



# GREENE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

the Chimes

## NEWSLETTER

MISSION

"MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS WHO TRANSFORM THE WORLD."



## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Hey Greene Street! Let's send some love to our college students! Send in your college students' addresses by Feb 1st to [jennifer@greenestreetumc.org](mailto:jennifer@greenestreetumc.org). The Family Ministry team will be packing Care Packages for college students to be sent out with our love for Valentine's Day, immediately following Worship on Sun. Feb. 8th.

Donations can be left in the Narthex at the Family Ministry Table. This year we plan to send out 24 care packages!

Donate: 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!

## GREENE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Piqua, Ohio 45356  
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### Pastor

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[revwill@greenestreetumc.org](mailto:revwill@greenestreetumc.org)


### Office Manager

Jennifer Sweetman  
[jennifer@greenestreetumc.org](mailto:jennifer@greenestreetumc.org)




# ANNOUNCEMENTS UPCOMING EVENTS

Your weakness. God's STRENGTH.



**JOIN US!**  
BY PRISCILLA SHIRER



When we hear the name Gideon, most of us think about his 300 soldiers or a fleece laid out under the evening sky. But Gideon's story is so much bigger than that. This is a story about God and His people—His love for them, as well as His strength operating in spite of, even through, their weakness. This study will encourage you to recognize your weakness as the key that the Lord gives you to unlock the full experience of his strength in your life.

*Calling all women! Join us for a Bible study on Gideon!*

*Wednesday evenings 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.*

*January 28 – March 11, 2026*

*To register – contact Jenny Sweetman by January 21.*

*Questions? Contact Linda Price*



## **ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN?**

**WE ARE CONSIDERING  
ADDING ONE. IF YOU ARE  
INTERESTED, PLEASE LET THE  
CHURCH OFFICE KNOW  
ALONG WITH YOUR MEETING  
TIME PREFERENCE  
(MORNING/NOON/EVENING).**

[jennifer@greenestreetumc.org](mailto:jennifer@greenestreetumc.org)

# 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.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

A United Methodist Church Finance Committee's purpose is to be the steward of the congregation's financial resources, overseeing budgeting, fundraising, spending, and reporting to ensure funds support the church's mission and ministry with transparency and accountability, adhering to the Book of Discipline. They develop budgets, manage income/expenses, ensure proper fund disbursement, establish financial policies, and arrange for annual audits to maintain fiscal health.

Ultimately, the committee ensures that money is used effectively and ethically to make disciples and transform the world, aligning financial activities with the church's spiritual goals.

Chair: Jeff Price  
Treasurer: Sherry Heath





# MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS



Childcare and pre-school needs increased throughout Miami County during the late 1970s as more mothers began working outside their homes while others merely sought a temporary respite from the constant demands of young children. Members of Greene Street's United Methodist Women took the lead in developing programming that would address some of those growing issues and, with support from the UMW and the William and Ruth Wall Memorial Fund, plans began for a church sponsored daycare and pre-school open to all needing that support.

In January 1980, following the final state inspection, Greene Street Church opened a drop-in daycare service for children, newborn through kindergarten. By fall of 1980 our pre-school programming had commenced. Many changes have occurred since our opening but still Greene Street offers Monday through Friday daycare services for children 6 weeks old through 5th grade. Pre-school classes are available for three-year olds two days per week and for four and five-year-olds three days per week. Classes prepare children to enter into K-12 schools with the social and academic skill sets needed to thrive. There is even a graduation ceremony for those heading into kindergarten.



Currently the daycare and pre-school serve about 250 children daily, many of whom are not affiliated with our church. Before and after school care for children K-6th grade is available and those youngsters are bused to and from their schools in our 14-passenger vans. They and their families are encouraged to be a part of Greene Street's church family by attending worship and participating in church-sponsored activities such as Trunk-or-Treat, Thanksgiving Horse Parade Cookies and Hot Chocolate, Santa's First Stop and various family activities and dinners.



