



GREENE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

the Chimes

NEWSLETTER

MISSION

"MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS WHO TRANSFORM THE WORLD."



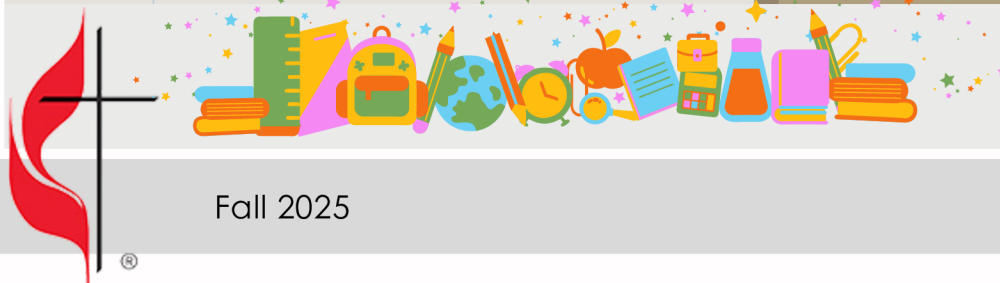
BACK TO SCHOOL
Are You Ready?

Backpack Drive! Backpacks ONLY

As school supplies fill the shelves, please consider donating a new or gently used backpack to church for the 2025-26 school year.

Many Piqua children need a backpack for school. Look for sturdy zipper, fabric, no wheels and **full size** packs so that they last.

Backpack collecting through August 24.



Fall 2025

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

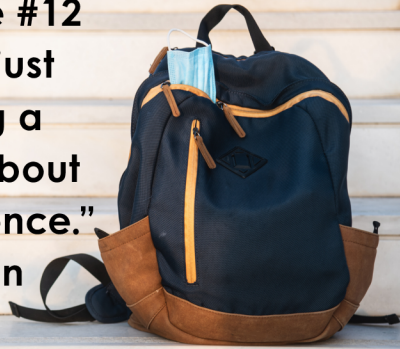
Vol 71 Issue 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS UPCOMING EVENTS

Back Pack Drive #12

"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference."

- Kathy Calvin



It's August and that means our annual backpack drive for Piqua City Schools is here! You still have time to bring in new or gently used clean backpacks. They need to be full size and sturdy with good, strong zippers. Students from kindergarten through senior high school need our donations. Each year when I deliver your backpacks, the secretaries tell me that their closets are empty! The hanging racks have been up and ready since Sunday, August 3rd. Special thank you to the Gaiers for their help!

Thank you for making this project so successful,
total donations are 800!
Susan Hopkins



In the case of inclement weather (rain, snow, or temperature below 40 degrees) or if the City of Piqua cancels Trick or Treat, our event will be cancelled. Watch our Facebook Page for cancellation information.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrative Council in a United Methodist Church is the key leadership body that oversees the administration and ministry of the congregation. It acts as the executive board of the church, guiding and furthering the overall mission and ministry. The council's responsibilities include: evaluating objectives, adopting goals, authorizing action, determining policy, and overseeing the budget. Our Administrative Council is made up of Chair members of the primary church committees.

Chair: Terry Fry
SPRC: Diana Hall
Child Care: Adele Penrod
Trustees: Tom Hudson
Finance: Jeff Price
Long-Range Planning / Endowment: Jane Salisbury
Treasurer: Sherry Heath
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Will Leasure
Secretary: Megan Pearson
Member at Large: Sally Ellis

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ Through Serving Others

In 1995 members of the “basement adult church school class” voiced concern for those in our community needing food. That group began developing a plan for a Greene Street food pantry to be staffed and supplied by Greene Street parishioners. A room design was prepared and presented to the Administrative Council and subsequently, built by congregational volunteers in the northeast corner of Wilson Hall. Volunteers were requested and in a period of a few months the Greene Street Food Pantry was opened on Saturday mornings to any and all needing food assistance.

It soon became apparent Piqua's needs were greater than our small room in the basement could accommodate. In 2020 the food pantry ministry was moved to Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) at the corner of Ash and Caldwell. We pay rent but have more room for food storage including shelving for dry goods, refrigeration and freezer space freezing can be managed. The alley adjacent to the church provides an easier and safer delivery process for both those serving and being served. The pantry is now open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 AM to 11 AM and it is not unusual to serve 20 to 30 families per day—sometimes surpassing 100 individuals.

