



GREENSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Katherine L. Osier, Pastor

To the Church Family of Greensburg UMC

Friends, as we enter Spring in Ohio, I am reminded of an ever changing and unpredictable existence in which we live. And while we live in this climate weirdness, the psalmists remind us that God is Lord of all and is with us in our joy, in our confessions, in our anger, in our sadness, and through the change.

It was announced that Bishop Tracey Malone has appointed me to Asbury UMC in Delaware, Ohio, starting July 1, 2022. Since that announcement, it has also been announced that Rev. Harlen Rife is appointed to Greensburg UMC starting July 1, 2022. Let me share with you about Rev. Rife.



Pastor Harlen is married to Madeline and they have two children, Samuel and Marta. He has a bachelor of Arts from The Ohio State University and his Masters of Divinity from the Methodist Theological School of Ohio. He has served in the Peace Corps in the Ukraine. He is also gifted in community outreach and development. Rev. Rife is an excellent preacher and thinks outside the box in his approach to ministry. His theology is firmly rooted in the Wesleyan understanding of God's grace.

Pastor Harlen believes a pastor is to be theologically grounded in scriptures, empowers others in their ministry and mission, leads by example, loves their congregation, and is present in the life of the church. He hopes that he faithfully embodies these well.

Staff Parish Relations and Trustees will be informing you of ways in which you can help in welcoming Rev. Harlen and his family this summer. Please be on the lookout for those opportunities.

The other announcement that has been made is that my last Sunday in the pulpit is Sunday, May 29. One Board had initially approved a Spiritual Renewal leave for me the summer of 2020. Due to the pandemic, it was thought wise that I move it to a later date to help secure the direction of the church. The District Superintendant has approved a Spiritual Renewal leave for May 30 to June 30 to help me mentally, physically, and spiritually recover from the season of the pandemic and to prepare for my new appointment. This means for the month of June I will be tending to my family at home, recovering my spiritual disciplines while not bearing the weight of church work, and setting my mind on God's work to come. Our family will move to our new parsonage at the end of June, so you may still see us around, but not in a leading capacity. During June, various lay persons and pastors will fill the pulpit and help with pastoral care.

Finally, in this span, the Commission on the General Conference today announced the further postponement of the postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church. The next General Conference will be in 2024.

What does this mean? This means that the United Methodist Church continues to move forward on its current course. In conversations with Greensburg UMC One Board on Monday, March 21, since nothing has changed, One Board decided nothing needs to change at Greensburg at this time. GUMC will continue to be a United Methodist Church.

If you have any questions regarding pastors or the UMC in general, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or One Board members. We will gladly help answer questions you may have.

Again, it has been a joy to serve Greensburg UMC. Your growth has been a testament to how you are allowing the Spirit to work in and through you. I look forward to celebrating our time together in Christ as well as awaiting news as to how Rev. Rife and your gifts set you forth in the Spirit on your continued journey in life and faith.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Katherine "Katie" L. Osier