

The Beacon

Dear Gravel Hill Congregation:

As of May 1, 2020, and under the direction of the Bishop of the Eastern PA Conference of the United Methodist Church and in conjunction with the CDC and governmental guidelines, the Gravel Hill Community will not plan to gather in person as a worshipping community until after May 8th. While this situation is a fluid one, we reserve the right to reconsider this timeline based only on the directive of the above agencies and our Bishop.

We look forward to "seeing" you online each week while you do devotions and worship with us on Facebook (search for **Gravel Hill Church** and LIKE us) and **Twitter** and also as you tune in through **YouTube** and view our website (gravelhillumc.org).

Please remember that even though we are not meeting face to face, the work of the church continues. We encourage you to use our easy online giving options from our website or you can mail in your offering to ensure that the work of God's church continues even in this unprecedented time of change. Please be safe, stay healthy and by all means, pray for each other and our world.

Thank you - Pastor Douglas Smith and The Gravel Hill Lead Team

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Prayers please. . .

Please remember the following people with prayer, cards and visits.

Always call before visiting to confirm that the individual would like to be visited.

Please contact the church office with requests for prayer.

Jenn & Troy Shally, Stephanie Bashore, Ashley Hoffman, Wayne Hawley, Rick & Colleen Heffner (Dick & Joan Heffner's son & daughter-in-law), Meaghan Hoffman, (Dick & Joan Heffner's granddaughter), Sarah Sis, Chris Good, Peg Holdren, Caden Krout (ICU nurse), RJ Roth (essential worker), Tim Wilson (Lisa Bardsley's dad), Wayne Tanner (Sandy Fausey's cousin), Ryan James (Linda Weatherby's son), Betty Seitz, Greg Cassel, Pastor Smith and Family, Melanie Morris' father, Kim Brugger, Irma Cassel, Roy Boltz, Bob Hoffman, Gary and

Patty Mase (Judy Kennedy's brother & sister in law), Timmy Shine (Friend of Jeff Kennedy), Sandy Johns (Cousin of Jeff Kennedy), Bob Matthews, Curtis & Sandy O'Brien, Bob Shearer, Betty Miller (Brenda Klinger's mother), Sharon Williamson (Phyllis Beahm's daughter), Lauren Forte, Toni Ann Neiland, Gaby Santiago-Grubic, Becky Zellner, Betsy, Karen, and Rick Smeltz, Bob Bretherick, Adam Gensamer, Jackie Englebach and Family, Dianna Frey and Family, Ruth & Bill Wise and great, great niece Morgan.

Long-term Requests:
Pat Dovey (Shawn Lochinger's Mom), Jean Myers (Joyce Lochinger's Mom), Karen Ayers, Denny Alquist, Wayne Wagner, Martha Kleinfelter, Earl & Jean Deimler, Marian Grubb, Peg Holdren (Margie Yohn's Mom), Ken Kline (Cindy Blauch's father), Maria Knauth (Dalinda Bohr's mom), Dolly Gordon, Tom Pankake, Donna Wolfer, Paula Coleman, Paula Groves, Gerald Brown, Pat Cavanaugh, Scott Miller.

Pastor's Pen—Murders, Towers and Viruses

Several days ago, when driving home from the office, I noticed a flower bed in a person's yard that was overgrown with weeds. A passing thought went through my mind, "Someone should weed that flower garden." Perhaps it was that experience that caused me to notice the flower bed at the front of the house when I drove up my lane. It was not just overgrown, it was a veritable jungle. I wondered how I had missed that mess until this very moment. I reminded myself that I was responsible for weeding my flower bed, not my neighbor's.

Weeding in another's garden while failing to do so in your own flower bed is an excellent euphemism for judging one's neighbor while paying far too little attention to your spiritual life. This is precisely the issue addressed in Luke 13:1-4. The Disciples wanted to know how sinful the Galileans' were. If you read the text, it actually begins rather abruptly. Almost out of the blue, Jesus is told of the Galileans' who were murdered while performing sacrifices by the infamous Pilate.

