

March 2021

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF
HARLEM ROAD UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HRCUpdate

Online worship is a blessing, but nothing beats community worship

By Pastor Bud Leskovac

Pastor Rocky and I are so grateful that the time has come to reopen the Church and begin to rebuild our worship and faith community. I'd like to offer a few thoughts I've been praying about as we enter a different season in the life of our Church.

It feels like the old adage "you never know what you have until it's gone" applies to our common life and faith community. We've missed seeing you and connecting with you and the children and teens. Many have let us know they sense a void in their life without church community. It does feel like we've all been through a long season of drought and our souls thirst for corporate worship and fellowship. Allow me to offer a few thoughts as we reopen our doors.

First, you should do what feels safe for you and your family. Pastor Rocky and I wholeheartedly support that. If you choose to wait a little longer before you come back, we understand that.

Take your time and make the best choices for your family. I know that we have become accustomed to online church, but I want to remind us why participating in your faith community eventually matters so much.

[See Pastor Bud \(continued\)](#)



Returning to the building!

Worship Services

We have returned to two worship services. Our 8:30 am service will bring a traditional feel and include a couple of hymns during worship. Our 11 am service has a more contemporary feel.

The livestream happens at the 11 am service only. This helps our teams of volunteers who lead these ministries to not be overstretched.

No registration is required as we return to in-person worship services.

Child Care and Sunday School

We want to ensure that each child who attends Harlem Road Church is nurtured and loved in the name of Jesus. Nursery and Sunday School classrooms are up and running at our 11 am service. We will continue our routine of worshipping as a family at the beginning of each service, and then partway through inviting our children to Sunday School. Children will be returned to their families before the service is finished, so that we don't cause a bottleneck of people in our hallways.

Adult Sunday School

Ben Humphrey is leading this class at 9:45. We are working on a plan to present this class in a hybrid format to reach both in-person and remote attendees.

Precautionary Measures

We have adopted these protocols according to the CDC, Governor DeWine, and Bishop Palmer to ensure the safest possible environment for in-person worship:

- Proper wearing of masks is required by all staff, ministry teams, volunteers, and worshippers. Please don't make us become mask enforcers!
- Chairs are grouped in 2s, 3s, and 4s. Each group of chairs is 6 feet from the next group.
- Hand sanitizer stations are set up throughout the lobby.
- Custodians will provide regular cleaning of touched surfaces.

We truly are excited to see you!

For those who continue to worship with us online, we are thrilled that you have a space to connect with your church family and, most importantly, Jesus. As we begin this next step together, it is always our goal to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ that unleashes us for all that God has created us to be.



Youth ministry news

Our youth ministry serves teenagers from grades 6-12. We connect our teens to Christ through Sunday School classes, youth group meetings, and regular special events.

We are currently meeting virtually Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm, but we hope to start doing in-person group events soon.

Group leaders are Lisa Riddle and LizStimer. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at harlemroadyouth@gmail.com.

Children's ministry news

By Pam Leskovac

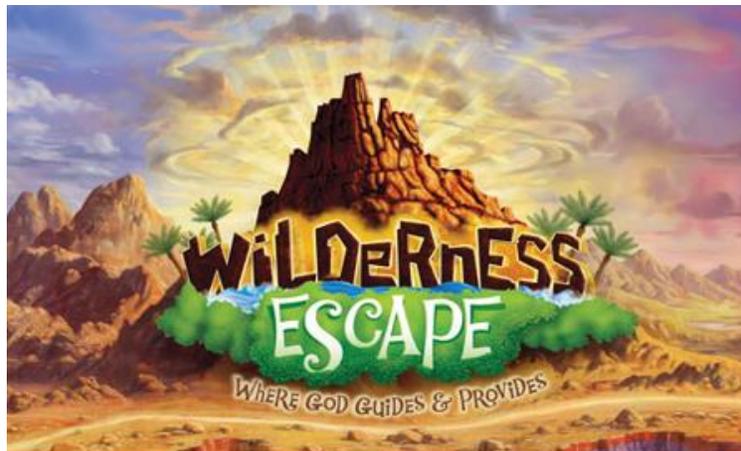
Easter Sunday School bags!

