



Cross Talk

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

Bringing in the Sheaves

“I believe these scriptures are teaching us an important lesson about gratitude and stewardship.”

CHURCH STAFF

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Reverend J. Harlen Rife

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Between school visits and family trips, my kids have been to two pumpkin patches and an apple orchard and it's not even Halloween yet! Agritourism is a booming industry that brings people from cities and suburbs to farm country. Amidst the hayrides, tire swings, and bouncy castles there is an important reminder. We want our children to understand and appreciate where their food comes from, but the vast majority of them will not work in agriculture. In 2020, the USDA estimated that the agricultural and food sectors represented only 10.3% of total U.S. employment. Direct on-farm employment represents only about 1.4% of US jobs.

That's an important insight for the church as well. So many of our scriptural stories and metaphors relate to farming and herding and yet few of the folks in the pews (or in the pulpits) have direct experience raising crops and livestock. We might overlook some important teachings for want of experience. That includes the concept of a "first fruit offering."

In Leviticus and Deuteronomy, the scriptures teach the people of Israel how to be faithful stewards of what they will grow and raise in the Promised Land. Many of us are familiar with the concept of the tithe. We often overlook the other offerings in those texts. In addition to the tithe, the scriptures call upon the Jewish people to make a first fruit offering. When they begin their harvest, they take some of the very first of their crop to the temple and offer it to God. They will complete their full harvest, calculate their tithe, and bring that at the end of the season. This

happens at the beginning.

I think most of us read that passage and think it is a lovely gesture of gratitude. It might take a farmer to appreciate how radical it is. My Uncle Stanley is a farmer in Delaware County. We know that we can always visit our family in Delaware but, if we go at certain times of the year, we are very unlikely to see Uncle Stan. If the weather is right, he will spend much of the fall out in the field harvesting his crops. He's up early and he's out late. When my aunt first married him, she told my father, "I see him three times a day, hungry." It's hard to imagine Stan, or any other hardworking farmer, pausing in this critical time of year to carry sheaves of wheat to the temple, but that is just what the scriptures tell us.

I believe these scriptures are teaching us an important lesson about gratitude and stewardship. We find it comforting to wait until all is said and done and then we settle up accounts. We like year-end giving and legacy giving because they fit nicely with that narrative. Those are both appropriate and scriptural ways to give, but they are not the only ways. The first fruit offering reminds us of another spiritual practice. We can give in the moment. We can give as a form of celebration. Like a prayer before a meal, we can give before partaking in God's bounty just as much as we can give after.

We have wonderful farmers in our community and in our parish who can apply this scripture in a direct way. How does it look for the rest of us? What is harvest like in your household? Some folks give out of their weekly or monthly paycheck. Some folks give when they receive their tax rebate. People give when they have an unexpected windfall or when things pick up at work. It's easy to become distracted at moments like these, but our scriptures teach us that it is precisely in these moments that we should turn our hearts to gratitude and ask how we can give back.

So, this harvest season, I invite you to prayerfully consider what harvest looks like to your family and to support our church and its mission with your time, talents, and donations.

Blessings,
Rev. Harlen Rife



- 1 Liz Brenneman
John Campbell
Eileen Cowgar
Eugene Hetson
- 5 Kaitlyn Hawkins
- 6 Abigail Dimengo
- 7 Hazel Barrett
Janet Dando
- 10 Jason Beamish
- 12 Nolan Kocsis
- 14 Dayna Scolaro
- 17 Velma Lopez
- 18 Amy Dvorak
- 19 Dylan Vinciguerra
- 23 Dennis
Dieffenbaugher
- 28 Kayley Hayat
Bridget Jones
Suzanne Lindahl



- 21 Scott & Beverly
Waseman
- 28 Jason & Tara
Beamish

Bed Brigade News

On October 8th Char and Chuck Borland joined me to inspect and repair the mattresses and on October 15 I was joined by 10 others to sanitize and move the mattresses into room 107. Therefore, the October 22 workday wasn't needed.

Also on October 13 we provided a bed to a family in need through the Jackson School System.

God continues to guide and bless our work!! Stay tuned to see where He leads us.

