



Cross Talk

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

Don't You Forget My Unicorn Job 39:9

“God is with us on our journey of faith. Christ died for us, the Holy Spirit is guiding us, and God’s love never fails.”

CHURCH STAFF

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Reverend J. Harlen Rife

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LOVING HANDS DIRECTOR:
Shannon Miller

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Brittney Hurley

October is a month filled with spooky fun and revelry. As we get ready for Halloween, people decorate their yards, watch their favorite scary movies, make costumes, and buy candy. In keeping with the spirit of the season, this month I will be preaching about monsters of the Bible. Our scriptures use fantastical beasts as symbols or parables to teach us moral lessons. I will explore some of these symbols like giants, dragons, and sea creatures. One beast receives an honorable mention: the unicorn.

Unicorns are not in the Bible – well not most Bibles. If you happen to have a copy of the King James translation at home, you can turn to Job 39:9-12 and read, “Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib? Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow? Or will he harrow the valleys after thee?” A distraught Job has confronted God about all the suffering he has endured. God reminds Job that the Lord’s power and understanding surpasses human imagining. Job cannot command the wild animals, but God created them and could. What’s up with the unicorn?

The Hebrew word used here is, “re’em.” The truth is, we can’t be certain what the ancient authors of this text meant. The Medieval scholars who translated the text didn’t know either. From the context, we can tell it is clearly an animal. Human beings cannot normally command it. In theory, it could plow a field, but we wouldn’t be able to make it. Presumably, the monks reached for the nearest bestiary and selected “unicorn,” as their best guess. That translation informed the King James Bible and so millions of people still read the passage with the word, “unicorn.”

Modern Hebrew scholars have a more likely theory. They think the word should be translated as wild ox or aurochs. The aurochs is a now extinct species of wild cow and the ancestor of domesticated cattle. So, God might be saying to Job, “can you command the wild ox?” It’s an interesting species, but not exactly a monster of the Bible!

At the same time, the unicorn still offers us an important lesson. It’s a reminder that our scriptures were written on another continent, thousands of years ago. They were written down, translated, and retranslated by people who had great faith but also the ability to make mistakes. Even the greatest modern Biblical scholars have points of disagreement and no two translations come out exactly the same. Our responsibility, as people of faith, is to engage meaningfully with scripture. We read it, research it, listen to experts, pray and maintain the humility that says we too might be wrong sometimes. Finding one, clear, undisputed, interpretation is a little like trying to hunt for a unicorn.

Fortunately, we don’t have to look far to find what matters most. God is with us on our journey of faith. Christ died for us, the Holy Spirit is guiding us, and God’s love never fails. If we pin our hopes to these landmarks, we won’t get lost even as we wander through the wild and wondrous world of our scriptures.

I hope to see you in-person or online this month as I explore monsters of the Bible.

Rev. Harlen Rife



- 1 Mona Chalker
Boris Nastoff
Pam Milhoan
- 2 Rachel Huff
- 4 Susan Wendling
- 5 Nancy Claytor
Kyra Confer
- 6 Jocelyn Claytor
Shannon Claytor
- 8 Nick Laterza
Pat Stiles
Dan Terwilliger
- 13 Chris Koprivier
Mark Nicol
Cara Smesko
- 15 Norm Billups
- 18 Beverly Waseman
- 19 Patricia Barrett
Zachary Booth
- 21 Doug Oplinger
- 22 Jozie Johnson
Colton Langenfeld
- 26 Charles Cowgar
- 30 Clyde Pennington
- 31 Sydney Booth



- 11 Pete Peterson & Connie
Leonard
- 13 Brent & Abby Kuwatch
- 16 Brad & Gina Laterza
- 22 Michael & Paula Vinciguerra
- 26 Clyde & Nancy Pennington
- 28 Bill and Sally Fosnight

Bed Brigade News

We are excited to inform you that the Bed Brigade mission is going well. We completed our second build on August 27. We built 26 beds and 17 went to Crossroads UMC for distribution in Canton on September 6th and another 6 on September 8th to be distributed the same day. Also, as you may have heard, the University of Dayton offered us 100 mattresses. This provided us an opportunity and a challenge: the opportunity to serve an additional 100 families, the challenge of how to transport the mattresses from Dayton to Greensburg and where to store them. God responded!!! Freight Watch Logistics out of Mansfield offered to transport them and we can store them, at least temporarily, here in an unused room. Our next steps will include cleaning the mattresses (vacuum and disinfect), acquiring the additional bedding, and finding a time to build more frames. The church calendar is very busy for the next few months, so we are thinking of perhaps some time during the holiday break in early January.