The Easter Bags are complete and ready to be delivered! Each of our children will be receiving their Easter Bag the week of March 1-5. Each bag has 8 weeks of Sunday school lessons (4 Easter lessons and 4 "Curious" lessons). Inside the bag there are Easter crafts, snacks, and plastic eggs stuffed with Easter candy for your very own Easter egg hunt at home. We will be placing the Sunday school lessons for Easter on YouTube before March 18 and the Easter lessons will run through April 4 - Easter Sunday.

Since we are returning to "in-house" church, this will be the last of the Sunday school lesson deliveries. If you're not returning to in-house worship at this time and would like your children to continue receiving these lessons, please contact Pam at pam@harlemroadchurch.org and we will get that in place for you. We certainly don't want any of our kids to miss out on Sunday school!

How In-House Sunday School works

We are offering 2 Sunday school classes at the 11 am service: Toddlers through Kindergarten, and Grades 1-5. Children will begin in the worship service with their parents, and then be dismissed to the Chapel where they break into groups and go to their classes. The teachers bring the children back to the Family Life Center during the closing song – so we won't have parents gathering in the hallways to pick up their children. We ask that the children wear their masks during Sunday school. Volunteers are needed for the nursery (0-3 years) during the 11 am service. Please contact Pam if you are interested!



Save the Date and Volunteer Opportunity: Summer Nights Live

Regardless of whether we are gathering in person or taking our program home, HRC will be hosting "Summer Nights Live: Wilderness Escape, Where God Guides and Provides!" on June 21-23. SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 21-23! SAVE THE DATE!!

We also need volunteers to work during the week of Summer Nights Live! We'll need folks to work with toddlers, PreK/K, Grades 1-2 and Grades 3-5. We will need folks willing to help with registration, crafts, snacks, door guards, and goodie bag stuffers. If you're willing to help with this great outreach event to kids, please contact Pam Leskovac pam@harlemroadchurch.org or Kate Steele ksteele@gmail.com.

Church Rummage Sale!

We are praying that we will be able to have this event this year. The sale has traditionally been the first weekend in May and we may have to push it further into the calendar to properly deal with COVID. Soooo, please start saving your treasures. Think of it as a great way to de-clutter!

And, if we have to cancel, at least you'll have all your treasures in one place to donate somewhere. Please remember, we cannot handle clothes, mattresses, TVs or computers. All items - furniture included - are welcome as long as they are clean and in good condition.



Missions news

by Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka

Harlem Road UMC focuses its Mission Outreach efforts in two key areas....our local Big Walnut community, with an emphasis on Westerville Estates....and our global Haitian community in the Imagine Missions orphanage.

Local Outreach

Our Local Outreach is done in partnership with other churches and organizations....and we call our combined group "SidebySide." The other organizations are Church of the Saviour UMC, New Albany UMC, Chapel North Church, and Harlem Twp. Helping Hands.

