

FOLLOWING CHRIST FROM CITY CENTER

IN THIS ISSUE



Letter from the Pastor

When I meet with people and groups as we plan for the most unusual fall and winter holidays ever, I have found myself saying, "it's okay. Things will be back to normal next year." We speak these words in spite of the evidence that surrounds us that things have changed – and some have changed permanently.

In our grief, we join the people of Israel who had been torn from all they knew and loved. Families experienced isolation. A whole people were exiled into an unrecognizable life. They wanted to hear words of hope from God – to hear that God would put things back just the way that they were.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God spoke a word of hope but not about returning to things as they once were. Instead God says, **"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"** (Isaiah 43:18-19a, NRSV) God has promised to be with them but invites them to throw away their concepts of what they had known previously. The things of old? Don't consider them. The former things? Don't remember them. God is doing something new.

I do not think that the Israelites would have found as much comfort in these words as we do in hindsight. We know that God was working on a new promise and a new covenant. A Savior would come, not just for the Jews, but for all the world. Their way of worship, their places of worship, and their sacred holidays and festivals would all change with the coming of Christ. God was moving forward in the face of Israel's harsh new reality.

God is doing a new thing among us. Ministry is occurring in ways that we have never considered. God is challenging us to perceive new possibilities springing to life every day. Our response should be letting go of the way that things used to be. Our way of worship, our places for worship and meeting, our sacred traditions and holidays– they are all subject to change and might never return to the former things.

But be at peace. God is doing a new thing. God is still in control (we never were). God's Holy Spirit is still among us. The strength of our Lord Jesus Christ can see us through even more than this.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor James

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On Friday, September 11, Pastor James rang our church's tower bell 4 times. They were heard at 8:46 am, 9:03 am, 9:37 am, and 10:03 am in remembrance of the lives lost in the 9-11-01 attacks in New York City, Washington, DC and Pennsylvania.

Flowers for our Worship Services

- October 4 Greene and Wactor
- October 11 Robinson
- October 18 Thomes
- October 25 Driver

Keep in mind multiple families can share Sunday flowers if there is a special date you have in mind. Call the Church Office to sign up! 864-229-7551



Celebration Circle will meet through Zoom on **Tuesday, October 13**, from 6-7 pm.

Here's an opportunity to connect with others

as we learn more about the ministry of Crossroads Pregnancy Center and follow our mission of "Faith, Hope, Love in Action."

Susanna Circle

Susanna Circle will meet at the Wesley Commons Pavilion at 10:00 am **Tuesday, October 6th**.

Men N Ministry

Men's Bible Study is BACK!

When and Where: Thursdays, 7 am @ Fat Daddy's
Group Leader: Mark Askew

Consecration Sunday- Oct 25

Time, Talent & Treasures



Please Plan to Attend October 25, 2020

We will have the opportunity to make pledges of our time, talents and treasures in grateful service to our Lord and the mission of his church during this special commitment celebration.

You will soon be receiving a pledge form which may be completed and turned in on that Sunday or emailed to the church office.

Please carefully consider your ability to support all the missions of our church with your gifts.

World Communion Sunday

We will be serving communion on Sunday, **October 4th**, in observance of World Communion Sunday.



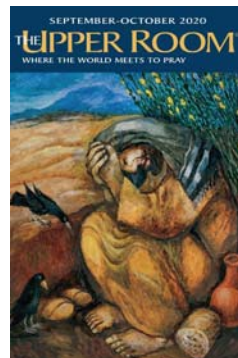
Stewardship and Finance

Financial Report as of September 27, 2020

	Actual	Budget
YTD INCOME:	\$452,924	\$677,118
YTD EXPENSES:	\$426,846	\$677,118
YTD SURPLUS		
OR (DEFICIT):	\$ 26,078	

Apportionments Report as of 09/27/2020

\$106,908	Apportionments due by 12/31/20
<u>\$17,818</u>	Apportionments Paid to Date
\$ 89,090	Balance of Apportionments due
Two month's portion has been paid.	



The September/ October Upper Room devotionals are available in the church office for \$1.00 for regular print and \$1.50 for large print.

The Upper Room is temporarily making available a downloadable PDF at:

<https://www.upperroom.org/special-editions>

Mark your calendars for the next Trustees Work Day!

We need everyone's help...

working in the gardens, the playground, and other assorted jobs.

Contact Josh Skinner or the Church Office to sign up!



