

# Greenbrier FUMC *focus*

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GREENBRIER FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
MAY 1 – MAY 15

## Methodism 101 Begins Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

**Two** opportunities for small group studies on Wednesday Nights  
from 6:30 -7:30 p.m.

- 1. Methodism 101** – is a five week study designed to increase our understanding of United Methodism. Materials will be provided.
- 2. Study of Ephesians** – Bring your Bibles for a verse by verse study of this amazing book.

### Methodism 101 will cover:

1. Introduction and overview to your journey: What is The United Methodist Church?
2. History of The United Methodist Church: From the birth of a movement to a modern denomination
3. Underlying theology and the unique foundations of basic beliefs.
4. Organization and structure of the denomination
5. Present and future challenges faced by all United Methodists

### Study of Ephesians

The book of Ephesians is about the riches, fullness, and inheritance that a believer has in Christ. Because of that, some have called Ephesians the treasure house of the Bible. The book of Ephesians will teach you who you are, how rich you are, and how you should use those riches for Christ's glory. Come join with us in the month of May for this deep dive into the riches of God's Word. Mitch Burgess will lead us in this study.

## REDBIRD MISSION TEAM

The Red Bird Mission team is ready to head to Beverly, KY on June 4th for a week of work at the Red Bird Mission Camp and surrounding communities! The area is one of the most impoverished areas in the states and we will be doing a variety of work while we are there. A team of 11 adults and 3 kids will be representing GFUMC! Our last meeting of preparation will be May 1, 2016 at 12:00pm. A huge thank you to Bill and Rue Yount for providing snacks for the week for our team! Please pray for our team as we prepare for what God has planned for us to learn through this trip. If you have any questions or want more information, contact Jamie Ward who is our team coordinator.

## Church Events

- **May 1 - Missions Committee at 12:00 p.m.**
- **May 4 – Wednesday Night Studies at 6:30 p.m. (Methodism 101 begins)**
- **May 7 – Methodist Men's Chicken Dinner Fund Raiser**
- **May 8 – Mother's Day M&M Offering for Food Pantry Due**
- **May 11 – Wednesday Night Studies at 6:30 p.m.**
- **May 14 – Libby Lyon Wedding at Jamestown Ranch in Wooster at 5:30 pm (reception to follow at the ranch)**
- **May 15 – Senior Sunday recognition of our Graduating High School Seniors at the 11:00 a.m.**

## Trustees News on Building Updates

The Trustees have been busy making necessary repairs to the building and grounds. The parking lot will soon be completed. We hit a bit of a snag with all the rain and because of the high water table and the underground water issues. We are looking at options but either way the parking lot has to be completely dry before they can lay asphalt. We hope that we will be able to lay asphalt in a couple weeks. A large portion of that repair was paid for by the Methodist Foundation's Thayer Hendrickson Endowment fund. The rest of the parking lot repair was funded by our local endowment fund which must be repaid. We are thankful for both families represented by these two endowments which continue to benefit our church family.

We also had to purchase a new air conditioning unit responsible for cooling the kitchen and front fellowship hall area. That was purchased from operating budget funds for this year thanks to the carry-over from last year. That unit

was installed last week.

Also scheduled for this summer is the replacement of the complete heating and air conditioning unit that heats and cools the back section of the Fellowship Hall. This work will be funded by a special fundraiser.

The Trustees are also looking at plans for renovation of the front entry area of the church and possibly updating the front bathrooms. Bids are being secured on this work and final designs will be presented to the church this month. The funding for these improvements will also be included in a special fundraiser.

For more information about what's happening at GreenbrierFUMC be sure to visit the website: [www.greenbrierfumc.org](http://www.greenbrierfumc.org) which is updated weekly with news and church dates on the calendar.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

## YOUTH NEWS

Lots of things happening in the month of May with our youth. So pay close attention to the details below.

Our **senior celebration** to honor GreenbrierFUMC graduating high school seniors is Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. We have seven young adults that are graduating: Gabe Bray (Heber Springs High School), Colby Crosby, Wyatt Daniels, Caroline Harrod, Sara Hoopchuk, Logan Johnston, and Hayden McCormick. Please let me know if I have left anyone off the list. We will recognize them during our church services on that Sunday and then have a reception for them at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will come and help celebrate this milestone in their life.

