

Currents

Newsletter of Harmony Creek Church



April 2024

From the Desk of Pastor Michelle

The wise and wonderful Brene Brown says that "it takes courage to say yes to rest in a culture where exhaustion is seen as a status symbol." There is some profound truth to Brene's words. As someone who finds herself to be exhausted much of the time; I would say I need more courage, courage to say it's okay to stop and rest.

I am not afraid to admit that I am a workaholic. When I fill out a calendar, I hate seeing empty days and I seek to make sure each square on my calendar is filled in. I have come to see that I need to recognize the value of an empty square on a calendar page. When I have an empty square, that leaves me more open to spontaneity and being more available.

I was recently sick, and I ended up spending almost a week at home. I sometimes think that when we get sick, it's our body's way of communicating to us, saying: "If you aren't going to slow down, then I will make you slow down!" In these last couple of months, I have been running myself completely ragged as I was helping my mom get a new place to live and help her move out of her current home. I was doing all this during my days off and during any free moments I had available. So, essentially, I wasn't carving out any time for self-care. I recognize that taking care of myself is something that I have never really prioritized. So, this time of neglecting my own needs while taking care of my mom was nothing new.

Ever since I was old enough to remember, I have been the type of person that puts others first. I learned this from my mom. My mom modeled this to me in a wide variety of ways. Every Christmas, my mom will wait to open any of her gifts because she wants everyone else to open theirs first. Growing up, our family didn't have a lot of money and there were times when we barely had enough food for dinner. So, my mom would not eat because she wanted to make sure that my brother and I had enough food. My mom continues to teach me the value of loving in a sacrificial way.

But there is also a downside to this type of love, this sacrificial love. My mom would put others first, always and that means I never once saw my mom advocate for herself. For me, there was this understanding that only others matter and taking care of yourself should never be a priority. There was even an acronym for JOY that I was taught. Joy stood for Jesus, Others, and Yourselves. Notice where yourself is in this equation; last, always last.

In July, I will celebrate being ordained for 10 years!!! It's been one heck of a decade of being a UCC Pastor and I look forward to many more to come!! One thing that has been consistently present each year in this past decade was my tendency to overwork. Self-care was always listed as an area for growth when I had my evaluation each year. It came up once again this past year in my evaluation.

I have been in therapy for several years now and one of the things my therapist and I are working through is helping me to see and understand why I overwork, why I so often choose to neglect my own needs. Becoming more aware of all this was a first step I needed to take to begin the journey toward finding more balance in my life. Maya Angelou tells us that "when we know better, we do better."

I truly see myself being your pastor for hopefully many years to come. Harmony Creek Church is my home and there is nowhere else I would rather be. So, I understand the importance of taking better care of myself so I can be here for the long haul. I am taking a bold step by even writing about this in my Currents article this month. I am taking a bold step by inviting all of you to hold me accountable and to make sure I am taking time for myself. Maybe we can all hold each other accountable and make sure we are all taking care of ourselves. This work of being the church, this work of building a better world, is hard and at times exhausting and that's why we need to take care of ourselves as we work to take care of the world around us.

My friend, Emily, sent me a self-care weekly tracker worksheet and I wanted to make sure all of you received this self-care tracker as well. My friends, please remember that you are loved and that you are deserving of rest. We don't have to do anything to earn that love or earn that rest.

Sending love and gratitude,
Pastor Michelle

SELF-CARE WEEKLY TRACKER

WEEK OF _____

SELF-CARE GOALS	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Eat something green							
Take a walk							
Put phone down							
Tidy something up							
Live! Laugh! Love!							
Go to bed early							
Say no (without guilt)							
Tell myself I'm awesome							
Feel grateful for something							
Drink water							
Hug a tree							
Stretch							
Reach out to a friend							
Pay bills							
Take care of a living thing							
Meditate for one minute							
Write in journal							
Make bed							
Cut myself some slack							
Stare into space							
Avoid toxic jerks							

This week's affirmations:

- I'm so worth it.
- Baby steps!
- Whoop! Maybe next week?
-

This week I will:

AVOID	RELEASE	EMBRACE
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Self-Care Stars for the Week: ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

"OK, LET'S GET THIS SELF-CARE PARTY STARTED!"