While daycare and pre-school programs are sponsored by our church, the plan was for those programs to be self-sustaining. As a part of that, the center pays \$17,000 annually toward Greene Street's utilities, provides the trash dumpster and all custodial supplies, shares in the telephone system costs and church-wide fire equipment monitoring. Additionally, total costs and maintenance of the center's four vans, subsidizing the Greene Street's postage and all childcare copier expenses are funded through the center's income and fundraising efforts. Financial support may also be provided by church members through church organizations or individual funds. These may be designated or given for use as needed. External partners have included the Piqua Community Foundation and the Miami County Foundation.



## CREATION TIPS

The calendar gives us a New Year to begin anew. God, however, gives us grace to begin again “morning by morning”—even minute by minute. With that gift of grace, we renew our resolve to care for Earth and justice.

John Wesley began a New Year tradition of leading people in renewing their covenant\* with God. At the very beginning, God gave us a garden to tend and till. Now is the time to renew your commitment to be good stewards of Earth. Choose one new thing you can do throughout the year to care for creation.

Plastic bottles or aluminum cans? Technically, both are recyclable. However, due to multiple factors beyond putting it in the recycling bin, plastic is less likely to be recycled into new products. On the other hand, the systems for recycling aluminum are effective. Choose aluminum.

To God's prophet Jeremiah, it seemed nobody was listening as he warned of impending doom from the Babylonians. In the face of climate change, we too may feel ineffective as we speak out for justice. Jeremiah continued: He was faithful to his call from God to speak up, and he bought land as a sign of hope, trusting God that the people would return.

Keep in mind these three big threes: 1) Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide make up greenhouse gas emissions; 2) emissions, deforestation, and food waste are top contributors to climate change; 3) viewing life through the lens of climate justice (how global warming is affecting people near and far), making changes both large and small, and speaking up to others are keys to addressing the problems.

\*Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

## FOOD PANTRY ANSWERS

### Serving Together in Faith

I recently had a conversation with a woman from the AME Church whose congregation wanted to support our food pantry. They chose to collect canned goods, and last week two cheerful ladies delivered what they had gathered. They were truly happy to help, and every food donation we receive is an answer to prayer.

One of our busiest days saw us serving 103 people. Those who came for food were deeply appreciative of what we were able to offer, and we are grateful to be part of meeting that need.

Many prayer requests continue to be shared with us. One woman asked that we pray for people in need—and there are many. One of our friends is currently living in a tent, and it is difficult to imagine facing the cold, especially with children.

Some of our friends are also facing surgeries and ongoing medical treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation. These are frightening and uncertain times, and we are called to lift them up in prayer as they navigate serious health challenges.

We are thankful as well for the Madison Avenue Church of God, which donated food items to the pantry. Another woman asked that we pray for those experiencing homelessness to find safe shelter. It is troubling that in such a wealthy country, many still find themselves living on the streets. This remains a question we must continue to hold before God.

As we continue this ministry, we are building relationships with our friends and welcoming new faces each week. Our goal is not only to provide physical nourishment, but spiritual nourishment as well.

God has promised to provide for all our needs. May we remember to ask for His help—and to give thanks for His faithful provision.

Peggy Moorman  
Certified Lay Minister





## WORDSOWER AFRICA UPDATE

In October, our mission teams continued their work among some of the world's hardest-to-reach communities, facing real hardship while faithfully sharing the hope of Christ. Their joy, perseverance, and sacrifice reflect our shared calling as one body in Christ, each playing a part in taking the gospel to the world (1 Thessalonians 3:1–4; Romans 10:14–15).

