



The Connection

February
2018

Germantown UMC
525 Farmersville Pk
Germantown, OH
45327
937-855-2102

Sunday Schedule:
9:00 Traditional
10:15 Sunday School
11:15 Contemporary

*"Now all glory to
God, who is able,
through his mighty
power at work
within us, to
accomplish
infinitely more than
we might ask or
think."*

Ephesians 3:20, NLT

One-Eyed

Never in my wildest dreams would I ever thought I would be one-eyed beyond the occasional pirate patch (along with the requisite "argh!") Sure, my mom told me that carrots are good for you, but those things are nasty (yep, I'm a picky eater). I do take vitamins that claim they benefit eye health, but who really knows.

But when the vision in my right eye became noticeably worse in a short period of time, I knew it needed to get checked out quickly. After a few visits, I was diagnosed with an epiretinal membrane and macular pucker. Unbeknownst to me, the membrane problem is fairly common, for it is a result of the aging process, and the same process by which people develop floaters in their eyes. The membrane and pucker caused blurry and wavy vision in my right and dominant eye. I had to stop wearing contacts, as they are multi-focal, with my right lens providing distance vision, which now was useless. My glasses at least allowed me to see distance in my left eye. Preaching from my sermon notes became more difficult, for when I moved to my left, I couldn't read the words. (Did anyone notice I moved to my right predominately since the first of December?) I in essence became one-eyed.

When I saw the surgeon, we talked about what the procedure would be. I asked about sight recovery, and he said that I would definitely not be returning to my 20/15 vision. That was quite a jolt to me; I can adapt and preach, but losing the ability to fly was a possibility I was struggling. Myra reminded me over and over again that the Lord will provide, but frankly my faith saw too much negative and little positive. I felt terrible that I could not seem to cross that bridge of faith with any ease. I prayed a great deal about this.

On the day of surgery, I had a peace (and a Harry Potter mark). Myra prayed for me pre-op, and soon, I drifted off. I awoke to



the news that when the surgeon was scraping away the pucker, the retina tore (a common complication). This would require the insertion of a gas bubble into the eye and laying on my left side for the next 3 days with only 10 minute breaks each hour. Plus, there would be no driving, lifting, working or reading.

(Continued)

One-Eyed (continued)

A shield would be taped over my eye each night to protect it from accidental scratching.

A few days after surgery, I remembered the passage in Mark about Jesus meeting a blind man. Jesus spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, then asked, "Do you see anything?" The man looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." (Mark 8:23-24) That was exactly what my vision was: blurry, dark outlines that could be seen more from movement than when still. My vision was so bad that without a patch, I kept my right eye closed all the time. Thus when I returned to church on the 28th, I was still squinting nearly all the time. Once the gas bubble finally shank even so that it was out of my line of sight, I could finally keep my right eye open. It completely disappeared sometime February 2 during the night.

Of course, when I returned to the pulpit on February 4, little did I know some shenanigans were afoot. After the Lord's Prayer at the 1st service, I looked out on the congregation to find everyone with pirate patches. I was quite lost for words.

The congregation is so much fun and loving. I appreciate everything—the meals, cards, calls, prayers, and even the silliness. What a blessing you are. Myra and I love you so much.!

Pastor Gary



GLORIFY

Upcoming Worship Experiences

February 14— Ash Wednesday

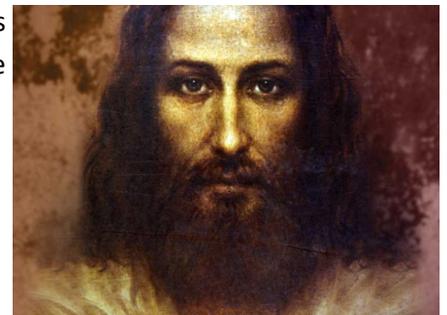
Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a service that focuses on self-examination, repentance and forgiveness. The service begins at 7 PM. Come join us in this very special worship experience.



Lenten Message Series: He Said, "I Am."

During Lent, we will study the passages where Jesus makes this incredible statement "I am..."

- Feb 18: The Way, the Truth, and the Life
- Feb 25: The Light of the World
- March 4: The Bread of Life
- March 11: The Good Shepherd
- March 18: The Son of God
- March 25: The Messiah
- March 29: The Lord and Master
- April 1: The Resurrection and the Life



GROW

Next Women's Bible Study Class

ATTENTION LADIES!!! NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY "JONAH" BY PRISCILLA SHIRER!

It's time for our next women's evening bible study! We are going to do a 7-week bible study by Priscilla Shirer entitled "Jonah."

