



Cross Talk

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

FROM YOUR PASTOR

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CHURCH STAFF

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Advent marks the beginning of the new year. “Wait,” you may say. “Shouldn’t the new year begin on January 1?” Yes, the world calendar starts on January 1. And this year, if you are like me, we long for the year to change from 2020 to 2021, in the hopes that next year will not be anything like this past year. Our questions this past year may have included: Why do we have to endure this virus? Why can’t we come together? Why is our country in turmoil? Why can’t this whole madness end?

Yet, as those who celebrate the Reign of Christ, we now set our eyes on how the reign of Christ came to be: the journey through Advent (or to come/the coming). This journey brings new questions: Why the prophets? Why a virgin? Why those shepherds? Why Inn Bethlehem? Why a manger? Why the Magi? Perhaps, with questions shifted we might come to realize the truth behind the line in O Little Town of Bethlehem: “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”

Jesus Christ reigns over each moment, each hour, each day, each year – when we surrender to the wonder and miracle of God with us. So, why not start the new year November 29? And as we journey, maybe our whys will miraculously turn into WOWs!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Katie Osier





- 1 Mitch Booth
- 2 Bill Lyle
Todd Wendling
- 3 Janice Hackathorn
Nicolas Keller
Paul Hartong
Mike Trinko
Pat Terwilliger

6 Jesse Redwine

9 Andy Claytor
Austin Kleis

11 Shirley Wander

14 Kaden Smesko
Sue Newbrough

17 Grant Kuwatch

18 Betty Siegenthaler
Dan Koontz
Cara Smesko

22 Dorothy Cormany

24 Roy A. Witsaman
Charlotte Borland

25 "Jesus"

27 Michael Witsaman

28 Emma Osier



3—Eugene & Josephina
Hetson

RELAUNCH COMMITTEE— 1ST DISTRIBUTED THROUGH CONSTANT CONTACT ON 11/18/20

As a church, we have been fortunate to experience outdoor and now indoor worship for a time now. You have your very best to keep each other safe with masks and distancing—thank you.

Yes, after watching numbers of daily positive cases increase as fast as they have, seeing several regional schools going back to online, and listening to Governor DeWine on Wednesday, the majority of the ReLaunch Team and Rev. Katie believe it is best to go back fully online starting Sunday, November 22 until number trends start moving downward.

The team will work together to see when that date for reconvening in-person worship will be. For now, out of love, we err on the side of caution to protect each of you.

This has been a difficult decision, knowing we all long for the day when we can meet in person as one, again. We want some shred of normalcy and connection like we used to have. And that day will come: it may look differently, but it will come. Be encouraged in Christ who offers strength to carry on and to live out a life that extends love to each other.

Again, starting next Sunday, November 22, worship will be online only. Worship will be recorded live at 10am on Sundays, and can be found on the Greensburg UMC Facebook Page or the church website, www.greensburgumc.net. Thank you.

I feel as though I could speak for all of us who are a part of the life and mission of Greensburg UMC when I say thank you...thank you so much to every person who has contributed so selflessly to keeping our church "open" all these months, even when we were physically closed.

From the very start of the insidious Covid pandemic there have been so many who willingly and tirelessly began taking care of business and continue to as weeks turned into months. This takes initiative, imagination, and oftentimes muscle as well, as a huge variety of needs arise as time goes by. So THANK YOU —and you know who you are —for sharing your love of the Lord and your faithful service to all of us who are Greensburg UMC. —Judy Martin

Special THANKS to the amazing and hard working 2020 Lawn Care Team. The church has looked beautiful and meticulously cared for too. God Bless each of you for your service!!!

Giving—With worship being online, please be encouraged to use Vanco online, or, by appointment, drop off your giving. If your gift is going to something specific, please be sure to label it specifically. Your generosity gifts the ministries of the church to dream and expand the ways we are leading in loving, engaging, and serving our neighbors. Feel free to email office@greensburgumc.net or call the church office if you have questions.

Church Conference— will be held Sunday, Dec. 6 @11:15am online. If you are interested, please contact the office for connection information.

FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
October 2020	\$ 19,808.81	\$ 22,382.21	\$ 20,238.08
Year to Date	\$202,330.10	\$221,978.67	\$ 244,079.80
BUILDING NOTE	Loan Giving	Monthly Pament	Loan Balance
September 2020	\$ 1,418.00	\$ 2624.10	\$110,160.00
BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW	Total Given	Pledged	Balance Available
As of 9/30/2020	\$ 249,162.62	\$ 233,143.96	\$ 43,135.85

FROM ONE BOARD

Do you love and appreciate our church's dedicated staff members? We would like to show all of our wonderful staff members, how much we appreciate everything they do! Especially during this pandemic, they have all found creative ways to enhance our Christian lives while being unable to meet the way we are used to gathering. We ask for this '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 by December 6th. Thank you for prayerfully considering this important offering to show appreciation to our fantastic church staff!

Thank you,

Greensburg UMC One Board

YOUTH

Andrea Rossiter and Marilyn Nibling are getting the gang back together—online! This month, the group will be having a gingerbread house building competition, an escape room (yes—online), and mission. We are going to try Wednesday nights—time yet to be determined, but soon. To get the latest information, please use Remind. This will get you the information you need. To sign up for Remind: Text 81010 with the message @gumcym. Hope to “see” you soon!

WHY? - A Kids' Virtual Advent Event

November 29, December 6, 13, and 20, 2020



Using the Bible, the Advent Wreath, singing, puppetry, crafts, and story-telling, kids will find out . . .

Why the Prophets? – To Prophecy - Hope

Why a Manger? – To Lullaby - Peace

Why the Shepherds? – To Testify - Joy

Why Bethlehem? – To Sanctify - Love

Registration for crafts is needed by November 25 and given to the first 20.

Pick-up information and video links will be sent when registered.

Register by contacting:

Amy Dvorak - advorak102@gmail.com or

Pam Moore at the Church Office - pam.moore@greensburgumc.net

Leaders are Amy Dvorak, and the Rev. David and Beth Weyrick

WORSHIP + CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday Worship will remain online only at 10am for the month of December, due to state and county advisories. Worship leadership will be filming from the sanctuary. If you would like a DVD of the services, please contact the church office.

Advent Series—WHY?

Nov. 29th– Why the Prophets? / Dec. 6th—Why a Virgin? / 13th—Why those Shepherds? / 20th—Why Inn Bethlehem? / 27th—Why a Manger? / 3rd—Why the Magi?

For Christmas Eve, the worship staff are working to create a video that will be available earlier in the day AND to be shared at a **7PM Drive In, Interactive Christmas Eve Service** at the church. Bags containing worship items for the service with will be available upon arrival at the Drive In service. Please plan for the chill in the air, and the warmth of Christ to enter our hearts.

Greensburg UMC

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330.896.1936
www.greensburgumc.net

COMMUNICATION FROM:Worship Staff

Calling all families—of every shape and size and age! This Christmas Eve, the worship staff will be working to create a Silent Night video, where families will appear on video, light candles and passing the light along. This will be used for Christmas Eve service. The more families there are, the more powerful this video will be. The hope is to be able to see as many families as possible. The videos can be filmed at home and sent in, or someone can come to film it. Sign up by emailing or calling the church no later than December 10th please.

Calling all individuals interested in doing Special Music for the 10:00am Sunday Service. It could be soloists, duets or instrumentalists. If you would like to be our special music, we would love to have you share your talent with our congregation. Contact Brian Lawson at brian.lawson@greensburgumc.net, if you would be interested.

Green Good Neighbors—Pat Stiles

Green Good Neighbors has so much to be thankful for in this Christmas season. We had over 200 children that needed gifts but many of the churches were not able to help this year because of low attendance. We were panicking with only 50 volunteers to buy gifts. Channel 5 news came and interviewed us and let us tell our story. It was a 2 minute segment on the end of the 5 o'clock news on a Thursday night but my phone started ringing as soon as it was over. Over the next two weeks, we filled every child's dream of getting a Christmas gift. Most of the generous people were from this area, many from this church, but we also had people from Dover, Tallmadge, Kent, Madison, Wadsworth and Akron. Many asked what else they could do? I told them that we needed grocery cards from the local grocery stores for our clients Christmas food and many have sent or are sending cards to help with that project. If anyone else wants to help, we still need grocery cards. I especially need them in 5 and 10 dollar amounts. We want to praise God for what he did for these children and we are so grateful for the many blessings that we have both from this church and the community.
