

2017



Autumn Program Guide

Sarah looked in my direction and said, ‘Joel, how is the garden growing? Would you be interested in giving the committee a report on your progress at an upcoming meeting?’ Her question shook me out of the hibernation I had entered into during the elongated watershed and infrastructure presentation.

‘Of course!’ I answered, while asking myself, ‘how did I, a Pastor of a not-yet-built-church, get a seat on this city committee?’

The answer to my pondering started years before I ever became a part of Harmony Springs. It started when this courageous group of people hammered a for-sale sign on a downtown church building and purchased land in this growing Akron-suburb of Green.

The answer to my question continued when we hosted day-camp activities at East Liberty Park and marched in the city’s

Memorial Day parade. It continued when a group of women hosted a young mom who wanted to fill backpacks of food for hungry children in the city who were getting lost amidst the affluence.

“Our actions demonstrate what and who we value.”

It continued when Harmony Springs voted to seed a new community garden project, and when we collect candy to give out to sugar-starved-costumed-children at the trick-or-treat trail.

The truth is the answer to our questions about how we got where we are lie in what we DID more than what we said. Isn’t that how it is in life? Our actions are what matter in the end. Our actions demonstrate what and who we value. Our values show up when we pull out the hammer, when we line up to fill backpacks, when we pull weeds in the hot sun, and when we sort and organize candy.

This program guide you are about to read is just that—a guide. We did our best to give

harmony springs

you the information: the dates, times, and places to show up. You have to continue to be the answer to my question by showing up and participating. What we are building together happens one discussion, one gathering, one event at a time.

I hope you find this program guide informative and useful in your participation. I sincerely pray that you are proud of these pages. These pages are filled with a proclamation of our values by serving a visible representation of what we do.

Pastor Joel Engman
Lead Pastor



Living-Green Task force member

Candy-sorter

Parade van driver

After all, what we do is what matters in the end.



harmony SPRINGS

Staff



Rev. Joel Engman
Lead Pastor
minister@harmonysprings.org
330-899-9785 Ext. 101

@joelsengman



Jennifer Berlyoung
Director of Development
Hybrid driver
jennifer@harmonysprings.org
330-807-8072



Rev. Kim Barnett
Associate Pastor
All around nice person
kimlinb@aol.com



Donna Gower
Office Manager
The one who gets it done
office@harmonysprings.org
330-899-9785 Ext. 100



Terry Fairfax
Music Director
terry@terryfairfaxmusic.com

@tfairfax



Walter Franz
Nuts & bolts
Ask Wally—he'll know
wefranzjr@gmail.com

New Music Director Terry Fairfax



We welcome Terry Fairfax as our new Music Director! We love him already and know you will too. Terry is an Akron native and has extensive experience in both classical and modern music. Terry will lead our music ministry of instrumentalists, vocalists and choir. Terry is not only a talented pianist but also a composer.

Terry began playing piano at age 4, and gave his first public performances not long after that, playing piano and singing at school and church, in recitals and concerts. From 1982 through 1997, he performed live, wrote, arranged and recorded music throughout the United States, sharing the stage and studio with a broad range of artists, including 70s dance hit masters LaFlavour, the world's best Beatles tribute 1964, The Tribute, The Phil Palumbo Orchestra, Jonah Koslen and Breathless, Donnie Iris and the Cruisers producer/composer Mark Avsec, smooth jazz artists Hemisphere, Sonny Geraci (the Outsiders and Klimaxx), John Bowman (Sha Na Na's "Bowser"), stage and screen star Carol Lawrence, Cleveland classic rockers My Old School, and many others. He also served as Music Director for the Cleveland Indians at Jacobs Field for the 1994 through 2001 baseball seasons. After earning Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Music and Philosophy from the University of Akron, Ohio, he completed his law studies at the University of Akron School of Law and took a few years off from playing music to pursue other interests.

We are happy to be a venue for Terry's desire to collaborate musically in a spiritual setting. If you have interest in participating in our music ministry send [Terry an email](mailto:terry@terryfairfaxmusic.com). He'd love to hear from you and get you involved. Check out Terry's music online at www.terryfairfaxmusic.com

Join the Music

**Thursdays @
Cuckler's Home**

**Sunday Rehearsal
9:30 AM**

Chili + Cornbread Luncheon

Oct. 29 | 11:45 AM



In our busy lives it's easy to pass by others without really knowing them. Church has always been a place for community and we love community that happens around a table.