What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Many times, like Jonah, we run! In this 7-session Bible study, Priscilla redefines interruption and shows that interruption is actually God's invitation to do something beyond our wildest dreams. When Jonah was willing to allow God to interrupt his life, the result was revival in an entire city.

- When: 2-27-28 to 4-10-18 – Tuesdays
- Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
- Cost: \$15.00 for member book

Sign up by calling or texting Myra Wheeler at 937-204-5368 or by e-mailing her at chattymyra@yahoo.com. There is also a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk.



**The mission of
Germantown UMC is:
Building a Christ
Connection**

Sunday School Opportunities

Group	Leader and Room	Current Study
Faith Seekers	Scott Hayes (Room 6)	International Bible Study: this popular adult curriculum is based on the Uniform Series, which enables Christians across the globe to study the same Scriptures and topics on the same Sundays throughout the year.
Good News	Kenny Lee (Room 7)	Kenny prepares lessons that focus on Christian Perspectives on Current Events
Good Spirit	Carl Michaels (Behind Organ)	Uses the Upper Room curriculum that helps learners grow in their walk with Christ.
Living Grace	Julie Smith (Room 9)	Philip Yancey's "What's so Amazing about Grace?"
Pastor's Bible Study	Pastor Gary (Room 8)	Paul's 5 T's (1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, and Titus)

"This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13, NLT)

GIVE

2017 Financial Report

Our church Treasurer and Financial Secretary have completed their reports for 2017. (Thank you so much to Karen Lurker and JoAnn Weaver!) Here are the highlights:

Budget Giving: Giving to our church budget was up 1.7% from 2016. We received \$256,984.17 for the year. Not the budget, but that rarely happens.

Mortgage Giving: We received \$82,310.60 to pay our annual mortgage payment of \$66,036.00. We were therefore able once again to make extra principle payments. Since Spring of 2015, we have paid \$90,612.61 in extra principle payments, reducing our mortgage by just over 3 years.

Apportionments: In 2017, we paid \$17,427.00 of our \$41,979.00 Apportionment. This was just under \$770 less than last year. However, just prior to December 31, we received a \$10,000 gift for Apportionments to be applied to 2018, and we transferred extra 2017 income to be paid for 2018 Apportionments as well.

Extra Mission Giving: We also receive gifts that go directly to missions. In 2017, we received \$25,294.17 in designated missional giving, up 50% from the year before.

Thank you for your financial support to the ministries and missions of GUMC.



"Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity." (Luke 6:38, The Message)

New Electronic Sign Update

The Trustees have begun collecting bids on a new electronic church sign on Farmersville Pike. We are looking at a full color sign that can be changed from within the church and have multiple messages depending upon the time of day. This would be so wonderful, as Janet Withrow goes out in whatever the weather (and it's been pretty cold for her lately) to change the sign. We've already received our first gift for the sign. If the project is approved by the church's Administrative Council, we hope to use leftover money from the storage building project to help pay for the project. We'll have more news in the future.



Sample Image (yes, we know the web address is wrong)

GO

Day of Caring

The Day of Caring Pancake Breakfast will be held here at GUMC on Sunday, February 25th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. This annual event is part of a Montgomery County effort of 40 locations to raise money to help the hungry and the agencies that serve them. We are accepting donations of hygiene supplies.



DAY OF
CARING
365



"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matthew 28:19, NLT)

Many volunteers are needed to make this a success as we will be welcoming everyone in the community on this day. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center if you can help. Please see the display in the Narthex. Watch your bulletin for additional information in coming weeks.

Sonshine In A Bag

There are now 177 children receiving food assistance through Sonshine In A Bag at Valley View Schools! That is an increase of 99 children. Sonshine In A Bag is accepting donations of 18 oz. jars of peanut butter & 19 oz. squeeze bottles of jelly. We have been asked to concentrate on these two items which are given out each week. They are also in need of plastic grocery bags. If you can put them into double bag sets it will help a lot. Supplies go out as quickly as they come in. This program serves children in the Valley View School District. Thank you for your continued support of this much needed mission. More information can be found in the literature rack by the office.

Deadline for submitting articles is the 20th of each month.