The following weekend, May 21-22, we are planning a Buffalo River float trip with the youth group from St. Paul's UMC in Searcy. We will leave early Saturday morning, float all day Saturday, spend the night at the newly renovated Wayland Springs camp south of Imboden and after breakfast

and worship at the camp Sunday morning we will return to Greenbrier. The cost is only \$30 and that includes the canoe rental, lodging and food for the trip. Bargain!!!! Simply bring a sack lunch for Saturday but the rest of your food will be covered. Forms are in the youth room....fill it out now if you want to go.

### **Then don't forget these other youth opportunities and dates this summer:**

Choir Tour practice (May 6-7) ... Helping out with Vacation Bible School (June 12-15) ... Youth Choir Tour (June 12-19) We will plan to go to their last performance at Pulaski Heights in Little Rock on June 19<sup>th</sup>... Senior High and Jr. High Assembly (July 25-29),

One other item of interest ... Gabe Bray is graduating in Heber Springs on Friday, May 13. Michelle is planning to attend, if there is anyone in our senior youth group who would like to join Michelle, please let her know ASAP so I can make sure we can use the van if needed.

# Financial News

*With the summer months approaching  
please don't forget your church.*

In the summer, the temperature may be rising, but church giving is on the decline. Many factors play a part in this, including lower worship attendance, vacation schedules, and summer distractions. The decrease in giving can leave our church in a bind for the summer months. So we hope you will continue to give during these coming months. You can give online at [www.greenbrierfumc.org](http://www.greenbrierfumc.org) or through our church app while you are away.

Here is where we stand after the first four months:

OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2016	\$193,796.00
NEEDED TO DATE	\$64,598.68
GIVING AS OF APRIL 30, 2016	\$60,876.08
<b>DEFICIT TO DATE</b>	<b>-\$3,722.60</b>

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## Long Range Planning Committee Update

The Long-range Planning Committee is charged with creating a five-year strategic plan to guide the church. The committee began working in March and created a timeline that will allow us to present a plan before our Charge Conference this fall. We want to thank all who participated in the first church-wide discussions about our strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities as we look toward the future. Several themes emerged including the following: many perceive our youth program, community outreach, pastor, variety in worship, and "laidback"/welcoming environment to be among our strengths. There was agreement among participants that the condition of our facility, need for space, and need for curb appeal were among our challenges. We also discussed the opportunity to coordinate and increase volunteer efforts, enhance visitor follow-up, build children's Sunday School, and consider adding staff positions in order to meet our long-range goals. Many participants discussed the need for some additional opportunities for fellowship among the entire congregation and opportunities to know one another outside of worship.

The committee currently is engaged in visioning activities; we will begin drafting vision and mission statements soon. So, stay tuned and provide feedback so that the plan can truly reflect the hopes and dreams of the entire church. Committee members include Carolyn Baker, Michael Blackshire, Cassidy Broadway, Gary Harlan, Kyle Harshberger, Amanda Horton, Theresa Lucas, Kevin Lyon, Rebecca Mills, John Phillips, Carol Putnam, and Heather Rose. It's not too late to share your feedback. If you have any questions or desire to give input, don't hesitate to email Rebecca at [rebeccamills52@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccamills52@gmail.com)



## Wedding Invitation

**Rev. and Mrs. Kevin Lyon**

*joyfully invite you to attend the*

**MARRIAGE**

*of their daughter*

*Elizabeth Ann Lyon*  
**&** *Michael Seager Palese*

*son of*

**Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Palese**

Saturday, May 14, 2016

at five-thirty in the evening

**JAMESTOWN RANCH**

459 Shaw Bridge Road

Greenbrier, Arkansas

(actually in Wooster)

*Reception to follow*

## UNITED METHODIST MEN ANNUAL BBQ CHICKEN DINNER – MAY 7<sup>th</sup>

The Greenbrier United Methodist Men are at it once again ....providing the best meal available on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. They will be serving their famous BBQ chicken leg quarters from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or until we run out. Last year those who came late missed out. So be sure and come early if you want a meal. The meal includes a leg quarter, baked beans, cole slaw and a roll. You can stay and eat in the fellowship hall (tea and lemonade will be provided) or you can get your meal to go. Cost of the meal is only \$5.00 and the proceeds will be split between mission project and church facility needs.