While undergirding our church's mission, providing food for those in need is now taking more volunteers to meet the growing needs of our community. While housing our pantry in the WPC provides needed space, other organizations are partnering with us on a continuing basis. These include the Kroger Retail Rescue, Shared Harvest, Isaiah Industries, and Agape Distribution. These organizations provide food items, cardboard boxes for distribution and sometimes drivers for food pickup and volunteers for food distribution. Still additional food items must be purchased by the church.

Occasionally other organizations or individuals provide incidental support through donations of various types. For example, the Piqua Compassion Network refers clients in need of food, provides used clothing, baby diapers and wipes, baby formula and personal hygiene products that PCN receives but does not typically distribute. Individuals sometimes purchase food for the pantry and some designate their giving specifically to that outreach program.

HOW MIGHT YOU HELP:

Volunteer to help with food pantry chores, including food distribution to those requesting food.

Donate food items.

Register for the Kroger grocery tape program, Community Rewards, where a percentage of your Kroger purchase is donated by Kroger to Greene Street.



CREATION TIPS

Making a Switch

Plastic bags, made from fossil fuels, end up as waste in landfills and oceans. Wildlife often mistake them for food and eventually humans are harmed through the food chain. Switch to reusable tote bags—plastic-free and made from eco-friendly materials.

The US uses 6.5 million tons of paper towels annually, each ton requiring 17 trees and 20,000 gallons of water to produce. Decomposing towels in landfills emit methane. Switch to old fabric (especially flannel) to make absorbent washable alternatives or buy rolls of paper towels made of bamboo.

The average American family uses 500 plastic snack bags each year, which are made from non-degradable polyethylene and may contain BPA. Switch to reusable silicone options to reduce waste and help keep plastics out of food and the environment.

The loofah and pouf are often confused. Poufs are colorful plastic-mesh scrunchies for the shower that contribute to landfill and ocean pollution and release microfibers into water. Loofahs come from the luffa plant. They are sustainable and can be composted. Switch to eco-friendly loofahs.

Upcycle old T-shirts into shopping bags or dog toys to donate to animal shelters. One church's sewing club switched to including preteens and teens. Adults teach them sewing skills; they also learn from their younger members ideas of what can be made and made better for the environment.

FOOD PANTRY ANSWERS

It's been a busy summer at the pantry, and the need in Piqua remains great — many of our neighbors are struggling with hunger. But through it all, we've seen God's faithfulness and the power of prayer at work.

One woman recently shared with us that she has found salvation — what a beautiful answer to prayer! Another man was able to find a job after we prayed with him. Praise Jesus! We also celebrated with a woman who had been battling breast cancer — she is now cancer-free and was so excited to share the good news.

We're also grateful for those who come to the pantry and find ways to give back. One of our regular visitors is now volunteering with us and says he finds real joy in serving others. Another friend blessed us by sharing her fresh-picked asparagus — it didn't last long on the shelves! One woman asked for prayer as she tries to be more obedient and to trust God's timing — a prayer many of us can relate to.

We were also blessed by a generous donation from Winans: leftover Easter chocolates that we were able to include in each box. It was a sweet surprise that brought smiles to many faces.

Sometimes I feel like I have a bit of "motormouth" as I chat with our visitors and try to encourage them — but in those conversations, I hear many stories and carry many burdens in my heart. Please keep our pantry friends in your prayers, that their physical and spiritual needs may be met.

And if you have a garden with extra produce, we would be so grateful for your donations.

Many of our visitors would truly enjoy a fresh tomato, zucchini, or onion.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

Peggy Moorman,
Certified Lay Minister



WORD SOWER

AFRICA UPDATE

"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Acts 13:47

The last words of Christ, in Matthew, Mark and Luke, was the command for His Church to take the gospel into all the earth, to every nation, tribe, and language. The following statistics concerning the disobedience of Christ's Church to go to the unreached tribes devastates me!

97% of all missionaries go to reached tribes that already have the Bible and churches
For every \$100 donated to Christian causes only about 10 cents is used for reaching unreached tribes

There is only 1 missionary for every 405,500 Muslims

There are 54,056 Christians in America for every 1 unreached tribe

We have the command to go; we have all the workforce and money required to accomplish the task. The only thing missing is obedience. There are 7,000 unreached tribes. We have 7 indigenous missionary teams, in 4 countries, who have been sent from our main base, with the assignment to reach over 20 unreached tribes.

The testimonies of our disciples remind me of the early church disciples who went in fearless obedience. After reading these testimonies you will wonder why these have been unreached for 2,000 years. See how quickly these unreached tribes have responded after hearing the gospel of Christ. Where has His Church been for the last 2,000 years!