You're invited to gather around our tables on **Sunday, October 29** (usually around 11:45am). We'll be serving a great fall classic—chili + cornbread. The church will also provide tableware and drinks! If you'd like to bring something—we especially love gluten-free/vegetarian salads and desserts! Come eat some good grub while getting to know someone new.

RECYCLE



Sunday Mornings | 10:30 AM

Akron General – Green
1940 Town Park Blvd.
Uniontown, OH

Mailing Address:

PO Box 428
Uniontown, OH 44685



Harmony Springs is a covenant network partner with the [Christian Church in Ohio](#) and the [Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#). We partner with local non-profits all in an effort to join God's work of justice in our community, state, and world collaboratively.

Green Mayor Neugebauer Packs Blessing Backpacks



Mayor Neugebauer pictured with FedEx employees who also showed up to help pack backpacks!

Last Thursday, Mayor Neugebauer of Green showed up to work alongside harmony springs volunteers!

From the moment we stepped foot in Green Harmony Springs has been involved in the community. We see our participation in community events as a vital part of what we do. We live out our mission when we help make the lives of our neighbors better.

Five years ago a young mom from the Green PTA asked if she could share a backpack idea with our women's circle group. Her vision was to pack backpacks full of weekend food for those children (and families) facing food insecurity. From day one we knew we wanted to support Jennifer Doerrer in this endeavor.

Harmony Springs has supported Blessings in a Backpacks both financially and with volunteers. Helping pack the backpacks is an easy 'give' to the community and helps families in need tremendously. This will be our 6th year of providing food for the most at risk children in our community. Meeting their basic needs has become a hallmark of greatness in Green that has filtered over to surrounding districts in our area. Our program alone has helped more than six other districts begin their own programs and has been used as an example of efficiency throughout the United States. It is with absolute certainty that our greatness comes

from the individuals who volunteer their time to make sure that all children are fed in our community.

We meet at **9:30 am**, at the Intermediate School pantry. Packing dates are: Thursday, October 12 & 26; November 16; and December 7. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry contact [Liz Iler](#).

WHILE YOU'RE AT THE STORE GRAB SOME...

Needed Backpack Items

If you'd like to donate items for the backpacks – needed items are:

- Hearty Soups
- Pastas in a can
- Mac & Cheese
- Beef Stews
- Oatmeal
- Applesauce
- Fruit cups
- Ramen noodles
- Slim Jims
- Individual cereal cups
- Cheese Crackers
- Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly (only in plastic containers).



John and Debbie MacDonald pose with other packing volunteers.

TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL

Saturday, October 21, 2017
3:00pm at Central Park

We are manning a booth again at the City of Green Parks & Recreation 21st annual Trick or Treat Trail. We're looking for volunteers to brave the sugar-starved-costumed-children to hand out candy! Its always a fun time to enjoy smiling children and chat with the community about Harmony Springs!

If you would like to contribute candy we will be collecting through Sunday, October 15. Buy a bag at the store and bring them to church on Sunday!

If you are interested in representing the church at the table, please contact [Jennifer Berlyoung](#).



The Pastor kids are out shopping for candy! Are you?



The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Elect New General Minister and President

By Rev. Allison Ruari

In July, our denomination elected our next General Minister and President. News outlets highlighted Rev. Owens' race and gender as historical and groundbreaking (which, to be fair, is pretty great), and not her incredible qualifications that puts her in a position to really thrive as our GMP.

For a year and a half, the GMP search committee sent out updates on our process, received survey data and application packets. We met regularly in person and over the phone to pray, discuss, and discern who God was calling to be our next General Minister and President. In Rev. Owens, we have someone who's life journey has made her uniquely qualified for this call and this role.

Rev. Owens impressed from the start. In her writings she was clear and articulate, thorough and thoughtful. In her interviews, she impressed with her ability to be both pastoral and visionary. In a role that reality is bi-vocational, she has the life experience (both personal and professional) to not only navigate both roles, but really thrive.

As a minister of music's wife and consultant in corporate America, she balanced her time, energy, and passions among lay ministry, parenthood, partnership, and professionalism. As a consultant for organizational change, she first started by listening and by celebrating what was being done well. As a lay leader in her church, she led drama ministries and sang in the choir.

As a seminary student, she balanced her time, energy, and passions between a full course load and a full time job (while still

doing that whole parenting and partnering thing), graduated first in her class and on time. (Ask your pastor how difficult that can be.)