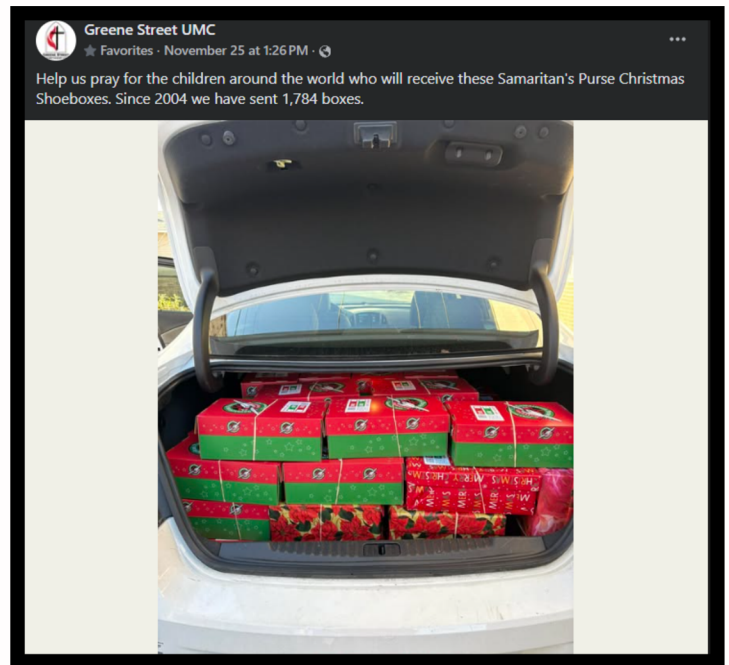
During the month, 178 mission teams were sent out. Through their efforts, 1,462 people publicly professed faith in Christ, 170 were baptized, and more than 9,900 people watched the Jesus film and other evangelistic presentations—many in their own language for the very first time.

Teams reported powerful moments of transformation: villages hearing the gospel for the first time, new believers requesting help to start churches, border communities gathering together to watch the Jesus film, and individuals from animistic and Muslim backgrounds choosing to follow Christ. Even in areas marked by persecution and fear, the Holy Spirit moved as people repented, were baptized, and boldly confessed their faith.

These testimonies remind us that while the work is difficult, God is at work in extraordinary ways. Thank you for being part of this mission through your prayers, support, and faithfulness.



## SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX PROJECT UPDATE



*SeaSide Escape*  
February 7, 2026  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
meeting in the Wall/Wesleyan Room

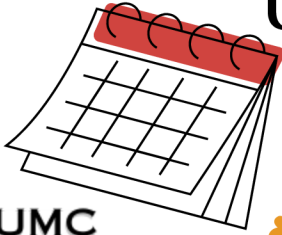
SeaSide Escape is a one day retreat where women slow down, enjoy time with each other and bask in God's Presence.

**RSVP and Questions go to**  
**Jenny Sweetman,**  
[jennifer@greenestreetumc.org](mailto:jennifer@greenestreetumc.org)





## GREENE STREET UMC FAMILY MINISTRY



# Upcoming Family Events

February 8: College Care Packages

March 29: Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt



## TRUNK OR TREAT



The family ministry team would like to thank everyone for another successful year of trunk or treat! We served hundreds of children and had 10 cars passing out candy this year. We could not make this outreach happen without your support!



## CHURCH-GIVING

It was wonderful to see everyone at our annual Church-giving carry-in! We are so thankful to have such a supportive and loving congregation and enjoyed spending time in fellowship with you as we prepared the building and our hearts for the advent season.







# SANTA'S 1<sup>ST</sup> STOP

We had 35 families attend Santa's First Stop this year. Thanks to all our volunteers from both church and the daycare/preschool who helped make this event possible! The daycare/preschool children put on an adorable performance and the Piqua High School show choir left us in awe of their talent! And a huge thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus for stopping by to bring joy and take pictures with all our guests!







# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

On December 21, our youth shared the Good News and filled the sanctuary with music and joy during our annual Christmas musical. The children practiced for a month during Sunday school and the older youth served behind the scenes as stagehands. We would like to thank all the people who worked behind the scenes to make the performance so special and hope you enjoyed the show!







# 2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Dear Greene Street Family,  
As many of you know, I was diagnosed with and treated for a birth defect called a tethered spinal cord this past fall. I wanted to take a moment to send a huge thank you to all of you for the overwhelming love and support I received during my recent surgery and recovery. I am especially grateful to everyone who stepped in to help make events like Trunk or Treat and the Horse Parade a huge success, and to keep Sunday school running smoothly.

Thank you for your words of encouragement, prayers, and cards. I am so blessed to be part of such a caring congregation and am glad to be back with you all!

