



# Cross Talk

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

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**FROM YOUR PASTOR**

Youth Annual Conference featured Shane Claiborne this year. Shane Claiborne is a prominent speaker, activist, and best-selling author. Shane worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and founded The Simple Way in Philadelphia. He heads up Red Letter Christians, a movement of folks who are committed to living "as if Jesus meant the things he said."

Oddly enough, Shane used the same scripture that was shared that Sunday—Romans 8:18-30. His focus was on Hope, which was the theme of the conference. He spoke of his experiences in the streets of Philadelphia and the officers armed with AK-47's just outside his door, of the bombings in Iraq in the early 2000's, of Martin Luther King, Jr, and the witnesses of the young and old who lived through such tragedies.

In all of this, Shane leaned into what he deemed as defiant hope. Defiant hope is a hope that even in the midst of a warring and mad world, stands against the world saying "No More! Enough!" Defiant hope deems one maladjusted to the world, as Martin Luther King, Jr had been labeled in one of his times in jail. MLK, Jr. embraced the term—Yes, I want to be maladjusted in a world of hate, war, and madness. Being maladjusted with defiant hope moves people to stand together to resist evil and harm in whatever forms they come. Being maladjusted with defiant hope calls persons to take weapons and now make them into parcels of peace and gardening tools. Being maladjusted with defiant hope helps to see the need for the first fruits of our salvation: repentance, mercy, forgiveness, love, and peace.

Life in the Spirit as maladjusted people with defiant hope gives us a taste of what we hope for, but cannot see. Not a return to what was comfortable or easy or convenient, but instead hoping for a new way of living life in the Spirit—together with a Triune God, our brothers and sisters, and creation. This kind of life cannot be boxed or marketed, but instead moves and breathes to make the body of Christ alive.

And, personally, I groan for this and have groaned for this in my life, in the churches I serve, in my family, and in the world; for this fire to be so deep within me and others that it transforms the world—not on my own strengths or gifts, but through the glory of God. And I wonder, has this time away been a gift to help us break from ordinary church routine and set us back into the movement of the Spirit—to hear, to see, to know where the fragile places exist and to let loose a defiant hope that can transform those points? I know God has set Greensburg UMC intentionally in this community. It may be time to find out why.

Maybe it is time to be a people maladjusted with a defiant hope, with God's help, to transform the world.

*Rev. Katie Osier*



*\*If you would like added to our newsletter birthday and/or anniversary calendar contact the office.*

- 1— Shirley Billups
- 4— Nick Hayat
- 5— Cassandra Conley
- 6— Carson Corle  
Chloe Borland
- 7— Joshua Lehman
- 9— Theron Cowgar
- 10— Judy Martin  
Katara Lawson  
Sharon Schwertfeger
- 11— Dennis Hartong
- 12— Evna Selbee
- 14— George Cormany
- 16— Dale Bittner  
John Flanders
- 18— Blaine Harp
- 21— Melinda Collett  
Tracey Campbell
- 23— Robert Hodges  
Scott Rossiter
- 25— Carolyn Chaffinch  
Doug Corle
- 26— Callie Chaffinch
- 29— Ethan Prater



- 9—Matt and Madison Lawson
- 12—Eric and Katie Osier
- 16—John and Colleen Flanders
- 18—George and Dorothy Cormany
- 25—Scott and Kristina Rossiter

### UPDATE ON RELAUNCH

The ReLaunch team was formed to put together the steps of moving forward as we learn to live with coronavirus in our midst. The other reality of the ReLaunch team is that in many ways, the church has the opportunity to define itself in its vision, leaning into new opportunities to engage the community. The hope is that those on the team, and even in the congregation, hear the Spirit moving us to connecting to new persons, especially those around the church. This work will require all of us—living into Spirit life.

At this time, the team is reviewing drive-in worship—in the hopes to keep it at its best while we are still out of the building. So far, we have averaged 36 cars per service (roughly making 108 + 8 leading worship = 116 in person, plus an additional 300+ views each week online). Worship will still happen if it rains. The team will simply move inside and record live from the gathering area.

The team is also working on the intricate details to move indoors for worship. This requires much planning, as it needs people to volunteer to help keep spaces clean, greeters at the door, and ushers to help attendees exit at the end of the service. It also requires equipment for cleaning, hand sanitizing, signage, and a rhythm and routine. The team is meeting July 9 to start looking over what is needed and where the city and county stand with the virus. At this time, we cannot name a date as we need to be sure to get everything we need to move indoors. We do know that it will be the normal Sunday morning schedule, with the modern service at 9 am and the traditional service at 11 am.

The team is also working with the Church, Green Good Neighbors and the Preschool to see how we can keep lines of safety for all persons who enter and exit the building. We will be looking at traffic patterns in the building and what is being used when and how.

**You can help.** Along with the preschool, the church will need hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, D Batteries (hand soap dispensers), and masks. Since these things are limited as to the amount people can purchase, your help in getting these items for the church, and its ministries, will be a huge help.

**You can volunteer.** This is the most crucial part to the ReLaunch—is persons stepping up to make the environment as safe as possible. Can you help by ushering, by cleaning off places after worship, by greeting people at the door? You can also help with recording the service, contacting persons who we have not seen in awhile, welcoming those who come for the first time, and so on.

Together, we can move forward together. Contact the church office if you can help.

### LOVE, ENGAGE, SERVE MONTH

During the month of July, various leaders of mission and ministry will come and share a word from the Lord as well as their passion in understanding how that word unfolds in their mission and ministry. A special collection will be made for each mission each week.