As an ordained minister, she balanced her time, energy, and passions among caring for an aging congregation as a solo pastor in a white suburban church and training up and mentoring a part of the next generation of leaders and pastors as Dean of Students at the University of Chicago Divinity School (As the only person under 30 or 40 on the search committee, her dedication to being a mentor was both important and impressive).

Rev. Teri Hord Owens has lived a bi-vocational life and she has done it with grace and compassion. She listens carefully and responds thoughtfully. She understands where we've come from and the future possibilities. Her spiritual, administrative, and pastoral experience and excellence have made her the leader the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) needs for such a time as this.

printed with permission by Rev. Allison Ruari, Associate Minister of Formation, First Christian Church, Mansfield OH.

Rev. Ruari served on the GMP search committee for the General Minister and President.



Did You Know

Harmony Springs serves fair-trade coffee on Sundays? The coffee we drink supports a living wage for coffee farmers in Central America.



Double Your Financial Gift!

Stop by Wayside Furniture between November 24-27 to have a financial gift up to \$100 matched by Wayside. Stop in and designate up to a \$100 gift to Harmony Springs and Wayside will match it! A great way to increase your giving to support the mission of the church at the end of the year.

Organizing Ourselves for Mission



If you are interested in being a part of this loving, giving, supportive group of women, join us or contact Debbie MacDonald.

We will be meeting on:
October 10 @ 10:00am - at the home of June Parry. The service project will be monetary donation and apples for Blessings in a Backpack

November 14 @ 10:00am - at the home of Janice Cuckler. The service project will be collecting of hats & mittens for Good Neighbors

December 5 @ 11:30 am Christmas Luncheon with the Frances Allen Circle at Grandview UMC, Cuyahoga Falls. We will continue to collect hats & mittens for Good Neighbors

Craft and Hobby

Do you have a basement full of craft supplies waiting to be used? If you'd enjoy working on a craft or hobby and/or enjoy food and friendship with a fun group check out our **CRAFT & HOBBY GROUP!**

Craft and Hobby meets at the home of Tomette Kirk. We will meet on Friday, October 27; November 24; and December 22 at 6:30 pm.



**HIRAM FARM HOLIDAY
CRAFT & GIFT SALE
December 8, 9, 2017**

Looking for a perfect gift for a loved one, stop by from 10-2 to find an interesting and unique array of handmade products and crafts. Each of the items were created with love and excitement for the holiday season!

By Pastor Joel Engman

A few years ago harmony springs voted to reorganize ourselves to best suit our mission. We streamlined committees into ministry teams, right-sized our leadership, simplified our decision-making process and off we went.

Harmony Springs functions with the day-to-day decisions being made jointly between church staff and a combination of our Trustees and Elders. Our five Trustees oversee the financial/legal/physical decisions and our five Elders oversee ministry development, programming and care.

The Elders empower our Ministry teams (care, community garden, music, deacons, welcome, human resource, prayer, mission, Christian education) to fulfill the mission of the church collaboratively.

Our Ministry teams are full of people with skills and talents. We love to match individual talents with the work of the church and the level of commitment varies. Just some of the ways you can volunteer are to wash coffee mugs on Sunday morning, teach our children during Faith Formation, sing in the choir, pull weeds in the community garden, man a booth at a community event, and/or pray at the Communion Table.

To get ourselves organized we call for an annual Congregational Meeting on the second Sunday of November. During the meeting we celebrate the ministry we have accomplished together over lunch and then elect new officers (Trustees and Elders), reaffirm our ministry team leaders, approve a yearly budget and hear about plans for the future. It's a life-giving time together to discuss, organize and decide on our future together.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on **Sunday, November 12**, following worship. The agenda includes: nominations of Trustees and Elders, presentation of the 2018 Budget, and a 'State of the Church' address from Pastor Joel.

LEADERSHIP MEETING

The church leadership (Trustees and Elders) will meet Wednesday, October 25 in the

Akron General Wellness Center Administrative Conference Room at 6:30 pm to finalize the agenda and motions for the congregational meeting on Nov. 12.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can access our organizing documents online at harmonysprings.org/members Request the password from [Donna](#) to access membership contact info, current church officers, our elder visitation list, our constitution and bylaws as well as Ministry team descriptions.



On Sunday, September 24th our Human Resource Ministry Team gathered for lunch to thank our church staff. The team recognized Donna Gower's 25 year anniversary as a church employee.