While not stated as a question, there is certainly a question implied: "How incredibly sinful were those Galileans' for God allowing them to be killed in such a manner and situation?" Jesus rounds on them on the spot and I suspect left them dumbfounded, telling them not to entertain for an instant that the Galileans were any more sinful than they. Right here Jesus suggests that faith is not a process of trying to identify who is more sinful, but rather faith is to be the engine behind "weeding in our spiritual garden." It is not about the other person's walk before God. It is about your walk before God.

To make sure his followers got the correct message, Jesus recalls an incident not included in the Bible but apparently well known to his audience. For some reason a tower in Siloam fell and killed eighteen people. Jesus automatically joins these seemingly unconnected events to further cement his point. Obviously the general view was that the strange accident was a judgment from God for the level of sin in their lives, but Jesus essentially says, don't go there, rather go internal and make sure your walk before God is upright,

Stated nowhere explicitly but implied everywhere in these four verses is the message that such a judgmental view point on life tells us nothing about those being judged, but it tells us volumes about those doing the judging. In the first story, Jesus implies the ones who told him about the murdered Galileans' were at least as equally sinful as those poor souls. In the second story, Jesus expands the notion of those guilty of sin to include all who lived in God's holy city. The final morale of the stories is that one's boldness to accuse or even imply another's sinfulness is to in fact commit the sin of self-righteousness.

I don't know why we moderns can't seem to learn this message. Whenever something big happens, people come out to the woodwork to tell us who is responsible for the "big" event. You know where I am going with this. But keep in mind, we learn more about those who espouse God's judgment than we do about those who are supposedly being judged by God. In the last three weeks I have heard who is responsible for this pandemic we are currently experiencing.

The first reason I heard was from conservative Jews in Jerusalem. It seems the virus is God's judgment on women who were wearing wigs for religious purposes that were too long. This tells me nothing about the women, but it says volumes about the insecure men in control. I then heard the virus was God's judgment on all people for general sinfulness. Never mind the fact that this judgment seems to primarily be picking on the el-

Pastor’s Pen (Continued)

derly who already have health conditions. Is this what God would do? This tells me nothing about God and little about those being so judged, but it tells me loads about those who would seek to capitalize on the fear of the masses.

I then heard the virus was God’s punishment on Democrats for their social positions, and then on the Republicans because of the sellout to the current political landscape. Once again, this tells me nothing about God, very little about those actually being accused, but it says much about those who would use anything to further their particular political view on life.

According to Jesus, in this passage, sometimes bad things happen and they happen without some deeper moral reason. At the same time, however, Jesus seems to suggest that we use every and any event to further check out our own spiritual walk before God. Weed in your own garden and leave your neighbor’s garden alone.

2020 May/June Sermon Schedule Series: “Treasures from Timothy”	May 24, 2020 Title: “Spiritual Housecleaning” Text: I Timothy 6:6-19
May 3, 2020 Title: “It’s About Grace” Text: I Timothy 1:12-17	June 7, 2020 Title: “Fan the Flames” Text: 2 Timothy 1:6-18
May 10, 2020 Title: “Living Peacefully in a Hostile World” Text: I Timothy 2:1-7	June 14, 2020 Title: “Faith And Gardening” Text: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
May 17, 2020 Title: “Catching Flies” Text: I Timothy 2:8-15	June 21, 2020 Title: Paul’s Charge to Christian Fathers” Text: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Social Media

Katie Landis



Are you on social media? **Like our page** on Facebook: [Gravel Hill Church](#). **Follow us** on Twitter: [@GravelHill](#). **Follow us** on Instagram: [131gravelhill](#). Check for updates on our website: [gravelhillumc.org](#)



Would you like the Sunday Bulletin sent to your email?

It is easy to sign up to receive it! Click here: [Newsletter Sign Up Form](#) to sign up. Select [Hill Highlights](#) (Weekly Sermon & Bulletin links) and click Submit. *You may also select [Monthly Beacon Newsletter on this link](#).

