

# **Mount Gretna UMC**

Happenings February 2022



## What Makes a Hero

The Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus By Matt Rawle

How does Jesus redefine what it means to be a hero?

*What Makes a Hero?* offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations. Looking at pop culture heroes and others through the lens of faith, Matt Rawle shows how Jesus turned the concept of hero on its head. In keeping with his theme, "Pop in Culture," the book examines how

good vs. evil, right vs. wrong, and overcoming adversity are fundamental to how Christians understand salvation. Heroes help us discern the good, fight for what's right, define identity, execute justice, spark revolution, and save lives.

Rawle enters the Gospel story to tell quite a different victory story—one obtained through humility, obedience to the cross, and an empty tomb. How does Jesus redefine what it means to be a hero?

Chapter titles:

- 1. Good, Evil, and God
- 2. Right, Wrong, and Holy
- 3. Us, Them, and the Body of Christ
- 4. Have, Have-Not, and the Kingdom of God
- 5. Old, New, and Covenant
- 6. Life, Death, and Resurrection

This Lenten Bible Study will be offered from March 6 – April 10 from 7:00-8:00 PM Once again, we will be offering it in a hybrid format. Books will be available by February 18<sup>th</sup>. The books are free but is you would liker to make a \$10 donation toward the coast of the study that would be greatly appreciated.

## **Tools for Ministry set for March 5 on Zoom**



It's time to open the proverbial toolbox again to help build and repair church ministries—to fix what's broken and improve what's working. That requires leadership development and training more than anything else.

So, the Eastern PA Conference will sponsor its **2022 Tools for Ministry on Saturday, March 5, 9 AM to 12:30 PM**. Classes will be offered virtually on Zoom once again, out of an abundance of caution during the stillsurging COVID pandemic.

Tools for Ministry is a half-day academy offering two sessions of diverse, dynamic learning for leaders. And it's open to all laity and clergy. Skilled instructors will provide valuable information, wise insights, and helpful resources. And some classes will be recorded and made available later to be viewed again or for the first time by those who want to learn more.

Click here to see the full list of workshop descriptions.

Register today before some classes fill up!



Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday. This year the service will be on February 26th at 7:00 PM This year Cornwall UMC will host the service. Our church and Rocherty UMC will join them for this service. Pastor Mike will deliver the evening message and the service will conclude with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

## **New Member Classes**

Is God calling you to become a member of our congregation? If so, consider attending our two session New Member class. The class will be offered March 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> directly following the 10 AM Worship Service. Those completing the class can then be invited to join the congregation on either Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday this year. Please let Pastor Mike know if you are interested.



This year the pastors of the Southern Lebanon County Council of Churches will each be preparing a mid-week video devotionals to be shared every Wednesday during Lent. The theme for the devotional series is Lenten Hymns The first devotional will be posted to the church's website on March 9<sup>th</sup> and then a new one will be added each week.

#### FOOD BANK SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we collect money, non-perishable food items and paper products for the Lebanon County Christian Ministry Food Bank.

We thank those who have participated in the past and encourage everyone to use the list of suggested items that can be picked up in the church lobby each month to help with purchasing items that are needed.

Category	2021	2020	Dollar Change
Offerings	\$160,189	\$135,785	\$24,404
Contribution from Endowment	\$38,004	\$38,004	\$0
Other Income	\$66,602	\$64,283	\$2,319
Total Operating Income	\$264,795	\$238,072	\$26,723
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$250,597	\$240,777	\$9,820
Budget Surplus <mark>/(Deficit)</mark>	\$14,198	(\$2,705)	\$16,903
Endowment Annual Grants	\$62,553	\$59,676	\$2,877

### **MGUMC Year-end Summary**

The above table is a comparison of the financial results of the church for 2021 compared to 2020.

#### Explanation of categories

Offering: Envelopes, Plate, Church School, Beacon and Building funds

**Contribution from Endowment:** The grant amount received from the endowment for operational expenditures of the MGUMC.

**Other income:** Miscellaneous, Flowers, Bible study, funds from the Endowment for nonoperational grants.

**Total Disbursements:** Budgeted expenses for operation of the church, including the nonoperational grants distributed.

Surplus/(Deficit): This line states how well the receipts of MGUMC is offsetting the budgeted disbursements.

Endowment Annual Grants: Grants other than the "Contribution from Endowment."