



GREENE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

the Chimes

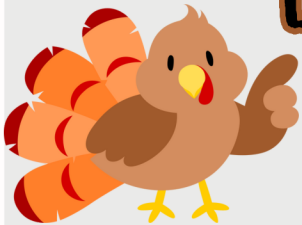
NEWSLETTER

MISSION

"MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS WHO TRANSFORM THE WORLD."



CHURCH-GIVING



A Family Ministry
sponsored event.
Open to ALL.

Bring a side dish or dessert to share
during our church-giving celebration
after service and the Hanging of the
Greens on November 23!



GREENE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

415 W. Greene Street
Piqua, Ohio 45356
www.greenestreetumc.org
937-773-5313
office@greenestreetumc.org

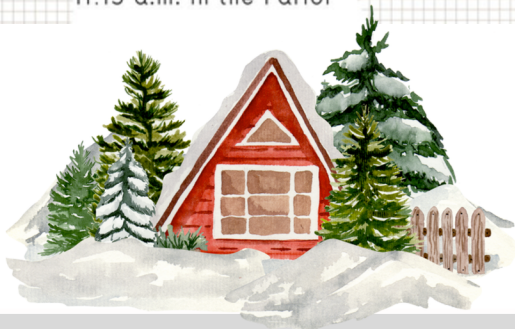
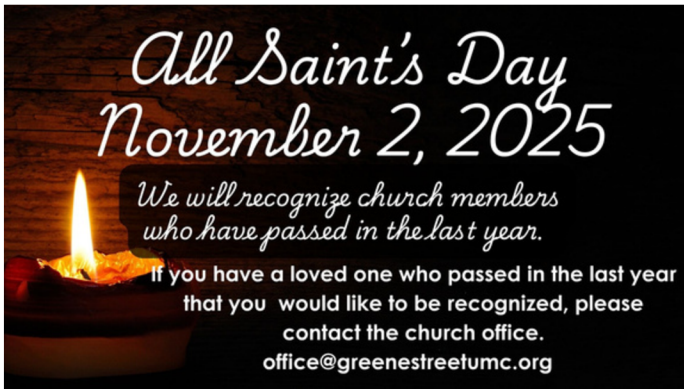
Pastor

Rev. Dr. William Leasure
revwill@greenestreetumc.org

Office Manager

Jennifer Sweetman
jennifer@greenestreetumc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS UPCOMING EVENTS



November / December 2025

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

We have a structure that is consistent among all United Methodist congregations. This structure is spelled out in our Book of Discipline. The Book of Discipline is our guide for how our denomination and churches are structured. It goes from high level structure down to the job description of a pastor. There are a small number of committee chairs that are required per the Book of Discipline and include: Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), Trustees, Administrative Council and Finance. In addition, our church features a few additional committees that we will focus on later in the year.

CHILD CARE COMMITTEE

The Child Care Committee is a group of church members, daycare staff and parents that help govern and discuss policy updates for the Daycare/Preschool. They also act as an additional support system to the Daycare / Preschool Directors and staff.

Child Care Committee Members

Chair: Adele Penrod

Treasurer: Sherry Heath

Jeanne Ringer, Michelle Taylor, Emily Shawler & Staff: Lindsay Lambert

We want to "Welcome" our new leadership team.

Daycare/Preschool Director: Betsy Scroggins

Daycare/Preschool Assistant Director: Jasmine Collins



Vol 71 Issue 5

Exciting News: Rev. Will Leasure Awarded Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, Rev. Will Leasure shared some exciting news with the congregation. Back in March, Rev. Will applied for a Clergy Renewal Grant through the Lilly Foundation, a program designed to give pastors time for rest, renewal, and spiritual growth. The application process was extensive—about 25 pages—and was submitted on March 14.

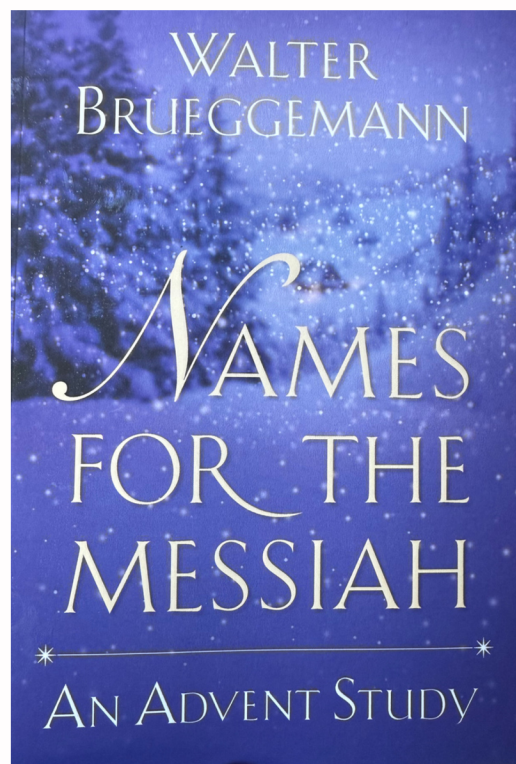
On August 29, Rev. Will received confirmation that he was awarded the grant, which is a significant honor. Out of 233 recipients nationwide, only nine were in Ohio, and as far as we can tell, Greene Street is the only United Methodist Church in the state to receive this recognition.