Your Sunday Bulletin will appear in your email Sunday morning (and newsletters appear once a month). Please email questions to: katie@gravelhillumc.org

Worship Leader

Joyce
Lochinger

Any questions? Please contact Joyce Lochinger at joyce@gravelhillumc.org

Worship online with us!

SPECIAL WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Spoken announcements** from any groups within the church must be provided in writing to the Worship Leader by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday during which they are to be announced. Making announcements during worship will be done by the Pastor and the Worship Leader only. Due to the desire to have Worship consistent and on time it is necessary for this change to take place, effective immediately. *Thank you, Pastor Smith*

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2. If you are in need of any type of **projection or music** in the sanctuary for funerals, weddings, special church announcements etc., please follow proper protocol and give them to our worship leader with as much advanced notice as possible. This will provide time to determine if your presentation can be created and/or if it is compatible with the intricate computer software which is used in the sanctuary. Thank you for your understanding! SEND ALL INFO TO: joyce@gravelhillumc.org

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Christian Education

Shauna
Dowdrick

Our **Virtual Sunday School** will continue throughout the time we are homebound. See our new Facebook group "[Gravel Hill UMC Sunday School](#)" for details. This is a group for all of our youth age groups. Stay connected with your teachers and your friends, while we all stay safe!



Congratulations to the Class of 2020!!!! You have worked hard and you deserve recognition. We will be holding a Graduate Celebration for all graduates one way or another on May 17. Please complete the [Graduate Recognition Form](#) (on the youth group page) and email 2 or 3 pictures to: Joyce@gravelhillumc.org . Keep your eyes peeled online for your recognition.

Staffing Changes at Gravel Hill. . .

Dawn Schaffer



Karen Ayers retired her Administrative Assistant position as of March 13, 2020. Every one of us on staff have appreciated Karen’s beautiful qualities while she was serving the Lord in her tenure at Gravel Hill. Her humor, her thoughtfulness, her keen memory, her deep caring nature and her unwavering commitment to her faith journey are Karen’s true hall-marks. She was (and I’m positive, she still is) committed to everyone who comes into Gravel Hill contact with using her servant heart to bless all those around her. We wish Karen the best in her retirement! If you would like to send a note to Karen, please use 332 West Cedar Street, Palmyra, PA 17078.

It is with great joy that I announce that Ashley Zimmerman has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant for the church office. Ashley’s deep commitment to her faith walk and to the Gravel Hill community will serve her well in her new position. She brings with her a skillset and knowledge that we believe will uniquely benefit the church office operations. We all look forward to a time when we are able to resume our normal schedules. Until then, please consider sending a note of welcome to Ashley through her email at Ashley.zimmerman08@yahoo.com.

Highlighting GH Ministries

Dawn Schaffer

Providing a tithe online is the most efficient way to continue your church giving. It is simple and [available by clicking here](#). You can set up a one-time tithe or a recurring tithe and change as you wish. If you need any help, please contact Dawn Schaffer at dawn@gravelhillumc.com. You may also mail your tithes and offering to **GHUMC, 131 Gravel Hill Road, Palmyra PA 17078**.

Have you seen the new giving envelope? This quarter, Gravel Hill is highlighting the Children & Youth Ministry. Your support is greatly appreciated for the Gravel Hill kids.



Deep Thoughts from the Lay Mobilizer

Tony
Rose

Remember this intro to March's Beacon Article...

What a boring, uneventful Winter. 3 inches of snow? YAWN. Terrible. Gonna have to move north...

And then April's...

Well...boring is officially out the window, isn't it??? What a month March was...and maybe April??? Let's hope not! In spite of everything going on, let's assume by the time you read this, some or most of the madness will have subsided. WRONG!!!! On so many levels.

Who would've thought we would celebrate Palm Sunday at home? Maundy Thursday at home? Easter at home? The entire month of April...at HOME!!!! Not I, that's for sure...And the icing on the cake is this morning I woke up, went outside and started cutting the grass, and it started to snow!!!!??? Snow??? Mercy! It's a crazy, crazy mixed up world.