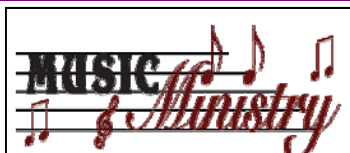
Trustees Work Day
October 24
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

November Connection

Deadline for the next *Connection* is **October 20th**.

Submit to: churchoffice@mainstreetgreenwood.org

John McFadden
Director



It is good to praise the *Lord* and make music to Your Name, *O Most High*.
Psalm 92:1

As has been said many times in the last few months, we are going through a very unusual time. COVID19 has deeply affected most parts of our lives. The worship leadership of the Chancel Choir is no exception. Because we have not been able to rehearse nor have a choir in the traditional sense, members of the Choir have been serving and singing in our 11:00 services two at a time. Please thank them for their service and leadership in very different roles: Ann Landis, Dennis Moore, Myra Greene, Lisa Smith, Debbie Tharpe, Gary Funderburk, Brab Crooks, Debbie McFadden, and Pam Faulkner. Pastor James has sung a solo during this time and Rodney Cleveland has enabled us to do a variety of styles and expressions.

Also, Ken Kittle, Nita Rudy, and Kayla Titus have faithfully and joyfully led in the 8:30 service. Please thank them for their service.



In-person meeting:

In September, we continued to ease back into in-person meetings with two events outdoors:

-Community service in joining “Trash Time with Tara” litter pick-up

-Putt-putt fellowship opportunity at Expo 300

We look forward to more in-person meetings in October!

Group Text for Youth:

For the past few months, Elevate Youth has found some friendly competition in a different way... Digital games and challenges are sent to a group text of the youth **each Wednesday** with an opportunity to win a gift card in the mail! The group text also allows for our group to stay connected and communicate with one another as a group.



New to Elevate Youth? Contact Preston at **864-993-0463** to be added to our group text of youth!

Elevate your mood each day and check in on our friend “Main Street Maverick”.

Follow along on our Instagram account **@mainstreetyouth** to see what he and the youth group are up to!



Come on back!

FYI... Main Street UMC has resumed in-person worship services!!

All youth and parents are encouraged to join for worship at either 8:30 or 11:00 am on Sunday mornings (or both!)

See you on Sunday!

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

In Memoriam

Henrietta "Hennie" Gill Cox
September 9, 2020

In Memoriam

Ruby Vaughn Minor
September 12, 2020

In Memoriam

Elizabeth "Lib" Dickert Gambrell
September 15, 2020

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Georgia Sherard, Bob Walters, John Lumley, Gary Patterson, Stephanie Adams Smith, Kirra Grace Hantske, Frances Garren, Betty Scott, Jackie Daniel, Cynthia Whitmire, Catherine Howell, Mike Johnson, Evelyn Rambo, Jack & Amanda Muren and baby Mazie, Kathie Collins, (Lois Nisonger's daughter), Orin Garner, Steven Stewart, Kathy Bailey, Pierce Stockman, Ned Birchmore, Lamar Maxie, Randy Rouse, Marian Adams, Peggy Ackerman, Patricia Lindell, Bobby Pittavino, Bob Childress, Barbara Fisher, Gene Wilson, and Lori Proctor.

Christian Love and Sympathy is extended to:

Cheryl Washington and family on the death of Cheryl's father, Robert Erwin, on August 28, 2020.

This is no mirage! Main Street's [Healthy Learners Greenwood Virtual Adult Spelling Bee](#) team was impervious to spelling errors! They managed to maneuver to a great run, not gauche, but as graceful as a pirouette. This staunch group of rhetorical experts handled miscellaneous words and colloquialisms without discrepancy!

[#DarnCharcuterie!](#) — with Jeff Smith, Debbie Jennings McFadden, John McFadden and Lori Bassett. So glad to help out Healthy Learners!



Our Children's Ministry needs a dependable person for various ministry needs during Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Contact Josie Shirley, Children's Coordinator for details.

We love our Mud Pies!!



Mud Pies thanks you from the bottom of their hearts for all the help and support during this year and for supporting our Annual Fall Consignment Sale!



