



Cross Talk

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

Worship Opportunities

"We are planning to do a combined service each month and I hope that each one will afford us these same opportunities: to celebrate our milestones, to strengthen our ties as a community, and to experiment with worship."

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire!
(Hebrews 12:28-29)

I am writing this missive fresh off our combined Sunday service. We had the opportunity to celebrate our graduates, educators, and students at the start of a new year. We also had the opportunity to gather as one church body (87 strong) for worship. Finally, this Sunday gave us a chance to try out different forms of worship. We are planning to do a combined service each month and I hope that each one will afford us these same opportunities: to celebrate our milestones, to strengthen our ties as a community, and to experiment with worship.

The idea of sharing milestones came from the One Board's Char Borland. She noted that sometimes we welcome new members, celebrate baptisms, or honor volunteers at one service, and the folks worshipping at another time don't know about it. I hope to schedule these important events for combined services. As we saw with our education department last Sunday, God is doing exciting things at Greensburg UMC and we want to share it!

The second element came from our open house at the parsonage. As folks from the church gathered together for our reception, several celebrated reconnecting with old friends they hadn't seen in a while. As the church grows and changes, I think it is important to keep strong ties among the members. It is my hope that these combined services will give us more opportunities to be one body committed to faith and service.

The final element springs from my own experiences as a pastor and parent. I want to make sure our services offer the times and formats that best help us reach new people and welcome them into our faith community. I'm concerned that our most child-friendly service is not at the most child-friendly time. This may be making it harder to bring new young families into the parish. In other cases, some of our existing members are forced to choose between a time that is convenient and a style of worship that they find most convicting. I intend to use these combined services to experiment with our worship as I develop a vision for the future. My plan is to hold these combined worship services once a month through fall, winter, and spring. Next summer, we can take all that we have learned and formulate our plan.

Each of these elements will add life and vitality to this church, but I need your help! You can help by scheduling important milestones for our combined services. You can join me by striking up conversations with folks you either don't know or haven't seen in a while from the other service. You can also come to me with suggestions for what you'd like to try in worship. Do you have a background in music, dance, theater, art, graphic design, or another skill you'd like to share? Finally, you can offer your (patient and kind) constructive feedback on our experiment worship. What moved you? What didn't? How would you like to honor God? Together, we can shape an interactive and welcoming worship experience for years to come.

See you Sunday!

Blessings,
Pastor Harlen

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

LOVING HANDS DIRECTOR:

Shannon Miller

ADMIN COORDINATOR:

Brittney Hurley

MISSION WORK IN ACTION

Bed Brigade Update— Dick and the team have been very busy this summer and wanted to share that they have distributed 118 beds to date. They currently have an inventory of 18 beds in preparation for the beginning of the school year. Along with the 18, they are hoping to build another 40 this month.

It was a STELLAR VBS— Wow what an amazing week we had shining Jesus' light! We had 63 kids join us along with 26 volunteers! Our Bible stories for the week focused on Jesus' birth, his ministry to Zacchaeus, Palm Sunday, his death and resurrection, and when Philip helped the Ethiopian. Through these lessons the kids learned that when life feels dark, when people don't get along, when good things happen, when people are sad, and when people need help we are to SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!! We collected school supplies that we gave to Green Good Neighbors to help as they fill backpacks for those in need.

A great big THANK YOU to all of the amazing volunteers throughout the week from decorating, buying snacks, working registration, crew leaders, station leaders, overflow help, and those I called up last minute...



I could not have done this without you and I extremely appreciated all of the help and support!! Thank you also for those who donated supplies, money, and gave your prayers! It's amazing to see the returning kids and how they grow in their faith, and this is all because you are shining Jesus' light! Be on the lookout for our video of the week that will be on YouTube.

Thanks, Miss Amy



GREENSBURG UMC MONTHLY MISSION PROJECT—AUGUST

Our church's August Mission is supporting needy students in Green Schools beyond Blessings in a Backpack. Cherie McCortney, Family Support Specialist for Green, supplied this list of needed items and what their program does.

