



Cross Talk

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

FROM YOUR PASTOR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Worship / Finance	2
Discipleship	3
Communication	4
Serve Opportunities	5

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTER & STUDENT
MINISTRIES:

Reverend Katie Osier

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST:

Pam Moore

FINANCIAL OFFICER :

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:

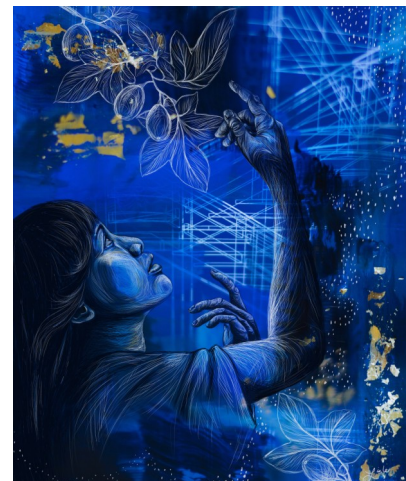
Brittney Hurley

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. The stories and scriptures of Advent are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We hold the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Close to Home acknowledges that Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. We long for God to come close.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

Rev. Katie Osier and the Sanctified Arts Team



Awake to Wonder
Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING

Outside the worship spaces, you will find 3 boxes: Gifts of hope, peace, and joy—all acts of love to local mission and ministries that help transform the lives of the marginalized. **HOPE** represents **Rahab Ministries**, a local mission that helps women exit sex trafficking and find hope in new lives. **PEACE** represents the **Battered Women’s Shelter**, for women and children who come from homes of unrest who need peaceful shelter and help moving forward in their lives. **JOY** represents **Open M**, for the ministry it does to help folks find joy in others helping them through their work programs, their medical clinic, food and clothing ministries. Place your offerings in envelopes provided, then in the boxes. Offerings will be collected through Sunday, January 2, 2022, then sent to the respective ministries. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the transformative, and life and love giving work these ministries do.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mitch Booth
- 2 Bill Lyle
Todd Wendling
- 3 Janice Hackathorn
Nick Keller
- 4 Mike Trinko
- 8 Mike Koprivier
- 11 Shirley Wander
- 14 Kaden Smesko
- 17 Grant Kuwatch
- 18 Betty Siegenthaler
Dan Koontz
- 22 Dorothy Cormany
- 24 Charlotte Borland
Roy Witsaman, Jr.
- 27 Michael Witsaman
- 28 Emma Osier



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Eugene & Josefina Hetson
- 5 Matt & Erin Hartong

CHARGE CONFERENCE—DECEMBER 2 @ 6:30 PM

A special Charge Conference is being held Thursday, December 2 at 6:30 pm at First United Methodist Church in Cuyahoga Falls to address the current Boy Scout of America bankruptcy proceedings and the church’s response to protect the local church and the scouting programs from further harm. For further information, please see Rev. Katie Osier.

YOUR GENEROSITY THROUGH BUCKETS, GGN AND UMCOR GIVING

Thank you, thank you!
Thank you so much for the wonderful response to our appeal for cleaning buckets! Your participation is so appreciated. With your amazing generosity, we were able to surpass our goal of 25 buckets and fill 30 to send to UMCOR for flood relief! This is an important mission for the church and we couldn’t do it without you.



In addition to filling 30 buckets, gifts of nearly \$1000 were given to support further ministries of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. These gifts are used throughout the US and the world to aid in the transformation of communities and families affected by disasters.

And if that isn’t enough, you also supported Green Good Neighbors through gift cards and presents for families struggling with resources this year. You have provided for families in miraculous ways this season. Thank you for your continued heart of generosity!

TREX RECYCLING: 1ST BENCH GOAL MET!

Bags, bags, bags—thanks to your keen recycling skill, you have brought in over 500 pounds of plastic bags in less than 5 months! This means we are eligible to have a bench created. The first bench will be given to Loving Hands Preschool, to celebrate our shared ministry!



Keep bringing in bags. We will continue to turn them in as part of our commitment to care for God’s creation. Starting February 1, we will begin our next round of counting towards 500 and a new bench to be offered to Green Good Neighbors.

Thanks to Sue Kelley and JoAnn Rossiter for being bag droppers! We could not do this without your leadership!

FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
October 2021	\$ 24,208.63	\$ 22,485.90	\$ 24,670.93
Year to Date	\$ 192,746.46	\$229,894.99	\$251,527.73
BUILDING NOTE	Loan Giving	Monthly Payment	Loan Balance
October 2021	\$ 2128.80	\$ 1901.19	\$ 88,972.92

FAMILY AND CHILDREN MINISTRY: MESSY CHURCH AND GUM CLUB!



I know I speak for myself, Miss Beth and Pastor David when I say we have been having a great time at Messy Church and G.U.M. Club the last few months! We have learned that “When life is unfair, God is good” and “When life is scary, God is good.” We know that through all the good and bad and scary in life that God is always good! We’ve learned about Joseph, David and Goliath, Jonah, and many more.

In December we turn our attention to Advent and waiting for Jesus’ coming at Christmas. We began our lessons during Messy Church by making Advent wreaths. We will learn that when we need hope, peace, joy, and love that God is good!

On **December 19** we will be having a small party during GUM Club including hot chocolate, Christmas card making, and a white elephant gift exchange. Each kid can bring a wrapped present that will be used during the exchange.

That same night at 6 PM, bring the whole family for Popcorn, Cocoa, and Christmas lights. Check out the insert for more details.

There will be no official GUM Club on December 26 and January 2, but come to worship at 10 am after which will be a **Cookies and Kahoot on Dec. 26 (Fellowship Hall)** and **Cookies and Fellowship on Jan 2 (Sanctuary and Parlor)**.

Our next Messy Church gathering will be in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 9 at 10 am.

We are looking forward to this month and to the excitement of celebrating Christmas together!



STUDENT MINISTRY

Sundays in December @ 10 AM: Sunday School in the Student Ministry Room
BRING YOUR BIBLE! Prizes will be awarded!

Sunday, December 5 @3-7 PM: WHIRLYBALL

Bring a mask and money for McDonalds

Meet at the church at 3 PM and we will journey to Bedford Heights—eat at McDonalds up there, then play an hour of awesome Whirlyball and journey home. Friends are welcome—bring a completed Permission form on greensburgumc.net.



Sunday, December 12 in Worship—FAMILY RECITAL DAY Bring your talent—music, poetry, art and share it with your church family! **Both services!**

Sunday, December 12 @ 4 PM: Lesson and Carols with Potluck @ Uniontown UMC.

Come together with your family for a night of celebrating the coming of Christ in word and song. Followed by a potluck.

Sunday, December 19 @ 6 PM Popcorn, Cocoa, and Christmas Lights

As part of our Close to Home series, all families and friends are invited to come together at the church, grab some cocoa and popcorn and journey together through the city of Green to check out Christmas lights. Invite your friends and families to join in. The best part—you can wear your JAMMIES!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION—SUNDAYS @ 10 AM

As community built around conversation, this provides an opportunity to talk with others of all ages about the scripture and lesson of the day. Bring your morning beverage with you—any one is welcome. There are 2 ways to connect:

Online via Zoom | Meeting: 892 6692 8296 | Password: 977418

Starting Sunday, October 3, the group will meet in the Fellowship Hall, inside the church.

Masks and distancing are strongly encouraged while indoors.

Greensburg UMC

2161 Greensburg Rd,
North Canton, OH 44720

330.896.1936
www.greensburgumc.net

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

Participate in Give it Forward Sunday, December 26 by offering an additional gift to support the ministries and mission of Greensburg UMC

Engage with Advent Events throughout December by participating or volunteering (see insert)

Give to our special Christmas Collections for Battered Women's Shelter, Open M, and Rahab Ministries

Sing in the choir and praise band, or ring bells to praise the Lord during worship this season

Participate in the Trex Plastic Recycling Challenge—drop off plastic and become a bag dropper

Support the transformational ministries of the church by your

Prayers (pray for ministry and people)

Presence (come and participate)

Gifts (Donating items and/or Providing a Financial Gift)

Service (Lead or Volunteer to make gathering a success!)

Witness (Tell others about it and invite)

CROSS TALK DEADLINE

All articles for the Newsletter need to be submitted to the Office, no later than the 20th. If you wish to be included in the birthdays and anniversary lists or wish to volunteer for an activity or group, please contact the office. Volunteers are always welcome. Thank you, Pam Moore ~ Admin Asst



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT GREENSBURG UMC

LAYING THE FOUNDATION | 12.5 | 9 AM FELLOWSHIP HALL & 11 AM SANCTUARY

During worship, we will have friendly competition and conversation. We will also celebrate communion, a central foundation to our faith family fellowship.

