

April 2021

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER of
HARLEM ROAD UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HRCUpdate

Getting to Know You Ben Wolfe

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.

I was born in Xenia, OH in February, 1984. My mother and father had an amicable divorce when I was just 3 years old, and my mother remarried when I was 5. Because of this, I always said that I have "two dads." I have grown up with my step-father and my biological father being equally important in my life.

My mother is a United Methodist Pastor in Springfield and was previously the lead pastor at Catawba UMC, Nation Chapel UMC, Johnstown UMC, and Fletcher UMC. She is currently semi-retired on disability due to atrial fibrillation. My step-father is a graphic designer for Nationwide Children's Hospital and helps manage their in-house printshop. Together, they also counsel couples for the Encompass Connection Center in Springfield, OH.

My father is a retired electrician who spent 25+ years working for Ross Labs (Abbott Labs) in Columbus. He lives on Gorsuch Rd. about 2 miles from HRC with my step-mother Karen. They love the outdoors and have beautiful landscaping and gardens.

For more about Ben, see [Getting on page 4](#).



Easter Is Coming!

We can't wait to celebrate Easter with you on April 4 this year! Our services will be held at 8am and 10am with a livestream of the service happening at the 10am hour. The worship team has done a fantastic job in telling the Easter story through song, narration, scripture, and message. We truly hope you will engage in this life-changing Good News of Christ's resurrection!

As we prepare to welcome everyone on Easter morning, it is helpful for us to know that you are attending. Currently, our Family Life Center can hold 150 chairs as we try and maximize our seating while still holding to protocols provided by the CDC. It also helps us to know who is attending because our Easter breakfast will be held at 7am prior to the 8am service. An accurate head count allows Chef Mike and his team to prepare a hearty breakfast for all to enjoy!

Please RVSP with Diana in the office at (740) 965-4543. She will be happy to assist you in the sign-up process. Thank you for your grace and understanding as we balance before us a desire to make space for everyone to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter and maintain the safest environment possible at this time.

Love Offering

We know that Easter is not just a one-day event. Every time we gather as a church family and worship God, there is resurrection power to unleash people from whatever might be holding them back in life. Jesus puts it this way in John 10:10, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." This has been our series text we have been leaning into as we pray that God would unleash our faith.

We believe Harlem Road Church is being unleashed through this season. This is an exciting time to be a part of this church as we are watching God's Kingdom grow and unfold right before us! This growth also means that there are growing needs to help ensure that our ministries are prepared and equipped with the right funds to continue this growth.

You can give online or by sending your gift to the church at 5520 Harlem Road, Galena, OH 43201. If God has blessed you to not be in need of the recent distribution of stimulus checks, please consider giving a tithe, portion, or all to the Easter love offering. We would be grateful for any size of gift given.

Youth ministry news

By Liz Stimer

The youth group meets every Sunday following the 11:00 service. We meet from 12:15-2 pm. Our activities include devotions/lessons, games, special events, mission projects, fellowship, and fun. All are welcome to join. As of now, we ask that students pack a lunch as we are unable to provide lunch at this time.

Our next meeting is on April 10. We are going to begin the study, "A New Normal." This new 4-week series helps students adjust to the "new normal" of the world around them. In the last few months, most of us have found ourselves asking "When will things go back to 'normal'?" The impact of COVID-19 has lasted far longer than we thought (or wanted). This series will help students adjust to the new normal of the world around them, AND the new normal of following Jesus.

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



Children's ministry news

By Pam Leskovic

In-house Sunday School has Resumed for the 11 O'clock Service!

We are offering 2 Sunday school classes: Toddlers through Kindergarten – and Grades 1-5 for the 11am service.

