Do justice to your soul; give it time and means to grow. Do not starve yourself any longer.” — John Wesley



Go Paperless

If you're receiving a paper copy of *The Twig Bender* through the snail mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service), consider going paperless. Save Greenwood the cost of postage, paper, toner, labels, stickers and labor involved in printing, folding, stamping and mailing out paper copies of our newsletter.

Remember, *The Twig Bender* is always available online at Greenwood's web site at <https://www.gumcva.org/twig-bender-archives>. And in living color, too. There you'll also find newsletter archives going back through the beginning of 2019 (and we'll be adding more archives as the webmaster gets the time).

We realize, however, that many of us (including your editor) prefer a "hard copy" to hold in our hands while we read. That's OK, and we'll continue to publish paper copies of *The Twig Bender*.

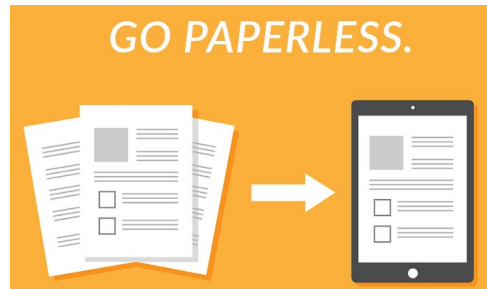
To go paperless, email the church office at admin@gumcva.org, call the office at 804-266-5341 or just tell your newsletter editor.

Likewise, if you no longer want to receive the monthly *Twig Bender* in any form – paper or by email – please let us know.

But, don't select a paperless *Twig Bender* if you think paperless saves the environment. It doesn't necessarily. Think about it:

- Paper is a biodegradable, renewable, sustainable product made from trees.
- Growing and harvesting trees provides jobs for millions of Americans.
- Forests are good for the environment and provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat and carbon storage.
- Thanks to improved forest management, we have more trees in America today than we had 100 years ago, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

It's your choice: paper or plastic ... er ... electronic. Let us know, please.



Food Donation Connection

May Pick Up Rotation

In March we served 70 families. We still can use canned fruit — we have plenty of vegetables and soup.

Wednesday, May 3: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, May 4:
Susan Johnston; Friday, May 5: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, May 10: Charley Banks; Thursday, May 11: Gay and Bob
Stapleton; Friday, May 12: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

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

Wednesday, May 24: Charley Banks; Thursday, May 25: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday,
May 26: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, May 31: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, June 1: Susan John-
ston; Friday, June 2: Josette Franklin.



Aggie's Attic Furniture Sale

In the parking lot at Laurel Park UMC on Saturday, May 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you'd like to help or want to donate furniture, please contact Susan Johnston at ksngal@aol.com or 804-515-5652.

MAY SCRIPTURES

May 7	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14.
May 14	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.
May 21	Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.
May 28	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23;

Trust in God

(Continued from page 1)

When we pray, we **acknowledge God's sovereignty** in all things and submit our will to God's will. When we pray, the burden of anxiety, fear, frustration, and expectations can be exchanged for a calm assurance and a living hope that God is working all things out, not just for our good but according to God's purpose and plan.

When we pray, we can let go of the old and receive the new. When we pray, **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, can come upon us. God will guard our hearts and our minds in Jesus Christ so we can be open to what God is doing. Prayer tells God we need God. Prayer tells God we yield. Prayer tells God we trust God. And prayer tells God we are waiting and listening.

Whatever you might be feeling right now, **God has already anticipated it**. Why not have a little talk with Jesus? God's plan is for our good, not to harm us, but to give us a future with hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

So, **be open and don't put limitations on God**. Ask God to help you be a part of what God is doing. Ask God to prepare your heart to love and receive your new pastor. Ask God to reveal to you the ways in which you can be more intentional in your relationship with God and as a member of the church. Ask God to prepare the congregation for this new thing God is doing in the church. And believe and expect God to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine.

Get ready! Make a commitment today. Choose the same time each day, right up to July 1 and PRAY. Be **intentional**. **Believe** God. **Thank** God in advance. And enjoy the ride.

Peace and blessings to all,

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*



We'll Continue Our Mission

(Continued from page 2)

change we're facing is twofold: a change in clergy and a merger of the two churches of the Charge. While these changes are separate, they're related through the Charge's finances.

