



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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New Year's Resolutions: I am sure many of us have tried to commit to something – whether losing weight, getting a better handle on our finances, connecting to family and friends more, quitting a bad habit... the list is endless. Some commitments succeed. Some commitments start strong and wither away. Some commitments make it one day.

Maybe the hardship falls on us because resolutions require personal and individual, self-motivated endeavors and strength? As those who follow Christ, though, realize we are not alone and not even our own. Perhaps it is time to call on the strength in Christ to recreate our hearts, souls, bodies, and minds for God's use and purpose. But what does that mean?

Beginning January 10, the sermon series will be looking to John Wesley's Covenant Prayer. The Covenant Prayer describes missional life devoted to following Jesus and serving as Christ's representative in the world he loves and is working to redeem. It tells us that being a Christian is more a way of life than a system of beliefs. The Covenant Prayer describes the Jesus way of self-giving and self-emptying love.

This way of living and loving is possible only in a community centered in the life and mission of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ. Wesley and the early Methodists annually prayed the Covenant Prayer presuming everyone was part of a class meeting or band that met weekly for accountability and support for living this prayer. And everyone had a discipleship coach in their class leader who encouraged and prayed for them.

Along with worship, there will be a zoom meeting (Code: 861 0404 1274 Pass: 445979) available each week (and hopefully a potential to meet in person with classes) at 11:00 AM to discuss the section of the prayer. There will also be Grow, Pray, Serve sheet each week to help with our accountability and growth. These will provide excellent conversation starters for your home and with one another through phone calls and meeting times.

Might GUMC go beyond resolving to change something through our own will power, but, instead, covenant with God to surrender to a life God has in mind for each person and the community of believers – a life of redemptive love.

"I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

John Wesley



Grace and Peace,
Rev. Katie Osier



JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Denny Hartong
- 8 Denise Clay
- 15 Jeremiah Campbell
- Sally Fosnight
- 16 Allie Payne
- 16 Jill Lehman
- 20 John Clay
- 24 Kelly Witsaman
- 25 Alex Nibling
- 26 Scott Waseman
- Shelly Keller
- 27 Faye Shahan
- 30 Donna Nicol

**If you would like added to our newsletter birthday and/or anniversary calendar contact the office.*



- 2 Joe & Janice Conley
- 25 Mike & Hazel Trinko
- 31 Vince & Jill Lehman

Special Thanks

We would like to thank the church for blessing us with a love offering. With everything going on this year, it means so much that you think of us (and the preschool) in your prayers. We are very fortunate to have such a loving church family. We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and we can't wait to see the good things 2021 brings.

Shannon Miller & Brittney Hurley, Loving Hands Preschool

Thank you GUMC congregation for the very generous gift. My hope and prayer are that we can celebrate together soon. Please all of you stay well and God Bless all of you. Betty Gross

Let me begin with praising the Lord for this congregation and for the Love Offering gift you gave. You blessed me more then you know. May our God bless you for blessing others. Let us all welcome in the New Year with the goodness of our God!
Truly, Pam Moore—Administrative Assistant

THANK YOU TO OUR FAITHFUL CONGREGATION

The church Finance Committee and Administrative Board want to thank our wonderful congregation for their faithfulness throughout this very difficult year. While many non-profit organizations have seen a 20% or greater reduction in giving, the gifts of our congregation have remained fairly consistent through the year, allowing us to maintain our Christian ministry to the community and those in need.

Thank You Greensburg United Methodist Congregation for blessing us with your gifts and service!!

Roger Herbst, Chair of Finance and Treasurer

Bright Hope for Tomorrow Campaign

To the congregation and community of Greensburg UMC: thank you for your generosity towards the Bright Hope for Tomorrow Campaign. Together, you raised \$249, 162.62 which put in new air conditioners, new windows, new lights, renovated the Fellowship Hall, insulated spaces, and so much more. When people walk into the building, they are impressed at its look and its inviting spaces. Trustees will be working with the remaining \$43,135.85 to finish out projects needing completion.

Your combined efforts has made these spaces potential for wonderful ministries God calls the church to do in the very near future. While the Bright Hope for Tomorrow Campaign has come to its completion, the bright hope of this work to allow new dreams and possibilities to manifest begins today! Thank you!

FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC

| OPERATING BUDGET | Giving General | Actual Expenses | Budgeted Expenses |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| November 2020 | \$ 19,253.48 | \$ 21,087.95 | \$ 21,530.08 |
| Year to Date | \$221,583.58 | \$243,066.62 | \$ 265,609.88 |
| BUILDING NOTE | Loan Giving | Monthly | Loan Balance |
| November 2020 | \$ 1,461.00 | \$ 2624.10 | \$107,793.19 |
| BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW | Total Given | Pledged | Balance Available |
| As of 10/31/2020 | \$ 249,162.62 | \$ 233,143.96 | \$ 43,135.85 |

Children's Ministry

Thank you to Rev. Dave and Beth Weyrick for hosting the Advent Event for Kids online! It was a spectacular event. Look for information to come out soon about weekly online Children's Clips, and, hopefully, ministry that will start happening in person as the Students – you have been overly patient, yet ready to get back into the swing of things! Now is the time!

STUDENT MINISTRY

Starting **Wednesday, January 13 at 7 PM**, our group will begin meeting online. The zoom meeting ID is **829 2413 8941**. Look in your email and your Remind for the password. The hope is to meet regularly on Wednesdays, and also start to plan safe in person meetings as time moves forward. Student Ministry leaders cannot wait to see you **Wednesday, January 13!!!**

Worship/Relaunch

Everyone is asking – even your pastor: when will we return to in person? The answer is in reach, but still unknown. The Relaunch team will be meeting in January to determine the date and how worship will move indoors. Do not lose hope.

There is still a more important question to be answered beyond worship: how will Greensburg UMC reach out to its neighbors to invite them to know Jesus Christ – through worship, through love, through working together in service? This unprecedented season has placed those who come to GUMC in a prime spot to live the mission and vision differently. As the world starts to return to a new normal, the church needs to hone its outreach and care – offering the love of Jesus Christ intentionally and openly. Please hold this in your prayers and listen – listen to what God has to say about God's mission in Green, New Franklin, Clinton, Uniontown, Barberton, Canal Fulton, Canton, North Canton, Akron, and Hartville. Then, may the church respond – “And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”

Loving Hands Preschool

Happy New Year! Loving Hands Preschool is off to a great first half of the year! We are currently serving 116 families, and happy to be back at school after the early end to our last school year! It's hard to believe that January is here, and it is time to start planning for our 2021-2022 school year!

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin on:

Tuesday, January 5 at 8am for CURRENT STUDENTS

Tuesday, January 12 @ 8am for RETURNINGFAMILIES/CHURCH MEMBERS

Tuesday, January 19 at 8am for NEW FAMILIES

If you, or anyone you know would be interested in scheduling a tour of our program, please contact Miss Shannon, Preschool Director, at 330-896-1936 or smiller1950@sbcglobal.net

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

This past year has been a roller coaster for all of us but, we would be remiss if we delayed any longer. This past June of 2020 our Preschool Director, Shannon Miller celebrated her 10 years as director of Loving Hands Preschool here at Greensburg UMC. Unfortunately, with Covid it went unnoticed until Wednesday, December 16th. With some staff from the church and preschool we were able to “surprise” Shannon with her well deserved official recognition. Pastor Katie presented her with a gift card to one of her favorite restaurants along with a lovely fresh cut bouquet that was delivered to her that day also. As you see in the picture, it was “Polar Express Day” at the preschool where everyone wore their jammies too! Much Congratulations, Shannon! Thank YOU!!!



Greensburg UMC

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COMMUNICATION FROM:**Green Good Neighbors—Pat Stiles**

Green Good Neighbors would like to thank everyone that helped us provide a wonderful Christmas for our clients. The children were so happy with the wrapped gifts and many people were so gracious and provided unwrapped gifts to supplement the lack of being able to use the gym this year for the Christmas give-away. I don't think anyone missed the way we usually do it for the year 2020. Each family got a grocery gift card to help them provide Christmas food for their family. I wish that we could show you the happy faces and hear all the thank you's that we heard. We couldn't provide for each of our families with out your help. Thank you from the volunteers of Green Good Neighbors for a job well done.

January 10th, 2021 Online Service—Rev. Katie

Please tune in for the Celebration of the Lord's Baptism and Communion. Online at 10am. Celebrating the baptism of Landon, Maddox, and Lennon too!

Epiphany Star

If you did not receive and Epiphany star or would like one, please contact the church office and you will be mailed one or can make arrangements to pick one up at the office.

Mailing REMINDER: 2161 Greensburg Rd NORTH CANTON, OH 44720 We no longer have the Green PO Box!