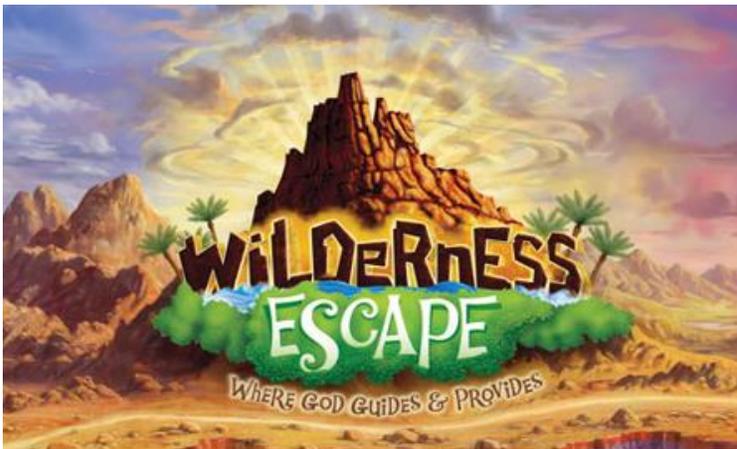
We will continue to tape our Sunday school lessons and post them on YouTube for the next 4 weeks. "Curious?" lessons begin on Sunday, April 11. Those packets went out (one per family) in the Easter Bags. If you're not planning to return to inhouse worship and would like the taped lessons and/or curriculum bags continued, you'll need to contact Pam Leskovic at pam@harlemroadchurch.org. We will make up packets for you to pick up – and move forward with Sunday school from there.

Thank You!

Ellen Jacobs, Lisa Riddle, Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka & Dee Spring, along with youth Brooke, Sydney & London Steele were all helpers in our "Curriculum Box/Bucket/Bag" efforts over the past several months. You've helped HRC get the Good News of Jesus out to our kids! Thank you all a million times over!

Nursery Workers Needed for the 11 am Service

If you'd like to volunteer to work with our youngest children (new to age 2) please let Pam Leskovic know. We need 2 more folks willing to volunteer once a month and 1 person to volunteer 3-4x a year on those months with 5 Sundays.



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 Leskovic pam@harlemroadchurch.org or Kate Steele ksteelie@gmail.com.

Church Rummage Sale is ON!

We're back!!! Our annual sale to support Missions will be **Friday and Saturday, June 18 & 19** this year. We'll need to do a few things differently due to COVID, so please read on carefully.

All items **MUST** be brought to the church starting on Sunday, June 6 and **NO LATER THAN Thursday, June 10**. This is very important because it gives all items a chance to "self-quarantine" before we start handling them for set-up. The CDC still says that the virus can remain on glass, steel and plastic up to 5 days. Items will be stored in the church in several different rooms and we'll have exact details at that time.

Soooo, please start saving your treasures. Think of it as a great way to de-clutter! Please remember, we cannot handle clothes, mattresses, TVs or computers. All items - furniture included - is welcome as long as it's clean and in good condition.

Setup and Sale Volunteers Needed!

Please let Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka (judysharpekos@gmail.com) know if you can help during set-up (Wed and Thurs evenings, 5:00- 8:00 p.m.) or during the Sale (Fri and Sat, 8:00a - 3:00p). Shifts during the sale days will be 2-3 hours each.



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 Galena UMC, 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.

Produce Giveaway Needs Volunteers

The produce giveaway kicks off again in April. We provide fresh produce at the church on the third Saturday of each month.

If you'd like to help, the truck needs to be unloaded around 9 am and we begin distributing the food at 10 am. We would love to have people come out and see the lives that this ministry touches!

For more information, contact Mishelle Soule at bristol2425@yahoo.com.

Market Place Is Back This Fall!

By Ellen Jacobs

Market Place returns on October 2, 2021!

This is our annual fundraiser for Imagine Missions, and it has been a great way to support God's work in Haiti, while enjoying a shopping experience with unique gifts from a variety of talented artisans. We will also have the renowned cafe up and running.

This event will take place from 10 - 3 on Saturday, October 2, and we will need a number of volunteers to assist in this effort. Any contribution of time, energy or talent will last for all eternity and hold tremendous value as an investment in your future. Help is needed for set up and tear down on the day of the event, as well as in the cafe and the entrance table. Any amount of time offered will be greatly appreciated.

We appreciate any contributions of art work or a craft, or anything of value that can be used in our silent auction. We are also accepting applications now, if you know of someone who may be interested in participating in this great event.

If you wish to help in any way, please contact Ellen Jacobs via text 614-406-4337 or email jacobsellen53@gmail.com.