As part of this grant, Rev. Will will take a sabbatical from May through August 2026. He emphasized that this time away is not a sign that he is leaving, but rather a period for renewal made possible through the Lilly Foundation's support. In fact, one of the requirements of the grant is that the recipient cannot move to another church before or immediately after the sabbatical. Rev. Will is committed to remaining with Greene Street for at least one year after returning, meaning he anticipates continuing to serve our congregation for about three more years.

Planning is already underway to ensure that church life runs smoothly during his sabbatical. Rev. Will and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee are working together with hopes of having a complete plan in place by March 1, 2026.

We celebrate this wonderful opportunity for Rev. Will and for our entire congregation as we look forward to supporting him in this next chapter of ministry and renewal.

ADVENT STUDY



One of the passages you have likely heard every year around Christmas is Isaiah 9:6 - "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." You are invited to join me for a four week study called "Names for the Messiah" by Walter Brueggemann.

Brueggemann was an Old Testament scholar during his life, so his expertise on the text will be on display. We will spend each of the four weeks reading a chapter in the book (about 15 pages per week) and discuss when we meet. The book is \$7.

Please let Jenny Sweetman know your intent to attend no later than November 14th so that I may order books. We will meet for an hour each week at 6pm on the following days; November 19th and December 3rd, 10th, 17th. I hope you'll join me as we prepare for Christmas this year!



CREATION TIPS

Reverse the words, “thanks giving,” to reshape your observance. Develop a gratitude list. As you make an entry, give thanks to God for that blessing in your life. Regularly reread your record of God’s bounty and find peace in it despite all the disruptions swirling around you.

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday are part of our culture of relentless advertising and overconsumption, which fills our landfills. Be thoughtful about what you buy and from whom. Discern wants versus needs. Look for environmentally focused companies with ethical practices. Consider packaging, durability, and sustainability in the products you choose.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving celebrations, starting with a sustainability mindset: reusable dinnerware, cloth napkins, less meat/more plant-based foods, a plan to use leftovers, a kitchen set up to maximize composting and minimize trashing, even washable rags for cleanup instead of killing trees for paper towels. Earth will be thankful you did.

The average American family uses 500 plastic snack bags annually, which are non-degradable and may contain BPA. To cut waste and keep plastics out of food and the environment, choose eco-friendly alternatives, including reusable silicone bags, paper sacks, bamboo boxes, and glass containers.

Your recycling—if it’s in a plastic bag—won’t be recycled. The bag will be pulled off the line and trashed because there is no time to open and empty it, and plastic bags cannot be allowed to go through because they tangle up the equipment and cause shutdowns. Learn and follow the rules for your local recycling facility. Give thanks for those who work there.

FOOD PANTRY ANSWERS

God Will Provide

We’ve all heard the saying, “God will provide.” And recently, we’ve seen that truth in action at the food pantry.

We were blessed with unexpected monetary donations and a generous gift from our friends at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—half a semi-truck full of food! We are deeply grateful for the many ways God continues to provide for this ministry.

We’ve also witnessed His work in the lives of those we serve:

- One of our friends, who had been searching for housing, has finally found an apartment and is thankful for our prayers.
- A few individuals have recently found jobs—a wonderful blessing!
- One woman asked us to pray that God would guide her, a prayer we can all relate to.
- And one gentleman joyfully shared that he has been sober for a year, proudly showing his certificate of achievement. What a powerful reminder of how God transforms lives.

There are many needs in our community, but we take comfort in knowing that God is at work among us. Let us continue to lift our friends and neighbors in prayer.

Peggy Moorman
Certified Lay Minister



WORDSOWER

AFRICA UPDATE

The Command: Go and Make Disciples

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." – Matthew 28:19

Jesus calls us to go, teach, and baptize in His name — and that's exactly what Wordsower Africa is doing across Liberia and Sierra Leone. Their mission teams are reaching deep into remote, unreached villages, sharing the gospel, baptizing new believers, and planting churches where none existed before.

