



Cross Talk

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

"In the morning, sow your seed, and at evening do not withhold your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good."

- Ecclesiastes 11:6

"Our November service will be a shared service of Thanksgiving. Our December combined service will feature a carol sing with cocoa and cookies."

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR:

Reverend J. Harlen Rife

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST:

Pam Moore

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR:

Margo Holmes

ORGANIST/BELLS:

Betty Gross

WORSHIP LEADER:

Dustin Oliver

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Brian Lawson

NURSERY DIRECTOR:

Diana Langenfeld

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

Amy Dvorak

LOVING HANDS DIRECTOR:

Shannon Miller

ADMIN COORDINATOR:

Brittney Hurley

As many of you know, my family recently enjoyed a trip to Utah where we visited some of our nation's majestic national parks. We cherished the opportunity to go new places, try new things, and grow. We also enjoyed our return to Ohio and to the normal rhythms of our life here. People generally understand that dynamic. Even a wonderful life can benefit from a little experimentation now and then to break up monotony and give new perspective. I believe the same thing is true of worship.

In a fast-paced world, it can be deeply gratifying to have a consistent worship experience. We see people we care about, share traditions (both old and new), and find strength in stability. At the same time, every now and then, it is nice to try something new. In most cases, it is like a vacation. We try new forms of worship and gain new perspective but return home again to what we know and love. Sometimes, we find a place we want to visit again or an interesting souvenir to bring home. In the months ahead, I intend to take us on several "vacations."

This year, the One Board and I decided to do a combined worship service once a month. We want to foster stronger ties between people at the first and second services. We want to create spaces for fellowship that will be welcoming to visitors and guests. We want to try new things. In these services, I also saw an opportunity to experiment with other forms of worship.

Our November service will be a shared service of Thanksgiving. Our December combined service will feature a carol sing with cocoa and cookies. For the new year, I am exploring ideas like a Taizé-inspired contemplative service, a dinner church, a conversation-based service, a Christian Yoga service, and an interactive service with prayer stations. These services will come once a month, and the rest of the time we will stick with our normal routine.

I realize not every one of those services will appeal to every member here at Greensburg UMC. I do want to encourage you to try new things and push your boundaries a little. You may go on one of these "vacations," and say, "that was interesting, but I see no reason to go back there." You may also go and say, "that might be a nice place to visit once-in-a-while." You might find an interesting souvenir you want to bring back and incorporate into our regular worship. If several people find they are passionate about one of these alternative styles of worship, we might be able to launch a small group to share it.

In this ministry, I take inspiration from Ecclesiastes. In that scripture we read, "In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good." In that passage I read an invitation to try new things. You never know what will take root and bear fruit! So, in the months ahead, I invite you to join me for some educational travel. Come with me on some worship vacations. It's a big world out there, and you never know what you'll find – including the joy of coming home to what you know and love.

Blessings,
Pastor Harlen

MISSIONS—Bed Brigade Next Build in Jan 2024

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Liz Brenneman,
John Campbell
Eileen Cowgar
- 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 Hayet, Bridget Jones,
Suzanne Lindahl
- 30 Jacque Miller
& Juliette Campbell



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

21st— Scott & Beverly
Waseman

28th— Jason & Tara Beamish

The Bed Build last Saturday was a great success!! Thanks to everyone who participated. Over 25 volunteers participated. Twenty of them were from the Green High Key Club. They worked hard and seemed to enjoy themselves at the same time. A true blessing to observe. Special thanks are also extended to Mark Rossiter, Mike Trinko, Dean Stewart, John Myers, and Hazel Trinko for guiding our new volunteers at various build stations.

While I was a little unprepared (we did not have enough drills and screw drivers to begin), but we resolved the issues and by 9:30 everyone was busy and cooperating. We assembled over 20 bed frames and have additional leg, end and side pieces ready for the next build.

Major activities since my last update include:

- Delivery of 30 bed (Thanks to all our delivery people)
- Rec'd a major contribution from the "Ducks" of Portage Lakes (Thanks Karen Ayers)
- Cleaned and out fitted the semi-trailer that was donated by the Ryal Foundation to hold our inventory -Have an inventory of about 50 frames and 35 mattresses

I look forward to seeing what new and exciting things God has in store for us. Thank you one and all for sharing this mission.

Bed Request and Volunteer Forms can be found on our webpage at: <http://www.greensburgumc.net/Bed%20Brigade.aspx>

I know we are making a difference for the individuals we serve and the wider community. I am confident God will continue to supply our needs.

Continuing needs:

Prayers: For guidance, helpers, partners, clients

Bedding: (In order of most need)
Blankets, Pillows, Twin XL mattress protectors (zippered ones that enclose the entire mattress are preferred), Twin XL sheet sets, Notes of encouragement

Supplies: Permanent markers for decorating the foot boards, Delivery drivers

Donations: For lumber and hardware and Bedding and cleaning essentials, etc.

In His service.

Karen Ayers, Patti Barrett, Roger Herbst,
Doug Oplinger, Dick Stratton, and Mike Trinko—Greensburg Bed Brigade



MINISTRY NEWS**Children's Ministry—**

We are thankful to be entering into November, the month where we take some time to reflect on everything we are thankful for! At G.U.M. Club and Level Up we have been digging into the Bible in the book of Genesis. We started at creation and moved through to Joseph. In November we will move into the book of Exodus to learn about Moses and the Israelites. This month we will also start working on something special for the church that we will present during the morning service on December 24!

We have had 3 new families join us since September and we have been enjoying having two rooms. It was also fun to come together for two Sundays as a large group in the Level Up room in October. Another highlight in October was our Fall Festival where the kids got to decorate pumpkins and get their faces painted!

**LOVE OFFERING—2023**

Show Staff How Much We Appreciate Them!

We wouldn't have music, website, budget, kids ministry, office run smooth and so much more if it wasn't for *Pam, Margo, Amy, Diana, Brian, Betty, Dustin, Pastor Harlen, Shannon and Brittany* who all make this church the place we want to be for our spiritual journey.

We will begin collecting for the Love Offering on Sunday, October 29th thru Sunday, November 26th. Just write on check memo "Love Offering" and place in the offering plates or place check/cash envelopes into the SPR or Finance mailboxes in the office. Our gifts will be presented to them during the services on Sunday, December 3rd or in the office Monday, December 4th. ~ Your SPR Committee

YOUTH COORDINATOR NEEDED!

Youth Coordinator Needed~

Our children's ministry is growing so much that we need to prepare for them as they grow older and fill a need for the special youth that are here now. We have a job opening for a Coordinator Youth Ministries (ages 7th – 12th graders). Please go to our website for the complete job description or use this link: <http://www.greensburgumc.net/content/PDF's/Youth%20Coordinator.pdf> Please forward to anyone you know that might be interested or just pray for some great candidates.

If you have any questions see SPR (Char Borland) or Pastor Harlen.

Greensburg UMC

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330.896.1936
www.greensburgumc.net

“2023 NOVEMBER EDITION”

Ongoing Fellowship Opportunities

Saturdays - Walking Group meets at 9am by office entrance

2nd Tuesdays - Dementia Support Group meets from 6-7:30 in the library (directed by Chaplain Billy Kremer & Anita St John of Homestead Hospice)

Wednesdays – Choir meets at 7:30pm in sanctuary

3rd Thursdays – United Women in Faith meets at 3:30pm in the library

Featured Picture

Our Sunday 10am Kids Program

GUM Club & Level Up

Check the church calendar at
www.greensburgumc.net



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