Neighborhood Bridges

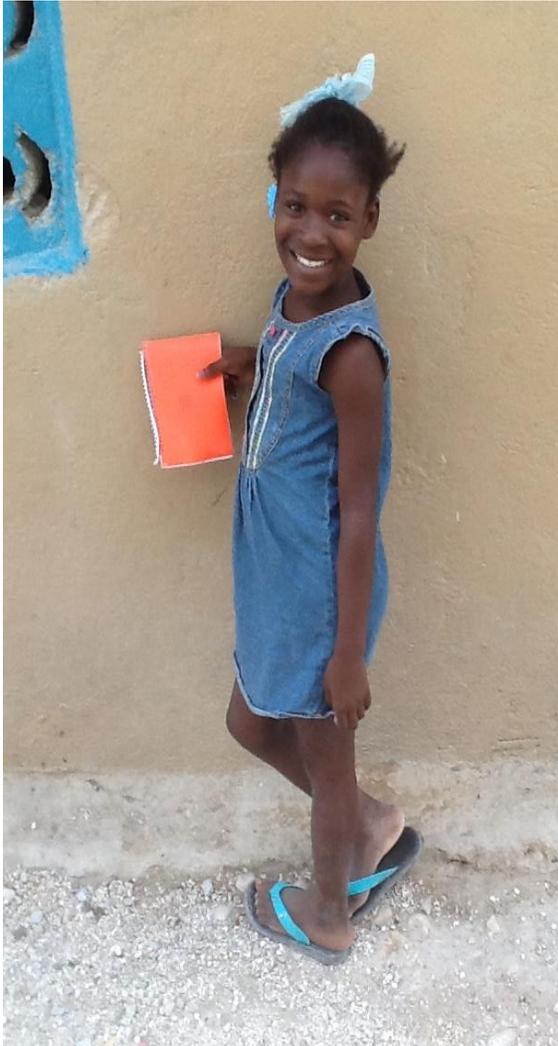
This is a website and a Facebook page for our community. It allows certain persons who have been made aware of a need to post that need. Needs can be seen immediately by actively going into the website. If a need exists longer than 24 hours, emails are sent out to all who have signed up. Please go to www.neighborhoodbridges.org. On that first screen, enter "Big Walnut" in the search bar and then select it when it shows up. Then, on the next screen, you'll have a "Subscribe" space in which to enter your email so that you are notified of upcoming needs. Also on that screen, in the middle of the picture, is a "Donate" button. If you know of a need, please let Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka know so she can post it to the Bridges website.

Bountiful Backpacks

The Bountiful Backpacks program provides food to Big Walnut students who need food over the weekends. Thank you to ALL who have already donated food for this program!!!! Sara Shaw is the leader of this ministry. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Sara at smwolfie3315@gmail.com.

Global Outreach – Children and Families in Haiti

Imagine Missions wants to help families keep their children. It is especially difficult right now due to COVID and Haiti's civil unrest. If you can find it in your heart (and wallet) to provide \$30 or \$60 each month, you can make a tremendous difference!! \$30/month will help a family survive financial challenges and help Imagine Missions provide counseling and social support. \$60/month will help Imagine Missions provide TUITION-FREE education to a child. You can go to www.imaginemissions.org to learn more and to sponsor a child.



This is Elizabeth from our Imagine Missions school in Haiti!



Health and Wellness

by Sue Wilcox

March is National Nutrition Month. Here are some tips to share with your kids.

Encouraging healthy eating can feel like a big task in a world that glorifies candy and chips over healthy foods that will help your kids grow up strong. You can help guide them in the choices they make.

Try to incorporate fruits and vegetables into every meal – including breakfast. Also, limit processed foods and have healthy meals and snacks planned for your kids as well as yourself. It's better to try to set the example of "do as I do," and not the more common "do as I say."

Here are a few fun facts about food that might make your kids think twice about the foods and snacks they choose. You can start the conversation with "Did you know that..."

1. Drinks: A 355 mL can of pop contains 10 to 12 teaspoons of sugar. That's 150 to 180 empty calories. Better to cut your thirst with some water or milk.

2. Protein: Fish, chicken and other lean meats and meat alternatives such as beans and tofu are filled with protein to help keep muscles strong.

3. Veggies: Leafy green vegetables like broccoli and orange vegetables such as carrots and sweet potatoes are full of vitamins to keep you energized and help you play harder for longer.

4. Juice: Fruit is better than the juice! In fact, a raw unpeeled apple has almost 10 times more fiber than a cup of apple juice.

5. Sports drinks: These are composed mostly of water, but their second biggest ingredient is sugar. While sports drinks are OK to drink sometimes after a lot of exercise like a soccer game, you'll get more nutrition (and less empty calories) by having water plus a complex carbohydrate like fresh fruit.

