

THE SPIRE

SUMMER 2025

WHAT HAS THE LEADERSHIP TEAM BEEN UP TO?
Pg. 1

UPDATING OUR PRESCHOOL!
Pg. 2

MEET OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR!
Pg. 5

WHAT HAS THE LEADERSHIP TEAM BEEN UP TO?

Barb Richard, David Penoff

Your Leadership Team has been very busy this year. The flat roof has been a major concern following several leaks. We are happy to report this project is now completed. Thanks to support from many of you, we have completed our flat roof project. The need to replace the flat roof had been known for several years, and we knew that it was going to be a large financial commitment. After discussions with members who have been at GUMC for many years, we believe that this is the largest building project that we have undertaken since the Suter Hall addition in the 1970s.

As a congregation, you all joined together to help with this project, and it is important to note that our Mizo congregation also provided financial help.

Here are approximate final numbers:

Funds from sale of Lilly stock	\$86,000
Congregation giving	\$71,000
Conference loan	\$45,000
Total	\$193,000

I know that I speak for our entire Leadership Team (LT) when I say "thank you" to all of you who were able to help in any way. Completing this project was a big step for us as we all work together to keep this church as an available and important resource in our community.



We are excited about our full-time Preschool Program! This will also provide before and after care for working parents. What an exciting time for this growth! In preparation, the LT is installing security doors on the south side of our building. Also, new doors will be added to the north classroom entrance. We have a Task Team in

place for the new design of our classrooms. Parents are already signing up for this new, much-needed program for little ones. Spread the news to your family and friends!

We will be adding security cameras around the building as well. This will help us see who is at the doors before we walk up to them to ensure safety for everyone.



Our church sidewalks have been power washed in preparation for our 175th year celebration. What a month it will be, with many visitors from the past and dignitaries from the conference. More exciting news is the addition of a half-time associate minister to address the needs of a growing congregation. The LT is excited about our new staff member, see her introduction on page 5!

During our last meeting, we made a long list of future projects and programs. We will have more details on these projects in the future and would love to have volunteers with an interest in helping our church grow and shine in the light of Christ.

The LT is a very dedicated group, meeting to serve the needs of the church. We thank you for your attendance each Sunday. The growth we see is exciting! We are glad to walk alongside everyone to continue our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Know someone's face but not their name, or read their name and can't picture their face? Well, the answer to that is a pictorial directory!



During July through September, we will be taking pictures of families and individuals who would like to be included in our church directory. Sign-up sheets for time slots available are located in the narthex. Contact Margaret Stivers with any questions, or if you're interested in helping us take pictures.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES



Many of us know the Bible stories we heard as kids. Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the Big Fish (that sounds like a movie title!), Daniel and the Lions' Den and many others. Bible Stories for All Ages is a new series that will take a look at these stories that are often sanitized for children and look at them with a new lens and line of questioning asking: "What does this tired old story have for us today?"

UPDATING OUR PRESCHOOL!

Brittany Ryan, Interim Director

Hello! I'm Brittany Ryan, Interim Director.

It's been another fantastic year at Greenwood United Methodist Church Preschool. We celebrated our Pre-K graduations and enjoyed a wonderful all-school picnic at Westside Park. We're thrilled to be expanding our program to offer a full-day option starting August 2025!

Open enrollment is now underway for children aged 2-5. First day of school is August 11! We're incredibly excited to be growing from one classroom to three, providing full-day care Monday-Friday, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, with before-and after-care options available (7:00 am - 8:00 am and 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm). We will need to hire additional teachers; listings will come soon.

To prepare for this exciting expansion, Mark Muston has kindly organized a volunteer task force to renovate the preschool wing.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff and the entire church community for your unwavering support and commitment to the preschool. We are incredibly grateful for your partnership and look forward to a year filled with growth and learning. We're all anticipating great things!



GUMC PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Our program provides all-day care filled with engaging, hands-on learning in a nurturing, faith-based environment where children can thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

PROGRAM DETAILS

2-5
YEARS
OLD

Monthly Tuition	Before and After Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Day- \$450 4 Days- \$360 3 Days- \$270 3 Half-Days- \$200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before 7:00am-8:00am After 3:00pm-5:00pm <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">5/hr</p>