Sincerely,
Dick Stratton



WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU

A Tremendous Gift

In case you haven't heard the good news, Greensburg United Methodist Church is debt free! The church's subsidiary, *Loving Hands Preschool*, had amassed a reserve of funds in excess of their needs. The preschool board and our director, Shannon Miller, decided to use the funds to pay off the church's outstanding debt of more than \$70,000! I know you will join me in extending gratitude to everyone at Loving Hands, both for this gift, and for the positive impact they have on the lives of children in our community. Thank you Loving Hands!

CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR IS AROUND THE CORNER!

Green Good Neighbors is in need of grocery gift cards. We can use Acme, ALDI, or Giant Eagle cards in the sums of \$5.00, \$10.00, or \$25.00. Depending on the size of the family, we give \$25.00, \$35.00, \$45.00 or \$55.00. You can turn them into the office or to Pat directly. We give them out December 7, 14, and 21. Thank you for helping us. Pat Stiles

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like to receive offering envelopes for 2023, please contact Margo at the church. Let her know if you would like weekly or monthly.

FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
September 2022	\$ 15,692.95	\$ 22,340.07	\$ 19,540.50
Year to Date	\$ 173,661.62	\$203,781.11	\$ 211,351.50
BUILDING NOTE	Loan Giving	Monthly Payment	Loan Balance
September 2022	\$ 71,591.83	\$ 1,901.19	\$ 00.00

FAMILY AND CHILDREN MINISTRY—



We've been having a great time this month in G.U.M. Club! September taught us The Lord's Prayer and throughout October we have been learning about Faith by breaking down The Apostle's Creed each week and learning it piece by piece. Our memory verse

was Hebrews 11:1 "Faith means knowing that something is real even if we do not see it."

We have 16 kids now in G.U.M. Club with rooms to expand! Our hope is to divide by ages and move into another room in the next few months! God is good!

November we will finish learning about Faith and begin Advent. On November 27 we invite all kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and ALL adult caregivers to join us for a Family Fun Day! It's the first Sunday of Advent so we will make Advent wreaths and have other fun Christmas activities. We hope you can join us! Thank you again for the snack and juice donations!

Blessings, Miss Amy, Miss Beth, And Pastor David

p.s. we even helped pack the Buckets!



LOVE OFFERING FOR OUR WONDERFUL STAFF!

LOVE OFFERING

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT _____

"With such sacrifices God is well pleased."
Hebrews 13:16

It takes a village can refer to us keeping our church going and growing but we couldn't do it without the staff here at GUMC. *Our wonderful staff members manage the office, keep our numbers balanced, take care of our children, and play and sing the beautiful music we enjoy every Sunday.*

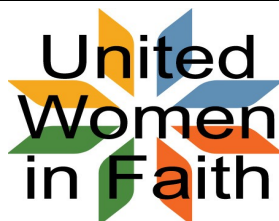
To show them our appreciation we ask for a 'Love Offering' each year as a way to express our gratitude to our church staff members, for their commitment to GUMC and doing God's work. If you would like to contribute, please mark your offering as

'Love Offering' and return it to GUMC or put it into the offering plate on Sunday.

We will be collecting this through Sunday, Nov 27th to be able to present it to them on Sunday, Dec 4th.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this important offering to show appreciation to our fantastic church staff!
Greensburg UMC One Board

Next Meeting
Thursday, November 17th
3:30 - 5:00
Conference Room



Join us in "Welcoming" the newest Daisy Girl Scout Troop 91412.
Leaders: Kristina Jennings and Megan Leopardi



Greensburg UMC

2161 Greensburg Rd,
North Canton, OH 44720

330.896.1936
www.greensburgumc.net

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

All Saints Sunday will be held on Sunday, October 30th.

Those that have passed this year include:

- Agnes Gant
- Gene Snyder
- Marlene Hays
- Betty Siegenthaler



Plastic Collection for Benches - As a reminder when collecting your plastic it **MUST** be stretchy and clean. If it doesn't stretch we can't recycle it. Thanks for your help!!!

WALKING GROUP!



Come join the 9 AM Saturday Walking group under the portico at the office entrance. We walk local parks & metro parks during the fall hiking spree. After walking, we go to McDonald's for coffee & visiting. During bad weather we walk inside the church. Its good fun & a healthy activity. We'd love to have you join us!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR FALL

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

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

330.896.1976