Getting to know you (continued)

Ben Wolfe...

I grew up in the same church as my wife, Megan, in Rossford, near Toledo. Megan's cousin was one of my best friends growing up and our families were very close. Megan and I began dating after she graduated high school and we both attended Kent State University. Two weeks after I graduated, we were married in Rossford UMC in 2006. After Megan graduated, we were trying to figure out where we should live. I was working in Cleveland for an Audio/Visual company and Megan had a teaching degree, but all the school districts in Northeast Ohio were laying off teachers, not hiring them. So, we decided to move to Westerville without jobs. I kept working in Cleveland (while living in Westerville!) while Megan looked for a teaching job. Needless to say, we had some lean times. But, several miracles later (and about 6 months), we both had jobs in Columbus.

Megan works as a teacher at Worthington Estates Elementary and has been teaching in Worthington for 14 years. She currently teaches 3rd-6th grade Gifted Math and loves it.

We have three wonderful children: Elijah, Jackson, and Audrey. Eli is 11 and attends Emerson Elementary. Eli enjoys participating in Scouts and just crossed over from Cub Scouts into Scouts BSA. He also enjoys working with computers and reading every book he can get his hands on. Jackson is 9 and attends Emerson. Jackson loves being outside, playing with friends, and doing computer programming. He also reads every book he can find, and does a lot with his Den in Cub Scouts. Audrey is 4 and in preschool. She is a ball of energy and keeps us on our toes. She loves anything princesses and to be outside playing in the woods with friends. She is very friendly and outgoing and always the center of attention. She is working very hard on her reading and keeps her older brothers in line.

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? What did you end up doing in your career? Well... Growing up I always said that I wanted to be a "Jack-of-all-Trades, Master of Four." The way I currently describe myself is, "A Golf Pro with a Theatre Degree working in Software." I have a pretty wide array of interests and had a hard time trying to figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up. To this day I would still say I haven't figured it out. I have been very blessed these past 6 ½ years to work for a start-up software company. Being part of a small, and quickly growing, company has given me the flexibility to explore different jobs within the company and to utilize my strengths where they are most needed. Today, I am a Product Manager for Golf Genius Software where I oversee all of our customer and employee feedback about our software. I organize and prioritize these feedback items for the software development team and I push them through to completion and implementation into the software. I am able to work directly with every team in the company, as well as many of our largest customers. This position has me traveling quite a bit (up to 1-2 weeks per month during non-pandemic times) and is always interesting

Tell us about your most memorable vacation. An especially memorable vacation was when Megan and I were able to take a kid-less trip a few years ago to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. It was so great to have the time to ourselves and to just relax. No real plans, no rushing around, no timelines. Just doing whatever we wanted for a few days.

What are some things that you really enjoy doing, and why? I love to travel, eat, play golf, go to Disney World, and make memories with our family. The stuff (and people) in our lives will come and go, but the memories made will last no matter what.

What are you most proud of? I am most proud of the kids we have. Megan and I don't always feel like we are doing a great job, but then the kids surprise you and make you proud of how they react in a situation, or how they handle themselves. Watching them grow up and explore their passions is very rewarding.

What do you love about HRC? I love how open and welcoming HRC is to new people, and then how they turn around and show that love to the surrounding community. I love that HRC lives outside the walls of the church building. HRC isn't the land or the place or the building; HRC is the people and how those people show Jesus' love to a broken world.



Prayer Requests

Requests:

AJ Glover, Phyllis Hess, Tonia Duncan, Jim Bernhardt, Jenny Fravel, Donna Evans, Dwayne Piper, Tony Hamilton, Drew Davidson, Eli Wolfe, Petra Hinterschied, Gerry Duncan, Ruby Passen, Roger Davis, Missy Sandy, Teresa Wilke, Tim Saksa, Pat Reed, Jim Thornhill, Vicki Troendly, Jean McGlothlin, Dennis Dittiacier, Vickie Dell Tieche, Helen Stevens, Hampton Family

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 continues to meet via zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. We do not yet have a date for meeting in person. Any female who's looking for a study to join can contact Ellen. 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.