Mission leaders remind us that discipleship means more than teaching — it's about equipping others to lead. Just as Jesus trained His followers to baptize, Wordsower Africa encourages new believers to step into ministry themselves, empowering them to share Christ boldly.

A powerful example comes from Bachiken, Liberia, a rainforest town that had never had a church in its history. In just two days, new believers worked together to build their very first church building — from bare ground to roof — filled with joy and thanksgiving.

Across the region, the Holy Spirit is moving in amazing ways. In one month alone, 194 mission teams shared the gospel with thousands. Nearly 1,000 people publicly confessed Christ, and over 250 were baptized. New churches have been planted in places like Nafayee and Yambakiaya, where villagers are hearing the name of Jesus for the first time. Even local chiefs and imams have expressed openness to the gospel's message of hope.

Though the work is not without challenges, these missionaries remain fearless and faithful, declaring:

"Everybody, everywhere, needs to hear the Gospel!"

Let's continue to pray for safety, boldness, and growth in these new communities of faith — and may we be inspired to "go and make disciples," right where God has placed us.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX PROJECT

Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world—along with the life-changing message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For many children, it is the very first gift they have ever received!

Delivered through local church partners, these shoeboxes open the door for the Gospel to be shared with boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way. Prayer surrounds every step of this ministry. Please remember to pray for:

- Each child who receives a shoebox, that their hearts—and their families' hearts—would be open to the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- The pastors and church leaders who distribute the gifts.
- Entire communities to be transformed by the power of the Gospel.

A donation of \$10 per shoebox helps cover the cost of shipping and evangelism materials that accompany each gift.

Many children who receive a shoebox are also invited to participate in The Greatest Journey, a follow-up discipleship program that helps them grow in their faith and share Jesus with others. Through 12 engaging lessons, these young believers learn to know, grow in, and share the love of Christ—spreading the Good News to friends, families, and communities around them.

Truly, we are winning the world for Christ—one shoebox at a time.

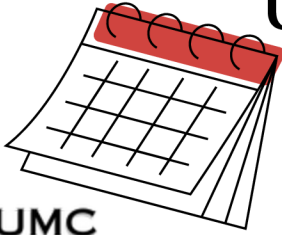
Peggy Moorman,
Certified Lay Minister

Dresses being sent in Christmas Shoeboxes.





GREENE STREET UMC
FAMILY MINISTRY



Upcoming Family Events

November 15: Horse Parade

November 23: Church-giving

December 6: Santa's First Stop

December 21: Children's Christmas Musical

BIBLE SUNDAY

On September 21 the following students received their very own Bible: Avery Bennett, Gabriella Bollinger, Georgie Conaway, Kash Foster, Peyton Guenther, Eleanor Jurosic, Isabella Lawson, Reid Maniaci, and Genevieve Underwood.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

We will begin practicing for our Christmas musical during Sunday school on November 30. Even if they miss practice, children can join us the day of the musical. We are singing traditional Christmas songs and have plenty of costumes! We will be performing in service December 21.

PASTOR APPRECIATION

On October 19, the children presented Pastor Will with a tree full of leaves they decorated for Pastor Appreciation Month.



CHURCH-GIVING



Bring a side dish or dessert to share during our church-giving celebration after service and the Hanging of the Greens on November 23!

A graphic with a wooden plank background. At the top is a red banner with the text "Holiday Horse Parade" in a cursive font. Below the banner are three coffee cups and a plate of gingerbread cookies. The text "Join us for hot chocolate and cookies before Piqua's Annual Holiday Horse Parade." is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this is the date "November 15, 2025" and the time "6-7pm". At the bottom is the text "Caldwell Street Doors" and the logo for "GREENE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH".

Holiday Horse Parade

Join us for hot chocolate and cookies before Piqua's Annual Holiday Horse Parade.

November 15, 2025
6-7pm

Caldwell Street Doors

GREENE STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HORSE PARADE

We are seeking donations of cookies and volunteers to help pass out cookies and hot chocolate before Piqua's Holiday Horse Parade. The Horse Parade will take place on November 15 this year. Sign up at the Family Ministry Table.

A graphic with a red background and green holly leaves. The text "Santa's First Stop" is written in a large, gold, cursive font. Below this is a gold banner with the text "SAVE THE DATE" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the banner is the date "December 6, 10 a.m." in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom is a paragraph of text in a gold, sans-serif font.

Santa's First Stop

SAVE THE DATE

December 6, 10 a.m.