child must be age of their class by 8/1/25

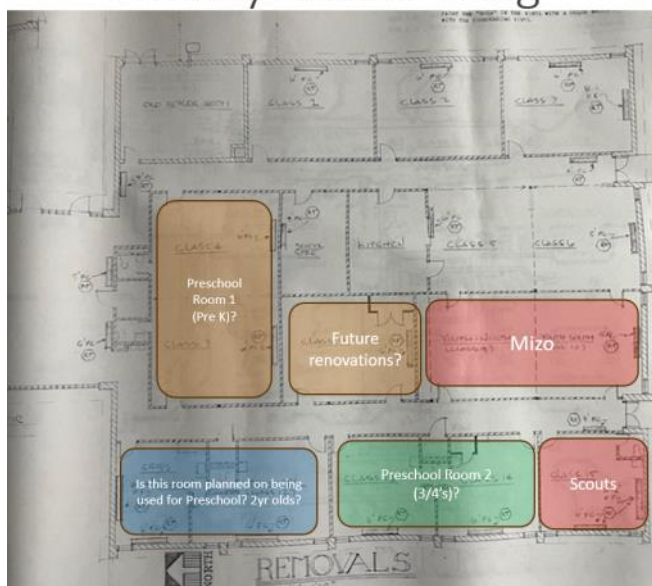
REGISTRATION FORM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE




Greenwood United Methodist Church
525 N Madison Ave
Greenwood, IN 46142

Sunday School Wing



WHAT IS THE PRESCHOOL TASK TEAM DOING?

Mark Muston, Margaret Stivers

During the summer, we have a wonderful team of people collaborating to help get the preschool ready for the transition into all-day care. Currently, we have one preschool room, but with this transition, we will have three rooms and updated security. As mentioned with the Leadership Team projects, we will be adding and upgrading doors along the education wing to ensure everyone's safety. We will also be adding security cameras around the property. The Task Team's main focus is contacting and getting quotes and vendors for replacing the carpet and painting the rooms. Depending on the work, we might ask for some volunteers to help us paint and clear rooms. Our goal is to upgrade the nursery area to utilize for the 2-year-olds room and to use rooms 3 and 4 for ages 3 and 4. The preschool room itself will still be used for the Pre-K room and we will be upgrading it to keep everything consistent. We will also be upgrading Old Fellowship Hall for the before/after care and lunches. We are excited for the expansion of our preschool and can't wait to see what the future holds!

Unleash creativity at our fun-filled Kids Craft Camp, where imagination knows no bounds! Over the course of the camp, kids will explore a variety of hands-on activities like painting, sculpting, drawing, stamping and other crafting mediums all while making new friends, growing in relationships with trusted adults, teens, and kids in the community and sharing their artistic journey. Each day is a new adventure in creativity, encouraging self-expression and genuine connection. Join us for a week of summer crafting and fun.

Feel free to drop kiddos off, or hang around and connect and craft yourself. Register in person or online. Cost is \$50 per camper
*Scholarships are available, contact Pastor Josh

KIDS CRAFT CAMP

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!

JULY 14 - 17, 2025
9am-12pm
\$50/child



**GREENWOOD
UMC
INVITES YOU TO:**

FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 20
3:00pm-6:00pm
FREE Admission

LIVE Music!
BBQ
Yard Games
and more!



Join us for our annual Fall Festival! It will be a wonderful afternoon full of music, games, and great food! This year as we are celebrating 175 years of worship, we invite everyone to join us in fellowship with the church and our community.

We will have wonderful music provided by Cornfields and Crossroads; delicious food; a tank to dunk the pastor; and an engaging kids area with bounce houses, games, and face painting!

Farmers MARKET

DISCOVER THE GREENWOOD FARMERS MARKET

Thank you for your interest in the 2025 Greenwood Farmers Market! Located in the heart of Greenwood, this vibrant, growing market takes pride in offering a true farmers market experience. Our emphasis is on locally grown produce and handcrafted goods, and we strive to maintain a welcoming environment that supports local agriculture and artisans.

Operating every Saturday from April through to September, the market is open from 8 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of Greenwood United Methodist Church. Though small in size with space for up to 40 vendors, many of our vendors return year after year—reflecting the strength of our community and the quality of their offerings. To preserve our focus on fresh produce, the number of non-produce vendors is intentionally limited.

Whether you're a longtime supporter or a first-time visitor, we invite you to stop by and experience all the Greenwood Farmers Market has to offer!



ITINERANCY AND APPOINTMENTS IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Joshua Lemons

As United Methodists, you may have heard the word "connection." This connection extends not only within each local congregation but also across the globe. A key aspect of this connection is itinerancy and our appointive system. These, and episcopacy, are practices that govern how pastors are assigned to churches. These systems are deeply rooted in the theology and history of our denomination and are essential for maintaining the unity and mission of The United Methodist Church.



What is the Appointive System?