Thank you,  
Michelle Hart

## Save The Date

### Family Style VBS

June 7th 5-8pm  
June 8th-11th  
6:30-8:15pm

more information to follow

**RAINFOREST FALLS**  
Exploring The Nature of God





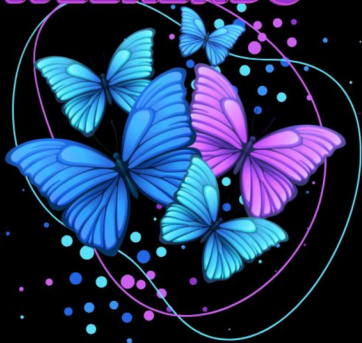
## Calendar of Events

- Jan 1-2 Building Closed
- Jan 24 UMM Monthly Meeting
- Jan 28 Gideon Bible Study Starts
- Jan 31 Sausage / Pancake Breakfast
- Feb 7 Seaside Escape
- Feb 8 College Care Packages
- Feb 18 Ash Wednesday

(more details to follow)

## UPCOMING CHRYSALIS WEEKENDS

GIRLS' #75  
JAN 17-19

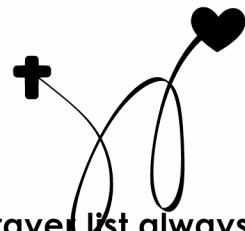


BOYS' #75  
FEB 14-16

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT WITH AGAPE, ATTENDING CANDLELIGHT,  
SIGN UP FOR PRAYER VIGIL AND KITCHEN HELP!

You may notice that this newsletter was printed on colored 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



The people on our prayer list always matter to us and the the Lord. For the new year our list will be starting fresh. If you would like us to pray for you or a loved one, please communicate to the church office with the Connection Card on Sunday or via email ([jennifer@greenestreetumc.org](mailto:jennifer@greenestreetumc.org)).

We believe in the power of prayer, so please keep us updated!

### Greene Street Church Family –

**Friends and Family of Greene Street - 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.

## Help Us Improve Our Communication

I'm taking a brief survey to better understand how our congregation stays connected. Do you usually read the church newsletter in print, or do you prefer the email or website version? Please let me know by emailing [jennifer@greenestreetumc.org](mailto:jennifer@greenestreetumc.org) or by handing me a note at church. Thank you for helping us serve you better!

Thank you,  
Jennifer Sweetman, Office Manager





# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January 	February 
1 Devan Shade 5 Shirley Gover 8 Tom Ringer 10 Jane Salisbury 13 Ross Mohler 16 Rebecca Hart 19 Ann Elliott 20 Cornelia Tinkler 23 Darion Lawson 24 Ed Ellis 26 Betty Clark Ryan Lacy Krystal Lawson 27 Jim Meckstroth 30 Scott Helman Gail Staley	1 Patrick Middleton 2 Amelia Bush 4 Carson Meckstroth 7 Rick Fry Megan Pearson Dan Penrod Jennifer Wright 10 Arie Larger 11 Garret Brewer 15 Rachel Hopkins Tia Lawson 16 Mike DeBrosse 19 Curt Everett 20 Chris Ellerman 25 Jim Gover Reid Maniaci 27 Wyatt Meckstroth Eric Sweetman 28 Annie Marrs Richard Price
1 Gloria & Michael Tapp 2 Jeff & Sue Erbes	

**We pray God's comfort  
to be with:**

- From Lisa Seas: Please pray for Delma, Craig, Mike & Vick Grissom for the loss of husband and father, Jim.
- Holly & Jason Jensvold and extended family upon the death of her grandmother Esther Mindt on November 16, 2025.
- family and friends of Don Hollis, who passed away on November 10, 2025. Don is the brother-in-law to Ed and Sally Ellis.
- From Robyn Cooper: Please pray for family and friends of Jake Ailer, Megan Cooper's dad, who passed away last week in Missouri.
- From Gaier family: Prayers for family and friends of Mark Voisard who passed away on Friday, November 28, 2025.

## STORY TIME WITH REV. WILL AND SANTA - DECEMBER 19





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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Piqua, Ohio  
Permit No. 268  
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*January 31, 2026*



**DICK SWORD MEMORIAL  
SAUSAGE & PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST**

7a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Adult \$8, Child (5-10) \$3,  
under 5 free