February Mission Opportunities

Thank you to the congregation, and anyone else, for your wonderful donations for Church Women United/Middletown. February's mission is The Valley View Community Clothes Closet. This mission accepts all types of clothing and household items. Please mark your donations, MISSIONS and place in the right hand closet as you come in the front door of the church. Please do not throw items away that someone less fortunate can use. You are most welcome to place clothing, etc. on our covered patio, at 228 N. Plum St., whether we are home or away. Our phone is 937-855-3687. Thank you again. Charlotte Genslinger

GIVING
opportunities

2018-2019 GUMC Leadership

Administrative Council

<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure</u>	<u>Person</u>
Chair	2018	William Heistand
Ministry Council Chair	2019	Theresa Fessienger
Recording Secretary	Staff	Melody Herbst
Lay Del. Annual Con		Scott Hayes
Scouting Rep		Scott Hayes
Financial Secretary		JoAnn Weaver
Treasurer		Karen Lurker
Staff Parish Chair	2018	Lareen Bowman
Trustees Chair/s		Jaron Develbiss
Give Team Chair	2018	Kent Genslinger
At-Large Member	2018	William Heistand
	2019	Ashley Noble
Staff		Erin Develbiss
		Kathy Kitchel
		Gary Wheeler

Administrative Committees

Give Team	Chair	Kent Genslinger
	2018 Rep	Mark Judy
		Carol Pasquel
	2019 Rep	David Gehron
		Samantha Walker
		Emory Askins
	2020 Rep	Kent Genslinger
		Alexis Stiver
	Treasurer	Karen Lurker
	Financial Secretary	JoAnn Weaver
Lay Leadership	Chair	Gary Wheeler
	2018 Rep	Patti Hayes
		Susan Witherspoon
	2019 Rep	Marie McKay
		Carol Kalmbach
	2020 Rep	Ray Lansaw
		Joan Hamilton
Staff-Parish	Chair	Lareen Bowman
	2018 Rep	Debbie Stiver
		Lareen Bowman
		Nancy Wright
	2019 Rep	Dynita Boehringer
		Jean Cox
		Peter Lurker
	2020 Rep	Kevin Desch
		Larry Wisser
		Ann Conover
	Lay Delegate	Scott Hayes

2018-2019 GUMC Leadership (cont.)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure</u>	<u>Person</u>
Trustees		
	Chair	Jaron Develbiss
	2018 Rep	Shane Hannah Sheven Williams Carl Roberts
	2019 Rep	Charles Heistand Paul Mett Lance Comer
	2020 Rep	Jaron Develbiss Susan Strahan

Ministry Council		
Chair	2019	Theresa Fessienger
Glorify Team Chair		Janet Withrow
Grow Team Chair	2018	Lori Desch
Go Team Chair		Julie Smith
UMW Rep		<i>To Be Elected</i>
At-Large Member	2018	Tammy Robertson
	2019	Angie Comer
	2020	Cathy Butler
Ad Council Chair		William Heistand
Staff		Erin Develbiss Kathy Kitchel Gary Wheeler

Ministry Teams		
Glorify Team	Chair	Janet Withrow
	Communion Steward	Janet Withrow
	1st Service Rep	Laura Jena
	2nd Service Rep	Chris Kitchel
	Chancel Choir Director	Carolyn Holland
	Organist	Wilda Peters
	Pastor	Gary Wheeler
Grow Team	Chair	Lori Desch
	Children's Rep	Leah Staggs Lyra Staggs
	Youth Rep	Robin White
	Adult Rep	Violet Askins
	Director of Youth Ministry	Kathy Kitchel
	Director of Children Ministry	Erin Develbiss
	Pastor	Gary Wheeler
Go Team	Chair	Julie Smith
	UMW Rep/Adopt-A-Family	Karen Carmickle
	Youth Rep	Cameron Cooper
	Youth Rep	Tessa Peck
	Pastor	Gary Wheeler
	St. Paul's/Sunshine in a Bag	Julie Smith
	Night of Sharing/Operation	Theresa Fiessinger
	Christmas Child	
	Food Pantry/Jackson Area	Debbie Eby
	Ministries	
	Clothing Drives	Charlotte Genslinger



GriefShare

There are grieving people all around us, persons who have lost loved ones. Often, they receive our love and support immediately following the passing of their loved one. But after the funeral is over, they find themselves alone, not knowing how to cope.

GriefShare is a new ministry we are starting at our church, to help people on their journey from mourning to joy.

The group meets every Sunday night from 6:30-8:30 PM. The cost is \$20.

Anyone can join at any time.

If you or someone you know would like more information, go to www.germantownchurch.com/griefshare/ or contact the office.



Visit us at our new
address:
germantownchurch.com
or Facebook!

Please update: Please contact the office to update your telephone numbers. It is important that we have current information. Every month we find incorrect information when we try to make contact.

Germantown United Methodist Church

525 Farmersville PK., Germantown, Oh 45327 (937) 855-2102

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Fellowship Time/Coffee/Donuts 10:00 – 10:15

Sunday School Classes 10:15

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 4:00pm, Friday 9:00am to noon

Rev. Gary K. Wheeler, Pastor pastorgary@germantownchurch.com

E-mail: secretary@germantownchurch.com Website: ww.germantownchurch.com

For any emergencies, not during office hours, contact Pastor Gary at

(937) 204-4400.