Pastor Michelle's Coffee Hours
Tuesday April 16 and April 30
2 – 4 p.m.
Ghostlight Coffee Co.
1201 Wayne Avenue
Dayton, OH 45410

Join us for some caffeinated or decaffeinated fun and conversation.



From the Moderator

One of our church's finest missions is the Maxwell Fund. A fund available to help those in need. The Maxwell Sunshine Fund was initiated by Sara Maxwell and her family with funds from the closure of their Church of the Covenant. It was located in downtown Dayton and they were amongst several churches that formed Oak Creek United Church of Christ in the 60's at our former location on Bigger Rd. The Women's Guild managed the fund to help members that needed help. Marilyn Priser knew Sara Maxwell personally and was in the Women's Guild. When Oak Creek joined with Cross Creek to form Harmony Creek, the mission continued to help those in need. Currently the fund is managed through the Dayton Foundation as The Church of the Covenant Fund #3394. Harmony Creek receives annually a portion of the fund. Additionally, collections are made by members and those who attend Harmony Creek.

When a request comes in for assistance it is evaluated by the Member Care committee and the Pastor for approval. How these funds have been used must be reported to the Dayton Foundation each year in fall. There have been many people over the years helped in a tight spot. Help us continue this wonderful mission by contributing. You can designate giving in the offering plate or in Realm.

Council and staff meet quarterly to consult and plan for our church. Our next quarterly meeting is planned for **Saturday April 20, 9-12.** Pray for wisdom to empower our church in planning for the future.

Elva Blatt, moderator

WE HAVE A NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Harmony Creek is thrilled to announce that Cameron Myer has been hired as the new Office Manager. Cameron was raised in the area but spent the better part of twenty years living all over the States until finally returning "home" to raise her daughter, Adeline. Cameron is a recent graduate of Miami University and brings a wealth of talent to Harmony Creek. Stop by to say "Hi" if you are at the church during the weekday.



Why are you attending Harmony Creek? Do you feel welcome? Of course you do!

This is just a reminder that **EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME** is what we do at Harmony Creek and it begins with the simple act of taking the time to remember to wear our Harmony Creek name tags!! Have you lost yours? Never had one? Time to sign up on the Name Tag list on the table at the back of the worship space. Once you sign up, watch the Name Tag board to find yours in about one week! Can't find it? Check with anyone else wearing one and see if we can help you! People come here looking for acceptance, love and welcome! Let's make every effort to give a huge Harmony Creek Welcome! **WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL?

From Pastor Raven

It has been a great honor to be entrusted with the care of our community's young people. They have taught me more than I could have ever taught them. I have received such beautiful affirmations from some of the youth's parents who have shared with me that I truly have made such a valuable impact in the lives of their youth. I am so grateful for the youth, for they are all way cooler than me and I am just grateful that they have let me hang out with them over the years. It has been one amazing ride.

I will be offering a "Last Hoorah" youth group gathering on April 7th, from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm. Please join us for fun and food, and a little bit of my favorite theology. All youth, Grades 6-12, are welcome.

Celebrate Pastor Raven on Sunday April 7

Pastor Raven's last day as our youth pastor will be on Sunday April 7. We will offer a special blessing for Pastor Raven during church and following worship we will have a time of celebration for Pastor Raven. A card box will be available. We will certainly miss Pastor Raven. She has been such a blessing for our youth and for our faith community at Harmony Creek Church. Let's come out and show Pastor Raven our love on Sunday April 7.

All are Invited to Special Listening Session to talk about our Worship

We will have a special Zoom listening session on **Sunday April 7 at 2pm** to talk about our worship services. Here at Harmony Creek Church, we are so lucky to offer up dynamic services each week and we are blessed to have such amazing musicians, Kat and Leah, leading us. Pastor Michelle has said it before, but we are a team here at HCC and each Sunday is a team effort that involves not only those leading the services but those who are there as participants. So, we are inviting everyone from the church to attend this Zoom meeting and give feedback about our worship services. We are all part of the team here at HCC, so everyone's voice matters. If you would like to be part of this Zoom meeting, please see Pastor Michelle for the Zoom link details.

