



# Cross Talk

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

## From Your Pastor

*“Who are the women who shaped your faith? What are the values they taught you. Where are they reflected in scripture, and how are you living them out in your life?”*

### **CHURCH STAFF**

PASTOR:  
Reverend J. Harlen Rife

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Brittney Hurley

At a recent board meeting, brother Dick Stratton pulled me aside with a note. He said that, at one of the Sunday morning conversations circles, several church members indicated that they were interested in hearing more preaching about women in the scriptures. I love getting suggestions like that. It is heartening to hear what themes and topics are on your mind. I don't claim to have all (or even most of) the answers, but it is a joy to explore together. I was especially excited by this request as I think there is a great deal we can learn. So, between New Years and the start of Lent, I'm going to do a series on women in the scriptures.

I especially like the idea of placing this series in the space between the two holy seasons of Advent and Lent. In those seasons, we celebrate the beginning and end of Christ's earthly ministry, and the story is bookended by women. We begin with Elizabeth and Mary receiving the news that one will bear a prophet and the other the Messiah. We end with the women visiting the empty tomb and leaving to proclaim for the first time that most joyous of news: Christ is Risen. This is by no means an outlier. Women have been at the center of the story from the very beginning. And they are still at the center, now. I hope the series will honor women who serve the church in all roles including as bishops, district superintendents, elders, deacons, licensed pastors, lay speakers, lay leaders, Sunday school teachers, committee chairs, and volunteers. I invite you to share stories of women who have inspired you and shaped your faith.

One of the first that comes to my mind is my grandmother, Thelma Burk. She and my grandfather were members of the E. U. B. church and then United Methodists. She taught Sunday school, drove people to church on Sundays, and served as a delegate at Lakeside. She exuded warmth and kindness and was not at all afraid to discuss her deep faith in God with friends, family, and strangers alike. She wore the same plain wooden cross every day. She wanted one made of wood, like the real one. By the end of her life, the cross was full of little dents and scratches—reminders of the teething grandchildren and great-grandchildren she held in her arms. I often wish she was still with us. I think she'd be proud that a Reverend cut his teeth on that cross. Somehow, I feel she knows. I carry her lessons with me in my life and ministry.

Who are the women who shaped your faith? What are the values they taught you. Where are they reflected in scripture, and how are you living them out in your life? We have the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful answers to these questions. I look forward to hearing your stories and learning together in the new year. Until then, have a very blessed holiday season, and Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year,  
Rev. J. Harlen Rife



**JANUARY**

- 3 Denny Hartong
- 15 Jeremiah Campbell
- Sally Fosnight
- 17 Jill Lehman
- 20 Greg Randles
- 22 Ken Selbee
- 24 Kelly Witsaman
- 25 Alex Nibling
- Ashley Scolaro
- 26 Eron Moore
- Scott Waseman
- Shelly Keller
- 27 Faye Shahan
- 30 Donna Nicol
- Nick Celetti
- 31 Bradley Lipscomb



- 2 Joe & Janice Conley
- 25 Mike & Hazel Trinko
- 31 Vince & Jill Lehman

**BED BRIGADE NEWS—TIME TO BUILD IN THE GYM AGAIN!**

You are invited to participate in the January Mission Bed Brigade Bed Build in any combinations of the following ways:

- Continue to pray that God will lead us and that we will hear and follow His direction.
- Donate bedding (mattress covers, sheets and pillow covers, blankets, pillows, etc.) or money to purchase the needed supplies. Look for posts for specific items needed & details.
- Write inspirational notes to the recipients. Blank cards and envelopes are available outside the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall or from Dick Stratton.
- Join us in the gym on Saturday, January 7th from 9am to noon for our next build activity, We plan to build 20 frames!! We will be attaching hinges, assembling frames, decorating footboards, and wrapping the frames for delivery.

The Saturday build is a great time of fellowship, rewarding work, and a spirit-filled celebration. So please join us if you can.

This is GOOD NEWS to those who will receive the beds and those who build them.

Thank you for your support!

