

Summer 2021

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER of
HARLEM ROAD UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HRCUpdate

Getting to Know You: Iva O’Ryan

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

Tell us about the family you were born into.

I was born in Marion, Ohio and am the youngest of three sisters. I am married to Shaun O’Ryan, who runs his own counseling business, On the Rock Christian Counseling.

Tell us about your career...

I always wanted to be a teacher. In high school I knew I wanted to be an English teacher. I’m currently an English teacher at Licking Heights High School.

My first full-time teaching job was at Southwest Indian School in Phoenix, Arizona. I was a missionary with World Gospel Mission. After two years there, the school closed, and Shaun and I moved back to Ohio and landed in Columbus where he had grown up. We’ve been in central Ohio since 1999.

What are some things that you really enjoy?

As an English teacher I enjoy reading, and sometimes rereading, classic novels, but I also love easy summer reading like humorous mysteries and comic books my hubs recommends. I also love OSU and Green Bay Packer football!

For more about Iva, see [Getting](#) on page 2.



Europe in the pandemic: an HRC member’s view

By Cate Wheeler

I’ve wanted to study abroad in college ever since I can remember, but never did I imagine that I would do so during a global pandemic. This semester has had its highs and lows, but I wouldn’t change a thing.

I’m a sophomore student at Miami University studying kinesiology and minoring in nutrition. Miami has a “branch” campus in Luxembourg—and yes, even though you’ve probably never heard of it, it is actually its own country. So, at the end of this past January, I boarded a plane with about 50 other Miami students, and we headed off to this tiny country surrounded by France, Germany, and Belgium, to take classes and travel. My college roommate, the only other study abroad student I knew going into the semester, and I were both staying with the same host family in the small town of Differdange.

The beginning of the semester had a bit of a rocky start, when we learned that even though many European countries had lower covid rates than the U.S., there were far stricter regulations still in place.

We had heard the glorious tales of students in this program traveling to a different country every weekend. When we arrived and were told that we were not allowed to book hotels with people from other households, or that many of the surrounding countries’ borders were closed, or that only select restaurants were open for takeaway, many students were rightfully disappointed.

I tried my best to keep a positive attitude and remind myself that, seeing as this was my first time in Europe, it would still be a worthwhile experience just to explore Luxembourg for the rest of the semester. As I write this now, it feels crazy to say that I’ve visited 10 countries in the last 15 weeks, some on multiple occasions.

I met some of the best friends I have at Miami through this program, despite having only known each other for a short while. In the first few weeks, we bonded over things that didn’t seem like laughing matters at the time—like forgetting a backpack on public transportation (and then breaking the replacement laptop), screwing up public transportation and accidentally finding yourself in France, or tripping over cobblestone streets and getting a black eye. (continued – see [Cate Wheeler](#) on page 2)

Children's ministry news

By Pam Leskovac

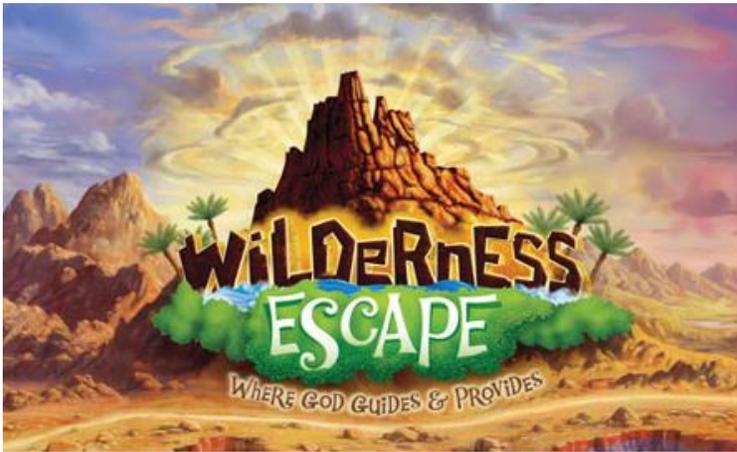
Sunday School Is Moving to the 10 am Service

Currently, we are holding two Sunday school classes:

Toddlers through Kindergarten
Grades 1-5

Children start in the worship service with their family and then are dismissed to go to the Chapel, where they divide into groups and head to their classrooms. Then, when the closing song of the service begins, the children will return to their parents in the Family Life Center.

If you're NOT returning to in-house worship yet, we have Sunday school curriculum bags complete with snacks, crafts, coloring pages, lessons and supplies – ready for you to pick up! Just drop by the church Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 3 pm and sign in on the clipboard. Take as many tote bags as you need for your family!



