

FAMILY LIFE INFORMATION

Greenville Free Methodist Church
Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025

THIS WEEK

WORSHIP AT 8:30 OR 11:00AM ON THE FIRST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 – IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Message from Pastor Steve Pichaske: In 1989, Billy Joel included 119 references to global realities, including tragedy, scandal, and screw-ups in his iconic song, "We Didn't Start the Fire." His references included:

Ayatollah's in Iran, Russians in Afghanistan,
Hypodermics on the shore, China's under martial law,
Begin, Palestine, Terror on the Airline.

All before offering the now familiar refrain:

We didn't start the fire, it was always burning,
since the world's been turning.

We didn't start the fire, but when we are gone,
it will still burn on, and on, and on, and on.

We could easily replace these references to brokenness and despair with our own current experiences:

Campus shouting, factions forming, all this news of global warming,
Ceasefire talks again collapse, leaders caught up in another mess.
Wildfires roaring, marriages pleading, power brokers never heeding—
Still we scroll the endless feed, peace feels like a dying seed.

It all leaves us to wonder, "Is peace even possible in 2025?"

Not without Jesus!

Isaiah 9 foretells the Missing Peace that Jesus would one day come to offer the world: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end."

Join us Sunday, as we ask King Jesus to become "the Missing Piece to our Missing Peace."

Growth Classes meet 9:45-10:45am

- **Early Childhood** 2-3 year-olds meet in the Fruit of the Spirit Room (A112); 4-5 year-olds meet in the Preschool Room (B111)
- **Kids' Church** (Grades 1-5) meets in The LOFT at 9:45
- **Growth Class for Grades 1-5 is during the second half of second service.** Kids attend church with parents and are dismissed prior to the sermon. (Kids stay with parents on the first Sunday of each month for communion.)
- **Junior High Growth Class** meets in A105 with Ben Clark
- **FMY Growth Class** meets in A107 – Facilitated by Tim Wayman
- **Adult Growth Class in C101/103** – The Book of Judges narrates one of the most chaotic and morally dark eras of Israel's story. Many speak of it as Israel's "Wild West," where the heroes and the villains stand only inches apart. Into this morally-ambiguous time comes one of the most unlikely leaders of the biblical text—the prophet Deborah. She is a wife and mother in an entirely patriarchal world, yet due to her integrity and courage, she transforms chaos into order and leads Israel in one of the most pivotal victories of the settlement period. Illustrating the era of the Judges by means of the archaeological record, historical geography, and the hard facts of warfare in the ancient world, this video study by Dr Sandra Richter draws students immediately into the grand tale of Deborah and Barak, Jabin and Sisera, and of course, the most unlikely of leaders, Jael.
- **Bible Basics Growth Class** in C107, led by Ray Myers: ***Light Enters the Darkness: John's Gospel of Jesus' Life***



Steve Pichaske, Lead Pastor | 1367 IL Route 140 | 618-664-2584 | Office Hours: Weekdays, 8am to 3:45pm

PrayCHURCH! Sundays from 5:00-6:00pm in the Prayer Room (A103)

GRAFTED: The Gathering, for local college students, meets on Sunday nights at 6:30-8:00pm in LaDue Auditorium for food, community, and spiritual formation. This week, December 7, will be the last gathering for 2025. There will be an additional study time from 8:00-10:00pm. Please be in prayer for GU students as they go through finals next week. Thank you for all the support from the food and prayer teams during 1st semester.

Wednesday Night Programming:

- **The VOICES IN PRAISE CHOIR**, 6:00pm in the Fine Arts Room.
- **Children Birth-5th Grade**: 6:45-8:00pm, in The Loft. Kids may be dropped off as early as 6:30.
- **Young Teen**: 6:45-8:00pm. Meet in The Young Teen Room (C102)
- **Senior Teens**: 6:45-8:00pm. FMY @ Joe's Pizza—upstairs (*transportation from church at 6:45*)
- **TRANSFORM Men's Group** meets in the Multi-Purpose Room at 6:45pm.
- **Prayer Gathering** meets at 7:00pm in the Prayer Room (A105)

A GriefShare Support Group is meeting Thursday evenings through December 18, (except holidays) **at 6:00pm, at GPMC in Room C103.** Facilitators are John and Gini Dawdy and Barbara Vaughan.

Celebrate Recovery meets every Thursday at 5:30pm in the FMY Room. Dinner is provided for everyone at 5:30pm, large group and worship time is at 6:00pm and small group time is at 7:00pm. Free childcare is provided the entire evening. Anyone is welcome!