The Appointive System is the method by which United Methodist clergy are assigned to local congregations. Unlike other Christian denominations, where pastors may be elected by a church or serve indefinitely in one location, United Methodist pastors are appointed by the Bishop. The decision of where a pastor will serve is based on the needs of the congregation, the gifts and skills of the clergy, and the broader mission of the Church. The responsibility for appointing clergy rests with the Bishop and the District Superintendents (DS), in consultation with the clergy and the Leadership Team.

The Role of Itinerancy

Itinerancy refers to the practice of pastors moving from one appointment to another on a regular basis. Itinerancy is at the heart of the United Methodist calling, rooted in the idea of "going where God calls." It reflects the understanding that the work of a pastor is about the larger mission of the church and the needs of God's people.

Pastors who are itinerant are expected to serve in different locations throughout their careers. The idea is that pastors serve wherever they are most needed. This itinerant ministry allows for the fresh energy and perspective that come with each new assignment and helps the larger Church to be responsive to changing community needs.

How Does the Appointive System Work?

The process of appointment begins when a pastor's season of effectiveness is coming to an end or when a congregation's leadership needs a change. The DS, working in partnership with the Bishop, assess the needs of the church. They also consider the gifts, experience, and calling of available clergy. Then, after prayer, reflection, and consultation, the Bishop makes the decision and appoints each pastor to where they will serve.

The Benefits of the Appointive System and Itinerancy

1. Connectional Ministry: By having pastors serve in multiple churches, the United Methodist Church maintains a strong sense of connection. Pastors become part of a larger network, supporting one another in ministry and sharing experiences that strengthen the whole church.

2. Flexibility and Renewal: Churches may experience new ideas, leadership styles, and fresh perspectives, which can revitalize a congregation's mission. Similarly, pastors have the opportunity to grow in their calling by encountering new challenges and communities.

3. Equality and Fairness: Pastors are not selected based on personal desires or ambitions, but rather on what is best for the church and the mission of the larger Church.

4. Global Reach: United Methodist pastors are not confined to their local or even regional area. Through itinerancy, a pastor might be called to serve in a different part of the country or, at times, even abroad.

Challenges and Questions



While the system of itinerancy is deeply meaningful and beneficial, it does come with its own set of challenges. The idea of relocating can be difficult for families, and congregations may initially resist a new pastor.

However, itinerancy encourages the church to grow beyond its comfort zone and live into the broader vision of God's kingdom.

Looking Ahead: Welcoming a new Associate Pastor

As we continue to evolve in our understanding of ministry, the Appointive System and itinerancy will remain key to our identity as United Methodists. We are called to support and encourage one another, understanding that the work of the church is not confined to a single place but is spread throughout the world. The appointed ministry of pastors strengthens that sense of unity and purpose.

In the coming months, as we begin to welcome a new Associate Pastor who is being appointed for the next conference year, let us pray for wisdom, grace, and clarity for our Bishop, District Superintendents, and pastors. And as a congregation, let us remain open to the fresh work God is doing in our midst, trusting that each new pastor who joins our community has been called by God for "such a time as this."

MEET OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR!

Pastor Mandie Gould



Pastor Mandie Gould was born and raised a Buckeye but has lived the last 37 years in the Hoosier state. She was baptized on Palm Sunday in 1972 and confirmed in 1982 in the local United Methodist Church where both sides of her family were members. She earned a BA in English and Political Science from Ball State University and

continued her studies at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. First appointed in 2011 by Bishop Coyner, she has served six churches, sometimes two at a time, in five different counties. Currently, she is the senior pastor at Mount Olive UMC on the west side of Indianapolis and is a member of the Conference Steering Committee for the Commission on Status and Role of Women (COSROW). She also serves on the crisis response team for congregations that deploys when needed and requested by the Bishop.

In January 2018, she married Harold Willoughby. Harold drives a semi-truck, enjoys fishing, and has four adult children in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He also has three grandsons and twin grand babies due in August. Mandie has two sons: Jack lives in Michigan and Andrew is a funeral director at G.H. Hermann on Madison Avenue. In 2022, Brandon Beaver joined their family, and his adoption will be finalized soon.



Mandie and Harold enjoy life with Maisie, their Australian Shepherd, and their orange tabby, Morris. They look forward to moving to their new home near Fort Harrison State Park, where they plan to walk/hike its trails and canoe on Fall Creek. They also plan to feed any and all birds that enjoy their feeders.

Andrew begins Spanish language studies at IU-Indianapolis later this summer. He is a board member for Metro Ministries and for the last two years has served on the worship team for Annual Conference. Brandon will transfer from the Thrive program at Ben Davis High School to Lawrence Central and is excited “to drive” his ebike, join the YMCA, and continue playing Unified Sports at his new school. When not at work, school, or church on Sunday, the family enjoys eating breakfast out, concerts, and their respective hobbies.