I'll pray for this: I'll pray that you are well. That you are not just surviving but instead thriving. Thriving on the abundance of free time you now have to do the things our previous hectic lives made it near-impossible to do: spend QUALITY time with family, spend QUALITY time with God, spend QUALITY time reflecting on yourself and trying to find ways to smooth out those character flaws, those little annoying habits you might have...turning these things over to God and really working with Him to better yourself, your life, and the lives of those around you.

In addition to that, here's an updated list of activities we are HOPING take place late Spring, mid-summer, and the rest of the year. God willing, of course. Perhaps now that you have some time, you would consider helping out. Let's see...

Good Samaritan Health Care Workers Go-FundMe Drive: Ongoing. To donate, go to: [https://www.gofundme.com/f/good-samaritan-health-care-employees?](https://www.gofundme.com/f/good-samaritan-health-care-employees?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet)

[utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet](https://www.gofundme.com/f/good-samaritan-health-care-employees?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet)

Safe Sanctuaries Refresher Courses: *Still* postponed until further notice.

Safe Sanctuaries Full Course: *Still* postponed until further notice

Just Between Friends Clothing Consignment Fundraiser now happening on May 14-16 unless I hear otherwise

Quarters for a Cause Donation Drive ends on June 1 with delivery on June 5th (Let's see what happens with this!?)

Father's Day on City Island (pending) happening on Sunday, June 14th

10-Mile Summer Sizzler: Something to Wine About Run happening on July 11

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser to benefit Palmyra's Great Give on Sunday, August 30th 11 am – 4 pm

Kauffman's Chicken BBQ: Monday, September 14th 3-6 pm

Palmyra's Great Give coupled with the Charity Motorcycle Ride and the Palmyra Area ChiliFEST happening on September 19th

The Fall Feeding Frenzy 5K happening on October 31st

Veteran's Luncheon happening on November 1st

Quarters for a Cause Donation Drive on November 16th

The Christmas Market happening on Friday, November 20th and Saturday, November 21st

Advent Services happening 11/25-12/16

Plus the following Isaiah 6:8 opportunities:

Caitlin Smiles:

May 20th, June 11th, July 15th, August 19th, October 1st, November 5th, and December 16th

Food Bank:

May 14th, July 16th, September 17th, November 19th

Downtown Daily Bread:

June 28th, August 23rd, October 25th, and December 27th

Caring Cupboard:

May 30th, August 29th, October 31st

American House Bingo:

August 18th.

Susan Dowhower house Bingo:

September 22nd.

Columbia Cottage Bingo:

May 14th, July 16th, September 17th, November 19th

Adopt-a-Highway:

4 times a year: one per season

All of these dates and times are contingent upon the return to normalcy we hope and pray occurs soon. Remember, this list doesn't even include Missions opportunities, Operation Christmas Child, Community Gardens Initiative, Kidz Choir, Adult Choir, Adult and Children Christian Ed Teachers, Vacation Bible School, Nursery Attendants, etc...

Finally, be sure you check out our Volunteer link on our website to sign up for some of the above-mentioned events. Here's the link plus some others just in case you're really bored! They are links to some FB pages. Please visit, like, and share!

Volunteer: <https://gravelhillumc.org/share/time-talent/volunteering/>

Charity Motorcycle Ride: <https://www.facebook.com/Cycles-For-Life-1422930407813204/>

Palmyra's Great Give:

<https://www.facebook.com/palmyrasgreatgive/>

Palmyra Area ChiliFEST & Chili Cook-Off:

<https://www.facebook.com/palmyrachillifest/>

4 Seasons Race Series:

<https://www.facebook.com/GravelHill5K/>

And now a Deep Thought:

"I hope they never find out that lightning has a lot of vitamins in it. Because do you hide from it or not?"