CELEBRATIONS

October Birthdays

- 1 Ryder Larkins, Jane Marshall
- 2 Miriam Garner
- 3 Chris Lodes
- 4 Marissa Rogers, John Thompson
- 5 Gray Ackerman, Carol Burgess, Pierce Stockman, Carol Blosser
- 6 Evelyn Rambo, Madalin Radcliffe
- 8 William Thompson, Karen Wilson
- 10 Kathy Kelly, Tara Smith, Barbara Fisher,
- 11 Gale Robinson, Boyd Rogers, Vickie Chandler
- 12 James Barmore, Susanna Tharpe
- 13 Lois Nisonger, Wells Massengill, Jared Styron
- 14 Lomax Murphy, Carol Harley
- 15 Karen Dent, Abbey Lawrence
- 16 Tyler Larkins, Cindee Stewart
- 17 Larry Gearhart, Carolyn McCutcheon, Holden Styron
- 18 Caroline Hawthorne, Laine Wiedemann
- 19 Samuel Titus
- 21 Kim Clark, Trace Meredith, Laney Smith
- 22 Eddie Bartless
- 23 Cindy Harris, Jeff McWatty
- 24 Ron Osborne, Finnley Smith
- 25 Ken Kittle
- 26 Lindsay Burns, John McFadden
- 27 Elaine Dukes, Terry Strange, Mary Lyle Cathcart, Callie Askew, Bernadine Bautista
- 29 Jim Garner, Kim Charles, Sarah Hartung, Albert Dukes
- 31 Tim Munnerlyn, Chris Munnerlyn, Wyatt Tharpe



October Anniversaries

- 2 *Boyd and Anne Rogers*
- 12 *Josh and Mary Kate Skinner*
- 21 *Lincoln and Rhonda McGinnis*
- 24 *Jimmy and Leigh Ann Vickery*
Howard and Carolyn Thomes
Matt and Sam Valkenburg
- 25 *Bill and Doris Tunstall*
Virgil and Brenda Wall
- 26 *Townes and Rosann Jones*



Baptism

Derrick Gregory Chapman was baptized by Pastor James on September 27, 2020. Derrick is pictured with his parents, Kayla and Zach, and big sister, Amelia Rhett (Millie). Proud grandparents are Cele and Greg Shelley.

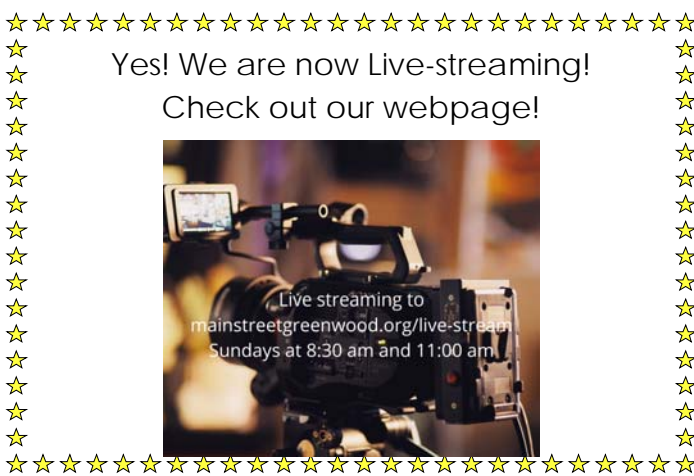
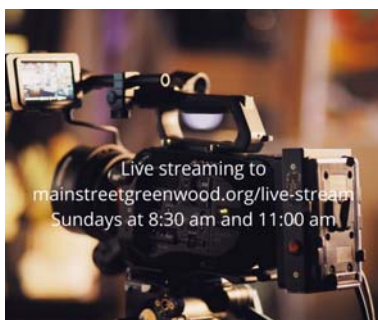


Main Street Mission Opportunities

Save the Dates

Hey families! Save Oct 18 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm for a Family Fun Day activity sponsored by the Missions Committee at church! We'll have more details in each week's Mini-Connection. This date also marks the beginning of OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. Shoeboxes will be available that day for pickup and are due back to church by November 8!

Yes! We are now Live-streaming!
Check out our webpage!





Goal of our ENGAGE SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES:
Connect people to Christ and to each other!

Gray Stallworth, Pastor of Discipleship

Are you active and effective in sharing with others your faith, your resources, and your love? Philemon 1:6

Engage Small Groups

As you may have seen, we have started investigating which ministries and groups are ready to return to in-person activity at the church. With the information we are gathering we'll determine which classrooms can handle which groups based on room capacities and expected numbers that will attend. If you are a group leader of any kind (Sunday School, a ministry team, a committee chair, etc.) and haven't already done so, it is critically important to communicate with the church office. We need to know how many people are like to attend an activity or meeting, and what kind of room set-up you need. These are factors that go into assigning a room for use to your group.