Summer Nights Live: Updates

Summer Nights Live: Wilderness escape, where God Guides and Provides!! is going to happen "IN-HOUSE" this year! We are excited to have our children gather for this great event! You can register online through Facebook or the church's web page.

Please get the word out to all the kids in your life! We'd love to overflow our space with children.

In the Craft Station, we'll make a cool walking stick to help us on our journey in the wilderness. We'll eat manna and quail (our special version) in the Story Station. We'll have WATER DAY on Tuesday in the Game Station. We'll sing and dance our way through the Music Station. We'll snack on some yummy treats each evening in the Snack Station, too!

So please plan to join in the fun! Questions? Please contact Pam Leskovac pam@harlemroadchurch.org or Kate Steele ksteelie@gmail.com.

Consider Teaching Sunday School

Sunday school for 2021-2022 is now being organized. If you have a heart for Jesus, and like to be around children, consider being a volunteer to teach a Sunday school class. We'd love to have you join the Children's Sunday School Team!

We will need 5 teachers for each of these classes:

Toddlers (ages 2-3)
PreK/K Kids
Grades 1-3 Class
Grades 4-5 Class

Here's how Sunday school works at HRC when we hold one service: You'll teach one Sunday (the same Sunday) each month. Curriculum, snacks, activity pages and occasionally a craft are provided in each room. You just need to read through your Sunday school lesson to prepare for your Sunday with the kids. An email reminder is usually sent out each week on Wednesday – so if it's your week to teach, you'll receive a reminder! We'd love to have you join the Children's Sunday School Team!

Contact Pam Leskovac at pam@harlemroadchurch.org or fill out a volunteer form in the Sunday bulletin and drop it in the offering plate!

Children's Christmas Musical

Watch for details about the upcoming Christmas musical for kids age 4 through 5th grade. We didn't get to have our musical last year – but plan to hit the ground running in September to provide a great musical for our church. We will have a table in the lobby in late August/early September for the kids to grab a CD and a tryout packet.

Youth ministry news

Traditionally the youth group does not meet during the summer. However, we are hoping to do a few special events with the youth throughout the summer. We are asking youth families to save these dates: June 27, July 11, July 25, August 1.

Group leaders are Lisa Riddle and Liz Stimer. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at harlemroadyouth@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 - are welcome as long as they are 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.

Produce Giveaway: May and Summer Update

By Mishelle Soule

The May produce market was a huge success. We had around 50 families that came out. We gave away a ton of food. On averages, families received about \$38 worth of fresh produce. What a huge impact that is in their lives! We also loaded up the van for Central College Food Pantry, which services around 42 families. We are now allowing people to get out of their cars and "shop" for the items that they want or need. Oh, how wonderful it is to be in real conversations with everyone involved!

Our summer produce markets will be held on June 19, July 17, and August 23. We start unloading at the church around 9 am and are here until around 1-2 pm.

If you have never helped out with this mission, I challenge you to stop by for just a bit to see the impact that your church family is making in the lives of so many people.

Global Outreach – Children and Families in Haiti

Haiti is in crisis especially now due to COVID - can you spare \$1/day to help?

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.

Getting to know you (continued)

Iva O’Ryan...

Tell us about your most memorable vacation.

Right after Shaun finished his Masters degree in Clinical Counseling at Ashland Theological Seminary, we took a trip to San Diego, California. We spent one day at the San Diego International Comic Con, one of the elite international cons. I’m pretty sure that checked something off my husband’s bucket list.

We also visited the San Diego Zoo, which was particularly amazing. Did you know there is an outdoor escalator there? We also visited the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. This aquarium sits on a cliff in La Jolla and has an outdoor tide pool with AMAZING west coast views.

What gives you the most joy?

One of the best days ever is the last day of school each year!

I enjoy game nights with friends and family and remembering to take plenty of pictures.

What do you love about HRC?

I love the presence of the Holy Spirit at HRC. People are willing to learn and go deeper in their knowledge of the word as well as their experiences with God. I especially love how we have built praise teams that can sing and play interchangeably and each grouping is able to lead our people to true worship of our Savior.

And the people. This church has people who live out the commandment to love one another. They are inspiring.



Market Place Reminder

By Ellen Jacobs

Come enjoy this great day of shopping and take time to enjoy lunch in the cafe, all while supporting our children in Haiti. All proceeds go to Imagine Missions, which provides family and educational support for underprivileged children in Haiti. You’ll find great specialty items from local artists and crafters, and our cafe food is the best around. It’s a fun day that you don’t want to miss!

Put it on your calendar and plan to be there: October 2, 2021
Hours are 10 am - 3 pm.

Volunteers are still needed for this special day, and we still have room for a few more vendors if you know of someone with a special craft or product.

