During the season of Lent, we are given the opportunity to think afresh about our commitment to the way of Jesus. As I’ve thought about a study we can engage in, I wanted to be sure we were thinking specifically about how we reflect the love of God in our day to day lives. I have chosen a study called “Your Life in Christ” from a series called Design for Discipleship. This study was put together by NavPress, which is an arm of the Navigators ministry. I worked with the Navigators for two years prior to my time in the United Methodist Church. One thing I love about how the Navigators approach faith, is that discipleship is at the forefront of their ministry. This study will be four weeks on Sunday evenings from 4-6 and will include a book for $8 that will be used during our time together as well as in between sessions. If you would like to join us, please let me know by February 12 so that I can order the materials. While couples could share a book, I would suggest ordering one per person. If you can't swing the $8 per book, please let me know; I'd be happy to make the resources available so you don't miss out on the study. NavPress says this study, “shows what it means to accept God’s love for you. Its 4 sessions will help you to keep Christ at the center of your life and learn to live in the power of the Spirit.”

I hope you'll join me as we contemplate together our Life in Christ!

Peace,

Will Leasure

Lead Pastor, Greene Street UMC
Greetings Greene Street,

February this year brings us to Lent. With Lent we usher in a season in the church that is filled with several unique and special services. The first of which is Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Yes, Ash Wednesday is on Valentine’s Day. What could be more romantic than taking your sweetheart to dinner and getting marked by a cross with ashes and being reminded that we came from dust and to dust we will return?

We are starting a new sermon series on the first Sunday of Lent called Unbreakable. We will spend time over these forty days being reminded that God’s love for those who bear his image is unbreakable. No matter what you’ve done, no matter what you’ve said, God loves you.

This series goes well with what Lent stands for in many circles. Lent has been a season the church has recognized for nearly 1700 years. Lent was actually more prevalent as a celebrated season in church circles before Christmas. From early on, a season of preparation for Easter was seen by the faith community as important.

We too, get the opportunity to prepare ourselves for Easter. When the calendar changes, and particularly in the church when we change seasons, I tend to go to a book that was put out a few years ago called The Liturgical Year by Sister Joan Chittister. Liturgical is a word that refers to worship, or how we order the church year. In her book, she says this of Lent:

“Lent requires me, as a Christ, to stop for a while, to reflect again on what is going on in me. I am challenged again to decide whether I, myself, do truly believe that Jesus is the Christ - and if I believe, whether I will live accordingly when I can no longer hear the song of angels in my life and the star of Bethlehem has grown dim for me.

Lent is not a ritual. It is time given to think seriously about who Jesus is for us, to renew our faith from the inside out. It is an opportunity to respond to the invitation Jesus offered his disciples in John 1:30 to ‘come and see’. It is the act of beginning our spiritual life all over again refreshed and reoriented.” (111, The Liturgical Year)

Often, during Lent, folks will choose something to give up. In doing so, you are giving yourself permission to refocus on your relationship with God. So if you are a chocolate fanatic and you give up chocolate for Lent, those times you would usually be eating chocolate, perhaps instead you spend in prayer.

Another way to approach Lent is to see it as Chittister has suggested, an opportunity to start our relationship with God anew. A fresh start. Perhaps for you, this means committing to be in worship every Sunday during Lent and Easter. Perhaps it means going to an Ash Wednesday service for the first time. Whatever you decide to do or not do, I invite you to engage during this Lenten season. Take time in these next few weeks ahead of Ash Wednesday to decide what you need to do in order to go deeper in your faith and understanding of Jesus.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Peace,

Will Leasure
Lead Pastor, Greene Street UMC

---

**Lenten Schedule**

Mark Your Calendars

- **2/14** Ash Wednesday Service 7pm at Greene Street
- **3/25** Easter Egg Hunt 11:30am at Greene Street
- **3/29** Maundy Thursday Service 7pm at Piqua Grace
- **3/30** Good Friday Service 12 noon at Westminster Presbyterian
- **4/1** Resurrection Sunday Celebration 9 and 10:30 at Greene Street
Save the Date!

We will again host our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 25th, following the 10:30 worship gathering! The entire church family is invited to stay for lunch, followed by the hunt for candy filled eggs. More details will be published soon.

