



CROSS TALK

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by loving, engaging, and serving our neighbors

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CHURCH STAFF

- MINISTER & STUDENT MINISTRIES:
Reverend Katie Osier
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASST:
Pam Moore
- BOOKKEEPER:
Margo Holmes
- ORGANIST/BELLS:
Betty Gross
- WORSHIP LEADER:
Dustin Oliver
- CHOIR DIRECTOR:
Brian Lawson
- NURSERY DIRECTOR:
Diana Langenfeld
- PRESCHOOL CAREGIVER:
Emma Nibling
- PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:
Shannon Miller
- ADMIN COORDINATOR:
Brittany Hurley

FROM YOUR PASTOR

While preparing for the Advent Brunch, which is Sunday, December 1, students were helping me put together materials for the advent wreaths. They asked, “Pastor Katie, what is advent?” In turn, I asked, “What do you think it is?” The answers varied from air vents to breathing and beyond.

Advent is about something these teens know a great deal: the almost, but not yet. Teens are in that period where they are not children anymore, but not yet adults. It is an awkward stage of attempting to find their place in life while still yearning for a parent’s care—even if they do not want their parent to know they still need them. This time is full of ebs and flows of empowerment and waiting. There are times where they feel like insiders and at other times, outsiders.

Perhaps that is one of the reasons a teenager was chosen for this type of moment. Advent is this time of knowing what is already and the dreaming of what is to come. Mary is given this vision from the angel. “This is what is to come,” the angel speaks, “a miracle of unbelievable proportion. This child you will bear will be great—the Son of the Most High—the All-time king—that will last forever and ever! And God wants you to participate in this act that changes the world.” I can only guess what must have gone through lowly Mary’s mind, having a grand future drawn for her and her son in this way. And then, waiting, while knowing of what can be and is to be.

Mind you, this is our past and our present as we wander in constant Advent until Christ returns as Jesus promised. We are called to live in this almost, but not yet. The promise of this great future reality is revealed in moments when we allow Christ to be present among us—when we worship fully—when we spend less and give more—when we love all. Therefore our waiting does not become stagnant, but an unexpected gift of a dream yet to become real.

I look forward to sharing in this active waiting with you, as we celebrate this unexpected gift of a dream yet to become real.

Grace and Peace in this Advent Season, *Rev. Katie Osier*

SCRIPTURAL FOCUS

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Luke 1:30-33, NRSV

~December Birthdays~

- 1 Mitch Booth
- 2 Bill Lyle
Todd Wendling
- 3 Janice Hackathorn
Nicholas Keller
Paul Hartong
Mike Trinko
Pat Terwilliger
- 6 Jesse Redwine
- 9 Andy Claytor
Austin Kleis
- 11 Shirley Wander
- 14 Kaden Smesko
Sue Newbrough
- 17 Grant Kuwatch
- 18 Betty Siegenthaler
Dan Koontz
Cara Smesko

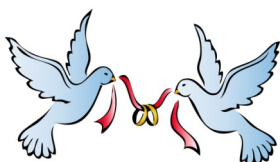
- 22 Dorothy Cormany
- 24 Roy A. Witsaman
Charlotte Borland

25 Jesus

- 27 Michael Witsaman
- 28 Emma Osier

~December Anniversaries~

- 3 Eugene & Josephina
Hetson



WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you!! Thank you!!

Many thanks to all who donated products and money to complete this years flood buckets. With help from VBS attendees (who provided the buckets), Loving Hands Preschool parents, our awesome scout troupes and our generous members and friends we are able to provide 50 completed buckets for UMCOR disaster relief. And a giant thank you to the crew of youth and adults for assembling the buckets to prepare them for delivery. This is such a wonderful way to serve people in need and we look forward to participating again next year.

Sincerely, Ann Hartong



Thank you so much to the youth of our church, Marilyn Nibling and Todd Wendling for helping clean up in our yard. We were overwhelmed with the kindness and hard work they did at our home. We are blessed to have such great youth and leaders in our church. We really appreciated everything.



Thank you,

Chuck and Eileen Cowgar

CHURCH PRAYER CHAIN

If you want to be a prayer warrior and receive the Sunday lists of any urgent requests please call or email Pat Stiles. Pat would be happy to add you to this mighty team of prayer warriors.

Pat Stiles—330.896.3425
pstiles2260@yahoo.com

If you have any questions, Pat will be happy to answer them for you.

"I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer."
Ps. 17:6

HOW KIND OF YOU!

Thank you so much for providing hot lunches for our clients here at Open M this year.

We appreciate your commitment in serving the needy. They appreciate all the love shown by your members.

Open M

WITH SYMPATHY

To Mike and Paula Vinciguerra and family in the passing of Paula's mom, Marian Angelo on November 8.

