



Cross Talk

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

The Daily Office

“On Wednesday mornings this Lent, I will be praying the daily office live on our Facebook page. You can join me and follow along at around 9:30 on the March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th.”

CHURCH STAFF

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When you are a child, you learn a little from what your elders say, and a lot more from what they do. I don't remember my grandfather ever talking to me about his spiritual devotions. Yet, I can picture exactly where his Bible was in their old house. It was in rough shape – the binding held together with tape in some places, pages crinkled, annotations in the margins. Usually, there was a devotional booklet tucked in there somewhere as well as a pen or a mechanical pencil. He never said how often he read it, but when we'd visit there'd often be a new devotional stuck in a different place. Without saying anything at all, he showed me that a Christian has regular practices that connect them with the scriptures and with God.

That concept stretches back through Christian history and into Judaism as well. In keeping with the scriptures, observant Jewish people will recite the Shema prayer in both the morning and the evening. They say, “hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.” In the pre-Reformation church, clergy said prayers eight times a day. The Anglican Church, from which the Methodist branch of United Methodism descends, offers the Daily Office. In this tradition, either clergy or laity can lead Morning Prayer (sometimes called Matins) and Evening Prayer (sometimes called Evensong). Both services feature silent confession, prayer, scripture readings, and, when possible, music. You can pray as a large group or as an individual.

A friend of mine introduced me to the Daily Office. I don't do it all the time, but there have been stretches of time (holy seasons, particular parts of my life) where I have used it as my daily prayer routine. I find it deeply moving. Reciting the prayers and collects has helped me better structure my own prayers. The use of the Psalter has deepened my appreciation for the Psalms. The reminder for daily confession teaches humility and gratitude.

It's not for everyone. I don't know what my Baptist grandfather would think about it! Thankfully, there are a myriad of ways to engage with the scriptures and I encourage you to find one that fits your spirituality. If what I've said about the Daily Office has piqued your interest, I invite you to give it a try. On Wednesday mornings this Lent, I will be praying the daily office live on our Facebook page. You can join me and follow along at around 9:30 on the March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. It is also my intention to lead at least one evening prayer in that time period as well at a date yet to be determined. If you can't join live, the videos will remain on the Facebook page and you can view them at another time if so inclined.

In Lent, we work to turn our hearts to God and to prepare ourselves for the coming of Holy Week. I hope that, through this or another devotion, you will find new and meaningful ways to draw closer to the Lord our God.

Be Blessed,
Pastor Harlen

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jim Campbell
 4 Gary Cook
 5 Eric Dando
 6 Pam Dieffenbaugher
 Blaine Rossiter
 Emme Jeffries
 10 Morgan Langenfeld
 13 Michael Snyder
 14 Kerry Prater
 17 Andrea Rossiter
 Lyndsay Dimengo
 20 Emily Cook
 Garrett Cook
 21 Carol Lynn Stratton
 22 Lauren Kuwatch
 Lillie Flanders
 26 Clara Cormany
 27 Al Leidtke
 Richard Stratton
 Bill Handschumacher
 29 Sarah Hartong
 30 Andrea Cowgar
 Tanner Vinciguerra
 31 Nick Harp
 Staci Schweikert
 Matt Sopher

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 4th
 Jim & Bonnie Kocsis

BED BRIGADE UPDATE— 67 AND COUNTING...

God continues to amaze me. Every time I seem to run into an obstacle, someone steps in to remove it. I won't bore you with examples (not here, but if you are curious, just ask and I will talk your ear off). It is a wonder to observe.

However, I want to share two experiences from my experience of delivering the beds. Doug Oplinger and I delivered 5 beds to two homes. At the first home, we were met by two older siblings who were excited to help carry and set up the beds. They explained that the beds were to be a surprise for their younger siblings. They helped to carry the frames and bedding to the second-floor bedroom, assemble the bed, and put on the mattress pad, sheets, pillowcases, etc. What great help they were!!! When all was ready, the younger siblings were allowed upstairs to see the surprise. The entire family was so excited. No one could sit still for a photo, but the bright eyes and big smiles and great joy was apparent. These beds will allow the twins move out of their mother's bed and into their own for the first time. I hope this allows the mother to sleep better.

