



Cross Talk

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

FROM YOUR PASTOR

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CHURCH STAFF

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The current series, *Living the Resurrection*, moves us into the connective tissue of being one with living Christ Jesus and one with the body of Christ. For May 2, Jesus declares, “I am the vine. You are the branches.” This past year, for me, has felt like the branches were more like runners—going every direction, making it hard to know which way to guide and nourish while moving forward in mission and ministry. My deepest hope and prayer was that each branch was tied snugly to the vine, still able to produce fruit. In other words, that you were wound so tight to Jesus that you entwined others as well, bearing the fruits of the Spirit, which we were reminded in the fall are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Sometimes, the fruit tasted sweet. I am guessing that, like me, sometimes the fruit tasted sour.

Tending to branches is hard work—both to do and for the branch to endure. As we are the branches to Jesus’ vine, Jesus works on us to clear away bramble as well as prune both unhealthy and what we may deem healthy. This work requires us to be vulnerable and teachable, but also frees us to grow in healthier and larger ways that we would not have been able to do without the snips, trim, and clearing. As we grow, we then connect to other branches, inviting them to grow close to Christ and one to the other.

How is Christ working in and around you to help you grow in stronger and healthier ways? How is Jesus inviting you to be vulnerable to produce fruit that is sweet?

My most recent witness of Jesus drawing people to the vine was a couple Sundays after Easter. On Easter, we welcomed two new families to the nook of the vine that is Greensburg UMC. It was a joy and delight! Yet, it was two weeks after when I witnessed one of our new members not miss a step and welcome a visitor, both before and after service. This new member felt such a delight in being connected to this part of the vine, she wanted the visitor to feel the same. I marveled at her generosity of Spirit and willingness to connect. The further beauty of this act—it did not stop there. She made sure to connect with her the week after as well. Thank you for intentionally and lovingly extending that love and welcome to our guest!

Now, I will say, she was not the only one. There were others, as well, connecting and welcoming—and praise God! Thank you for your extension of hospitality and invitation. This is the first part of our vision and mission—to invite people to know Jesus Christ—to connect them to the vine so we may abide with Jesus and abide with one another. This happens both in and outside of the building.

How is God moving us into position so we can reach out and invite others to a place where we have come to know Jesus?

Entwined with Jesus and you! **Rev. Katie Osier**



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Abby Kuwatch
Shannon Miller
- 4 Jan Babbo
- 7 Lydia Corle
- 8 Clarence Moore
- 10 Kristina Rossiter
Carol Moore
- 11 LB Keller
Alyssa Laterza
- 12 Tim Jones
- 17 Kristen Booth
- 20 Anthony Swank
- 21 Connie Leonard
- 24 Margo Holmes
- 25 Connor Prater
- 26 Sharley Greer



MAY

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Chuck & Eileen Cowgar
- 30 David & Jill Roberts
- 31 Jim & Chris O'Brien

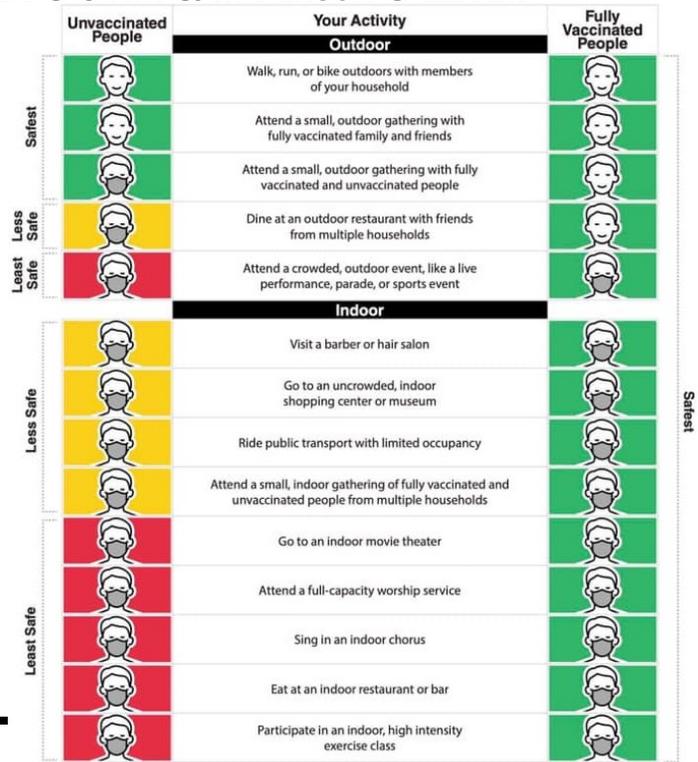
STARTING MAY 2: DRIVE IN @ 9 AM & IN PERSON @ 11 AM

Bring lawn chairs, umbrellas, something to drink, sun-screen—come enjoy worship outdoors!

Please continue to follow safety protocols. Masks are still required when indoors for all.

Also, please note the updated CDC safety precautions in the picture to the side, now that folks are being vaccinated. These will be important guidelines for the summer series events and future events for GUMC.

What a joy it is to be together to worship the living God!