~ Jack Handey

May Birthdays



5/1	Steven Boltz	5/13	Linda Higgins	5/20	Gwen Campbell	5/31	Michael Bare
5/2	Steve Schappell		Colby Roe		James Ault		Dana Ellenberger
	Kathy Pyle		Michael Beltz		Kera Custer		Austin Devitz
	Jessica Maloy		Garret Lucera		Kaitlyn Lawrence		Joseph Eleutice
	Matthew Capion		John Pallone	5/21	Shawn Lochinger		
5/3	Bridget Zimmerman	5/14	Brenda Klinger		Gabriel Rose		
	Conner Campbell	5/15	Mildred Spangler		Briana Moreland		
5/4	Bethany Stutzman		Carly Lehman	5/22	Betty Seitz		
	Neil Burke		Joanne Ehrhart		Anthony Hottenstein		
	Melissa Devitz	5/16	Amy Trujillo	5/23	Alicia Annabali		
	Haley Alquist		Carson White		Kelly Dinunzio		
	Dale Wagner		Joyce Sitrler	5/24	Chris Foutz		
	Evan Bogdan		David Kreider		Dale Lingle		
5/5	Coral Barbaretta		Lisa Black	5/25	Scott Zimmerman		
5/6	Quinten Leonard		Stephanie Bashore		Cody Eisenhour		
	Carol Grunden	5/17	Nancy Schriver	5/26	Christine Smith		
	Megan Splain		Madison Julian		Alexiana Fantauzzi		
5/7	Adelyn Rose		Devin Richard		Amanda Bishop		
	Jean Joseph		Lucas Knoll	5/27	Anthony Baldo		
5/8	Adam Zimmerman		Bryce Nagle		Lauren Walters		
	Finn Zimmerman		Alexis Reed	5/28	Bryon Lehn		
5/9	Jani Mitchell	5/18	Lorraine Cassel		Cara Higgins		
	Ellen Green		Dennis Grumbine		Gabriella Beltz		
5/11	Rick Hoffman		Victoria Friedel		Brenna Hogue		
	Kevin Miller		Marissa Wadel	5/29	Dawn Orlando		
	Betty Kosko		Laura Leonard		Timothy Arntz		
	Dennis Albert	5/19	Erin Rose	5/30	Olivia Walters		
5/12	Craig Horowitz		Olivia Hepler				
	Justin Gemert		Scott Via				
	Benjamin Smeltz		Giyana Eleutice				



Gravel Hill UMC has organized this event to benefit the Caring Cupboard.

The run will take place at
The Vineyards at Hershey

598 Schoolhouse Road, Middletown, 17057

8:00am-11:00am

[Learn about 10 Mile Summer Sizzler & Sign Up](#)

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>In alignment with CDC policies, USE OF THE CHURCH FACILITIES IS PROHIBITED. (i.e. classrooms, fellowship hall, gym, weight room) Our primary concern is safety, though following this restriction will also help us avoid unnecessary lighting and heating bills during this difficult time period. Thank you for complying! Please check our website for updates: gravelhillumc.org <i>God bless!</i></p>					1	2
					3	4
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Happy Mothers Day						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Memorial Day					

Youth Group News

Judy
Kennedy



Keep checking on social media:

[Gravel Hill Youth Group](#) (Facebook group)

[@GravelHillYouth](#) (Twitter)

for updates on any other youth activities. Questions can be directed to Judy Kennedy (717-202-5449) or kennedyx5@comcast.net.

Current Missions

Thank you for your support of
Quarters for a Cause!

Thank you also for your support of the
Good Samaritan Go Fund Me collection
on Facebook for frontline hospital workers!

Gravel Hill Community:
YOU are AMAZING!!

Sharing Information

NO Men's Morning Out in May



Please call the Church Office (717.838.4721) to be added to the list for:

Prayer Chain Calls: If you are interested in being on the call list for prayers requested, please call the church office so that we may add you to the list.

Email Messages : For an electronic version of the newsletter, the bulletin or special announcements, please notify the church office.

Partners In Missions Meeting For May Canceled.