6. Fats: Your body needs good oils and fats to give your muscles quick energy. But if you eat too much, it gets stored in your body. Good fats are found in nuts, avocados, olive oil, canola oil and soft, non-hydrogenated margarine. Bad fats are found in hard margarine, vegetable shortening, butter, coconut and palm oils, fatty meat and full-fat dairy products.

7. Dairy: Lower-fat milk and dairy products and fortified soy products are crammed with calcium to build strong bones that help you to stay safe while playing.

8. Fiber: Eating fiber makes you feel fuller and it's healthy for your heart. Eating a slice of white bread won't satisfy your hunger nearly as much as a slice of 100% whole-wheat bread with the germ. High-fiber foods also have vitamins and minerals to keep your heart strong.

9. Sugar: Sugary soft drinks, sugary cereals, white bread and white rice break down quickly in the body, making you hungry soon after. They can also give you a quick rush of energy, but that is soon used up, leaving you tired and even cranky.

Getting to know you

Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka

Each month, we'll feature one HRC member in this space.

Tell us about the family you were born into, and about the family you have now.

My father was career Air Force personnel retiring as a Lt. Col. My mother was a teacher before being married and they met when they were both in Germany after WWII. My dad was there as part of the Occupation and my mom as a teacher to the American military kids who were also there. Since we were military, we moved a bit. I was born in Washington DC and my sister was born in Del Rio, Tx. I had one sisteruntil I was about 10 when I learned that my father had been married previously and had two sons from that marriage. We never saw them much.

I married right out of college and had two girls, Kelly and Jess, 18 months apart. Kelly is married and living in Richmond, VA, and Jess lives in Lebanon, OH. They are very active in their Christian faith.

My first marriage ended after 11 years and then Dale and I were married about 3 years later and I gained a stepson, Bob, who was only 9 months younger than Jess. Bob is married and has a daughter, Stella, who is two.

...For more about Judy, see [#Getting](#)

Getting to know you (continued)

Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka...

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? What did you end up doing in your career?

This is funny. I thought I'd like to be a "movie star" and some of my first papers that mom saved said that. Instead, I became a computer programmer! One interesting thing is that when I was at Muskingum College, I asked to work as a 3rd shift worker in the school's computer lab and was told I could not because it would be dangerous for me to walk back to my dorm at 3:00 a.m. I happened to mention that to a female professor and the next thing I knew, I was on the phone with the computer professor who said I could work the 3rd shift. Guess I unwittingly broke that glass ceiling for other gals.

Where all have you lived (what cities/towns)? Born in Washington DC, lived in Del Rio and El Paso, TX, in Columbus, Bexley, Pickerington and now Westerville.

Tell us about your most memorable vacation. I enjoy all of them, but I guess a great one was going to Ireland with Dale in 2017 where we were on our own to explore and drive all over the country. I was the driver, driving on the "wrong" side of the road and the "wrong" side of the car to see many historical and beautiful places.

What are some things that you really enjoy doing, and why? I really enjoy helping and encouraging others, regardless of the need. Well, I guess I have to admit that if they need food, I don't enjoy cooking...but I'll buy something! I love going to Haiti and helping there, meeting the kids, encouraging them in school and in learning English. I also really enjoy teaching our 3-5th grade students at church!!!

What are you most proud of? I don't know if "proud" is the right word. I feel really blessed to have connected with so many friends over my adult years (maybe that's so special because I moved so much as a child). I'm blessed that God has given me skills such as singing, organization/administration, teaching, and the desire to keep learning. I'm thankful (proud?) that I have those skills and are able to use them for myself and for others.

What are a couple of things that you love about HRC? The PEOPLE! The LOVE! The FUN! I think HRC is a true church FAMILY and I'm so glad I'm part of this family.



Pastor Bud (continued)

Here are just a few thoughts:

God established the Church for the benefit of community and reminded us that it is vital to engage with fellow believers.

You are a vital part of giving and receiving within the community of Church Family and your presence is very important to you and to others.

It's hard to serve in ministry from home. Without being engaged with others, there's little sense of belonging.

