

May 2021. . . Brief

Gravel Hill UMC

Dan Lebo, Senior Pastor

Greetings Gravel Hill Community,

This past month, it was such a joy to celebrate the risen Christ with you all on Easter Sunday and as we have been gathering for worship in the weeks since. Each Sunday is an opportunity for us to recognize the victory Jesus won on our behalf with the empty tomb and raise our voices in joy and salvation. Out of all the years that I have been a pastor, I think this is the year we needed to be reminded of that victory more than the others. It has been a challenging year, and we have had to struggle through many different hardships, so it is essential to be reminded of the grace and freedom found in Jesus Christ. It has been a blessing to be able to see many of you in worship, even though things have looked different.

We are continuing to look at ways to continue to take steps to bring us back to a sense of “normalcy” in our worship space. Our goal has been to do our best to meet the worshiping needs of the people in our community and to do it as responsibly as possible. We are excited to announce the next steps in our ability to meet this goal. First, we will be resuming our 9:15 am service starting on May 23rd. This is a great time to join us for contemporary worship and have your family participate in our Sunday school options.

Second, we have decided that our 10:30 am service will be a “masks optional” service. Up until now, all of our services have been masks required because of the value that masks play in preventing transmission of COVID-19. However, we understand that many in our worshiping community are not comfortable wearing a mask to worship. Now that we have three services, we have the opportunity to pull back some restrictions for our last service of the day.

So, what does that mean for you as you make your decisions on the best way to worship with us on a Sunday morning? The 8:00 am traditional service and the 9:15 am contemporary service will continue to be masks required. Sunday school will still be masks required. Groups using the church and those visiting the office will still be required to wear masks throughout the week. For the 10:30 am service only, worshippers will be able to remove their masks while sitting in their pews for worship. Masks must still be worn in and out of the building and while walking around. This is similar to the guidelines that restaurants are following. We ask that you continue to wear masks while walking around the building.

With that being said, it is important to remember that we are not out of the woods in terms of the pandemic that we find ourselves in. We are continuing to take this seriously and are doing our best to be responsible in providing a safe place to worship. If you have any clarifying questions, please call the church office.

In addition to remembering that we have victory in Jesus, let us also remember the importance of being a resurrection community. We will get through this together because when two or three are gathered in Jesus’ name, God is in our midst.

In Christ, Pastor Dan

Coming Up: May 9, Mother’s Day
May 16, Graduation Sunday
May 23, Worship at 9:15am Returns
May 31, Memorial Day—Office Closed

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.gravelhillumc.org/video-gallery)

Worship Notes:

The 9:15am worship will begin on May 23!

Until that date, worship is available at 8:00am (Traditional) and 10:30am (Praise).

Please provide [Joyce Lochinger](#) with your feedback, photos and thoughts to include on a **How We Worship** area for the newsletter! Everyone appreciates seeing and hearing from you!

Youth Group:

We will meet until May 26. In June we will begin our summer schedule which is not yet decided. Please continue to check our Facebook page and the church website.

Teachers Urgently Needed:

Gravel Hill Christian Child Care currently has part-time and full-time openings. If you have questions, please call 717-838-3620. To submit a resume, email it to ghcccdirector@yahoo.com, attention Lori Cheatham.

Online Giving Options:

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in providing your weekly giving. Because of your generosity, the work of Gravel Hill continues! If you haven't already, [creating an online account](#) for handling your [giving online](#) is simple and quick to set up, start, stop and change as you continue throughout the year. If you have any questions, please email Dawn Schaffer at dawn@gravelhillumc.org.

Very Special Thank you!

Did you notice that Gravel Hill's landscape is newly refreshed with tanbark? Thank you to Fran Brandt, Gwen and Dave Kendall, Jean and Jim Foutz, and Bill Yohn for weeding, edging and spraying to prepare the beds. Kern's Landscaping arranged for the tanbark delivery. All the tanbark was spread by Dave Kreider, Heather and Skylar Geib, Gail Newcomer, Fran Brandt, Judy and Jeff Kennedy, Bill Yohn, and Jean and Jim Foutz. Taking time to volunteer was much appreciated!

Announcements:

- For those interested in summer camping at Gretna Glen, summer registration for overnight and day camps is now open! Please view more information by accessing <https://www.gretnaglen.org/summer-camp>
- Gravel Hill UMC will be reaching our 175th Anniversary this year! We would like to organize an event in the fall to celebrate. If you are interested in helping on a planning team, please contact [the Office](#). We hope to schedule a meeting in the next couple of months to explore ideas.

Deadline reminder: If you'd like something to be included in the Beacon Brief, please submit it to [Dawn Schaffer](#) by the 15th of the month before you wish your information to appear. (e.g. To print something in the April Brief, please submit it no later than March 15th) Thank you!

Gravel Hill Staff:

Senior Pastor, Dan Lebo pastordan@gravelhillumc.org
Associate Pastor, Shawn Lochinger sdlochinger@gmail.com
Worship Leader, Joyce Lochinger joyce@gravelhillumc.org
Admin Assistant, Ashley Zimmerman office@gravelhillumc.org
Business Admin, Dawn Schaffer dawn@gravelhillumc.org

Christian Education Director, Shauna Dowdrick shauna@gravelhillumc.org
Social Media Manager, Katie Landis katie@gravelhillumc.org
Youth Group Leader, Judy Kennedy kennedyx5@comcast.net
Chime & Bell Choir Leader, Barb Koons bak0425@comcast.net
Pastor Emeritus, Doug Smith revdsmith@comcast.net
Congregational Visitation, Joe Royer jroyer100@gmail.com