Special BYC (Baptist Youth Camp) Meeting on Sunday April 14

We invite all families and youth to come to a special informational meeting to talk about BYC on Sunday April 14. This will take place at the same time as Kelsey's (our new children and youth director) meet and greet. Lisa Gagel will be there to answer any questions about camp and it will be good for Kelsey to be part of these conversations. If you have any questions about this year's upcoming BYC, please reach out to Lisa Gagel.

New Children and Youth Director!

On **Sunday April 14** and **Sunday April 21**, from 5-7 pm in our Youth Room, we will have a meet and greet opportunity for all to come and meet Kelsey DeShano. Kelsey will be our new Children and Youth Director and her first official day with us will be on Monday April 8. She will be formally introduced to the congregation on Sunday April 14. We want an opportunity for families of all shapes and sizes to come and meet with Kelsey and get to know her and offer her a chance for her to get to know us. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Michelle.

All are invited to Attend a Zoom Book Study with Pastor Michelle

Pastor Michelle will lead a Zoom book study in April, and she will lead a discussion on the book "Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You: A Field Guide to the Bible" written by Daniel Cooperider. This book attends to the theological wonder of God's book of nature. Wendell Berry says: "I don't think it is enough appreciated how much an outdoor book the Bible is." Cooperider illustrates Berry's point with beautiful narrative. We will meet on Zoom on Tuesday April 9, Tuesday April 16, and Tuesday April 30 at 6 pm. If you would like to be part of this book study, please let Pastor Michelle know by April 2. The cost of the books are \$25.

We will offer a New Member Class on Sunday April 21 at 2pm on Zoom!

All who are interested in becoming a member at Harmony Creek Church are invited to attend a New Member Orientation Class on Sunday April 21. The class will take place on Zoom at 2pm. On Sunday May 19 (Pentecost Sunday!), we will take in new members during worship. If you would like to be part of the class, please let Pastor Michelle know (pastormichelle@harmony-creek.org) and she will send you the Zoom link.

Great Adventure

In April we will be continuing the joy of Easter as we learn a little about the early Christian church. We will also spend some time focusing on the miracle and beauty of the beautiful planet that we live on. April 21 Kari Carter will lead us in a special lesson for Earth Day. She will be sharing a book on creation and then guiding us in making Great Story Bead necklaces. We are being asked to wear these necklaces the following Sunday.

SALON SCHEDULE – SUNDAYS AT 10:30 IN THE LOUNGE

Please check This Week at Harmony Creek for any additional information

April 7: Self Care for Stress Awareness

Facilitator: Anna White

April is Stress Awareness Month. In this Salon, I will be providing a PowerPoint presentation followed by a discussion regarding self care. It's important to manage the stress that we all encounter on a daily basis and practicing self care can help us all achieve our personal growth and goals.

April 14: Where Joy Hides and How to Find It

Facilitator: Juli Burnell

Why do some things seem to create such universal joy? In this captivating talk, Ingrid Fetell Lee reveals the surprisingly tangible roots of joy and shows how we all can find -- and create -- more of it in the world around us. Let's talk about what brings you joy!

April 21: Learn About Oak Street Health

Guest Facilitator: Cedric Howard

Pastor Michelle invited a representative from Oak Street Health, where they specialize in outstanding care for older adults. From dedicated doctors and care team members who take the time to know and understand one's individual health needs to help with Medicare and insurance paperwork, Oak Street Health helps eliminate the hassles to help one take better care of oneself.

April 28: What's with the Satanic Temple?

Facilitator: Kathy Swensen

What's behind the shocking news stories about The Satanic Temple (TST), a non-theistic religion founded in 2013? Who are these Satanists and what do they believe? You'll be surprised, challenged, and (maybe) even inspired as we explore the beliefs and motivations that fuel this fascinating new religion. Lively discussion guaranteed!

GRADUATION RECOGNITION -- SUNDAY, MAY 5

Pastor Michelle has started a fun tradition where we celebrate one another every first Sunday. On Sunday, May 5, we will be including a special celebration for our graduates. During the service, Pastor Michelle will offer a special blessing for those in our church family, young and old, in high school, college, or specialized programs who are graduating or have recently graduated. We would like to invite all the graduates to email Pastor Michelle (pastormichelle@harmony-creek.org) with your contact information (name, address, and specifics about your graduation). We would like to include information in the May issue of Currents and invite people to send cards to celebrate our graduates. Please send information to Pastor Michelle by April 15. If you have questions, please let Pastor Michelle know.

ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY

April is Earth Month



You might be noticing "Love Mom" notes (with images of Earth for the "o's") in the church bulletin and Currents. Throughout the year, the Environmental Ministry will be posting notes and tips on how we can do better at showing our love for Mother Earth as well as reminders about what Mother Earth gives to us. Creation is a gift, but we are also fully a part of creation and the intricate web of life that is our ecosystem.

In honor of April 22's Earth Day, we are sprinkling this month with Earth-related activities. We will prepare a delicious vegetarian meal (eating with the climate in mind) for first Sunday after church on April 7. We will also explore a theme chosen by Interfaith Power & Light titled **Common Ground: Cultivating Connections between Our Faith, Our Food, and the Climate** with a viewing of the documentary *Common Ground* on **April 24 at 6:30 pm** (please RSVP by April 23). We will learn "how our food systems contribute to injustice and to climate change, and how our faiths call us to respond through practical solutions." We will also have a chance formally to pledge to vote with the climate in mind, and on April 28, we will have an Earth-themed service with a sermon by the late Rev. Michael Dowd, titled "Ecotheism: Ecology as the Heart of Theology."

April is a good month to appreciate how truly awesome and precious the cosmos, our planet, and Earth's many creatures are. (The beginning of the Greek version of John 3:16 actually translates to "For God so loved the cosmos....") It is also a great time to reflect on how we can change our lives to better cherish and protect these gifts.

Love Mom

Common Ground Film Screening for Earth Month

Would you like to learn more about how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies? **Join us as we screen the 90-minute documentary *Common Ground* on April 24 at 6:30 pm.**

This film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be key in rehabilitating the planet, while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration in viewers. People are calling *Common Ground* "**The Most Important Film You'll Ever Watch.**"

Please RSVP no later than April 23. Sign-up sheets are available at the table in the back of the church, or contact Kari Carter at kcnc526@gmail.com. (By the way, planting native plants—like the seeds we gave you in March—is a part of regenerative agriculture!)



Friday, April 26
6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Join us for an evening of fun and games. Bring your favorite game and snack and have a great time!

Implicit Bias Workshop – A Thought-Provoking Morning!

Which animal was the last to discover water? The fish! Our workshop presenters, Sinclair professors Dr. Kathleen Gish and Myra Bozeman, used this metaphor to illustrate why it is so hard to recognize our own biases; we are swimming in them and they are the air we breathe.



On a chilly Saturday morning in March, 38 people gathered in Harmony Creek's Fellowship Hall and got down to business to understand and uncover implicit bias. We drew memes to illustrate our own biases in music, books, TV shows, and foods, as well as groups of people based on all manner of categories. Interactive group discussions allowed us to share safely and consider our own implicit biases, where they come from, and what we can do to mitigate the harm and unintended consequences they cause.

Participants responded positively to the workshop, with surveys giving the training, the speakers, and our facility and hospitality top marks. Several attendees voiced their desire for a longer training period and shared hopes for more opportunities such as this one. This training was offered by Harmony Creek's Social and Environmental Justice Ministry's Justice League with support from Pastor Michelle and our HCC Council. Pastor Michelle welcomed all in attendance, which included 23 Harmony Creek folks, members of other UCC churches, and people from the community who learned about the training through Sinclair Community College, Facebook, and word of mouth. We are grateful for ALL who attended, the strong HCC support, and our incredible presenters!



Harmony Creek's Justice League is composed of a large and enthusiastic group of Harmony Creekers who collaborate to create justice programming focusing on racial justice, LGBTQ+ justice, environmental justice, economic justice, and our support of the greater UCC's justice work. To join this group of justice superheroes or to learn about our other justice ministry teams, speak with Laurel Kerr or Kathy Swensen or email justice@harmony-creek.org.