You won't get a better meal anywhere. Spread the word to friends and neighbors but come early to enjoy the food and fellowship!

# Miscellaneous Announcements

- Congratulations to **Lacey Crosby** for being selected to the Hendrix Youth Institute Program for this summer. This two and a half week program will be held June 26-July 11 and will culminate in a week long mission trip to Guatemala. It is a wonderful opportunity for Lacey to continue to explore her call to mission and ministry. Be praying for Lacey as she prepares.
- Anyone that will be alone on **Mother's Day** is welcome to join **Randy and Rhonda Garrett** for lunch. They are grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. Simply let Rhonda know by texting or calling, 679-1769.
- Thanks to **Jennifer and Jonathon Woodburn** for their creative and hard work on our two youth rooms. If you haven't had a chance to walk down to the north end of the building and take a peak, you need to. Our youth rooms have been totally transformed and are a warmer and welcoming place to continue to build our strong youth ministry.
- The **United Methodist Church's General Conference** will meet May 10-20 in Portland, Oregon. This is the top policy making body of our denomination which meets every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs. There are a lot of important issues coming before General Conference this year that may change the future course of the United Methodist Church. Pray for God to guide the General Conference's decisions and for Christ to lead us into the future. You can follow the news or watch all the live streaming sessions of the 2106 General Conference at [www.GC2016.UMC.org](http://www.GC2016.UMC.org)

- **Food Pantry M&M Mother's Day Offering** is well on its way! Over 110 tubes have been passed out to our church family to be filled with quarters. Thrivent Financial provided a \$250 grant to carry out the M&M Mother's day project. The Food Pantry has helped 138 families to date and we are on our way to assisting a record number of families this year. The money raised with our M&M offering with go a long way to helping to feed the hungry in Faulkner Co. All M&M tubes are due back by Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Of course you can still **bring food for the pantry** as well. We always need 1 pound packages of hamburger meat, cereal, spaghetti and sauce, hamburger and tuna helpers, hot dogs, juice, peanut butter, or anything extra you pick up at the store. It's a great way to teach your kids compassion and generosity when you go to the store by letting them pick out a couple boxes of cereal for the food pantry. The closing of Cash Saver has necessitated shopping around for low prices. Some of the 88 cent items are available at the Conway Dollar Trees.

- **Our Vacation Bible School is June 12-16** and Jaime Hamerlinck has graciously accepted to direct VBS this year. It takes a lot of volunteers to make this event happen. If you would like to volunteer to help with VBS please contact Jaime this week. She will be glad to tell you of some of the great opportunities she has for you. The theme this year is "**Surf Shack**" and it looks like it will be a ton of fun. So sign up to be part of this year's VBS Team!
- **If you are looking for the perfect Mother's Day and/or graduation gift**, the United Methodist Women have the perfect gift idea... a cookbook package! Delicious recipes for the novice and the experienced cook! We will have some on display in the Welcome Center! You won't even have to worry about wrapping! Check it out!
- We welcome our newest member to GreenbrierFUMC, **Kristen Holloway**, who joined on Sunday, April 24. Kristen and her husband, Allan, have a beautiful daughter, Breana, who is part of our Parent's Day Out (PDO) program.

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Men's Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.**

Men, you won't find a better breakfast or fellowship anywhere in Greenbrier. Come join us on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> for scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, and coffee prepared by highly experienced and trained breakfast chefs!

**Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Bethlehem House at 6:00 p.m.**

A great opportunity each month to share the love of Christ with the hungry and homeless in Conway. We prepare and serve the meal at the Bethlehem House each fourth Thursday of the month. If you would like to prepare food or help serve sign up on the Bethlehem House list at the back of the sanctuary.

**Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> - One Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.**

We will join together for one wonderful worship service on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. It is our traditional fifth Sunday combined worship service and it is also Memorial Day weekend. We will have Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendar for this special service of worship.

## Vacation Bible School



**JUNE 12-16**