To Sharley Greer in the passing of her mom, Lola Davis Urban, on November 9.





CELEBRATING THE ADVENT OF CHRIST

PREPARATION OF THE SPACES

Saturday, November 30 | 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Worship Spaces & Gathering Area
 Bring a snack/beverage to share as decorate the church.

ADVENT & NEW YEAR BRUNCH

Sunday, December 1 | Worship @ 9 & 11 AM
 Brunch @ 10 AM
 Worship Spaces & Fellowship Hall
 Bring a sweet bread, fruit or a casserole to share. Breakfast meals and beverages will be provided by the church. All families in attendance are offered an Advent wreath and devotion for their home for the season. We will also decorate cards for our shut-ins which will be hand delivered December 8.

THE NUTCRACKER @ CANTON BALLET

Sunday, December 15 | Canton Civic Theatre
 Preregistration was required. The group will meet at the Canton Civic Theatre at 1:30 pm and enjoy the ballet together.

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Saturday, December 21 | 5:00 PM | Sanctuary
 Some life events can disrupt our merry Christmas. The longest night worship service provides a safe and sacred place to bring our hurts and anger before God, remember God's love in the midst of our pain, and look for the light of hope that still shines in the darkest of nights. Come as you are - struggling, and still deeply loved.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24
 Family Lesson and Carols 7:30 PM | Sanctuary
 Lesson, Carols, Communion 11:00 PM | Sanctuary
 Christmas Eve Services will celebrate with candlelight. We invite each family to bring fabric to create Coverlets and Blankets for those in Akron Children's NICU in January. We will bring them to the manger as a celebration of Christ's birth.

Coverlets: 1 ¼ Yards, at least 45 inch wide Cotton, Flannel
 Blankets: 1 ½ Yards (avg width is 59") Fleece
 2 ½ Yards (avg width is 59") Fleece

GUMC GREETERS

DECEMBER 2019

9:00am Service
 Eileen Cowgar

11:00am Service
 Dean Stewart
 Nancy Pennington

JANUARY 2020

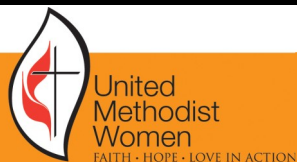
9:00am Service
 Jack Fuerst

11:00am Service
 Dale & Pauline
 Bittner

LOVE OFFERING

We would like to show appreciation to all of our wonderful staff members by collecting a love offering each year as a way to express our gratitude to our church staff members for their commitment to GUMC and doing God's work. We may not be able to give pay raises on a yearly basis, but this is another way that we can show our appreciation! Mark your offering as 'Love Offering' and place it in the offering plate or the office. Gifts will be presented to staff at a church service in December. Thank you for prayerfully considering this important offering to show appreciation to our fantastic church staff!

Sincerely, Staff Parish Relations Committee



Christmas Tea - December 16th

What Do You Say We Share a “Cuppa” (as the British say)!

Yes, our sisters across the pond know the value of a good cup of hot tea! Did you know that many in Great Britain and Ireland drink their hot tea with a little milk and sugar?

Maybe you’ll want to try it that way when you come to the **UMW Christmas Tea, on Monday, December 16 at 6:30 pm**. Yes, all women of the church are invited and please feel free to ask your daughters, granddaughters, neighbors and friends to come too! We decided this year to make this part of our celebration of this beautiful Christmas season.

Please watch for clipboards circulating the next three Sundays, so you can sign up. As we usually do, we’ll have a light meal together, so please think about whether you’d like to bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share. It’s always a special time of relaxation and fun, and we’d love to see you there. And please bring your favorite teacup, if you’d like!

We’re Big Fans of *Not a Fan!*

I am speaking for the nine of us who meet the first and third Sunday evenings of each month from September through May to study and discuss the Bible and related Christian topics. This group came together in the fall of 2014 to share in a study entitled *Not a Fan*, by Pastor Kyle Idleman – a marvelous study that encouraged us to look squarely at our own faith and decide if we were merely fans of Jesus Christ, or actually followers. Sharing in that compelling look at our personal faith was a great beginning to what has lasted until this, our 6th year together! Others have joined us over the years, but there is always room for more, so please take this as an invitation to be a part of *Not a Fan*. You don’t have to be a Bible scholar, but, like the rest of us, just want to learn and share with other Christians, in a relaxed and supportive setting. Try it. We think you’ll like it!

We are completing an eye-opening study of the awesome power of the Holy Spirit right now, with two more Sundays in December. We will begin another study starting January 5 – it hasn’t been chosen yet, but will be very soon, so stay tuned, please, and seriously consider joining us. If you have questions, please call Judy Martin at 330-607-3061.