Deadline for Clara and Larry Equality Advocacy Award Nominations Is April 10

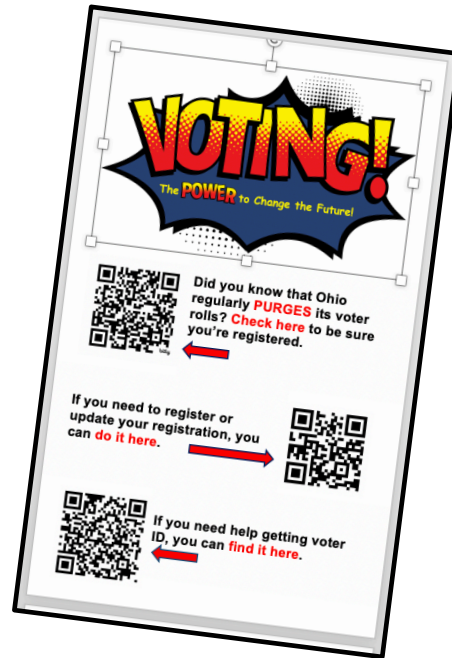
For the first time, in June 2024, Harmony Creek Church will be honoring an individual or organization for their positive impact on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community in the Miami Valley through the Clara and Larry Rezash Equality Advocacy Award.



This annual award is named in memory of UCC Pastor Larry Rezash and in honor of his wife Clara Barnum Rezash, who together and individually have dedicated their lives to ensuring that all people, especially those who are LGBTQ+, feel known and loved. It is in the spirit of their love, commitment, and advocacy that we look forward to honoring our very first award recipient during Pride Month!

Nominations close at 11:59 p.m. on April 10. You may submit your nomination online at <https://www.harmonycreekchurch.org/claryaward>.

BE PART OF HARMONY CREEK'S VOTER EMPOWERMENT POSTER PROJECT



Harmony Creek's Voter Empowerment Ministry Team has created this assortment of posters promoting voter registration. Now we need your help in putting them on public bulletin boards around the Miami Valley! We urge you to take these posters with you to the library, organizations where you work or volunteer, your local grocery store, your condo or apartment complex, the bus station, your favorite coffee shop ... Wherever people congregate and share information.

As you can see, the QR codes make it easy for citizens in our community to quickly check their voter registration status, register or update their voting information, and seek help in obtaining identification needed to vote.

Thanks for your help! We encourage those of you on the HCC Facebook page to post photos as you share these posters!



Cuba Ministry Welcomes Sao



After more than a year of waiting, we are overjoyed that Sao's application for humanitarian parole has been approved! Sao has spent Holy Week in the US after flying from Havana, Cuba to Miami and then on to Cincinnati where he was welcomed by the Cuba Ministry Team.

Harmony Creek and Pleasant Hill UCC will be the primary churches facilitating his resettlement. The UCC churches, along with two other churches, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and St. Paul United Methodist Church comprise a private sponsorship group of Church World Services (CWS) who is assisting us to be compliant with all the requirements of the US Customs and Immigration Services. CWS will accompany us throughout the initial stages of his transition to his new life.

Tom Harry of Harmony Creek has opened his home to Sao during his initial time of resettlement. Jan Loomis who has been managing the application process serves as Sao's sponsor. The Cuba Ministry and the Refugee Ministry are providing support in all aspects of his resettlement. Sao is very eager to meet his new church families.

Thanks to all who have been supportive of Sao with donations and prayers during this long time of waiting. And, thanks in advance for your donations of personal care hygiene items to Sao via the Giving Tree. He is coming here with very few personal possessions and is already feeling the love and care of his brothers and sisters in Christ he has not yet met.

Jan Loomis and the Cuba Ministry Team

I share Sao's last poem written before he departs his country for his new homeland. It is a bittersweet reflection he wants to share with the new church families who were awaiting his arrival at the time of the poem's writing.

THE DEPARTURE

I'm leaving you,
I have to leave you,
my beloved.

Although my heart
doesn't want to;
this is how life wants it.

I'm leaving you,
and I'm leaving what I have experienced in you,
I leave many highs
and downfalls;
I leave a defeated history.

I leave,
but still I will take you with me
in a handful of earth
not to be forgotten.

I leave you.
I have to leave you,
my beloved,
my beauty,
my lovely,
my native homeland,
although the parting
will be very hard for me.