It’s not too early to begin shopping for candy. As always, your generous donations of wrapped candy will be greatly appreciated! Please place candy in the collection center baskets. (education wing hallway)

Midweek

Midweek Children’s Ministries will meet on Wednesday, February 7 from 6:30-7:30. Then during Lent, we’ll meet on Sundays: February 18, 25, March 4, 11 and 18 from 4:00-5:30. All children in Kindergarten through Sixth grade are invited to join us for activities which include singing, bell ringing, special craft projects and prayer stations.

Please bring your children into the Narthex and pick up in the same location. Please note: if school is cancelled for bad weather, we will also be cancelled.

Special Event

On Wednesday, February 21st we’ll have a very special evening of fun with baby goats! Curt and Jennifer Everett will bring two of their newest goats to share with us. ☺ Please meet downstairs in the Wall Wesleyan room from 6:30-7:30.

Ministries for Children

Children’s Sunday School

On Sundays during the 10:30 Unveiled worship gathering, children are excused before the sermon for Sunday School and may attend one of two classes: children age five through Second Grade meet in the ABC room off the corner of the Narthex, and students in 3rd through 6th grade meet upstairs off the balcony in room 24. This month our lessons will include stories from Mark and John about the miracles Jesus performed.

February’s memory verse is: “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!” (Mark 4:41) Any child who memorizes the verse and recites it to Ms. Barb will earn a special prize!

Kidz Worship Teachers for February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Susan Hopkins</th>
<th>Barb Hudson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Hannah Parshall</td>
<td>Paul Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Michelle Underwood</td>
<td>Mike Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Barb Hudson</td>
<td>Linda Price</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Gratitude**

Thank you so very much for your donation of blankets. There were lovely. Thanks you for sharing your creativity!

Beth Sh rake
Hospice of Miami County

**Answered Prayers from the Food Pantry**

The last month has been very cold. Some of our friends walk to the pantry. They get a chance to warm up while they are picking food from the shelves.

We had one gentleman who told me he was having a kidney removed in November. When he came to the pantry in December, he began thanking us for our prayers (over and over). The doctors had gotten all the cancer and he was doing well in his recovery. Thank you Jesus.

We had one family in our congregation provide Christmas gifts for a single mother with three children. I think there was excitement on both ends of this gift. It was certainly an answer to prayer for the mother.

We did receive gifts of food from several sources over the holidays. This enabled the shelves to remain full.

Please continue to remember our friends in the weeks ahead. There are many needs for which we can pray.

Peggy Moorman

**United Methodist Men**

The UMM would like to remind all men that you are invited to attend our monthly meetings. The more men we have involved the more ideas we have for the better good of God’s Church. Our February meeting is February 24th @ 8:00am at Greene Street in the Wall/Wesleyan Room in the basement. Plan to come to hear a special speaker.

**Second Grade Luncheon**

The Second Grade Luncheon again this year! On Tuesday, February 14 Second Grade students and staff from Washington Elementary will be joining us for lunch following their field trip to the Victoria Theatre. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to connect with children from our community!

We could use some help pulling this off! Would you be willing to share your time and talents? Here’s how you can help!

2/13 - Set up at 6pm until finished (about an hour)

2/14 - Serve and clean up beginning at 1:00 until clean up is finished

Not available those dates? You could help by baking cookies (no nuts, please) Cookies need to be at the church by the morning of the 14th.

Let us know by filling out the Connection Card on the back of your bulletin or call the church office (Ext. 10)

Want to take home a piece of our luncheon? We will be offering our terrarium centerpieces for sale to help cover the cost of this luncheon and decorations. Come and check them out on the 14th at 2:15 or see them at church on Sunday the 18th for cash and carry! The decorations have been lovingly made by Linda Harbison and her granddaughters.

**Forever Young**

Are you looking for fun, food, and fellowship? Do you think that it would be fun to get together for a carry-in (food) once a month and to enjoy the fellowship with each other? You are invited to come to church on Tuesday, February 27 at 11:30 a.m. for a carry-in and a meeting to discuss your thoughts and ideas about a Forever Young group.

Here are the facts:

**Where**—Greene Street Church in the Wall Wesleyan Room

**When**—Tuesday, February 27th at 11:30 a.m.

**What**—Carry-in luncheon with the table service (paper goods) and beverages to be provided

Please RSVP at the church office by Monday, February 26th. Come and enjoy your church members and friends for a time to be together.
Food and Hunger Team

Greene Street Food Pantry served a total of 1,761 people during 2017: 193 of those people came to the pantry for the first time.