SPECIAL MUSIC NEEDED

Now that our Traditional Service has returned to In-Person Worship, we are in need of Special Music for our service at 11:00. The choir will not be singing until at least the fall so we need soloists, duets, trios or instrumentalists to help us provide music for the service.

If you play an instrument, or would be willing to sing either as a soloist or with a small group, please contact our Choir Director Brian Lawson at brian.lawson@greensburgumc.net or call him at 330-256-3462. Your help and talents are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU TO LOVING HANDS PRESCHOOL

A HUGE THANK YOU to Loving Hands Preschool. The Ohio Bureau of Workman's Compensation paid a dividend totaling 372% of the premiums charged to Ohio employers for the 2019 policy year. Loving Hands has generously donated their portion to the church. One Board is currently determining the best use of these funds for the benefit of both the church and the preschoolers. Our continued partnership with the preschool remains a great asset to us. Blessings to you, Shannon Miller and Loving Hands Board!

Margo Holmes, bookkeeper and Greensburg UMC

FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
March 2021	\$ 16,842.10	\$ 23,069.04	\$ 25,925.90
Year to Date	\$ 60,076.46	\$75,456.71	\$ 83,236.21
BUILDING NOTE	Loan Giving	Monthly Payment	Loan Balance
March 2021	\$ 2,018.80	\$ 1901.19	\$100,515.75

SUMMER SERIES CREW NEEDED—ALL AGES WELCOME

Summer is fast approaching, with the potential of hosting some amazing outdoor events. God has blessed us with spaces to enjoy fellowship, service, and worship. In order to plan an amazing summer series—we need you!

Ideas have already been flowing, but it would be great to have leaders assist in organizing different events, including finding volunteers to help with direction and handing out materials as well.

If you are interested in helping the church become well known as the place to be—contact Rev. Katie (rev.katie.osier@gmail.com) or call the church office to assist in this fun potential.

I cannot wait to work with you in creating a series for ALL AGES!

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Throughout the summer, the church will be hosting a variety of Family Ministries Events for all ages to attend. These are currently being developed, so please watch for emails and newsletter details of what is to come.

May Family Ministry Event: Sunday, May 16 @ 10 AM

Lifted Up with Jesus—an Art Experience at the Pavilion

May 16 is Ascension Sunday, celebrating Jesus' rise to the heavens. The disciples were commanded to go and love—to raise people up in Christ. For all ages, come as you are, or with a paint shirt—we will create painted masterpieces for home and to share with a neighbor with words of encouragement. Individual Drinks and beverages will be provided. Bring an art shirt for the little ones. **Please RSVP ASAP to the church office** so we know how many supplies we will need.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Summer is on our doorstep. Adventures await us in Fellowship, Mission, and Discipleship. We kick off our summer starting in May. Here is what is coming up.

Tuesday, May 4 @ 6:00—7:30 PM: Meet at GGN to help sort Food Drive Donations and Devotion

Saturday, May 15 @ 1:00—2:30 PM: Green Family Fun Zone—Go Kart, Mini Golf, Ice Cream \$10

Wednesday, May 19 @ 7:00—8:30 PM: Church Pavilion for Youth Group

Wednesday, May 26 @ 7:00—8:30 PM: Church Pavilion for Youth Group

Wednesday, June 2 @ 7:00—8:30 PM: Church Pavilion for Youth Group—SUMMER KICKOFF

The last two Wednesdays in May, we will be working together to create a summer devotion to be shared with our Shut Ins. Bring your bibles if you have one as well as paper, writing and/or coloring utensils, and ideas. Let's see what God is working in us! This will be a fun and creative time to share and develop inspiration for others.

SAVE THE DATE:

YOUTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE—One day event—Saturday, June 12. More information is on its way!
PONTOON IN JUNE—Wednesday, June 23—Time TBD, but probably around lunch time to early afternoon

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SUNDAY, JULY 18—THURSDAY JULY 22 (6-8 PM)

Thank you to Lyndsay and Josh Dimengo for stepping up and leading this year's theme: Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus was a Kid. Work is underway to see about the potential for an in person VBS (6-8 pm) with protocols in place. This means additional volunteers will be needed this year to help keep places clean and lead smaller groups. If you would like to volunteer or know more, **please contact Lyndsay** by cell phone: 330.803.7423 or email: sci_math_lady@hotmail.com.



Greensburg UMC

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LOVE, ENGAGE, SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

Assist with the GUMC Summer Series planning, leading, set up, tear down

Assist with the GUMC VBS Hometown Nazareth (July 18-22, 6-8 pm) planning, volunteering, preparing

Support the transformational ministries of the church by your

Prayers (Pray for the ministry and people)

Presence (Come and Participate)

Gifts (Donating items and/or Providing a Financial Gift)

Service (Lead or Volunteer to make the gathering a success!)

Witness (Tell others about it and invite)

Assist with Church Clean Up Day: Saturday, May 22: 9:00 am to 1 pm

- Working in beds outdoors—weeding, planting flowers, mulching
- Courtyard work
- Small Indoor Repairs and Building clean up



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