-Sao-
3-15-24

**HARMONY CREEK'S FIRST EVER BUNCO FOR CHARITY EVENT:
DINNER & BUNCO BENEFIT FOR HOUSE OF BREAD
GET YOUR TICKETS WHILE THEY LAST!**

Please join the Darrah family for a fun evening of dice rolling, prizes, food, and fellowship as we gather for dinner and Bunco! Unfamiliar with Bunco? It's a simple and fun dice game that is easy to learn and play. The Darrahs will provide a brief introduction to the game for all in attendance. Children who can do basic math (addition/counting) and sit for approximately one hour of game time will love playing Bunco. Younger kids will have a great time too! We'll provide supervision and fun activities for them.



Date: Saturday, April 20

Time: 5:30 meal, 6:00-8:00 game play

Where: Jason and Sara Darrah's home
2735 E Tara Trail, Beavercreek, OH

Menu: Appetizers, Baked Potato Bar & Dessert

Who: Everyone! All ages! The first 20 people who sign up and submit their donation are IN!

What to Bring: Single Dollar Bills! We'll explain when you get

here (but it's for a great cause).

Important notes: The Darrahs have 2 dogs and 1 cat, so allergy medicine is recommended. Their home is fairly accessible, but there is one small step up onto the front porch.

We are asking for a donation of \$20 per player to attend this awesome event. Children who will not be playing Bunco are just \$10 each. Thanks to the generosity of our hosts, **100% of your donation will go to House of Bread.**

Donations may be given as a check or cash. A Justice League member will assist you at the information table after church each Sunday until the Bunco tables are filled. Reserve your spot to join the fun!

CHURCH LIFE

April Spring into Action - Eat for the planet! 4/7 Join us for a meatless brunch with the environmental team as they deliver a wonderful meatless meal and information about how we can be more helpful to our beautiful planet!

May Spring into GRADUATION! 5/5 Graduation party to celebrate all our graduates! Meal and cake provided!

June! PRIDE! 6/2 PRIDE BRUNCH! Join us the Sunday after pride for our first annual pride brunch! A wonderful rainbow lunch will be provided to celebrate! Join us! ALL ARE WELCOME!

**** all meals will have Vegetarian, gluten free and sugar free options available****

If you are interested in getting involved in Church Life or would like to take over a first Sunday theme, please contact Carrie Booker at Carriebhcc@gmail.com

NECESSITY BAG PROJECT UNDERWAY



Spring is a time of renewal and hope, but also a time of challenges and needs for homeless people in our community as they struggle to access basic necessities such as food, water, hygiene products, and medical supplies. This spring Harmony Creek will be partnering with House of Bread to provide Necessity Bags for homeless persons in our community and we need your help!

Our church's challenge will be to provide 50 Necessity Bags for distribution by House of Bread, as well as individual "starter bags" for Harmony Creekers who wish to give Necessity Bags to homeless people they encounter in the community. Harmony Creek's Justice League will be collecting items from the list below each Sunday through May 19th. At the close of worship on May 19th, we will pack the bags together and present them, along with a check for the money raised at our April Bunco for Charities fundraiser, to House of Bread's executive director Melodie Bennett.

We are excited to learn about ways we can help support House of Bread's mission to prevent hunger and serve as a bridge to beneficial community resources for those in need in the Dayton area. Following Melodie's visit, tours of House of Bread will be available for those interested in exploring volunteer opportunities.

Necessity Bag Shopping List

Small packs of facial tissues

- Individually wrapped hand wipes
- Band aids
- Neosporin packets
- Toothpaste
- Individually wrapped toothbrushes
- Small hand sanitizers
- Chapstick
- Individually wrapped chewy (soft) granola bars
- Sanitary products (to be offered individually)

Please bring your donations with you to church and place them in the specially marked bin on Sundays. We will update you each week on our progress and which items we still need. If you don't have time to shop, consider making a monetary donation ... Even a few dollars will help make a difference! All donations will go directly to this project; any "leftover items" will be distributed through our Feeding Friends Food Pantry.

Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of our homeless neighbors, not just through the items in the bags but also by sending the message that they are valued and cared for. Together, we can make this spring a little more joyful and hopeful for our fellow human beings.

Let this little bag be a reminder that:

- You are God's beloved child,
- We care about you,
- You are worth so very much,
- There is always hope,
- We are praying for you,
- We wish you a good day!