Join us for a joyful holiday celebration that the whole family will love! Enjoy live performances, festive singing, and special holiday activities. Capture a memorable moment with a special guest, and take part in crafts, treats, and more. It's a heartwarming event filled with fun and cheer—perfect for kicking off the holiday season! Stay tuned for all the details!

See the Family Ministry Team or the office for a Santa's First Stop RSVP form or to sign up to volunteer to bake cookies or help with Santa's First Stop.



BACKPACK SUNDAY

On August 24 we celebrated back to school with the blessing of the backpacks during service. We hope everyone is having an amazing school year!



Melody Men

A big thank you to the Miami/Shelby Melody Men for their visit on September 7th! They shared an uplifting message and performed a beautiful selection of songs.



THANK YOU'S CHURCH FAMILY

Dear Greene St. Church,
Your funeral meal provided for Mark Wiltshire was very much appreciated by the families, who all lived out of town and /or out of state. Many comments were made about the generosity of the meal and also in its delicious variety.

Thank you for the many hands who made this work. You're doing Christ's Ministry in a fine, gracious manner.

Thank you so very much,
Marj Stilwell

Thank you Greene Street Church family for the wonderful funeral meal, cards, prayers and support you gave our family following the passing of Betty Gary.

It was such a comfort to our family to come back to church, visit, and share memories with our family and friends.

I also appreciate the visits and cards mom received while at Garbry Ridge and Versailles Healthcare. You are a blessing and so appreciated.

God Bless You,

Linda & Bill Carter; Erin , RJ , William & Sophie Monnier; Megan, Andy Maggie, Vivi & Allie Pearson

THANK YOU'S COMMUNITY

Greene Street UMC,
I received your donation to our "Christmas in July" fundraiser! Thank you so much for your support. I think it is special having kids donating to help other kids. We want you to know that this is our last year for this event. On behalf of all the children who will be touched by this event . . . Thank you and God Bless!
Forrest

Thank you so much for your very generous donations of 4 blankets & 10 prayer shawls. As always they are so lovely & will be such a comfort to our patients.

Thank you for your on-going kindness.

Vickey McKinley

Hospice of Miami County.

2025 Backpack Drive Totals:

We delivered 122 wonderful backpacks to the five Piqua City Schools. The total for twelve years is 1000+ backpacks!

Thank you for your generosity and support; my heart is full. - Susan Hopkins



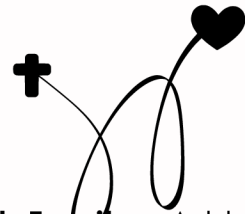
Calendar of Events

Nov. 2: All Saints Sunday
Nov. 23: Charge Conference
Nov. 23: Hanging of the Greens & Church-Giving
Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving—Building Closed
Dec. 5: Santa's First Stop
Dec. 21: Children's Christmas Program
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services 7 p & 11 p
Dec. 25: Christmas—Building Closed
Dec. 26: Office Closed
Dec. 31: Office Closed



You may notice that this newsletter was printed on perforated paper. We are working to use up existing paper supplies instead of tossing them out. This is in the spirit of our Creation Tips that promote environmental responsibility.

PRAYERS REQUEST



Greene Street Church Family – Ashley Allen, Jo Anderson, Darl Blevins, Robyn Cooper, Joyce Ellerman, Van Elliott, Shirley Gover, Jim Heath, Pat Helman, Michelle Hart, Jim & Physlis Otey, Mary Pummill, Brenda Rice, Fred Shellenburg, Annie Thorpe, Bill Walters, Ronnie Weimer, Bill Wright

Friends and Family of Greene Street - Pam Hutson (Ash), Michael Neace (Brogden), Jeff Brubaker (Brubaker), Gary Johnson, son Timothy (Collette), Steve & Cathy Terry & Robbie Wilczek, Herman Kiser, Joshua Sterlings (Cooper), Aunt Mary Sargent, Roger Lawrence, Alicia Crawford (Daycare), Angela (Ellerman), Janet Smith (Elliott) Mike Moore, Margaret Venus, Brian Kennedy (Ellis), Angie Shroyer-Smith, Cannon Sullenburger, David Root, Kathy Root (Helman), Bonnie Erwin (Hirt), Nancy & John Hirby, Kay Nickel (Hopkins), Heidi Decker (Jackson), Carolyn Jensvold (Jensvold), Ron Lacy (Lacy), Austin Kizer (Maniaci), Sandy Cox, Keith Oder (Marrs), Angie (McLargin), Doug Lange (Minton), Kris Brown (Oakes), David Murphy (Ringer), Dick Jefford (Salisbury), Karen Jamison, Forrest Foster (Scroggins), Val Seas, Donna Casto, Debbie Reed, Jennifer Garland (Seas), Teresa Wiltshire, Rich & Laverne Lane (Stilwell), Rebekah Kiser (Tapp), John Leece (Taylor), Doug & Family (Thorpe), Jessica Hampshire, Tom Hampshire (Underwood), Teri Fry (Vosler), Lillian O'Neil, Shirley Walters (Walters)