Greenwood and Laurel Park are financially linked through Charge clergy compensation – the pastor's pay and allowances. Laurel Park has been providing 40% and Greenwood 60% of that compensation. Recently the LPUMC laity reluctantly concluded they could no longer financially maintain their portion – see Lori Lohr's article on [page 3](#). These tough financial choices are the Charge's tough choices, not just Laurel Park's. We are sure that the Lord will work out the Charge's finances.

The Twig Bender welcomes all who want to visit or join Greenwood UMC. The members of Laurel Park are free to attend whatever church they wish – they're not obligated to join or attend Greenwood. We expect the People of Greenwood to welcome in Christian fellowship anyone who comes to GUMC.

We also look forward to **LPUMC missions** like Aggie's Attic and the United Women in Faith deciding to relocate to Greenwood, although the leaders of those missions are under no obligation to transfer to Greenwood. If they choose not to, we wish them the best. We know that the People of Greenwood will continue to support Aggie's Attic.

Many administrative, procedural and financial **issues are still to be decided.** There's enough organizational skills in the Laurel Park and Greenwood leadership to get everything sorted out, with God's help and to God's glory.

One burning question that needs to be answered without delay is: **which church's Brunswick Stew recipe will we use next Fall?**

Regardless of these changes, **we will still work towards our mission** "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" in accordance with Matthew 28:19 and the Charge will continue its vision of Loving, Growing and Serving.

See you in church – with the Rev. Josette L. Franklin in the pulpit through the end of June.



MERGER: LPUMC PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from page 3)

all honesty, it's the truth. I've never met a group of people that could pull together for the greater good and accomplish as much as this little church has over the years.

The **Greenwood congregation has welcomed Laurel Park** members without hesitation and is interested in continuing the missions of Laurel Park, which is very important to all of us. This is especially so for Steve Dalton, who said that his mother would not "rest in peace" if anything happened to Aggie's Attic. "She would probably haunt us all," he added. I agree wholeheartedly with Steve and am happy that Greenwood wants to continue this important community mission along with others supported by Laurel Park. I am not interested in being haunted by anyone, but especially not Agnes Dalton! (Love you, Aggie! ♥)

As we move forward during this period of change, we are thankful for the opportunity to merge with Greenwood and look forward to writing the next chapter in our journey. Though the doors may be closing, the **impact that Laurel Park United Methodist Church and its members have had on this community over the years is undeniable**. That will never be forgotten. And I'd like to think that a small piece of Laurel Park will live on in each of its members, past and present, no matter where we worship on Sunday morning.



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 Church Family Birthdays



Izabel Stalnaker	5/2	Jeremiah Frazier	5/11
Bob Stapleton	5/4	Lathan Fulcher	5/13
Kendra Thomas.....	5/7	Mary Walker.....	5/19
Patricia Rios	5/7	Steve Stalnaker.....	5/30



Anniversaries

Adamarye & Riley Patteson	5/2
Bobby & Jackie Schultz.....	5/8

*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**.*



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Greenwood United Methodist Church

May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 May Day 	2 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 	3 World Press Freedom Day 	4 Star Wars Day 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	5 Cinco de Mayo 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	6 Kentucky Derby Day 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 
7 Communion Sunday 11 a.m. Worship 	8 VE Day 	9 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 	10 Nat'l School Nurse Day 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 	11 5:30 p.m. Willing Workers Circle 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Richmond 	12 Military Spouse Day 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	13 Nat'l Train Day 
14 Mother's Day 11 a.m. Worship 	15 Chocolate Chip Day 	16 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 7 p.m. Admin Council 	17 Pack Rat Day 	18 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Friendship Quilters </div>	
21 11 a.m. Worship 	22 Nat'l Maritime Day 	23 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 	24 EMS Day 	25 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	26 Twig Bender Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	27 Sun Screen Day 
28 Pentecost Sunday 11 a.m. Worship 	29 Memorial Day 	30 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 	31 World No Tobacco Day 	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px; background-color: #d4edda;"> <p style="margin: 0;">MAY IS BLADDER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH</p> </div>		

Mark Your Calendars

June 9..... GLC Summer Break
 June 15 — 17 Virginia Annual Conference
 June 18..... Father's Day
 June 25..... Farewell Reception for Pastor Franklin and Madison
 July 2 Welcome Reception for Pastor TaeWon Kang
 July 4 Independence Day
 Aug. 21.....First Day of School; GLC Opens
 Sep. 4 Labor Day
 Oct. 9 Columbus Day
 Oct. 31 Halloween
 Nov. 11.....Veterans 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

