

THE SPIRE



Experiencing Annual Conference
Margaret Stivers
pg 3

Why Mission, Vision, and Values Matter
Rev. Joshua Lemons
pg 6

Spiritual Impacts at Summer Camp
Margaret Stivers
pg 7

SUMMER 2026



GREENWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thank you for picking up a copy of *The Spire*. This seasonal newsletter is published four times a year—during fall, Advent, Lent, and summer—and serves as a platform to share insights and stories about our church and community life.

As we move into the rhythms of summer, we are reminded that God continues to meet us in both the extraordinary and the everyday moments of church life. In this edition of *The Spire*, we reflect on the ways our congregation is growing in faith, service, and community—from our summer sermon series, *The Miracles of Jesus*, to the experiences and connections formed through Annual Conference, summer camp, preschool ministry, and Kids Craft Camp. We also take time to explore why mission, vision, and values matter as we continue discerning who God is calling Greenwood UMC to be. Whether through worship, learning, outreach, or fellowship, this season invites us to remain rooted in Christ as we grow together in faith and purpose.

CONNECT WITH US

New address?

New phone number?

Interested in Membership
or Baptism?

Curious about our
Ministries?

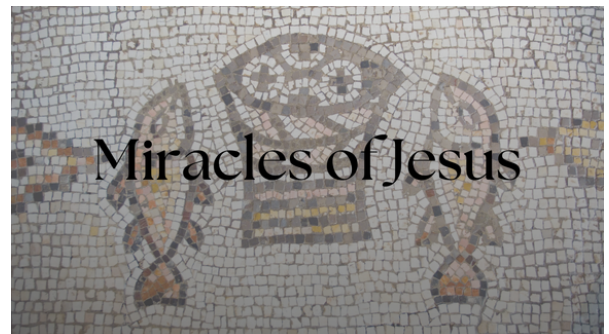
Simply scan the QR Code to
access our connection card, and
we will be in touch with you!



SCAN ME 

Summer Sermon Series – The Miracles of Jesus

The miracles of Jesus are more than supernatural events from that dusty old book. They are moments of intersection with human fear, suffering, hunger, isolation, grief, and hope colliding with the presence of God. In this summer series, we will journey through a few of the miracle stories in the Gospels—not simply asking what happened, but asking what these stories reveal about who God is, who we are, and what it means to encounter Christ in the midst of our ordinary lives.



Each week during the summer we will explore a different miracle of Jesus:

Week 1: The healing of a paralytic man

Week 2: Jesus stills the storm

Week 3: The feeding of the 5,000 (or more!)

Week 4: Two women healed – one dead, one bleeding

Week 5: Healing a leprosy man

Week 6: Jesus heals a blind man

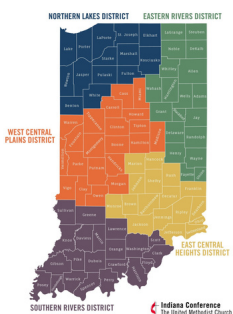
Week 7: Jesus exorcises demons

Week 8: The resurrection of Lazarus

What Is Annual Conference?

Rev. Joshua Lemons

Each year, United Methodists across Indiana gather for an important event called Annual Conference. Despite the name, Annual Conference is not just a meeting — it is also the basic regional body of the church where clergy and lay members come together to worship, pray, learn, and make decisions about the ministry of the church.



Our congregation is part of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, specifically within the Eastern Central Heights District. During Annual Conference, churches from across the state send representatives called delegates.

Because our church is served by two pastors, our congregation is also blessed to send two lay delegates to participate alongside clergy delegates.

Annual Conference typically includes worship services, reports from ministries across Indiana, times of fellowship, and



important voting on matters that impact the life of the church. Delegates help make decisions about budgets, ministry priorities, clergy appointments, and resolutions that guide the work of the conference. It is one of the primary ways United Methodists practice shared leadership and our connectional ministry.

One of the most meaningful moments of Annual Conference is the opportunity to celebrate ministry together — recognizing retirements, commissioning and ordaining clergy, remembering saints who have passed away, and hearing stories of how God is at work in local churches and communities.

While only elected delegates can vote, Annual Conference represents all of us. It reminds us that our congregation is part of something larger than ourselves: a connection of churches working together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Experiencing Annual Conference

Margaret Stivers

Attending Annual Conference has been a deeply meaningful part of my ministry journey over the past few years. The first time I attended, I came simply as a guest, ready to experience all that Annual Conference had to offer. Before attending, Pastor Josh told me it would be life transforming — and well, he was right.