It is your prayers, participation and united sacrifice that provide for our indigenous missionary teams, so that they are able to go into these unreached tribal villages and towns. Thank you!!!



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY



Medicare Open Enrollment Checklist

Plan ahead for a successful and positive open enrollment period.

- ◊ **Know your coverage.** Know your current coverage; benefits, out of pocket costs, etc.
- ◊ **Review your Annual Notice of Change (ANOC).** Plans will share critical plan details prior to open enrollment. Review this document carefully each year.
- ◊ **Review plan options for the upcoming year on Medicare.gov.** Know all possible costs, benefits, and limitation on usage in plans.
- ◊ **Know the dates.** If you need or want to change your plan for the next year, enrollment must be completed by 12/7.
- ◊ **You are not alone.** OSHIP is here to help you in this process with in-person education and counselling, virtual counseling, webinars, and our hotline 800-686-1578.

Open Enrollment

Each year from **Oct. 15 through Dec. 7** you can update or switch your Medicare drug plan and/or your Medicare Advantage plan. Your new coverage will begin Jan. 1 of the next year.



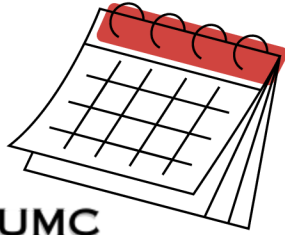
**HEALTH PARTNERS
FREE CLINIC**
Building Health & Hope

1300 N. CR 25A
Troy, Oh 45373
937-332-0894 ext 213

Pam Ford,
Certified OSHIP
Volunteer Counselor

YWCA - PIQUA
937-773-6626





Upcoming Family Events

August 24: Backpack Sunday

September 21: 3rd Grade Bible Sunday

October 30: Trunk or Treat 6-8pm

GREENE STREET UMC
FAMILY MINISTRY



VBS Recap

In June, we held our annual Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. The kids explored Alaska and learned how to trust Jesus despite any questions, worry, or fear. This year we had over 20 kids signed up to participate and we once again collected supplies to create UMCOR hygiene kits.



DRAGON'S BASEBALL OUTING



We loved seeing you at the ball game on August 9!



Family & Fellowship

Watch for information on upcoming Family & Fellowship activities soon!

A SPECIAL THANKS...
to Piqua Kroger for
donating paper
bags for our
Sunday School's
Joseph coats!



Blessing of the
BACKPACKS
August 24
10 am

KIDS OF ALL AGES, BRING YOUR
BACKPACKS TO OUR WORSHIP GATHERING



GREENE STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THANK YOU'S CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you very much for preparing and hosting dinner after my dad's memorial. Your kindness and support was greatly appreciated. We were blessed to have dinner at Greene St. since it holds so many fond memories for our family. The homemade bread was an amazing surprise!

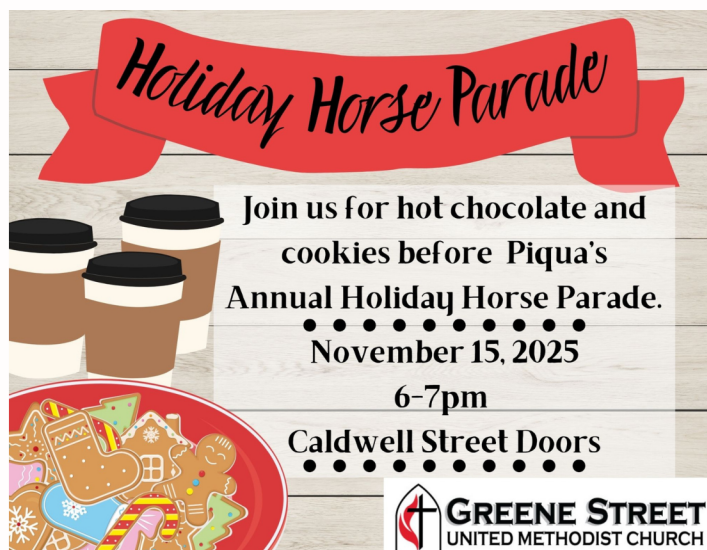
Sincerely, Catherine Osborn and the Pedroff Family

Dear Greene St. Family,
During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy and care will always be remembered.

So much help, So many cards, So many prayers, So many kind words, So many served at the funeral meal, So much love given to us. Doug was blessed many, many times.

-Marj, Andy, Amy, Evelyn, John, Stilwell Family


Looking ahead!