COMING EVENTS

ADVENT AT GREENVILLE FREE METHODIST CHURCH:

- **Sunday, December 7:** Second Sunday of Advent
- **Sunday, December 14:** Third Sunday of Advent, 10:00am, One Combined Service -- Children's Musical/All-Church Potluck* (Nursery for 2 years and below for service only)
- **Sunday, December 21:** Fourth Sunday of Advent, Regular service times, 8:30am and 11:00am
- **Wednesday, December 24:** 6:00pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Christmas Concert
- **Sunday, December 28:** 10:00am, One Combined Service (Nursery for 3 years and below)
- **Sunday, January 7:** 10:00am, One Combined Service (Nursery for 3 years and below)

***An All-Church Potluck is planned for Sunday, December 14, 11:30am,** following the Children's Musical. The church will provide table service and turkey. Please bring a large dish to share based on the first letter of your last name:

A-F: Cold Salad

G-K: Hot Vegetable

L-R: Casserole or Main Dish

S-Z: Dessert

Senior Adult Ministries is hosting an afternoon of visiting local museums on Tuesday, December 9, beginning at 1:00pm. Contact [Pastor Greg Groves](#) for more information.

Candlelight Christmas Concert: On Christmas Eve (a Wednesday this year), the FMY and FMY alums will lead our congregation and community in a concert of worship and celebration to usher in the birth of our Lord and Savior. The 6:00pm concert will feature 45 minutes of music by various individuals and groups and a full choir. This candlelight service is a great venue to invite friends and neighbors from the community to join us. Nursery provided for children under 2. FMY and Alum Practice Schedule (meet in the sanctuary):

- Wednesday, December 10: 7-8:30pm
- Sunday, December 14: 6:00-7:30pm
- Wednesday, December 17: 7:00-8:30pm
- Saturday, December 20: 10:00-11:30am
- Wednesday, December 24, 4:30pm Walk-through; 6:00pm Concert

Alums, we are grateful for your presence at practices to help newer FMYers learn the music!

Dwell Women's Retreat is planned for April 17-19, 2026, with speaker, Jen Finley. Mark your calendars now!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT OFFERING 2025 will be received through Sunday, December 21: Jesus came to bring peace amidst a hurting and broken world. During the weeks of Advent, GFMC has the opportunity to support local and global organizations who are witnessing to Christ's peace in powerful ways. GFMC's total giving goal for the Advent Offering is \$14,000 to be distributed through three important initiatives:

- **Eden's Glory—\$10,000** (supporting the fight to end human trafficking amidst rising costs)
- **Honduras Free Methodist Church Partnership—\$2,000** (project costs related to our June 2026 mission trip and ongoing partnership support)
- **Support of GFMC local ministry partners—\$2,000** (including Core Community, FCA, Restore Network, Simple Room, and Celebrate Recovery)

GFMC Christmas Holiday Office Hours:

- Monday and Tuesday, December 22-23: 8am to 4pm
- Wednesday and Thursday, December 24-25: Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
- Friday, December 26: Office open 8am to noon
- Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, December 29-30, and January 2: Office open 8am to noon
- Wednesday and Thursday, December 31 and January 1: Office Closed for the New Year's Eve Holiday

Women: A weekend of silence and solitude is being planned for February 6-8 at Durley Campground. If you are interested in practicing this spiritual discipline and would like more information, contact Sue Groves at 618-699-8430. Cost is \$110 and only seven spaces are available.

GIVING UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 24, 2025

- November Offerings: \$20,017; \$19,195; \$10,782; \$16,056 , \$5693 Total: \$71,743
- Total Offerings Received to Date: \$932,407
- Total Budgeted Need to Date: \$1,031,659
- Budget deficit Year-to-Date: -\$99,252
- Benevolence Assistance Fund: Our current balance is \$5,288.49
- **Click [HERE](#) to give online.** Thank you for your continued and generous giving to the ministries of Greenville Free Methodist Church!

GFMC Inclement Weather Plan: In case of inclement weather on a Sunday or any service time this winter, please check our [website](#); look for an email update; tune in to or check online at FOX2 News, KMOV 4Warn Weather Alert, or KSDK NewsChannel 5; Facebook/Twitter; or WGEL (after 8am on a Sunday) for the latest service cancellation updates. If schools are closed on a Wednesday, all evening programming will also be cancelled. Your safety is our top priority. If weather conditions ever make you feel that travel would be unsafe, we encourage you to stay at home, even if the church activities continue as scheduled.