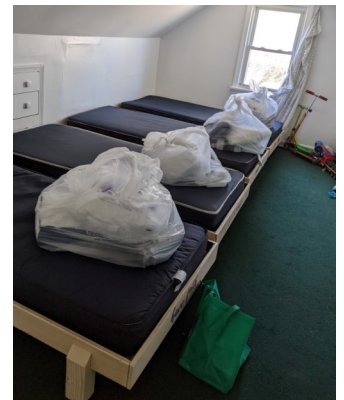


At a second delivery, Mark Rossiter, Will, and I delivered five beds to a single mother. The house was a small cape with a single room on the second floor where the children sleep. With the help of a young man whose birthday was the next day, we assembled the beds on the second floor. They barely fit and I was only able to get 4 in the photo. But everyone was excited and very grateful. What a wonderful experience.

Thanks for all who have prayed for, contributed to, and/or participated in this ministry! Your gifts have been a blessing.

If anyone wants to share in the wonderful experience of delivering a bed to a needy family, please let me know. We can also use extra hands and delivery vehicles.

If you ever doubt the need for this mission, be assured it is needed! By the time you get this message, we will have provided 67 beds to individuals in need (in less than one year) and have additional families on a waiting list. Our next bed build will be **Saturday, April 22, 2023**. Our goal will be to build 40 frames! Please save this date and look for more information as the time grows closer.



WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU

The NICU blanket project was a big success. We had 20 participants and Six sewing machines humming along. We made 44 mattress covers and a basket full of blankets! Special thanks to the youth group, GUM club who helped with the Tie blankets. The NICU babies, staff and families would like to thank everyone for their participation. Thanks to all!



FAMILY AND CHILDREN MINISTRY—

Happy Spring! AT G.U.M. Club we are excited to transition to Lent and Easter. We will be using the book of John to help with our Bible verses each week. We will also be helping with the church mission of the month throughout March by asking the kids to bring in school supplies or money donations. We are asking for some donations this month also! We would like for each kid to make their own "Resurrection Garden". Some items we need include: 1 Large bag of small decorative rocks, Some items we need include: 20–8" terra cotta plant saucers, 20 small terra cotta pots, 20 large rocks: If you are able to help donate any of these items please let Miss Amy know. Thank you for your continued help and support!



YOUTH GROUP—AKRON MUSEUM & LIBRARY!



MARCH Mission Focus— PLCC—LPN STUDENTS!

Did you know that the Portage Lakes Career Center not only trains high school students for the work force, but also adults

looking for new career pathways? The PLCC currently has an LPN training program with 33 students. Many are adults looking to better their potential position and job opportunities and are often single parents with many hardships facing them while they attend this program. The students will be taking their Board certifications in April, so, as our church's March mission, we hope to gather things to help them make April a little easier. In talking with the program director, she suggested personal hygiene items like bath and body wash, shampoo, soaps, hair clasps to pull their hair back, etc., and gift cards for food. Our goal is to make up a small bag of items for each student with a gift card or two. Drop items in baskets outside worship areas.



So you can help in a number of ways: 1. Donate hygiene items or hair ties, 2. Donate gift cards in \$15 denominations to local restaurants/eateries. And/or 3. Donate money for the purchase of these items. Gift cards and money please place in offering plates. Thank you! The program director has asked me to express her gratitude to all of you for thinking of them.

If you have questions, please contact Diane Oplinger at doplinger@aol.com

Greensburg UMC

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330.896.1936
www.greensburgumc.net

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

PLASTIC COLLECTION FOR BENCHES -

We have reached our final goal!!! Our last bench will be going to Loving Hands Preschool and they plan to place it in the playground for the children to sit with their friends.

We are no longer collecting plastic for benches.

Thanks for your help!!!

CREATING OUR 2023 LAWN CARE TEAM!

We are looking for Volunteers to help cut the church grass this 2023 season! We need 6-8 people to commit so we can rotate comfortably each week through the mowing season!

Mowing will begin in April so **we need commitments by March 15th**, please! Possibly some of you have capable grown adult children who might commit to help us too.

Training on the equipment and the schedule with more info will be made available to each team member. The church lawn has looked amazing each year the teams have worked so diligently.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve the church. Office: 330.896.1936



Meet the Third Thursday of the month
at 3:30pm in the Library!

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