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

THANK YOU'S COMMUNITY

Dear Greene Street Mens Group,
Thank you so much for the gift! Your support is making a difference in this community. So many students hear the gospel every week!

Thank you beyond measure,
April - LifeWise Academy

On behalf of The Salvation Army, thank you for your important and generous giving to support our mission in the Piqua area.

Sincerely Julie Budden
Divisional Director of Development

Women's Bible Study Starting Soon A FRESH ENCOUNTER FOR DEEPER FAITH

JOIN US

if you want to:

- Challenge yourself in the discipline of daily Bible study
- Study the "I AM" statements Jesus made that will help you move from knowing about Him to knowing Him personally
- Find confidence in your answer to the question Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

8
WEEKS

WHO
DO YOU
SAY THAT
I AM?

A FRESH ENCOUNTER
FOR DEEPER FAITH

BECKY HARLING

Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.
September 10 – October 29, 2025

Contact Jenny Sweetman in the church office
to sign-up.

Questions? Contact Linda Price
Lindap96@aol.com

We pray God's comfort to be with:

- Scott & Suzy Phillips and family upon the death of his brother Don on April 18, 2025.
- Pat Middleton and Lisa Meckstroth and families upon the death of their mother Connie Middleton on May 3, 2025.
- Tom & Barb Hudson and family upon the death of his sister, Pam Leonard on May 4, 2025. She is now pain free and at peace.
- family and friends of Nancy Kruse, who passed away on Monday, May 5, 2025.
- family of Rev. Darrel Robert Loar, who passed away on May 6, 2025 at the age of 96. Rev. Loar was a Greene Street Pastor 1981-1982.
- Steve & Debbie Frazier and family upon the death of his Aunt Ruby on June 2, 2025.
- friends and family of Joanne Lucas, who passed away 6/5/25.
- Marj Stilwell and family upon the death of her husband Doug Stilwell on June 6, 2025.
- Annie Thorpe with the passing of her friend, Charles Purk on May 27, 2025.
- Lloyd Shoemaker and family upon the death of his wife Faye on June 12, 2025.
- Family of Jim Moniaci on his unexpected passing.
- the Seas & Casto Family with the loss of Amanda's great nephew Alec Casto.
- friends and family of Paul Holfinger, who passed away peacefully on Tuesday July 15, 2025.
- family and friends of Rusty Clark, nephew of Dick and Betty Clark, who passed away after a 13 year battle with colon cancer.
- family and friends of Dr. David Gallagher, who passed away on January 20, 2025.



Fall 2025

We pray God's blessings upon:

- Mandy Ellis and Eric Piascik as they started their life together on June 27, 2025.
- Blair and Linny Elliott on the birth of their son, Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 3:40 pm. Van Edward Elliott is welcomed home by brother, Brody, and sister, Sophia Lee.

UMCOR Kit Supply Collection

Family Ministry is still collecting supplies for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) hygiene kits. They will be assembling kits during a Family & Fellowship meeting this fall. The kits will be used to bring hope and practical help to communities recovering from natural disasters, war, or conflict.

Please drop off new, unopened hygiene items in the bin on the family ministry table in the narthex. To ensure the kits meet UMCOR's requirements, please do not wash or open any items.

If you have questions or need a complete list of items, see the Family Ministry team. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please contact the church office.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, we assembled 40 kits!



Vol 71 Issue 4

Summer Calendar of Events

Greene Street Event Calendar

Aug. 24: Blessing of BackPacks

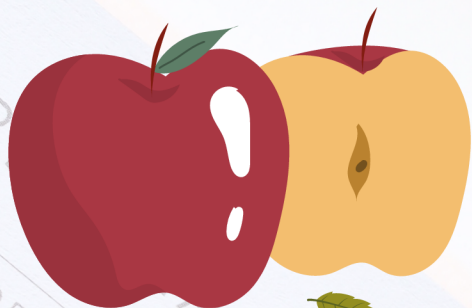
Aug. 24: Traveling Prayer Event, 6p.m.