You can't easily benefit from the community of faith, and you can't easily support others in the community of faith from home.

Online church is a blessing for sure, but you can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshiping together from home.

Christians aren't consumers, we are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together in community.

The church needs you. And I believe we all need the Church.

To come alongside one another physically has great value and cannot happen through technology. While I'm grateful for the technology that has kept us connected for the past year, and will continue to keep us connected for the foreseeable future, in my strong opinion, it's absolutely not like being in the building together. And it never will be.

I'm pretty confident you know all of this already...Just felt like it needed to be said.

When you are ready...we are here...and we are excited to see you! If you are not quite ready, we support that choice and we are excited to continue to worship with you and your family online.

Many Blessings & Much Love,

Pastor Bud



Prayer Requests

Requests:

Gerry Duncan, Jim Bernhardt, Jenny Fravel, Donna Evans, Dwayne Piper, Tony Hamilton, Drew Davidson, Eli Wolfe, Petra Hinterscheid, Ruby Passen, Roger Davis, Missy Sandy, Teresa Wilke, Dennis Dittiacier, Tim Saksa, Mary Reed, Dave Straiko, Mary Rogers, Yvonne Lake, George Pollock, people with Covid-19

Military Service & First Responders:

Lisa Riddle, Michael Morales, Codey Falk, Gage Duncan, Trace Troendly, Kyle Disbennett, Jacob Hutchinson, Logan Booty, Ethan Mosely, Jakeb Cokeril, Michael Albaugh, Joe Pasqua, Jeremy Ragan, Christina Hahn, Chad Cunningham, Scott Crowell, Sean Hatch, John Smock, Stuart David, Nathan Brumbaugh, James Martin, David Gish, Nathan Bertram, Tyler Albaugh, Chaplain David Hogg, Alex Hussey, Kevin Miller, Spencer Morris, Mike Neely, Justin Pickworth, Josh Ripley, Matt Robertson, Eric Roddy, Rob Sagle, Dave Wheeler, David White, Brian Williams, Lucas and Conner.

Community connection groups



Thinking about joining a small group, but not sure which one might be right for you? Contact the leaders to find out more about the people in the group and what they do!

- **Men's Bible Study:** We meet virtually on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Contact Jim Bernhardt with your email to get on the mailing list for study notes and other advisories.
Leader: Jim Bernhardt (bernhari@gmail.com)
- **Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study:** Ellen Jacobs' small group has temporarily stopped meeting together in her home, but we are connecting through other means. Ellen will notify the church office, and those who regularly attend, once we believe it is safe to convene in person meetings. This will be based on guidance from the state and medical entities.
Leader: Ellen Jacobs (jacobsellen53@gmail.com or 614-406-4337)
- **Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study:** We will be meeting virtually (through zoom) at 7:00 pm one Wednesday each month. Leader: Diana Robertson (office@harlemroadchurch.org or 614-882-9487)
- **Women's Lunch Bunch:** Sad to say – no lunches yet.
Leader: Bobbi Pollock (bobbi10820@gmail.com or 614 496 7405)
- **Saturday Couples' Group:** Current studies, occasional dinner out. We take turns hosting. Please contact Lisa Danne for the latest information.
Leaders: Ron and Lisa Danne (lisad@columbus.rr.com or 740-244-7223)
- **Ayers' Group:** Holding virtual meetings on the 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm.
Current leader: Barb Bright. Contact Karen Benton (kabee115@aol.com) for more information.

HRC Zoom Account

Thanks to the gift of a generous donor, Harlem Road Church is now able to host your team or small group's meeting. With a second licensed seat under the church's account, this will leave room for any team or group that needs a virtual meeting space. This licensed seat allows any group to host up to 100 participants and have unlimited time for their meeting.

In order to reserve your time, please call Diana in the office at (740) 965-4543. Diana will schedule your zoom meeting and send you a link with the proper sign in username and password. We hope this additional seat allows any group in the church to continue to meet and connect with God and one another. If you have any questions, please let us know.