During that first Annual Conference, I attended the Celebration of Ministry service, where clergy were commissioned, ordained, and recognized in their ministry journeys. One of the questions asked during the sermon was, “Who are you?” I remember reflecting deeply on that question and realizing how much my faith journey and involvement in ministry had already shaped who I was becoming. During a



time of prayer and anointing later in the service, I felt myself getting up and joining the line for prayer and blessing. When I returned to my seat, Pastor Roy Ice from Nashville

UMC, who was sitting next to me while Pastor Josh participated in the clergy choir, leaned over and said, “You realize you just accepted a call to ministry, right?” I responded back with an excited, “Yep!” That moment became a turning point in my journey and continues to shape my discernment today.

One of the things I appreciate about Annual Conference is the opportunity to connect with the many ministries and organizations throughout the Conference. The Exhibits Hall is filled with booths and resources that highlight the wide variety of ways people are serving in ministry and reaching their communities.

The second year I attended, I served as an equalization member. While lay delegates are elected by their local church to represent the congregation, equalization members are added to help maintain a balanced number of clergy and laity in the voting body of the Annual Conference. In this role, I was able to participate in voting and more fully experience the connectional work of the church.

I am excited to attend again this year as an equalization member. I look forward to building new connections, reconnecting with familiar faces, and continuing to discern where God is leading me in my call to ministry.

GUMC Preschool: From New Beginnings to Summer Adventures

Brittany Ryan, Preschool Director



What a truly remarkable journey we've just completed as we bring another school year to a close! It feels like just yesterday we embarked on this adventure, and now we celebrate the incredible growth, laughter, and learning that have filled our classrooms. Seeing our Pre-K graduates step forward, ready for their next chapter, is a testament to the community we've built.



This past year was particularly significant as we launched our brand-new preschool program. Introducing something new always comes with its unique set of challenges and a steep learning curve, but I am filled with immense pride when I reflect on how our dedicated Preschool staff navigated these waters. Their unwavering commitment and passion have transformed a vision into a thriving reality. Our deepest gratitude also goes to Pastor Josh, Pastor Mandie, and the entire leadership team; your continuous support and guidance have been unmeasurable.



As we transition into the warmer months, we're thrilled to announce: our Preschool **Summer Program!** Designed to provide a refreshing break from structured academics, this program will immerse children in a joyful and secure environment focused on imaginative play, creative exploration, and social development. Think outdoor adventures, themed weeks, engaging arts and crafts, and plenty of opportunities for curious minds to flourish – all without the pressure of a formal curriculum. We're also delighted to extend this opportunity to elementary-aged siblings of current preschool enrollees, fostering a wonderful sense of family and community.



And of course, it wouldn't be summer without our much-anticipated **Kids Craft Camp!** Mark your calendars for **July 13-17** for a week packed with artistic discovery and community. This annual event is a highlight for children from both our church and the wider community, offering a chance to unleash their creativity through various projects, and to build friendships and make lasting memories. Registration is \$50 per child, but as a special benefit, children enrolled in our new Preschool Summer Program will attend Craft Camp at no additional cost!

A program like Craft Camp thrives on the spirit of generosity, and we simply cannot make it happen without our incredible volunteers. If you have a passion for crafting, enjoy working with children, or simply want to contribute to a heartwarming community event, we warmly invite you to join us. Your time and talents are invaluable! Please connect with Brittany Ryan!

GUMC PRESCHOOL SUMMER ENROLLMENT

Enroll in our Preschool's Summer Program today! Children (K-5th grade) can enroll if their sibling is enrolled in Preschool.

THEMED DAYS!

FIELD TRIPS!

PROGRAM DETAILS

\$50 Registration Fee

Monthly Tuition

- Full Day- \$450
- 4 Days- \$360
- 3 Days- \$270
- 3 Half-Days- \$200

After Care

- After 3:00pm-5:00pm
\$5/hr

Questions? Call Brittany Ryan @ 317-997-6271

KIDS CRAFT CAMP

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR KIDS CRAFT CAMP FROM JULY 13TH-17TH, FEATURING CREATIVE PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR CHILDREN. REGISTRATION IS \$50 PER CHILD. VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE CAMP'S SUCCESS, AND THOSE INTERESTED IN CRAFTING OR WORKING WITH KIDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN. CONTACT BRITTANY RYAN TO HELP OUT!



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!

Why Mission, Vision, and Values Matter

Rev. Joshua Lemons

Every organization — whether it is a business, a school, a nonprofit, or a church — is shaped by three important ideas:



mission, vision, and values. These words are often used interchangeably, but they each answer a different question about who we are and who we are becoming together.

A mission answers the question: *Why do we exist?* For United Methodists, our shared mission is clear: “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” This mission grounds us in the work Jesus has given the Church in every time and place.