FUNDING THE MISSION AND VISION OF GUMC

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
October, 2019	\$ 20,499.30	\$ 20,566.13	\$ 27,076.00
Year to Date	\$227,887.47	\$241,569.44	\$281,565.73
BUILDING NOTE	Loan Giving	Monthly Payment	Loan Balance
October, 2019	\$ 1,626.00	\$ 2,624.10	\$138,190.85
BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW	Total Given	Pledged	Balance Available
	\$237,127.12	\$233,143.96	\$ 32,164.15

GUMC membership donated \$960 plus materials thus far toward the Cleaning/Flood Bucket relief effort through UMCOR.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY ... *Loving, Growing, and Helping Together*

December 1 | 10 AM: Family Ministry: Advent Wreaths

During the brunch, a station will be available for families of all ages and stages to create an Advent Wreath for their home. Candles, holders, and wreaths will be provided. Everyone can share in creating them before they depart from worship or brunch. A special devotion will be offered as well for families to use over the season of Advent.



January 4 | 2:00—4:00 PM | Family Ministry—Movie and Blanket Night

Come with friends and neighbors for a Frozen good time. We will make blankets, cards, play, eat, and watch a movie suitable for all ages.

Loving Hands



PRESCHOOL

www.loving-hands.org

Registration for the 2020-2021 School Year will begin next month. If you, or someone you know, have a child who will be 3 by September 30, 2020 through 5 years of age, we would love to show you what Loving Hands Preschool has to offer!! Tours available upon request.

Contact Shannon Miller at smiller1950@sbcglobal.net or 330-896-1936.

Tuesday, January 7 at 8 am

Tuesday, January 14 at 8 am

Tuesday, January 21 at 8 am

Registration begins for CURRENT STUDENTS
 Registration begins for RETURNING FAMILIES/SIBLINGS OF CURRENT STUDENTS AND CHURCH MEMBERS
 Registration begins for NEW FAMILIES

STUDENT MINISTRY... *Finding an identity in Christ through fellowship, study and service*

December Fun and Calendar! Unless noted, Student Ministries meets 5:00—6:30 pm, Sundays.

- 1: Questions
- 8: Shut-In Visits, 1:30—4:30 PM
Sign Up Online. Families welcome. Drivers needed.
- 15: No Group that night—Nutcracker Ballet
- 22: Student Min Christmas Sock Exchange and Party
Pack up some Christmas Socks with small goodies to use for the gift exchange (keep spending to \$5 or less).
The night will have fun, food, and games.
- 29: No Group that night—enjoy your family!



WINTER RETREAT

Greensburg UMC Student Ministries

Friday, January 17 (6:30 PM) - Sunday, January 19 (2:00 PM)

Cost: \$20 + Snack and Beverage to Share

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to mark calendars and invite friends to our first Winter Retreat. Students will need to bring a snack and beverage to share. We will spend the weekend enjoying winter fun, fellowship, and devotional time together.

Please register online by Sunday, January 12. Contact Rev. Katie Osier with any questions.

Greensburg UMC, Contacts, Holidays in United States Dec 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Good Neighbors Christmas Give Away Gym/Fellowship Hall @				5:30pm - TOPs		Troop 335
Communion	8am - Green	8am - Green	8am - Green	6pm - Green		9am - Walking
Green Good	6pm - Green	8am - Preacho	9am - Good	7pm - Troop		
9am - Modern	6pm - Pack	1:30pm - Gree	5pm - Caregive			
10am - Sunday			6:15pm - Joyfu			
11am - Traditi			6:30pm - SPRC			
5pm - student			7:30pm - Chan			
6pm - Not a						
6:30pm - Troo						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Troop 335	11am - Presch	9am - Green	9am - Good	9am - Prescho	11:30am - Pres	9am - Walking
Bucket Sunday	1pm - Ladies	11am - Presch	6:15pm - Joyfu	5:30pm - TOPs		3pm - Pack
9am - Modern	5:30pm - Presc	5:30pm - Presc	7:30pm - Chan	6pm - Green		
10am - Sunday	6pm - Green	6pm - Green		7pm - Troop		
11am - Traditi	6pm - Pack					
5pm - student						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9am - Modern	6pm - Green	Preschool Setup for Polar Express		Fellowship	Preschool	9am - Walking
10am - Sunday	6pm - Pack	6pm - Green	9am - Good	5:30pm - TOPs		
11am - Traditi	6:30pm - UMW	6:30pm - Finan	6:15pm - Joyfu	6pm - Green		
2pm - Family		7:30pm - Trust	6:30pm - Staff	7pm - Troop		
5pm - student			7:30pm - Chan			
6pm - Not a						
6:30pm - Troo						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9am - Modern	Preschool Closed					
10am - Sunday	9am - AARP	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	5:30pm - TOPs		9am - Walking
11am - Traditi	6pm - Green	1pm - AARP	9am - Good			
5pm - student		7:30pm - Chris				
		11pm - Christ				
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Preschool Closed						
9am - Modern	6pm - Green	New Year's				
10am - Sunday						
11am - Traditi						