40 Days, 40 Dollars - Feed A Family

During the season of Lent, the Food and Hunger Team is coordinating a food drive that will help feed members of the Piqua community. We have small boxes that are printed with a suggested list of foods that would provide ten meals for the family receiving that box. The estimated cost to fill the box with these suggested foods is $40. The boxes will be available in the Narthex around mid-February. More details to follow.

Thank you! The Food and Hunger Team would like to thank the following donors:

- All those who anonymously drop off, donations in the Food Pantry collection boxes
- American Legion Club of Piqua
- Sammye Harrison
- Terry Jones
- Gerard E.J.M. Incorporated
- Isaiah Industries
- Linda Harbison - in the name of Gary Harbison
- Hot Head Burritos
- Jean Francony
- Washington School
- A big thank you to Bethany Center for so generously sharing more than 40 frozen turkeys.

Volunteers needed: If you have two hours available on Monday morning, we could use your help. You would be helping to stock shelves and re-package vegetables and fruits (no heavy lifting) for about 30-45 minutes and then, from 10-11 a.m., you would help to sign in visitors to the pantry. If you are available during these times and would like to give us a hand, please contact Jennifer Sweetman.

We cannot thank enough the volunteers who keep the pantry running smoothly each week and reach out to our neighbors for prayer requests.

Dick and Betty Clark, Pat Helman, Peggy Moorman, Marj Stillwell, Nancy Brogden

Community Blood Drive

Neither snow nor icy roads could keep donors away from the donor coach when it once again came to Greene Street on December 30th. We had even more donors at this drive - a total of 32 brave souls came out and 30 pints of blood were collected. “32 donors registered to donate blood, saving up to 96 lives, earning 32 hours of community service. CBC thanks Greene Street United Methodist Church for your life-saving partnership.”

Thank you to:

- Jill Balser
- Nancy Brogden
- Levi Brubaker
- Sandra Caudill
- Richard Clark
- Robyn Cooper
- Adam Fisher
- Telisa Gonzalez
- Jennifer Helman
- Matthew Hilleary
- Shanelle Karn
- Stephanie Lacey
- Jacquelin Lambert
- Bryant Lear
- Carolyn Magoteaux
- James Meckstroth
- Lisa Meckstroth
- Kelli Meckstroth
- Tonya Moreaux
- Baylee Morgan
- Kaysee Morgan
- Michelle Runge
- Mark Runge
- Roberta Stang
- James Starry
- Joseph Stine
- Kaylin Stubbs
- Alexus Suthers
- Michael Taylor
- Brian Westcott
- Sierra Westcott
- Emily Williams

If you are a donor and want to continue in the 8-week donation cycle, the drives will pick up again at the Harley-Davidson dealership in Piqua. The next collection at Greene Street will be in November.
The Prayer Place

Greene Street Church Family - Jessica Bates, Rachel Castle, Mitch Dilbone, Kate Dolder, Edward Eidemiller, Ann Elliott, Ben & Jane Hiser, Bruce Hogston, Becky Kelly, Cale Meckstroth, Don Motter, Steve Mullikin, Jim Otey, Mary Pummill, Jeanne Ringer, Darrell Seas, Fred Shellenberg, Chuck Woods

Friends and Family of Greene Street – Marvin (Ash), Joe Teach (Califf), Warren & Pauline McNemar (Ellerman & Rice), Dean Kerns (Elliott), Rhonda Swallow (Frazier), Paul Maurer (Gaier), Bruce Marshall (Hardman), Bill Weyant, Jim Burton, Angie Eller, David Helman, Tracey Clayton, Bob Wirrig (Helman), Michael Davis, Barb Bollenbacher (Hiser), Leroy (Kelly), Colleen Hull, Brad Spencer (Palmer), Lisa Zellar (Penrod), Catherine Smith, Christina Smith (Rice), Ethan, Lou (Stewart), Mike Jess, Joyce Thornberry, Jennifer Bragg, Becky Ary, Craig Steifel (Stilwell)

Military - Jed Cooper, Clark Cripe (Elliott), Ben Datu (and family in Japan) (Mullikin), Devon Parshall, Brian Pummill, Joseph Sherman (Shellenberg), Matthew Breisch (Stewart), Dalton Ketro (Stilwell), Dasch Underwood