A *vision* answers a different question: What do we hope to become or see happen? The current vision statement of The United Methodist Church

describes a church that forms disciples who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, “love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.” Vision helps us imagine what faithfulness looks like in practice.

Finally, values answer the question: How will we live and work together?



Values are the shared commitments that shape our culture and guide our decisions. They describe what matters deeply to a community — things like hospitality, prayer, generosity, integrity, compassion, or service. At this point, we have not formally identified a set of core values as a local church, but we believe that discernment is important work for us to do together.

In the coming months, we will spend time listening, praying, and reflecting as a congregation. Some of our conversation will center on whether the broader mission and vision of The United Methodist Church fully express our local calling, or whether we are being invited to articulate those ideas in ways that speak more directly to our unique community and ministry context.

This is not simply an exercise in writing statements for a website or a bulletin. Healthy mission, vision, and values help a church make decisions, clarify priorities, and remain centered on God’s purpose. More importantly, they help unite people around a shared understanding of who God is calling us to be.

As we begin this process together, we invite every person in the congregation to participate prayerfully and thoughtfully. Discernment is not the work of a committee alone — it is the work of the whole church seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit together.

As part of this discernment process, we will be hosting a series of Table Talks centered on these concepts and more beginning in the Fall of 2026.

Our first Table Talk will be August 9 in Suter Hall following worship.



Spiritual Impacts at Summer Camp

Margaret Stivers

Summer is a season filled with growth, discovery, friendship, and faith—and one of the ways Greenwood United Methodist Church is helping support that journey is through opportunities to attend summer camp at Impact 2818: Outdoor Ministries.

To help make camp more accessible for families, Greenwood UMC currently has scholarship options available for children and youth attending camp through Impact 2818.



We never want finances to be the reason a child misses the opportunity to attend camp. If additional financial assistance is needed beyond the available discounts, the church is also willing to help families organize fundraising opportunities such as bake sales or car washes to help offset remaining costs.

Impact 2818: Outdoor Ministries is a United Methodist camp and retreat ministry focused on helping people grow in their relationship with God through worship, community, service, recreation, and spiritual formation.

If your child or family is interested in learning more about summer camp opportunities, available sessions, or scholarship support, please contact Betsy Loper by phone 317-885-1735, or email: betsy_loper@yahoo.com. We would love to help connect your family with a meaningful summer experience rooted in faith, friendship, and community.

Their mission is rooted in creating spaces where students can experience belonging, encouragement, and transformation while building lasting relationships with one another and with Christ.

For more information about Impact 2818: Outdoor Ministries and their mission, visit their website here: <https://impact2818.org/>

From outdoor adventures and campfire worship to small group conversations and hands-on activities, camp offers everyone a chance to step away from the busyness of everyday life and experience faith in meaningful and memorable ways.

Life Changing Experiences Start Here

impact2818.org

IMPACT 2818: Outdoor Ministries
of the United Methodist Church of Indiana

Farmers MARKET



Saturdays 8am-12pm,
in GUMC's parking lot!

Join us for a vibrant and bustling community market, where local vendors come together to showcase their fresh produce, artisanal goods, and homemade treats. It's the perfect opportunity to support local businesses while indulging in delicious food and unique crafts.

GREENWOOD FREEDOM FESTIVAL

Greenwood's Freedom Festival is on Saturday, June 27, starting with a 4 pm parade at Greenwood United Methodist Church, followed by festivities at Craig Park. Enjoy live music, local food, activities for all ages, a kids' zone, and vendor booths. The day concludes with a fireworks display, offering a chance to connect with neighbors and make lasting memories!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:15 am ~ Worship Service
All are welcome here! Please join us!

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Monday
7:30 pm ~ Boy Scouts
Tuesday
11:00 am ~ The Shepherd's Table
Wednesday
11:30 am ~ Bring It All AA
6:00 pm ~ AA Groups
Thursday
11:30 am ~ AA Group
Friday
11:30 am ~ GNBB AA Group
Saturday
8:00 am ~ Farmers Market

June

3-6 ~ Annual Conference
15~ Leadership Team Meeting
21 ~ Father's Day
27 ~ Freedom Festival

July

11 ~ UWF Meeting
20~ Leadership Team Meeting

August

17 ~ Leadership Team Meeting

The Spire is published
by Greenwood UMC

Editor: Margaret Stivers
office@greenwoodumc.org

Sr. Pastor: Joshua Lemons
josh.lemons@inumc.org

Associate Pastor: Mandie Gould
mandie.gould@inumc.org



525 N Madison Ave, Greenwood IN 46142
* Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-1pm *
Phone Number: 317-881-1653