

caring
sharing
daring

Dear members and friends of
Green Street United Methodist Church!

I am so grateful to all of you for your faith and patience throughout these many months as COVID-19 has brought necessary reconsideration and restructuring of our church life. Every time I think we are “over the hump” and starting to return to “normal”, a new challenge develops. However, praise God, there are always people who rise to those new challenges!

I am especially thankful for those on the worship and technical teams for their courage to provide in-person support so that worship could continue even when few folks were willing to attend in-person. As a result, our online worship services continue to draw a wonderful diversity of people from a wide range of geographic locations. It is also true that we are learning new ways of being the body of Christ during this time. I rejoice in the generosity that our congregation has exhibited financially and in caring for one another and our mission partners. The words of support from all of you to one another and to me have provided both encouragement and hope. Our in-person attendance is improving as more folks are completing their vaccinations and otherwise becoming more comfortable with gathering in-person.

But let's be honest. This time we are in is really hard. It is hard to wear masks, and it is hard to avoid our hugs and our normal ways we show love for one another. As your pastor, I feel that loss profoundly. I understand that being unable to express your love for each other as the body of Christ is no small thing. We are caught between the selfishness of wanting to do whatever we want without regard for others, and wanting to do everything we can for others. I pray every day that God will forgive me for my lack of patience, and my failure to lean on him completely during these hard times. This will be the basis of our confessional for Communion on May 2, 2021.

Our worship has evolved by necessity during this time of COVID with little planning. When in-person worship was discontinued in March 2020, we began a simple, online service broadcast from our home. It was only 30 minutes in length. Last summer when we worshipped outdoors in the parking lot, we extended the worship time to 45 minutes. When we moved back into the church, we extended the worship time to 60 minutes, and included both contemporary and traditional music. What's next?

As we start thinking about a new program year beginning this fall, I am excited for all of the new (or newly structured) ways we will be participating in Christ's work! I am pretty sure we will never be "normal" again. Online worship is here to stay. But, it too, will evolve and change just as will in-person worship. These are opportunities for you to be involved. I want your input!

As we look to the year ahead, we must embrace a mindset of flexibility and grace.

Please know that the grace of God remains visible in our church, and that the vitality of our congregation continues during this unexpected and challenging time. Together, let us seek to discover the new things God is doing in our midst!

I hold all of you in my prayers and request your prayers, as well.

Blessings, Bryce



Upcoming Worship Topics:

May 2 "Where I Am Going You Cannot Come" based on John 7:25-36; Communion will be served

May 9 "How Big is God's Grace?" based on John 7:53-8:11; Mother's Day

May 16 "Truth Will Set You Free" based on John 8:31-38; 45

May 23 "Before Abraham Was" John 8:48-59

Community Impact Award!

Congratulations to Green Street UMC for receiving the 2020 Community Impact Award from the Barry County Chamber of Commerce. A link to the video the chamber produced follows <https://fb.watch/55Pes9OSDH/>

Hundreds of people come to our church to receive temporal assistance through the Food Pantry, Fresh Food Initiative and Community Meal. While we are not currently serving Tuesday night in-person Community Meals due to the coronavirus, we have found innovative ways to carry on this ministry. For example, we used Community Meal funds to purchase gift cards to Hastings restaurants to give to folks that receive food via the Community Meal and other ministries at the church.

Additionally, on November 26, 2020, we provided a drive-thru Thanksgiving Meal to 325 people. On December 15, 2020, we provided a drive-thru Christmas Meal to over 160 folks in our community. Those events, along with the Barry Bucks and gift cards distributed along with the meals, gave Hastings businesses an economic boost in addition to helping folks needing food assistance.



2020
Community Impact Award
Presented to
Green Street United Methodist Church
BARRY COUNTY
CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Thank you for your faithful giving! You can give your offerings any of three ways:

- 1. Give by mailing donations to the church office at 209 West Green Street, Hastings, MI 49058. We have enclosed an envelope for your convenience.**
- 2. Give a secure electronic donation at any time by clicking the “Give Now” button on our website <https://greenstreetumc.faith/giving>**
- 3. Give a secure electronic donation via PayPal [https://paypal.me/GreenStUMC? locale.x=en_US](https://paypal.me/GreenStUMC?locale.x=en_US)**

Thank You! - For all the baby bottles returned and the donations for **Hastings Alpha** fundraiser! The total given is \$211.00! Thank you so very much for your generosity! Every dollar goes towards caring for the Moms and babies here in Hastings.

Thank You! - To all the volunteers who provided food and worked at **Family Promise** last month.

Opportunities for Service, Study, Prayer, Fellowship and Fun!

UMW Spring Rummage Sale—A rummage sale is being planned at the church for May 5, 6 and 7. So many items of clothing and other things have been donated that we need to clear them out! It would make this more fun if you would donate some time to help us set up on Monday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 4, and also during the sale. So mark your calendars! If you are unable to help, we welcome your prayers! Thank you! For more information please contact Linda Hill at 231-620-9114 or russlinda82@gmail.com.

Men’s Study—7:00 am Saturdays in-person in Room 108 and on-line via conference call 563-999-1411; no access code is required.

Women’s Study- 1:30-3:00 pm Mondays at the church in the Lounge. We are discussing *Two Steps Forward: A Story of Persevering in Hope*. Contact Terri Trupiano Barry at 616-648-5505 or by email at territbarry@gmail.com if you have questions.

SOFTBALL! It's that time of year again! We had a great season last summer and are ready to hit the field and do it again. There are still some details to firm up, but games will be Tuesday evenings starting in June. The team is co-ed and you must be 13 to play. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Matt St. Jacques and we will get you squared away! Talk to you soon! matt.stjacques@gmail.com

CONTACTS:

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Dir. of Music - Shelia Huis - huishausproductions@gmail.com

Nursery Attendant – Hannah Alberts

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Address Service Requested



Sunday Worship
In-Person
and
Facebook LIVE
9:30AM

May 2021 Newsletter