



# Cross Talk

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

“We are looking to make meaning, to find purpose, and to connect with others -”

## CHURCH STAFF

**PASTOR:**

Reverend J. Harlen Rife

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**FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR:**

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**ORGANIST/BELLS:**

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**CHOIR DIRECTOR:**

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**LOVING HANDS DIRECTOR:**

Shannon Miller

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Brittney Hurley

*“Whoever clings to grace and stays close to Jesus, and whoever rushes to God with persistent faith-filled prayer, will keep on going. Growth is a mark of the state of grace and stabilizes the heart.”*

-Phillip William Otterbein, 1760

My friend, Rev. Jared Littleton, is a chaplain at a hospital in Cleveland. Recently, he participated in studies on patients' spirituality. They have patients of many different religions and of no religion, so spirituality can mean a lot of different things in that context. Jared shared with me that their working definition of spirituality is any place where a patient finds meaning, purpose, and connection. Humans seem to have an inherent need for each. Perhaps that is a piece of the Image of God in each one of us.

The church is a spiritual institution. When I heard that definition, I wondered how well we are helping people address those three fundamental needs? How are our experiences in this church helping us make meaning? Does our time in this faith community give us a sense of purpose? Are we finding the connections that sustain us? I have made those some of my guiding questions as I listen and learn more about this parish.

I was listening to some of our church leaders on the One Board, and it seemed they were asking the same questions. They celebrated the work of the discussion group that meets between worship services, and suggested that church members needed more places where they can wrestle with important questions and serve as a sounding board for one another. The One Board lifted the success of the Bed Brigade and expressed a hope that we can have more missional opportunities where members find a sense of purpose. One Board members celebrated the welcome reception the church offered for me and my family. It was a healing experience to dine together again, and they expressed their hope for more opportunities to restore our sense of community. In short, they celebrated the places where Greensburg United Methodist is making meaning, finding purpose, and sharing connection. They want to expand those opportunities, so they are accessible to all members and to people we meet in the community. So do I.

Several years ago, I went with a group of pastors on a tour of growing United Methodist Parishes in the North Coast District. We wanted to learn some best practices to share in our own ministry contexts. At Lorain Lighthouse UMC, Rev. Adam Davis, shared that their church asks every member to pick their, “three.” Each member of the church attends one of their worship services, participates in a small group, and volunteers in one of the church’s missional activities. Their parish was growing in numbers because its members were growing spiritually. They were addressing their needs for meaning, purpose and connection. My dream is to work with the One Board and you, the members of this church, to steadily increase opportunities in each of these three areas so, one day, we can make sure everyone here has their “three.”

You'll see some of the new opportunities listed in this month's newsletter. Trust that more are on the way. If you are sensing a calling from God to lead in any of these areas, please let me or someone on One Board know. Perhaps, you know of an important community need and want to organize a group to address it. Maybe you are passionate about fellowship and want to organize Taco Tuesdays at Panchos! Listen to where the spirit is leading you, even if it is surprising. While this may seem like a new initiative, I like to think it has been brewing for some time. We are looking to make meaning, to find purpose, and to connect with others – that's not world's away from Love, Engage, Serve.

Blessings,

Rev. Harlen Rife



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Jeff Nibling  
David Witsaman
- 4 Colleen Flanders
- 7 Natalie Dando  
Diane Oplinger
- 9 Jack Fuerst  
Paula Vinciguerra
- 13 Tara Beamis  
Michelle Snyder
- 14 Judy Hetzel  
Roy Witsaman Sr.
- 19 Michael Scolaro
- 22 Sally Corle
- 26 Brenda Cook  
Marleen Lehman
- 28 Suzi Lawson
- 29 Julia Nicol  
Dara Terwilliger
- 30 Lauren Rossiter



**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Dennis & Pam Dieffenbaugher  
Ken & Evna Selbee
- 6 Denny & Ann Hartong  
Kerry & Amy Prater
- 12 Todd & Susan Wendling
- 14 Ben & Tara Lawson
- 17 Jeff & Marilyn Nibling  
Mark & Donna Nicol
- 30 Brian & Suzi Lawson