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

Coming Up: "Better Together" - a day to help our community!

Our date for this day to serve our community has changed by one week to be **AUGUST FIRST**.

On that Sunday, Harlem Road Church families, guests, and friends will join with other community members for a day of serving our community. We will be laying mulch and painting at Big Walnut Schools, building a dog "bark park" at the Westerville Estates mobile home park and giving out school supplies and new shoes. We're hoping to have 100-200 people join together that day for worship, lunch and service.

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW TO JOIN US! A registration link will be available soon.

Cate Wheeler: adventures in Europe (continued)

About two weeks into the semester, my friends and I took our first cross-border trip to Metz, France. Traveling between European countries in the Schengen region was as easy as traveling between states here in the U.S. We bought train tickets, and three hours later, we were in our first new country. It seemed like a big deal at the time, though on later trips, we would pass through Metz to get back to Luxembourg and expertly navigate around the station without even thinking about it. The next couple weekends, we got our feet under us a little more. We climbed a mountain in Interlaken, Switzerland—my legs were sore for days. We spent a total of 26 hours on trains just to spend one day in Milan, Italy (which was the only country with outdoor dining available at the time, so well worth it). And we went back to Switzerland right before its borders closed, to go sledding and glacier-cave-exploring on Mt. Titlis.

Traveling during a pandemic was not easy, but we were figuring out ways to make it work. We often had to take covid tests before traveling, wear masks the entire time, fill out paperwork, and just wait to book things at the last minute, because everything depended on which countries were opening or closing at any given point. We all learned to be flexible and make decisions on our feet; I still remember when my mom texted me on a Wednesday to see how my day was going, and I responded with “Pretty good! I’m in Germany right now.” We had a day off from classes and decided to take a little day trip.

I visited France twice more before our trip to Barcelona, Spain. My roommate is fluent in French, but I took Spanish in high school, so I was glad to finally be of some use. We had an amazing weekend trying some great food, visiting the sights, taking a surfing lesson, and hanging out on the beach with the 18 other Miami students who also went to Barcelona that weekend.

We had about five days off for Easter, and my friends and I rented a 14-person Airbnb in Malta, an island off the coast of Italy. It was a wild ride from start to finish, and of course we didn’t want to miss out on holiday festivities! Since we didn’t have Easter eggs, my roommate hid every spoon in the house, and sent a dozen college-aged kids racing around to see who could find the most. The winner got to choose someone to push in the freezing cold pool (and thankfully, it wasn’t me who got pushed in).

Each Miami student was enrolled in a study tour course, where we were supposed to take a week-long field trip with our classmates and professors. Mine was called The Rise and Fall of Hitler, and the original plan was to visit Poland. Other classes were supposed to visit Slovenia and other places, but with all of the closings, none of these trips were possible. So, the administration decided to take all of us together to Croatia for a week, one of the only open countries that none of us had been to. We took tours of absolutely breathtaking national parks, went paintballing on a WWII battlefield, and watched the gorgeous sunset right on the water every night.



Temple of Poseidon, Athens

Cate Wheeler: (but wait, there's more!)

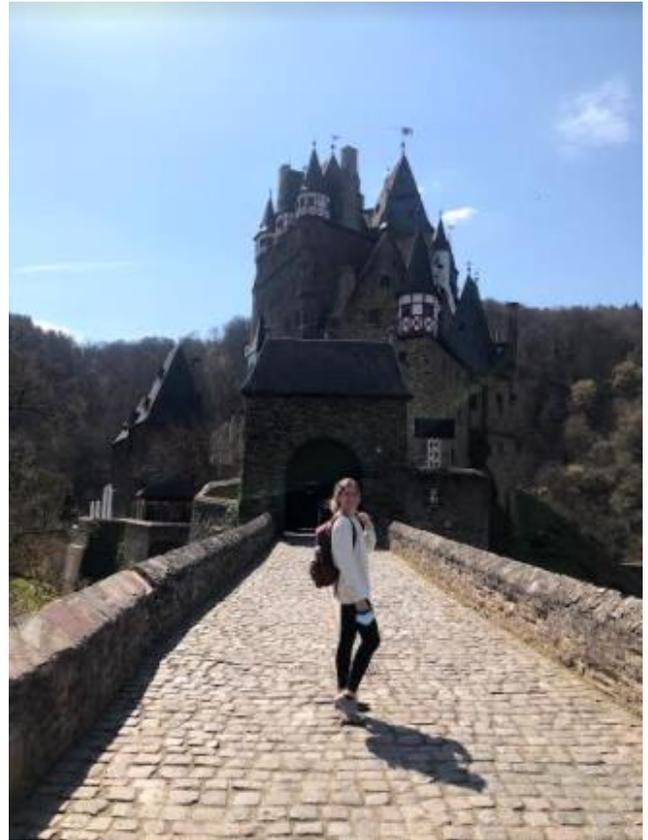
Unfortunately, after so many weeks of zero cases, a few Miami students had tested positive for covid right before the rest of us left for Croatia. I was nervous about coming down with covid, especially as I was one of the only one of my friends who hadn't had it yet. I prayed that I wouldn't, but reminded myself constantly of the quote on my phone's home screen: Where God guides, He provides. Ultimately, I did in fact test positive for covid and was not able to fly home to Luxembourg with the rest of the students. It was difficult not to be upset over the thought of having to quarantine for 10 days in a foreign country, not knowing how I would get food or pay for lodging or get another ticket home. And so, at yet another point in my life, I found myself worrying about something that God had already worked out. There were two other students in my situation, and one faculty member stayed behind as well. Miami covered our hotel stay, organized for us to have three meals delivered to our door daily, and arranged for a private bus to bring us back to Luxembourg after our quarantine. It was a long and lonely 10 days, but I had such an outpouring of love and support from my family, new and old friends, and so many of you lovely people here at Harlem Road Church. I can't thank you enough for that.

