



# Cross Talk

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

*"After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." Acts 1:3*

"Eastertide is an invitation to take the joy of Easter Sunday and stretch it out through the season of Spring. How do you plan to bring the joy of the season into your daily life?"

## 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

As I write this, we are preparing to enter another season in the church calendar. Lent is winding to a close and we will soon celebrate the Paschal Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. These three mark the high point of the Christian year as we remember Christ's atonement on the cross and his triumph in the resurrection. These three close one season, but they also begin another – Eastertide. While we focus much of our celebration on Easter Sunday itself, for the next fifty days, we will be in the season of Easter.

You may ask, "why fifty days?" There are two reasons – one scriptural and one symbolic. Scripturally, Eastertide corresponds to the forty days Jesus spent with the disciples after his resurrection and before his ascension. After he was taken up into heaven, ten more days passed before the Holy Spirit came down at Pentecost. Our fifty days represent that time in the past. Symbolically, the season of Eastertide balances out the season of Lent. We spent forty days of fasting, mourning, and introspection as we prepared for Easter. Now, we spend fifty days celebrating Christ resurrection. The time of celebration is longer than the time of sorrow to remind us that Christ's grace exceeds our sin, and that the joy of the Kingdom will far outweigh sorrows experienced in this mortal existence.

You may also ask, "how do we observe Eastertide?" In the church, we number our Sundays according to the season so you will see them described as the, "2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter." The church also wears its beautiful Easter decorations until they are replaced with the bright red of Pentecost. Our lectionary readings focus on interactions between the risen Christ and his disciples. In general, the tone of our ministry remains centered on the joy of the resurrection.

Now, I have a question for you. How do you plan to observe Eastertide in your home life? I have to admit that Eastertide is not a season of the church I have lived out at home in the past. I'm sure we all have wonderful traditions for Advent. There are so many ways to celebrate Christmas. Many Christians have well-established traditions for observing Lent. Some of us fast or give up things. Others engage with new devotionals or attend extra worship services. Many people engage in charitable works for their friends and neighbors. I'm sure we can create similar traditions for Eastertide.

The season of Easter is about celebrating Christ's victory over death. Why not celebrate abundant life by planting an Easter Garden? You can brighten your yard or a public space with flowers. Some Christians celebrate by baking bread for friends and family. You can watch your dough rise and remember that Jesus also rose! If you gave up something for Lent, why not try adding something joyful for Easter? You could go on a daily walk and observe the changing seasons. You could listen to a beloved hymn each morning to start your day. Christ spent this time connecting with the disciples. You could use this time to reconnect with an old friend with a visit, phone call, or card.

In general, Eastertide is an invitation to take the joy of Easter Sunday and stretch it out through the season of Spring. How do you plan to bring the joy of the season into your daily life? In the days and weeks ahead, feel free to tell me your ideas and experiences. We may just find a host of new traditions to increase our joy as we proclaim, "Christ Is Risen!"

Sincerely,

Rev. Harlen Rife

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Bob Milhoan
- 5 Amy Prater
- 6 Matt Lawson  
Reese Lipscomb
- 7 Hugh Shahan
- 12 John Myers  
Lisa Nicol
- 13 Gracie Langenfeld  
Marilyn Mackasek
- 14 Josh Dimengo  
Karen Hodges
- 20 Kaitlyn Schleis
- 22 Ashleigh Keller
- 23 Emma Nibling
- 25 Brent Kuwatch
- 26 Hazel Trinko  
Torri Miller
- 27 Becky Dando  
Kevin Hodges
- 29 Marilyn Nibling

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Mitch & Kristen Booth
- 6 Hugh & Faye Shahan
- 8 Gary & Brenda Cook
- 14 Mike & Christ Koprivier
- 18 Boris & Jennifer Nastoff
- 28 Roy & Kelly Witsaman Jr

## BED BRIGADE UPDATE— 67 AND COUNTING...

I continue to praise God for each of you and all the support provided to this mission. Please pray for this mission. May we have the grace, strength, and resources to continue to better meet the needs around us. We are making a difference, but there is much more need. At this writing, we have delivered 67 beds and have a waiting list for 20 more beds!! And requests for beds continue to be received.

**Our next build is Saturday, April 22nd, 2023. Our goal is to build 40 frames. So, save this date!**

We plan to allow volunteers three start times, a slight modification from our January Build.

-Volunteers arriving at **9am** will start decorating foot boards, assembling legs, and/or attaching hinges (tasks which must be completed first)

-Volunteers arriving mid-morning at **10am** will begin assembling the frames, cleaning mattresses and assembling the bedding.