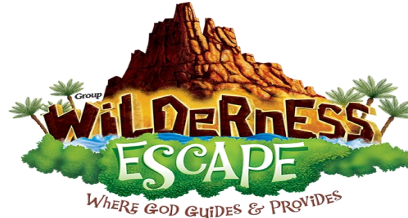
To do so, please either donate through the website, using Vanco and denoting to which mission you are giving, or bring an envelope marked with the mission name, but addressed to the church. This is the way we will support each speaker and mission. Thank you for your generosity.

- July 5: Rose Darling, Flat Rock Homes      July 19: Rev. Ashley Steele, Urban Mission
- July 12: TBD      July 26: Open M

Please contact the church office (330.896.1936) to be part of these teams to aid the church and community.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 2-6, 2020**

**VIRTUAL + FAMILY ROAD RALLY**



GUMC is pleased to announce a new VBS adventure. This year's experience will focus on families. God declares in Deuteronomy that family units are important for passing to their children the knowledge and love of God.

Here is how the week will work:

**Saturday, Aug 1:** Designated VBS Kits for homes will be made available for pick up at Greensburg UMC

**Sunday - Wednesday, Aug 2-5:** Tune in online, at your convenience, for instructions and lessons for the day.

**Thursday, Aug. 6:** VBS Road Rally: Families will receive instructions for a road rally of activities and clues that will take them around the city. All families will end at the church building for a "drive in" puppet show and special icy treat!

Please join us as we celebrate God's promises together. No cost. Registration required. Registration is open now [vbspro.events/p/greensburgunitedmethodist](https://vbspro.events/p/greensburgunitedmethodist)

To volunteer or donate, contact Beth Weyrick at [bw2560@icloud.com](mailto:bw2560@icloud.com) or 330-388-9197.

**Here is how YOU can participate:**

Register your children or grandchildren

Tell your neighbors about this event.

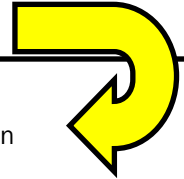
Prior to August: Financial Donations greatly appreciated. This will be done as a community outreach event.

Help put together the bags to be distributed

August 1: Volunteer to hand out bags for the week. A time will be set up to have families pick up their materials so that safety is the top priority.

Lead a Video Demonstration to be shared for VBS

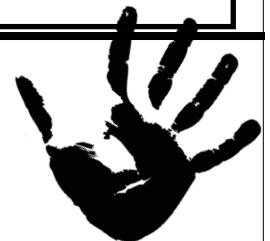
August 6: Lead a station for families to find. Or help with directions and leadership back at the church that day.



**LOVING HANDS PRESCHOOL UPDATE—TOUR APPOINTMENTS NOW OPEN**

Loving Hands Preschool has their eyes set on the fall and plans needed to make the school year successful, healthy, and wonderful for the students and families. Tours are now open by appointment for families who have children seeking an excellent Preschool. Those interested can call the church office or email Shannon Miller, LHPS director, at [smiller1950@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smiller1950@sbcglobal.net).

Also, the preschool would love for families and GUMC congregants to help stockpile cleaning and health items, as it is limited to how much can be purchased and what is available. This includes: **Clorox wipes, bleach, paper towels, D Batteries, and Kleenex.** These can be dropped off at worship in the marked bin, by the offering stand, starting Sunday, July 12. Your help is greatly appreciated as they prepare to create the safest place possible for their teachers and students. Thank you!



**FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC**

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
May 2020	\$20,143.18	\$ 17,217.85	\$ 21,949.08
Year to Date	\$104,974.15	\$111,325.40	\$ 127,624.40
BUILDING NOTE	Loan Giving	Monthly Payment	Loan Balance
May 2020	\$ 2116.00	\$ 2624.10	\$121,928.91
BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW	Total Given	Pledged	Balance Available
As of 5/31/2020	\$ 246,792.62	\$ 233,143.96	\$ 40,765.85



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## **Greensburg UMC**

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

Church Phone:  
330.896.1936  
[www.greensburgumc.net](http://www.greensburgumc.net)

## **RESOURCES**

For up to date information, please check out the church website and Facebook Page. Rev. Katie will be posting updates each Friday for the week ahead.

The City of Green website (<https://www.cityofgreen.org/588/COVID-19>) also provides excellent resources, connections for assistance, and ways to help the community.

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## **COMMUNITY SIGNS AND CHALK TAG ON ITS WAY!**

Romans 8 reminds us how we are enfolded, entangled, and eternal in conjunction with the Triune God, our brothers and sisters, and creation, as the Spirit gives us life. Part of our call as adopted members of the family of God is to be community together. It happens beyond the hour we gather on a Sunday morning or in a bible study, but this koinonia—fellowship of Christ—is a way of life. In order to embrace the remainder of summer as well as this call to community, two different pieces are being developed.

- 1) Community signs—reminding our neighbors that we are praying for one another as we continue to learn how to live with this pandemic.
- 2) Sidewalk Chalk Tag—with the skills and awesomeness of our young persons in our congregation.

Details will be forthcoming on the website, the Facebook Page, email, and in worship. Start thinking about who you would like to tag in these events.

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## **CROSS TALK DEADLINE**

All articles for the Newsletter need to be submitted to the Office, no later than the 20th. If you wish to be included in the birthdays and anniversary lists or wish to volunteer for an activity or group, please contact the office.

Volunteers are always welcome. Thank you, Pam Moore ~ Admin Asst