Sept. 7: Melody Men singing in Worship

Sept. 20: UMM monthly breakfast

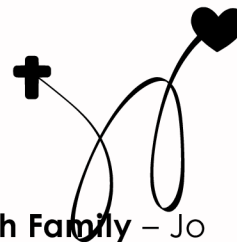
Sept. 21: Third Grade Bibles

Sept. 21: Special Celebration



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 – Jo

Anderson, Darl Blevins, Linda Carter, Betty Clark, Robyn Cooper, Joyce Ellerman, Shirley Gover, Linda Harbison, Pat Helman, Jim & Phylis Otey, Mary Pummill, Brenda Rice, Fred Shellenburg, Mike Taylor, Annie Thorpe, Bill Wright

Friends and Family of Greene Street - Pam

Hutson (Ash), Michael Neace, Phil Powell (Brogden), Jeff Brubaker (Brubaker), Wanda (Clark), Gary Johnson, son Timothy (Collette), Steve & Cathy Terry & Robbie Wilczek, Bob C. (Cooper), Aunt Mary Sargent, Roger (Daycare), Angela (Ellerman), Janet Smith (Elliott) Mike Moore, Margaret Venus (Ellis), Dave Gentis (Everett), Melissa & Rick Harmon (Gaier), Angie Shroyer-Smith, Cannon Sullenburger, David Root, Kathy Root (Helman), Bonnie Erwin (Hirt), Heidi Decker (Jackson), Carolyn Jensvold (Jensvold), Austin Kizer (Maniaci), Sandy Cox, Keith Oder (Marrs), Doug Lange (Minton), Kris Brown (Oakes), David Murphy (Ringer), Dick Jefford (Salisbury), Karen Jamison, Forrest Foster (Scroggins), Mark & Teresa Wiltshire, Rich & Laverne Lane (Stilwell), Jessica Hampshire, Tom Hampshire (Underwood), Teri Fry (Vosler), Lillian O'Neil (Walters), Stephanie Woods (Woods)

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, Ann Stevens; Piqua Manor: Debbie Blue, Helen Sharpe; Versailles Rehab & Health: Betty Gary; Assisted Living in Sturgis, MI: Kathleen Pedroff.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST	September	October
<p>16 Alexandria Preston Emma Preston 17 Maeve Jaqua 18 Thea Reas Ronald Weimer 21 Alex Pollock 22 Gabe Lawson Martin Pollock 23 Marty Pollock Adam Seas Dave Vosler 24 Nicole Lacy Erin Monnier 26 Steve Staley 28 Suzy Phillips 29 Kathy Sweetman 31 Robyn Cooper Jessie Sullivan Jim Sever Robbie Wilczek</p> 	<p>1 Payton Meckstroth Peter Sullivan 2 Amanda Brown 3 Amanda Piascik Savannah Jaqua Jeanne Ringer Evelyn Stilwell Claire Wiseman 4 Makenzie Ellerman 5 Dick Clark Jim Meckstroth 6 Phil Thomas 7 Abigail Silvers Mike Taylor 8 Brenda Rice 10 Jackie Pollock 11 Jennifer Everett 12 Darryl Lawson 16 Ashley Bantz Lou Oakes Phylis Otey 17 Logan Peepels 19 Nicholas Heath 20 Dustin Brown 22 Hal Cain 23 Brett Marrs 24 Harper Bantz Edna Middleton 30 John Cox</p>	<p>1 Susan Hopkins 2 Jill Weimer 6 William Monnier 7 Jean Heath 8 Jeff Erbes 10 Jo Anderson 11 Petyon Guenther 12 Mary-Jo Morgan 13 Grant Maniaci Nancy Woods 14 Andy Stilwell 16 Cale Meckstroth Carris Meckstroth 18 Sandor Scroggins 20 Don Ruffner 24 Amy Hartman 26 Toni Thompson 27 Melanie Sever 29 Michelle Underwood</p> 
<p>17 Hal & Carol Cain 21 Tom & Barbara Hudson Cork & Lou Ellen Oakes</p> 	<p>8 Joe & Toni Thompson 9 Josh & Kelly Meckstroth 11 Brett & Alice Marrs 12 Nicole & Ryan Lacy 13 Michael & Megan Kline 14 Marian & Ron Couchot 28 Hillary & Addison Jaqua 29 Brenda & Paul Rice</p>	<p>3 Stephanie & Michael Maniaci 4 Mike & Michelle Taylor 9 George & Kathy Sweetman 10 Jeff & Linda Price 13 Jeff & Diana Hall 16 Pat & Edna Middleton 19 Katie & Ben Hitchman 21 Jim & Kelli Meckstroth 24 Rick & Karen Kist</p> 

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

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Traveling Prayer Event
for
Piqua City Schools

August 24, 6 p.m.

We will start our community prayer event to lift up our students, staff, and parents at Washington Primary. We will meet in the parking lot then move and follow the same procedures at PCIS, PHS & PJHS, and end at Springcreek Primary. ALL are welcome!

Sponsored by The Piqua Pastor's Society