'As Family Support Specialists, our goal is to help alleviate the non-educational barriers to student success. Often that includes basic needs. We help with food, clothing and housing referrals, just to name a few. One thing I have learned is that even when a family has food and housing supports, basic hygiene items are not covered. Something as simple as a brush or shampoo often are difficult for families to obtain. I work with students from Pre-K through grade six. I started noticing that there were students who came to school and their basic morning hygiene routines had not been taken care of. We began our "Freshen' Up Zone" at Green Primary School. Students can come in and have a little help. They can have a cubby with a toothbrush, toothpaste and hair brush. We have some very talented staff who help with pretty braids. The kiddos start their day with a clean face, brushed teeth and freshly combed hair. This simple task has created a beautiful community among the children, it really makes a difference! I often send a little care package home with students so that they can have the supplies they need at home. I use the hygiene items in two ways. We share with families in need to use at home and we also use them in our Freshen' Up Zone. I am so thankful to you for your offer to help!"

Here are some items you can donate in the designated boxes outside the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary:

Shampoo, Conditioner, Bubble Bath, Body Wash, Detangling Hair Spray for kids, Bath Poufs, Bath Bombs, Deodorant, Laundry Detergent, Hair brushes, Paper towels, Toilet paper *** no toothpaste***

Many of these items are necessities and a few are fun. I often work to encourage little ones to bathe without a lot of encouragement at home. The bath bombs and poufs make bath time fun which helps everyone.

I am so grateful for the help from your church family. Thank you again.

If you would prefer to donate cash, please put in an envelope and label Green Schools, Family Support.
Questions, contact Diane Oplinger at doplinger@aol.com.

MINISTRY NEWS**Children's Ministry— Begins Sept 10th @10**

GUM CLUB is a kids' place to hang out and learn on Sundays. The mission of GUM Club is to offer Bible based life lessons for kids Pre-K—3rd grade through stories, crafts, songs, sharing and lots of fun.

LEVEL UP is for the 4th through 6th graders and digs deep into the Bible and equips kids with a solid faith foundation. They can become genuinely excited about Jesus-centered discoveries as they dig deeper into their faith.

We hope this year holds tons of fun, wonderful friendships and a deeper faith. Please consider to reach out to friends and neighbors and bring them too!!! We grew last year and expanded the Children's ministry into an additional room. Wonder what growth will happen this year?

Donations of snacks and juice boxes would be appreciated.

Thank you, Miss Amy and crew

**LOVING HANDS PRESCHOOL— 2023-2024**

We are so excited to be preparing for our 2023-2024 school year! This year, we have 11 classes, with 144 students. We are busting at the seams with children! It is always an exciting time of year to meet all of our new little ones!

Did you know that, in 2023, Loving Hands Preschool started a scholarship fund with the Green Schools Foundation for graduating seniors that attended Loving Hands Preschool? This year, we were able to award \$1000 scholarship to Madelyn Kulhanek. It was exciting to read the applications and see what our former preschoolers have been up to over the years! We look forward to continue this tradition each year. Next year's class will be the very first students from when Miss Shannon, our director, started!! These 13 years at Loving Hands has went by so quickly.

CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

We are ramping up for a great year but there is only ONE thing missing! **YOU!**

Come sing with us! Without new members we run the risk of not having a choir anymore. It's happened to a lot of churches, let's not let that happen to us. So, if you like to sing, if you sing in the car, or sing in the shower, come sing for the Lord. What a better way to use the gift He gave you than to sing His praises! Don't let the voices be silenced.

Practice will begin on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. Anyone that wants to sing is not only welcome, but needed. Maybe you have a friend that would love to join with you too! If you have any questions, please contact our Choir Director, Brian Lawson. You can call him at 330-256-3462, or email him at brian.lawson@greensburgumc.net or just grab him before or after the 11:00am service. Let's fill the Sanctuary with music together!!

Greensburg UMC

2161 Greensburg Rd,
North Canton, OH 44720

330.896.1936
www.greensburgumc.net

“2023 SUMMER 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

Girls and Boys Scouting Opportunities –
call office for details

Bed Brigade and Green Good Neighbors too!

Check the church calendar at
www.greensburgumc.net

WOMENS RETREAT INFORMATION -

Spiritfire Retreat Weekend – Sept 15th – 17th

The United Women in Faith will be going and invite you to attend. You can find more information at www.campwanake.org Look for Upcoming Events button. This is a great opportunity to join other faith filled women and experience the outdoors, good food, fellowship and gain spiritual awareness. More information will become available as we near the date. There is a registration form on the site and the cost is \$139.

Questions can be directed to:

Dana Stevens email her at: 1dtalbots@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS (BEGIN 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!

330.896.1936