Care Facilities - Piqua Manor: Barbara Minton; Garbry Ridge: Jim Whetstone; Spring Meade: Martha Fraley; Lincoln Park Manor: Margie Trimmer; Dorothy Love: Ruth Brush, Gladys Mullen; Story Point: Al Erbes;

We pray God’s comfort to be with:
Prayers for God’s peace are extended to family and friends of Morris McClannan, who passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2017.
Prayers for God’s peace are extended to family and friends of Rita Palsgrove, who passed away on Saturday, January 6, 2018.
Prayers for God’s peace are extended to family and friends of Cheryl Stiffel-Francis, who passed away on Sunday, January 14, 2018.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Patrick Middleton
2 Kristopher Palsgrove
3 Amberly Tauber
4 Melanie Bush
5 Chuck McBee
6 Tom Wagner
7 Carson Meckstroth
8 Eryn Thomas
9 Melissa Wagner
10 Trent Cooper
11 Rick Fry
12 Megan Pearson
13 Greg Wagner
14 Garrett Brewer
15 Rachel Hopkins
16 Blythe Palsgrove
17 Hubert Bateman
18 Mike DeBrosse
19 Cody Oakes
20 Curt Everett
21 Shirley Grabo
22 Chris Ellerman
23 Peg Luby
24 Wyatt Meckstroth
25 Eric Sweetman
26 Ashlyn Wilson
27 Missy Hunt
28 Annie Marrs
29 Rachael & Steve Egolf
30 David & Susanne Brown

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES!

Hey Greene Street! Let’s send some love to our college students! Send in your college students addresses by February 1st to jennifer@greenestreetumc.org.

TEEM is putting together Care Packages for college students to be sent out with our love for Valentine’s Day!

You can help by bringing in the following items by February 11th:

- Candy/gum
- Heat and serve soups
- Pens/pencils
- Microwave popcorn
- Post-it note pads
- Cookies
- Chips
- Notebook paper
- Notes of encouragement
- Anything you think college students might enjoy!

Donations can be left in the Narthex in the box marked College Bound! We plan on sending out 24 packages this year! Anything you wish to share will be so appreciated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4 - 9 & 10:30 a Worship
5 p Ch. 5 Rebroadcast
6 p Girl Scout | 5 - 5:30 p Destination Imagination
6:30 p Melody Men | 6 - 6:30 p Melody Men | 7 - 1 p Disciple Bible Study
6:30 p Praise Team Practice
6:30 p Children’s Wednesday Night | 8 - 6:30 p Girl Scout Troop | 9 - 5:30 p Destination Imagination
7 p Girl Scout Event | 10 - 8 a Boys Chrysalis Team |
| 11 - 9 & 10:30 a Worship
3 p VBS Meeting
4 p TEEM
5 p Ch. 5 Rebroadcast
6 p Girl Scout | 12 - 7 p Girl Scout Leader | 13 - 6:30 p Melody Men | 14 - 1 p Disciple Bible Study
6:30 p Praise Team Practice
7 p Ash Wednesday Worship | 15 - 6:30 p Girl Scout Troop | 16 - 8 a Boys Chrysalis Weekend #65 |
| 17 - Boys Chrysalis Weekend #65 | 18 - Boys Chrysalis Weekend #65 | 19 - 6:30 p Melody Men | 20 - 1 p Disciple Bible Study
6:30 p Praise Team Practice
6:30 p Children’s Wednesday Night | 21 - 6:30 p Girl Scout Troop | 22 - 7 p CISV Event | 23 - 8 a UMM Breakfast at Caserta’s
2 p Girl Scout Event |
| 24 - 9 & 10:30 a Worship
4 p TEEM
5 p Ch. 5 Rebroadcast
6 p Girl Scout | 25 - 6 p Child Care Staff Meeting | 26 - 11:30 a Forever Young
6:30 p Melody Men | 27 - 1 p Disciple Bible Study
6:30 p Praise Team Practice | 28 - | | |
Elder-Beerman Community Days Coupon Booklets
Thursday, March 1 - Saturday, March 3

Your $5 donation will benefit the TEEM Mission Trip in June and you receive a booklet of coupons. See TEEM on Sunday Mornings or stop by the church office.