I want to thank everyone for the generous gift I received on December 4th. I am always amazed at the generosity of our church. Its a privilege and a blessing to be part of a church with a caring congregation. Thank you again and I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year! ~ Brian

*Dear Church Family,*

*We can't begin to thank you enough for the generous love offering. We are so blessed to spend our days at this amazing church. We hope each of you has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Shannon Miller & Brittney Hurley ~ Loving Hands Preschool*

Thank you so much for the Christmas love offering! I was surprised & humbled by your love. Thank you and have a blessed holiday season! ~Miss Amy

Thank you to the Greensburg United Methodist congregation for your Love Offering gift. It means so much to all of us on staff to be recognized and appreciated. It is my pleasure to serve as your Financial Administrator for nearly 10 years already. ~Blessings to YOU, Margo

*"Tis the season to appreciate caring hearts and kind spirits like yours. I would like to share my heartfelt thank you to all of you at GUMC, for your generous gift to me. It will bless my trip to Cincinnati this season to see family & more. God Bless you for blessing others. ~Truly, Pam*

*Holiday Greetings~*

*I want to wish my friends at Greensburg UMC a Merry Christmas & a Happy & Healthy New Year. Thank you for the phone calls & cards I have received throughout the year. They are appreciated and it is nice to be remembered. I am doing well and enjoying the sunshine. The weather has been nice since the hurricane passed through. I am glad I will be able to spend the holidays with family. They are close by. I hope everyone there is doing well & staying healthy. I hope the weather is not too cold this winter. Best wishes and God Bless. Sincerely, Clara Cormany*

**FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC**

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
November 2022	\$ 21,648.86	\$ 20,988.68	\$ 20,330.50
Year to Date	\$ 217,716.77	\$ 248,100.77	\$ 254,516.50

**FAMILY AND CHILDREN MINISTRY—**

Happy New Year!

We pray for a peaceful and blessed 2023 for you all!!

G.U.M. Club will meet again starting on January 8th, 2023!

We ended our 2022 G.U.M. Club with a great Christmas party with 15 kids! In January we'll be talking about love and we'll be using the book "The 5 Love Languages" as our guide. Did you know each one of us has a love language? Mine, Miss Amy's is "words of affirmation." We have copies of the books available if anyone would like to borrow one.

Thank you all for your continued support! If you would like to make any donations we are starting to run low again on juice.

Thank you, see you soon!

Miss Amy, Miss Beth, and Pastor David



**HAPPENINGS –FABRIC FOR NICU PROJECT!**

It is exciting to share this mission opportunity with our church family. This project has been such a blessing over the past few years. NICU staff, babies, and families alike benefit from this generous offering. The coverlets are used to block out the lights over the isolettes where the small premature babies sleep and grow. We also make sheets for the isolette and crib mattresses. When working in the NICU, I often see the blankets, coverlets, and sheets that GUMC has given for this mission!

We are asking for participation on Saturday, February 4th from 9am to noon, for fabric to be used to create blankets and coverlets, or monetary donations for this mission project. We would like to **receive donations by JANUARY 22nd** so we can purchase needed fabrics and cut the fabrics before our mission day. It is important to note that you do not have to be a seamstress or tailor to join in the fun! The blankets are for Akron Children's Newborn Intensive Care and will be dropped off to the NICU on February 11th. Please note the size of the fabric we need for the project.

The needs are as follows:

Coverlets/Blankets – 1 ¼ Yards, at least 45 inch wide

Cotton, Fleece or Flannel Blankets – 1 ½ Yards (avg width is 59")

Fleece – 2 ½ Yards (avg width is 59")

*(prewashed fabric donations would be appreciated)*

Sewing machines, thread

We're eager to engage in fellowship and fun for this annual event!

Snacks/food will be provided. You don't have to know how to sew!

If you have any questions, contact Marilyn Nibling 234.804.1428 or Carol Lynn Stratton



**Greensburg UMC**

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**LOVE, ENGAGE, SERVE OPPORTUNITIES: COME BE PART OF THE GUMC COMMUNITY!**

**PARENTS!!!**

If you have a child(ren) attending college/university this year the church would appreciate hearing from you. Please email us their name, along with current address, and school attending along with year of school they are in.

**This will be the list to mail care packages this coming year~** Be sure to contact us if you wish for them a package.

Email: office@greensburgumc.net

**NOTICE:**

**Church Office will be CLOSED between Christmas and the New Year! The phones will be monitored for necessary needs.**

**Have a Blessed Christmas!**

**THANK YOU!!! YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE . . .**

**Green Good Neighbors**

We volunteers at Green Good Neighbors would like to thank everyone that helped us make a good Christmas for our children. Many people took children's names or brought in items to add to some of the children's bags. We served almost 200 children. Many people went to Wayside Furniture over Thanksgiving weekend and they doubled what ever you give. We had 19 people drop off a check and that will certainly help put money back in our check book for food. We are now giving grocery cards in December to each family to help them have a good Christmas dinner. We thank everyone for all that you have done this year. It makes our job much easier. We will be closed the Wednesday between Christmas and New Years. Have a great new year.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY— 9AM TO 1PM / TUESDAY AND THURSDAY—9AM TO 3PM**

**IF YOU NEED TO STOP BY THE OFFICE, PLEASE CALL AHEAD!**

**330.896.1936**