**It's Time for Building Comfie Beds for Little Heads!**

The time is at hand for *Bed Brigade's* second build, and you could be a part of it!! The cutting of wood has already been done, so you won't need to bring your circular saw, but it sure wouldn't hurt if you'd bring your electric screwdriver or drill if you have any! But there will be lots to do, with decorating footboards, writing notes to the recipients, packing the bedding we provide and preparing the beds for delivery. That includes, by the way, disassembling the beds and wrapping in plastic for delivery. Then there's delivering, of course, so if you've got a large, perhaps covered - truck, and/or lots of muscles, there will always be a place for you on the BB crew! But there's a job for everyone, and here's one for you: WE NEED RECIPIENTS for the beds, so if you know of a child who doesn't have a bed of their own to sleep in, please let the church office know. You'll be part of an opportunity to love, engage and serve our neighbors, and you'll have fun too!

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE OPEN HOUSE— FOR ROGER MARTIN**

You are invited to a Celebration of the Life of Roger Martin, who traveled on to meet his Heavenly Father on September 15, 2021.

**The Celebration will take place on:**

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 10, 2022, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm

**WHERE:** The John Torok Community and Senior Center, 4224 Massillon Road

**WHAT:** "Open House" (opportunities to gather outdoors, if weather permits)

*Masks will be available and your understanding in wearing one indoors will be appreciated.*

Roger joined GUMC in March of 2003, and was an active member of the United Methodist Church all of his life. He loved our church and loved serving our Lord. For planning purposes it would be helpful to know about how many we will have the pleasure of seeing that day, so if you are able to send an RSPV to [jmartin4@kent.edu](mailto:jmartin4@kent.edu) it will be greatly appreciated.

God bless you,

Roger and Judy's entire family

**WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU!**

Greensburg UM Church,

*On behalf of the Green Good Neighbors Board, I would like to express our gratitude for your kind donation. Your thoughtful generosity enables us to continue serving our neighbors in need of assistance.*

*With our appreciation, J. Dunham, G. G. N.*

**FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC**

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
July 2022	\$ 19,478.09	\$ 24,121.54	\$ 26,658.00
Year to Date	\$ 141,468.87	\$161,176.71	\$ 170,645.50
BUILDING NOTE	Loan Giving	Monthly Payment	Loan Balance
June 2022	\$ 1,365.80	\$ 1,901.19	\$ 73,800.75

**FAMILY AND CHILDREN MINISTRY—MONUMENTAL—CELEBRATING GOD’S GREATNESS— VBS 22**



**G.U.M. CLUB—STARTING SOON!**

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.

G.U.M. Club begins Sunday, Sept. 11th! 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](mailto:advorak102@gmail.com) with questions or if you’d like to be involved!

**STARTING SOMETHING NEW—G.U.M GROWNUPS!**

Pastor Harlen invites the caregivers behind our G.U.M. Club kids to stay for coffee 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 starting September 11th, 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!



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

2161 Greensburg Rd,  
North Canton, OH 44720

330.896.1936  
[www.greensburgumc.net](http://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!

The pandemic has really taken its toll on our choir. We have gone from having 20-25 people to having 6-8 people if we're lucky. We have still been able to sing on occasion, as long as no one is absent. Music has always been a big part of our church and it would be a shame if our choir is unable to continue because of a lack of people. All you need is a desire to sing.

So if you sing in the shower, or sing in the car, come make a Joyful Noise for the Lord. Please consider joining us when we resume practices in September. Without voices, we have no choir! We need you!

For more information see our Choir Director Brian Lawson or send him an email to [brian.lawson@greensburgumc.net](mailto:brian.lawson@greensburgumc.net)



Great way to  
end VBS -

Thanks Miss  
Shannon &  
LHP!



### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR FALL—BEGINNING AFTER LABOR DAY

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