In October, we expect to continue some online small groups. We'll likely have some new groups as well. Plus, off campus groups have the option to continue. Hang in there!

Monday	The Essentials Evening Group	A sermon based group discussion	6 pm	Group Leader: Glenn Williams	Zoom Only
Tuesday	Morning Back Porch Women's Bible Study	A group of women discussing a topic of mutual interest.	9 am	Group Leader: Rhonda McGinnis	"Out back" at various member's homes.
Wednesday	Evening Back Porch Women's Bible Study	A group of women discussing the video series "No Other Gods: The Unrivalled Pursuit of Christ".	6 pm	Group Leader: Mary Kate Skinner	"Out back" at various member's homes. (Zoom optional)
Thursday	Men's Bible Study	A group of men gathering for discussion and study.	7 am	Group Leader: Mark Askew	Fat Daddy's
September - November	Tables of 6	Fellowship Group that meets over a meal.	Group determines days and times (3 times in 3 months)	?????	Group determines location


* Social distancing will be observed in all groups, and registration is critical due to size limits. Many thanks for your help.

In John Wesley's day the term was "Christian Conference". Today, we typically think of this as small group ministry. John Wesley urged Christian to be together in groups to work with one another on "inward and outward holiness." To him, these groups functioned as little churches. They operated within the context of the larger churches. People would find these groups or 'units' as nurturing, a place to gather for study and to receive and give encouragement. They would participate in stewardship, witness and service within these groups. In the Wesleyan tradition, these little churches within the church is where we can experience a renewal! Wesley believed that if people would gather in these units they would be 'the most effectual means for restoring our decaying Christianity.' Author and pastor Steve Harper writes about Wesley's believe and says "preaching alone could not produce a mature spirituality."

In churches of all sizes that are experiencing tremendous growth, in cities and towns large and small, the small group ministry is a contributing factor. The intimacy of small groups, the accountability between members of a group and the nurturing that goes on in the small groups – all play an important role in the life of the church. There are many models of small group ministry, but what those who are having this kind of impact have something in common – they have small groups with a purpose! Some meet in church buildings, others meet in members home, some are focused on a 'life stage' while others are focused on common interests.

We are nearing the completion of creating an intentional discipleship system. One of the key elements of this will be small groups with a purpose. Please be praying about how this can all come together to further the Kingdom of Jesus Christ!

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>* Due to these adjusting days to accommodate getting together, please keep in mind this calendar is subject to change. Change will happen. And we will keep you updated. Thank you for your patience as we all go through this together!</p>				<p>1 7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Fat Daddy's 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>2 2:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Worship</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 World Communion Sunday 8:30 am Early Service Live Stream 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>5 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm The Essentials Zoom</p>	<p>6 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Susanna Circle @ Wesley Commons Pavilion 6:30 pm Wesley Fellowship</p>	<p>7 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm Youth meet at Grace Street Park 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Elevate Youth</p>	<p>8 7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Fat Daddy's 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>9 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Worship</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 3rd Grade Bible Presentation 8:30 am Early Service Live Stream 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 4:00 pm Elevate Youth Zoom</p>	<p>12 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm The Essentials Zoom</p>	<p>13 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm Celebration Circle Zoom Meeting 6:30 pm Wesley Fellowship</p>	<p>14 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>15 7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Fat Daddy's 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>16 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Worship</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 8:30 am Early Service Live Stream 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 4:00 pm Family Fun Day</p>	<p>19 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm The Essentials Zoom</p>	<p>20 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Wesley Fellowship</p>	<p>21 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Fat Daddy's 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>23 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Worship</p>	<p>24 8:00 am-12:00 pm Trustees Work-day 2:00 pm Wedding Vows Renewal</p>
<p>25 Consecration Sunday 8:30 am Early Service Live Stream 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 4:00 pm Elevate Youth Zoom</p>	<p>26 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm The Essentials Zoom</p>	<p>27 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Wesley Fellowship</p>	<p>28 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>29 7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Fat Daddy's 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>30 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Worship</p>	<p>31 Halloween</p> 



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The Connection

A monthly publication connecting members and friends of Main Street United Methodist Church.

Main Street United Methodist Church

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