My friends in Luxembourg were excited to welcome me back, and we traveled to the newly-opened Belgium (highly recommend the waffles with nutella on top). Already, it was our last weekend before finals, and we had to begin some hard goodbyes.

About 4 weeks prior, my number one destination that had been closed all semester announced a reopening on May 14: Greece. My roommate and I moved our flight home to the U.S. back one week, and booked a flight to Greece for May 14. It was a bit of a logistical challenge, but ultimately we made it. We traveled with 8 other students to the island of Santorini, where we went hiking, cliff jumping, and boating. Just two short days after, we took a ferry to Athens, where we explored the city's ancient Greek ruins and also discovered our new favorite cuisine.

My roommate and I made the 20 hour trip back to Columbus on May 21. Though we were so ready to see our families, it was difficult to leave Luxembourg. My new friends and I will sadly no longer have the freedom and excitement of making spontaneous international travel plans every weekend, but thank goodness all of my new friends will be back on Miami's regular campus in Oxford with me in the fall.

I feel so incredibly blessed to have had all the opportunities that I did this semester, and absolutely in awe of how God took a covid-ridden semester and turned it into one of the absolute best experiences of my life. Like I said before, I wouldn't change a thing.



Burg Eltz, Germany



Malta

Summer Psalm Reading Club

Join us for a summer reading challenge! We're walking thru the Book of Psalms this summer via our Transformed worship series-and we're inviting you to read along with us!

Families are invited too! This is a perfect time to practice daily reading with your kids! If you need an easy to understand bible for your children, we recommend downloading the YouVersion app and using the Easy Translation.

Bible Tracker Bookmarks will be available in church to mark your reading progress, or you can print the version here!

Last but not least, we'll be celebrating the completion of this challenge at the end of the summer with a popsicle party after church!

Watch your email for the date of this event!

As you journey thru the book of Psalms, we would love to hear from you - your favorites Psalms, questions you have, what made you think! Email Pastor Bud or Pastor Rocky so we can stay in touch!

BIBLE READING TRACKER

Book of Psalms

MARK THE CIRCLES AS YOU COMPLETE EACH CHAPTER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32		
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48		
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56		
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64		
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72		
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80		
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88		
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96		
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104		
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112		
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120		
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128		
129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136		
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144		
145	146	147	148	149	150				

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Prayer Requests

Requests:

Frank Farkas, Kelly Agler, Marilyn Reams, Maranda Hill, Vicki Doyle, Barb Gerwe, Kathy Strohm, Judy Weinberger, Dan Crowell, Terry Burnside, Tim Noble, Virginia Grove, Brent Cahill, Peg Collier, Jim Bernhardt, Clyde and Jenny Fravel, Donna Evans, Dwayne Piper, Tony Hamilton, Petra Hinterschied, Gerry Duncan, Roger Davis, Missy Sandy, Tim Saksa, Jim Thornhill, Vicki Troendly

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.

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 on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm throughout the summer. 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 are currently not meeting. Leader: Diana Robertson (office@harlemroadchurch.org or 614-882-9487)
- **Women's Lunch Bunch:** Sad to say – no lunches yet. Leader: Bobbi Pollock (bobb10820@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 (dannel@columbus.rr.com or 740-341-4645)
- **Ayers' Group:** Tentatively planning an in-person get-together sometime this summer. Current leader: 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.