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



Loving Hands Preschool will be hosting their Christmas Programs on Monday, December 9th & Tuesday, December 10th. There are 2 performances each day, at 11:45am and 6:00pm. The families donate cookies and refreshments for the performances, but we would love help from our church families with serving the refreshments. If you would be available to help with any of the program times, there is a sign up sheet in the church office!

Green Good Neighbors Christmas

Green Good Neighbors help needed- Our Children's Christmas give-away is Tuesday December 3. We can always use new toys for the younger children and items to put on the teenage table including gift cards with the value of \$10 to \$15 from local fast food. We also are in need of grocery gift cards from one of the local grocery stores. We give each family a gift card to buy food for their Christmas dinner. We can use gift cards with the value of \$5, \$10, or \$25. Everything needs to be turned in on Sunday December 1st from 12 to 2 P.M. or Monday December 2nd in the morning.



December 1, 2019 3 pm First Baptist Church Massillon, OH	December 8, 2019 3 pm St. Stephen Martyr Lutheran Church Canton, OH	December 15, 2019 3 pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church Massillon, OH
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harmonyringersofoh.org

As in the last few years - we also like to offer several rolls of free Christmas wrapping paper to each parent/guardian to take with them, after they have obtained their sponsor gifts. The wrapping paper gives the parent/guardian the opportunity to personally wrap the gifts they received for their children. We also like to have our clients write thank you notes to their sponsors so we offer free Christmas cards for the parent/guardian to write when they arrive. These Christmas cards are in our lobby for the parent/guardian to write their personal note and then card is given to the sponsors so the sponsors receive an appreciation thank you for the sponsor's thoughtfulness. The Christmas wrapping paper and cards will gratefully be accepted until Monday, December 16th and can be dropped off anytime between 9am and 4pm.

For more information regarding Christmas paper, Christmas cards or sponsoring a child(ren) please contact Jess Rist at j.rist@openm.org or at 330.434.0110 ext. 409.

Thank you for your consideration of adding to our Christmas program.

Address: 941 Princeton St, Akron, OH 44311

Sincerely, Colleen McMahan



OPEN M's 'Christmas for the Love of Children' program is in need. . .

We have 611 children with 780 families BUT WE STILL NEED 200 KIDS TO BE SPONSORED:

STILL NEED SPONSORS to help make our last 200 children smile this Christmas. You can do this by sponsoring a child(ren) and provide Christmas gifts, see attached flyer. Please contact Jess Rist at j.rist@openm.org or at 330.434.0110 ext. 409 if you would like additional information.

Still need churches / businesses interested in collecting non-perishable food items to fill our Christmas Food Boxes. Five (5) items {210 total of each item} are still needed. Please contact Julie Carneal at j.carneal@openm.org or at 330.434.0110 ext. 416 if you are able to assist in this area.

Greensburg UMC

Church location:
2161 Greensburg Rd,
North Canton, OH 44720
MAILING ADDRESS:
PO Box 155
Green, OH 44232

Church Phone: 330.896.1936

Making
disciples
of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world
by loving,
engaging,
and serving
our neighbors

Check us out!
www.greensburgumc.net

DO YOU KNOW?

This is a new addition to our newsletter. The church historian (Pat Stiles) will be submitting a question each edition and provide you with the answer in the following month's edition. Hope you ENJOY it!

QUESTION: What is the name of the man and his family that brought the Evangelical Church to Green Township? (answer will be in the January 2020 newsletter)



QUESTION from November Newsletter: Where was our first church located and when was it built?

ANSWER: There were Methodist Churches in our area but our heritage comes from the Evangelical Church. The people of our area met in a log cabin and later a brick home on what we now call Greensburg Road. Conrad Kring, minister for the Evangelical Church in Greensburg, proposed building a church here in 1833 but when he called his people together to consider such an undertaking, the measure was voted down. In 1838, the people were more favorable and the first Evangelical Church west of Pennsylvania was built in Greensburg, Ohio. A small flat piece of land a little more than 3/4 of a mile west of the village of Greensburg on what we now call Thursby Road became the home of the first church. It was located in front of the Greensburg Cemetery. A large rock marks the location of the church.



Newsletter

Don't miss out sharing all the Good News that is happening at Greensburg United Methodist Church!

All articles for December Newsletter need to be submitted to the Office, by Sunday, December 15th.