THE ROLE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Joshua Lemons

In the United Methodist Church, the Annual Conference plays a vital role in organizing and guiding the church’s ministry at the regional level. In Indiana, the entire state forms a conference. These yearly gatherings bring together clergy and laity for worship, training, decision-making, and fellowship.



Structure and Purpose

The size and scope of an Annual Conference can vary, but each one typically includes a group of local churches, pastors, and lay delegates from the region.

The primary purposes of the Annual Conference are:

- 1. Spiritual Renewal:** a time for worship, prayer, and reflection, attendees strengthen their faith and deepen their connection to the global UMC.
- 2. Administrative Functions:** making decisions on matters of church business,.
- 3. Clergy Support and Appointment:** The conference Bishop and District Superintendents oversee this process, ensuring pastors are assigned to the right ministries based on the needs of local congregations.
- 4. Mission and Outreach:** planning and coordinating regional and global missions, addressing both social justice issues and outreach programs that align with the church’s mission to spread the Gospel.

Governance

A Bishop serves as the presiding officer of each Annual Conference. Bishops are appointed by the General Conference and oversee the spiritual and administrative life of the conference.

During the sessions, delegates participate in discussions, vote on resolutions, and engage in collaborative decision-making. It is an important occasion for church members to express their views, vote on key issues, and influence the future direction of the UMC.

More than a business meeting, it fosters connection, growth, and shared purpose. Through worship, sharing ideas, and making decisions together, members embody who we are as followers of Jesus Christ.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH!



The Greenwood Education Foundation (GEF) is a local nonprofit designed to support Greenwood students, teachers, and schools. The GEF offers over \$50,000 in educational grant opportunities every year, including the New Teacher Grant, which provides \$300 to educators starting their career; the Woodmen Way Grant, which offers opportunities to students who have ideas to improve their community; and the \$5,000 Super Grant, which drives innovative ideas in the classroom. The GEF also offers scholarships to graduates, and our GEF Cares program provides wrap-around support services. Students cannot be successful in the classroom if they are hungry or facing needs at home. For the 2024/2025 school year, the GEF Cares program provided 132 free haircuts, 300 winter coats, 8,560 snacks to curb daytime hunger, and \$6,884 in school supplies for the second semester, for a total of \$16,980 in supportive services.

One of the biggest collaborative projects is collecting school supplies during the summer, when they are abundant in stores, often at a discounted rate. The GEF stores them until the second semester,



when supplies are often worn out, lost, or broken. We load the supplies onto the GEF Cares bus and visit each school, offering free shopping experiences. Our most-requested items include mechanical pencils, binders, dry-erase markers, disinfectant wipes/hand sanitizer, tissues, colored pencils, and headphones. Currently, we are well stocked with pencils and spiral-bound notebooks. We will be collecting school supplies during the month of July and through early August. Physical items are encouraged, or monetary donations will be collected to help purchase these supplies later. We would love to have your assistance in helping students to be successful in the classroom!



PROVIDING FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

COLLECTION WITH THE REFUGE

The Refuge serves any resident from Johnson County and southern Marion County. Our mission is to serve families emotionally, physically, spiritually and academically. Whether someone needs help once or every month, we can fulfill our mission to serve well as Christ would want us to do. Our partnerships through churches like GUMC have enabled us to serve our community since 2007. Through your generosity and prayers, we are growing every year with needs and partnerships. We currently see around 250-400 families a month.

During the month of June, you can bring items to GUMC, and we can take them to the Refuge; however, our main partnership with the Refuge will be in the fall.

They are asking for the following items:

- Canned Meat
- Canned Pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, etc.)
- Canned Fruit
- Mac & Cheese
- Or any other nonperishable food items
- Hygiene items are also appreciated!



20th Annual Holy Cow Spaghetti Dinner



Where:

Greenwood UMC
525 N Madison Ave.
Greenwood, IN 46142

When:

Friday, September
12, 2025
4:30pm-7:30pm

Tickets:

Adults: \$10
Children: \$5

Profits to benefit
Greenwood's
Elementary Schools

Enjoy delicious food, great company, a wonderful silent auction (proceeds to benefit The Shepherd's Table), and a fun community event for all ages!



GREENWOOD FREEDOM FESTIVAL

Greenwood's Freedom Festival is on Saturday, June 28, 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

9:00 am ~ Sunday School for all ages
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
11:30am ~ AA Group
Friday
11:30 am ~ GNBB AA Group
Saturday
8:00 am ~ Farmers Market

June

5-7 ~ Annual Conference
28 ~ Freedom Festival

July

4 ~ Fourth of July-Office Closed
14-17 ~ Kids Craft Camp

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by Greenwood UMC

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