-We will begin delivering beds late morning, so volunteers wishing to help with this task can arrive around **11am**. We will continue as long as we can or all requested beds are delivered.

This plan requires more coordination than we have had in the past. So, please let us know if (and when) you plan to volunteer by either using the online volunteer form on our website, sign up sheets outside the worship areas, call the office or, you can email Dick Stratton at: [rwspersonal@gmail.com](mailto:rwspersonal@gmail.com)

Also, we need bedding:

- Twin XL sheets (with pillow cases)
- Twin XL mattress pads (zippered ones that enclose the entire mattress are preferred)
- Bed Pillows
- Blankets

And anyone that would love to write an encouraging note to the person receiving the beds are appreciated. Thank you for your prayers, contributions, talents and time.

The Bed Brigade Team



## 30 DAY FREE TRIAL PERIOD

Our choir season is quickly coming to a close. It has been a struggle the last few years since covid as we have lost quite a few choir members for various reasons and there have been some weeks where we don't have enough people available to sing. We are in need of more voices.

So, if you've thought about joining us at one time or another, we are offering a free trial period where you can try before you buy.

Come and sing with us from now until the end of our season at the end of May. If you like it, we hope you will come back as a full time choir member when we start our new season in September. If not, no hard feelings and we appreciate you giving it a try. We'll try not to scare you off. We practice on Wednesday nights at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. See our Choir Director Brian Lawson with any questions or you can call him at 330.256.3462 or shoot an email to [brian.lawon@greensburgumc.net](mailto:brian.lawon@greensburgumc.net).

Please consider joining us in making a joyful noise through music!

**FAMILY AND CHILDREN MINISTRY—**

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!! Happy Easter and happy Spring! We had the best time learning that during Lent we pray, fast and give, and are looking forward to celebrating Jesus' resurrection! A HUGE Thank you to all who helped with our Resurrection Gardens. We received amazing donations of money, small pots, large saucers, rocks that were dug up in a backyard, and small decorative rocks! I can't wait to show you pictures in the next issue of this newsletter. A few updates on our schedule in April:

April 2—(Palm Sunday) normal GUM Club but we will end class a few minutes early so we can all parade around the combined service at 11 waving our palms and celebrating! After the service everyone is welcomed to stay for a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

April 9—Easter—No GUM Club. Enjoy celebrating our Lord Jesus with family and friends!

April 16, 23, 30—normal GUM Club meetings.

I can't believe our year is coming to a close so soon!

Our last GUM Club (until the Fall) will be May 21.

Blessings, Miss Amy, Miss Beth and Pastor David

VBS news is coming out soon!!! **SAVE THE DATE: July 30th—Aug 3rd**

**YOUTH GROUP—TOPIC OF THE MONTH WAS TOLERANCE****Greensburg UMC Easter Services****Palm Sunday**

Combined Worship Service will be Sunday, **April 2nd** at 11am in the Sanctuary followed with a Covered Dish Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.  
Asking you bring side dishes and/or desserts

**Maundy Service**

Join Pastor Harlen on Thursday, **April 6th** at 7pm in person at the church

**Good Friday Service**

Will be only ONLINE at Noon on Friday, **April 7th**

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY**

**April 9th-** 9am Modern and 11am Traditional Services



## **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!**



**United Women of Faith** – will meet early this month on **Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** at 3:30pm in the library. We agreed to use our talents making cards for missions again! We can focus on Bed Brigade, Shut Ins, Military, College or whatever your heart is telling you. We never know how one small act of kindness will make a difference in someone's life. If you have greeting cards, you may want to think about donating. Hope to see you all again next month! All women are welcome. God Bless

p.s. We were able to send 33 cards to the Portage Lake Career Center LPN Students to go along with the Care packages they will be receiving from the church!

#### **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION -**

It's that time again! We award small scholarships to graduating high school seniors headed to a post secondary or trade school. If you're a graduating senior or parent of one, go to the website and look for the application. It will be available no later than April 1 with a deadline of May 14. Don't miss out! With high college costs every little bit helps.  
For questions email Ann Hartong at [Hartongs@aol.com](mailto:Hartongs@aol.com).

#### **HARMONY RINGERS SPRING PERFORMANCES**

##### **POPS! Through the Decades**

- Sunday, April 16th at 4pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Massillon (Cherry Street)
- Saturday, April 29th at 6:30 at St. Stephen Martyr Lutheran Church, Canton (Fulton & Dressler)

#### **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**