HOME FOR ALL | 12.12 | 9 AM FELLOWSHIP HALL & 11 AM SANCTUARY

Family Recital during worship: Share a talent like poetry, art, music, dance or a special skill.

LESSON AND CAROLS | 12.12 @ 4:00 PM | UNIONTOWN UMC, FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK

All are invited to Uniontown UMC for a night of lesson and carols to celebrate Christ's birth. If you would like to be part of this night in the choir, please talk with Rev. Katie. Following the service, there will be a potluck. Be encouraged to bring a dish if you would like to stay.

SEEKING SANCTUARY | 12.19 | 9 AM FELLOWSHIP HALL & 11 AM SANCTUARY

As Mary and Joseph traveled to a familiar, yet different home, we hold tight to those needing safe spaces and sanctuary in our community.

POPCORN, COCOA, AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS | 12.19 @ 6:00 PM | GUMC PARKING LOT

Bring your family and friends. Wear comfy clothes or your jammies. Start at the church to say hello and grab some popcorn and cocoa. Then, caravan with the group around Green to catch the Christmas lights.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE | 12.21 @ 7:00 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

A Longest Night service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle, amidst grief and loss. The hope is for the service to provide a space of calm, quiet, and healing.

INVITED HOME | CHRISTMAS EVE | 12.24 @ 7:30 PM & 11:00 PM | SANCTUARY

Lesson and carols and candlelight as we welcome Christ into our hearts and homes. 11 PM will also include communion. Services will be available online as well.

CHOSEN HOME | 12.26 @ 10:00 AM | FELLOWSHIP HALL - WORSHIP AND COOKIES AND KAHOOT!

Celebrating Christ in our midst! Bring cookies to share and an electronic device to use after worship for COOKIES AND KAHOOT! (Kahoot is an interactive game for those in person and at home online. We will be quizzed on Christmas themed questions.)

HOME BY ANOTHER WAY | 1.2 @ 10:00 AM | SANCTUARY - COOKIES AND FELLOWSHIP

Epiphany brings Magi and their gifts, as we present our Christmas Mission Offering. The service will comprise of favorite carols and the heart behind their words. Bring cookies to share following worship in the Parlor as we spend time celebrating together as a faith family.

REMINDER: CHRISTMAS MISSION GIVING

December 5 through January 2. Designate your special Mission Giving to support these three local ministries to bring Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to all this Christmas season!

Make checks out to Greensburg UMC, noting the specific mission. You can also donate through Vanco



BLANKETS AND A MOVIE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8 @ 1-4 PM

Starting January 2022, each month will have a mission focus in which the church to learn and participate. January begins this journey with Akron Children's NICU.

Saturday, January 8 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, you are invited to bring family and friends, along with your sewing gear to help create layettes and blankets for the NICU. This help premies and their parents as they await the promised day to head home.

We will also have a movie during that time, to help our work along.

There are three ways you can exercise your resources to participate in this mission. You can do one or two or all three.

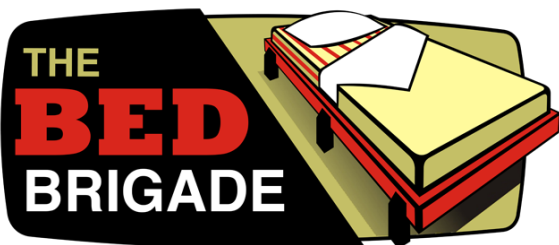
WALK: Pray for the families and children who will receive these blankets and layettes at Akron Children's

JOG: Donate funds or fabric. Checks can be made out to Greensburg UMC, with the note Blankets. Fabric needed: cotton or flannel—3-5 yards. Please wash ahead of time.

RUN: Bring your sewing gear—from scissors to machines—and join in the fun in making layettes and blankets while watching a movie with friends and family. Help teach a youngster a new skill. Show off your talents. Bring hope and joy to families where hope is small.

Blankets and Layettes will be dedicated during worship on January 9, and delivered later that week.

Hope to see you there!



THE BED BRIGADE MEETING: JANUARY 11 @ 6:30 PM

There a members of Greenburg UMC who are interested and curious about the Bed Brigade. On Jan 11 @ 6:30 pm, join Rev. Katie Osier for a conversation about what it is and what it may mean for Greensburg UMC. We will choose a date to go and see the work being done in Grove City, Ohio. Know someone who may be interested—INVITE THEM! It can be someone who goes to our church or someone new. All are welcome in this new venture.