We continue to seek out and contact families in need of beds. If you know of anyone or know of a contact who may help us identify potential recipients, please contact the church office, Judy Martin, or Dick Stratton. Thanks to all who have made this mission possible!!! If you are called to be a part of this exciting endeavor, please know that you will be welcome to share in our joy. None of this would be happening without God's intervention and individuals willing to listen and respond to His call.

Blessings, Greensburg Bed Brigade Team

WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the continued support of our youth. They all had a great time at Lakeside this year and received a lot of spiritual renewal and leanings, as well as completing very worthy mission work at several sites around NE Ohio. We so appreciate you all. Blessings, Andrea Rossiter

Dear Church—Thank you for letting us stay at Lakeside. We had a awesome time. Thanks so much. From Matt Sopher

Dear Church Family—Thank you so much camp was so fun and I can't wait to be there again. Thanks for helping. Have a great rest of your week—Gracie

Dear GUMC—Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to camp. I had a great time. Love, Will

Dear Church Family—Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to camp. It was a lot of fun and an amazing experience! Love, Lillian Flanders

Dear Church Family—I wanted to thank you for making me feel welcome. I had a wonderful time! I made new bonds and some great friends! Love, Morgan

FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
August 2022	\$ 16,499.80	\$ 20,264.33	\$ 21,165.50
Year to Date	\$ 157,968.67	\$181,441.04	\$ 191,811.00
BUILDING NOTE	Loan Giving	Monthly Payment	Loan Balance
August 2022	\$ 1,140.80	\$ 1,901.19	\$ 72,097.00

FAMILY AND CHILDREN MINISTRY—

G.U.M. Club is the place for kids to hang out, have fun, learn and grow in the faith on Sunday mornings at 10:00. Join Miss Amy, Miss Beth and Pastor David as we go back to the basics and learn more about why we believe what we do. Our first few weeks will begin with prayer. We will learn why we pray, how God wants us to pray, and the great prayers in the Bible. By the end our hope is for each kid to be able to know and understand The Lord’s Prayer.

Join our Facebook group at G.U.M. Club to be in the know of everything we have going on! We are also looking for snack (prepackaged) and juice box donations. Contact Miss Amy at advorak102@gmail.com with questions or if you’d like to be involved! P.S. Pastor Harlen has placed invitations in each of the 146 Loving Hands Preschool mailboxes inviting them to join us too!



G.U.M GROWNUPS!

Pastor Harlen invites the caregivers behind our G.U.M. Club kids to stay for coffee/tea and conversation while the children are in class. We’ll share the ups and downs of raising children and discuss how our faith shapes the way we guide the kids in our lives. Sundays from 10am to 10:45 in the gathering area. Please share this information with anyone who might want to bring their children to the G.U.M. Club!



LOVE OFFERING FOR OUR WONDERFUL STAFF!



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

It's Cleaning Bucket time again! The awesome VBS kids and parents donated 50! buckets for us to fill this fall. To keep folks from running around trying to find the items we are again encouraging "sponsoring" a bucket. The approximate cost per bucket is \$65 although any amount is appreciated. The preschool is getting involved to help provide items as well. Checks can be mailed to the church or placed in the offering marked "cleaning buckets". Please consider donating to this cause and thank you!



Greensburg UMC

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North Canton, OH 44720

330.896.1936
www.greensburgumc.net

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

- Pray for the start of pre-school at Loving Hands
- Invite someone to attend church with you!
- Pray for Pastor Harlen and his family as they begin
- Join Chancel Choir or Hand Bells!
- Attend Services weekly in person!
- Be an Usher or Greeter for one of our weekly services

CHANCEL CHOIR NEEDS YOU!



Greensburg United Methodist Church Choir would love to have you join them! If you enjoy singing, you qualify!

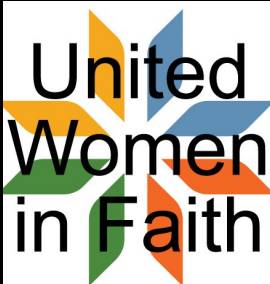
Come make a Joyful noise with us!

We meet in the Sanctuary

On Wednesdays

At 7:30pm

Hope to see you soon!



United Women in Faith will meet on Thursday October 20, 2022 in the church library at 3:30 pm. We donated 7 mattress covers to the Bed Brigade and will continue to support this mission. Dana Stevens

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