Dear Gravel Hill Congregation:

We would like to thank everyone for all your cards, prayers and visits. Gail was truly a blessing to our family and will truly be missed.

The Gary Trowbridge Family

Dear Gravel Hill:

Thank you so much for all the cards, phone calls, visits at home and in the hospital and meals! I am so grateful for the outpouring of your thought and care. I am keeping you all in my prayers!

God Bless You! Betty Seitz

Caring Cupboard Information



Current Needs:

Fresh Produce, Canned Pasta, Salt and pepper, Spam, Canned Pork, Hamburger Helpers, Sugar. *Non-food needs*: Paper towels / Napkins, Shampoo, Bar soap

We want to hear from you!

Have something going on for The Caring Cupboard you'd like to share? Have a suggestion of something you'd like to see? Let us know! Send them to Shila at shila@caringcupboard.org **Interested in volunteering your time?**

There are many opportunities for you to offer help! Please contact Molly Lewis at molly@caringcupboard.org or 717.395.1430 Thanks!

Book Reviews

Happy Reading from the Church Librarians,
Kristen Capion and Janell Ault!

Listed below are three book reviews from the church library which is located in the Heritage Room. One review is from the children's section, one is from the teen's section and there is one from the adult section of the library. Enjoy!

The Ten Commandments from God's Own Hands by Phil Smouse

He was biggeth and talleth and largeth and higheth.

He stretched from the ground straight on up to the sky-eth!

Yes, armed to the teeth both above and beneath;

A big burly Philistine giant – GOLIATH!

Kids have probably never heard the Ten Commandments explained in quite this way before! With rollicking rhyme and zany illustrations, Phil Smouse demonstrates the meaning of the Ten Commandments in a way that kids are sure to remember. Using such favorite Bible stories as David and Goliath, Adam and Eve, and Daniel in the Lions' Den, the meaning of each commandment becomes clear – on a kid's level. Help kids remember the Ten Commandments, as well as ten top Bible stories, with this fun and wacky book.

Extreme Truth – The Bible Promise Book for Graduates by Jennifer Hahn

Life is Extreme. Be Ready. Want to get the most out of life? Make sure you're equipped with the Truth. *Extreme Truth – The Bible Promise Book for Grads* is a radical pattern for life – and it's drawn directly from the Word of God. Think of these powerful biblical insights as the edge you'll need to succeed in the course ahead. Think of these powerful biblical insights as the edge you'll need to succeed in the course ahead. You'll find the ultimate guidance for every opportunity and obstacle you'll face, from Relationships to Finances, Courage to Temptation – forty topics in all. They'll keep you on the right track so you can avoid pitfalls and run the race with confidence. Life is extreme, so be ready. *Extreme Truth*. Don't leave home without it!

Lifelines – God's Framework for Christian Living by Edith Schaeffer

Who am I? What will fulfill me? We're looking for answers to these questions. But where do we go to find them? To our friends and neighbors? To the surrounding culture? To TV and movies? To liberation movements? Many of us *do* get our vales from sources like these. Maybe that's why we feel unhappy and unfulfilled. The real answer lies right in front of us. God has provided a framework for living: The Ten Commandments. By following his pattern we can experience a full, rich, and meaningful life. *Lifelines* is written in the warm and endearing way that has won Edith Scheaffer millions of readers around the world. She skillfully unfolds these eternal truths to reveal new depths of meaning and practical applications.



www.gravelhillumc.org

Email Us!



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Social Media Manager: Katie Landis katie@gravelhillumc.org

Youth Leader: Judy Kennedy youth.ghumc@gmail.com

Business Administrator: Dawn Schaffer dawn@gravelhillumc.org

Congregational Visitation: Joe Royer jroyer100@gmail.com

General Questions: office@gravelhillumc.org

Submit all Articles for the
June BEACON by
May 15.

PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS TO:
dawn@gravelhillumc.org

Thank you!

Happy Mother's Day
Busy Bees! You're the
BEST!

