

B E A C O N January 2021. . . Brief

Gravel Hill UMC

Dan Lebo, Senior Pastor

A Message from Pastor Dan:

A new year brings a time for a lot of things. It's a time of reflection on the year that has past. I think it is safe to say that 2020 was a year like no other as we have faced many difficult challenges. Part of the benefit of reflection is the ability to recognize things that we want to be different. That is why we often make resolutions so that the year ahead is better in some way than the past. In the life of the church, the new year is also a time for renewal. It is a time for us to pray and recommit ourselves to the work of God in the world. In the Wesleyan tradition, the beginning of the year is a time to recite the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer. This is a prayer that John Wesley adapted from the Puritan tradition that was so important in his home growing up. The Covenant Prayer describes missional life devoted to following Jesus and serving as Christ's representative in the world he loves and is working to redeem. It tells us that being a Christian is more a way of life than a system of beliefs. The Covenant Prayer describes the Jesus way of self-giving and self-emptying love. As we begin a new year together, I encourage you to say this prayer and renew our covenant to God:

"I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

*Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.*

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

*I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.*

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

*And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."*

Stay in the know: www.gravelhillumc.org • (717) 838-4721 • 131 Gravel Hill Road, Palmyra, PA 17078

Facebook: [Gravel Hill Church](https://www.facebook.com/GravelHillChurch) Instagram: [@131gravelhill](https://www.instagram.com/@131gravelhill) Twitter: [@GravelHill](https://www.twitter.com/@GravelHill) Visit our Sermons: [GravelHillUMC Video Gallery](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GravelHillUMCVideoGallery)

Worship Notes:

- Worship is ONLINE ONLY until and including January 17.
- Online Worship is available through [our YouTube channel](#) and also on our [FaceBook page](#). If you want to be notified when Gravel Hill goes live, access Gravel Hill UMC on YouTube. Click on the word SUBSCRIBE and click the bell to the right of the word to receive notifications.

Online Giving Options:



You can access [online giving](#) from the GH website. There are two new accounts noted online to which you may provide your financial support. The first is shown to the left as Worship Resources and Outreach. This will support the update of our dated audio/visual equipment in order to improve our recorded online presence by look and sound, as well as in person worship experience. The second new fund is for the Christmas Market. The 2020 Christmas Market will be all online due to

COVID. If you have any questions, please email Dawn Schaffer at dawn@gravelhillumc.org.

Teachers Needed:

Gravel Hill Christian Child Care currently has part-time and full-time openings for teachers and kitchen help. If you have questions, please call 717-838-3620. If you would like to submit your resume, you may email it to ghcccdirector@yahoo.com, attention Lori Cheatham.

Special Thank You Notes:

I wanted to take a moment and thank the Gravel Hill community for your warm welcome as I transitioned to being your Senior Pastor in July. This year has been less than ideal and we haven't been able to get to know one another as well as I would have liked, but I have appreciated your grace and support as we all do our best to navigate a trying time in the life of our church and community. I have seen your generosity shown in your support of the church, my family, and me personally. Thank you for a memorable first 6 months with you and I look forward to what God has in store for us in 2021!

Pastor Dan

Thank you Gravel Hill Congregation for the cards and generous gift to me for the Christmas season. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you and most importantly to serve God here at Gravel Hill. May you all have a blessed 2021.

And thank you again!

Sincerely - Pastor Shawn