**The Congregation at Harmony Creek Church
in Kettering**

FROM GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH P AND F COMMISSION TALK

Good morning, my name is Wayne Weyhrauch, I along with Chris Connelly and our highly valued Consultant, Del Herbeck, are your Property and Facilities Commissioners

1. The Property and Facilities Commission two primary areas of responsibility, they are as follows:
 - a. Responsible for maintaining the physical facilities that make up Good Shepherd; building structure, heating and cooling systems, safety, and security of facilities.
 - i. Perform general operator maintenance and repairs of facilities.
 - ii. Lead special work groups to maintain the facilities.
 - iii. Liaison with contractors for work beyond the scope of self-help.
 - b. Also, we are responsible for maintaining the church grounds (landscape, lawn, parking lot, etc.)
 - i. Perform general maintenance and repairs of grounds.
 - ii. Lead work groups to maintain outside areas (lawn, shrubs, flowerbeds, and snow removal).
 - iii. Act as liaison with contractors for work beyond the scope of general laborers.
 - iv. Maintenance of lawn and snow removal equipment.
2. The Successes of the Property and Facilities Commission is due to the many Volunteers who are willing to serve the church and its ministries with their time and talents.
 - a. Volunteers perform general operator maintenance tasks on the facilities, to include floors, windows, doors, bathrooms, and extra seasonal cleaning.
 - b. Volunteers perform seasonal maintenance tasks for the grounds (grass mowing, leaf raking (thanks Super Troop 193 boy scouts), shrub trimming, flowerbed maintenance, and snow removal.)
 - c. Volunteers perform maintenance on equipment used for lawn mowing and snow removal. (This has been accomplished by Del Herbeck for many years.)
 - d. On behalf of the entire congregation, we want to say THANK YOU to the many volunteers who have helped, for those who provided ideas and recommendations on needed projects, and for those who prayed for the safety of the volunteers and success of each project!
3. Here are some of this past year's accomplishments:
 - a. Cleaned and prepared rooms for arrival of Harmony Creek Church
 - b. Improved parking lot safety. Worked w/ AES to install five LED lights.
 - c. Completed parking lot resurfacing project. Contracted with Vandalia Blacktop and Sealcoating to seal / paint lines for 144 parking spots.
 - d. Added additional Handicap Parking signs for a total of 18 handicap parking spots.
 - e. Contracted with Deck and Fence Renewal Systems to replace the 215-foot dilapidated fence along the back of the parking lot.
 - f. Repaired a broken cement section in front of the sanctuary entrance.

- g. Weatherproof, caulk and sealed, all windows on the three floors of the educational wing.
 - h. Improved safety and security throughout the facilities; numbered the 8 exterior doors and posted emergency evacuation maps in each room.
4. I'm sure by now many of you are wondering how you can get in on the action and continue to support the Property and Facilities Commission. Here are a couple ways:
- a. First, continue to donate generously to the Heritage Fund as this fund helps pay for the special projects not included in the Annual Budget.
 - b. Second, going forward we are excited to announce a new "Helping Hands Service Initiative" to help maintain and keep the church grounds and facilities in even better shape. On the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, starting in March, we are dedicating a 2-hour window to work on timely projects and seasonal tasks. If you have some time to lend a hand in a rewarding and beneficial way, please bring your work gloves and come join in the fun. Chris, Del, and I will work hard to maintain a list of projects and have the necessary supplies and tools on hand to make this time a very productive, beneficial, and rewarding service opportunity for all.

Additionally, if you have some good ideas or recommendations, please send them to the office, or one of the commissioners.

5. Thank you again for your continued support of this commission! And thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak with you this morning. Have a wonderful day!

HARMONY CREEK CHURCH

A United Church of Christ

www.harmonycreekchurch.org

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Currents Deadline is the 15th of each month

E-mail articles and news to:

office@harmony-creek.org

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ASSOCIATED MINISTERS

Rev. Jan Loomis
Associate Pastor for Cuban Partnership

Rev. Dr. Charlie Williams, Jr.
Associate Pastor for Ecumenical and Interfaith Outreach



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Brice Donegia
- 6 Barry Caslin
- 9 Kelly Morris
- 15 Juli Burnell
- 18 Denise Bowell
- 20 Lisa Gagel

If your birthday is not included, please contact us so we can add it. Thanks!