Military - Jed Cooper, Ronnie Cooper, Doug Spain (Frazier), Elijah Young (Guenther), Ensign Allison Osborn (Pedroff), Myles Hoffman, Brendon Tisher (Seas), Joseph Sherman (Shellenberg), TC Place (Tapp),

Care Facilities - Garbry Ridge: Nancy Callison, Bea Jones; Brookdale: DiAnn Bateman, Shirley Sanders; Story Point: Carol Hepler; Piqua Manor: Debbie Blue, Helen Sharpe; Assisted Living in Sturgis, MI: Kathleen Pedroff.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



NOVEMBER	December
1 Jed Cooper 2 Tina Elliott 3 Blair Elliott 4 Ashlee Larger 5 Kelly Meckstroth 8 Jim Christy 9 Haylee Meckstroth 10 Megan Kline 11 Hillary Jaqua 12 Nolan Silvers 13 Jeff Price Gryffin Salisbury 14 Cecily Stewart Grady Stewart Allison Wagner 16 Sally Ellis Carol Hepler Colt Maniaci 17 Josh Meckstroth 19 Darl Blevins 21 Miranda Sweetman 22 Jason Jones Jim Otey 24 George Sweetman 26 Carol Cain 29 Linda Carter	2 Ruthie Mohler Vivian Pearson 3 Marian Couchot Kelli Meckstroth Caitlin Mohler 5 Peggy Moorman 7 Jillian Boyd 8 Rita Ash Michelle Hart 9 Greg Trissell 10 Katie Hitchman Stephanie Maniaci 13 Pam Ford 14 Joyce Ellerman Jordan Lawson Aaron Thompson 15 Elizabeth DuBois 17 Pat Helman Jeff Marrs 19 Steve Frazier Alison Sink 20 Fred Shellenberg 23 Donavan Taylor Logan Wagner 24 Tristyn Frazier Faye Oakes 28 Paul Doak Penelope Salisbury 29 Marj Stilwell Nick Thompson
7 Devan & Kenzie Shade 	10 Martin & Jackie Pollock 18 Megan & Andy Pearson 21 Billy & Jennifer Wright 26 Tom & Jeanne Ringer Steve & Gail Staley 28 Jim & Sandra Christy 29 Dale & Barbara Davis 31 Reganne & Corbin Meckstroth

We pray God's comfort to be with:

- family and friends of Rosemary Gutmann, who passed away on August 23, 2025.
- family and friends of Mark Wiltshire, who passed away on Sunday, September 14, 2025.
- family and friends of Sonny Sullenberger, who passed away on Saturday, September 20, 2025. Sonny is the uncle of Debbie and Steve Frazier.
- the Gentis family while they process life without David Gentis, who passed away on October 1, 2025.
- family and friends of Betty Gary, who passed away on Wednesday, October 2, 2025. Continue to pray for the Carter, Monnier, Pearson families.
- family and friends of Phil Powell, who passed away.

We pray God's blessings upon:

- Good news!! Remington Alexander Hitchman was born Wednesday, September 10, at 5:05 pm. Proud parents are Ben and Katie Hitchman along with proud Aunt Cecily Stewart, Uncle Grady Stewart, and Grandma Kris Stewart!!



The Chimes - Newsletter
Greene Street United Methodist Church
415 W. Greene Street
Piqua, Ohio 45356-2198

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POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

Help decorate our sanctuary this Christmas season by remembering your loved one with a poinsettia dedication. Order online at www.greenestreetumc.org/events/newsletter or turn in the order form below by December 15.

Name _____
Number of Poinsettias / Dedications _____

Dedication(s) - You may dedicate your poinsettia/s in memory, in honor, in celebration, or any other dedication you would like. Dedications will be printed as listed.

- ☐ In lieu of taking a flower, I wish to make a \$15.00 contribution to the decorating fund (my dedication will still be printed as usual but I do not want a flower).
- ☐ I am ordering poinsettia(s) from the church at a cost of \$15.00/poinsettia.
- ☐ I am purchasing poinsettia(s) from ANOTHER SOURCE (florist, store, fund raising group) and I will deliver them to the church sanctuary by Fri. Dec. 19, 9 a.