Annual Meeting & Luncheon
Sunday, November 12
11:45 AM
AGMC | After Worship

LIVE NATIVITY

at Stow-Glen Retirement Village on December 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. The nativity will be outside the facility at 4285 Kent Rd, in Stow. Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, the Wise Men, camels and more will all be on hand. This is one of the last Live Nativity Scenes in the area so load up the family and bring the camera for this photo opportunity.



Update from our Leadership

Chair of the Trustees

Clark Reed



As many of you know after years of effort we were finally able to sell the High Street property. The sale of the building in downtown Akron has helped our financial outlook. We are no longer having to pay utilities and taxes associated with the property and the trustees have invested the money we received from the sale.

Part of the interest we will be getting from the money associated with the sale of the High Street property will be used to help with operating expenses and the remainder will be reinvested to help increase the amount of money in our building fund.

With the sale of the High Street property behind us and knowing what we have in our building fund has enabled the

leadership team to begin planning what we will do with the Arlington property.

The trustees continue to look for ways to minimize expenses. The budget that the congregation approved for this year had expenses just exceeding anticipated income. Currently our monthly income is not covering our expenses. Because of this the trustees decided to use a portion of the interest from the building fund to help cover operating expenses.

This along with future increases in giving and the number of people attending our worship services should bring income more in line with expenses.

Knowing that we are looking at developing the Arlington property the trustees will be reviewing our funds to see if there are any funds which could be used toward the development of the Arlington property. Going forward the trustees will continue looking for ways to minimize expenses and ways to best cover expenses. With this in mind we should all be considering our spiritual and financial commitment to Harmony Springs Christian Church.

Clark

Support the Work of the Church

If you'd like to begin supporting the mission of the church financially we'd welcome your support!



Although we don't make a plea for giving during our Sunday morning services we do set out two collection plates by the doors. Feel free to drop your gift in one of those plates.

Our office manager, [Donna](#) is also happy to provide giving envelopes for you to make regular contributions to the church.

You are also welcome to send your support via your banks bill-pay or employer giving to our mailing address:

**Harmony Springs Christian Church
PO Box 428
Uniontown, OH 44685**

We are honored when you decide to give to the work of the church and hope that you are blessed in your generosity. We keep giving confidential and you will receive a report of your giving for tax-purposes yearly (quarterly if requested).

Giving statements for the 3rd quarter, ending September 24, are available upon request. Contact the church office if you would like to receive a copy of your giving to-date.

O.W.L.S. Try New Activities This Year

Some people think retirement should slow you down. Not us! Our OWLS group gets together monthly for all kinds of fun and food. Jennifer has been working hard on planning activities for us and we're excited to share what we have in store. You won't want to miss each month's gathering! Join our **Older Wiser Learning Seniors** for a time of fun and food. We meet at the **Torok Community Center** at 11:30am.

PAINT-WITH-A-TWIST at our First Meeting | October 13th

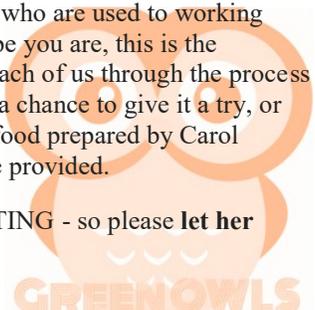
Get ready for a fun meeting! Our first meeting of the season is on **Friday October 13 at 11:30am** at the John Torok Community Center.

Do you admire good art? Would you like to try your hand at painting something, guided by experts who are used to working with novices? Are you a more seasoned artist with some experience under your belt? Whichever type you are, this is the meeting for you! We will be visited at the Torok Center by Painting With a Twist, who will guide each of us through the process of completing a painting. It doesn't matter if you are an expert or a novice, this free-to-you event is a chance to give it a try, or watch others try their hand. Regardless of how well you do painting there will always be delicious food prepared by Carol Zumstein! We will be using acrylic paint which may stain. Please dress accordingly. Aprons will be provided.

Our Organizer Jennifer NEEDS A GENERAL IDEA OF HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE PAINTING - so please **let her know via email (jennifer@harmonysprings.org) or in person** so we have enough supplies.

Upcoming dates include: **Nov 10:** Linda Lonsdorf (Christian murder/mystery writer),
Dec 15: Tour of Nativity of the Lord Jesus Catholic Church

* Please note - See you there!



Sundays at Harmony Springs

Faith Formation

We value our children as a vital part of who we are. On Sundays we welcome children in our service and take time to allow them to explore their God-given imaginations. We often invite our children up front to hear a story or to share their own thoughts. Recently we started offering a time we're calling Faith Formation as an option for children Pre-K through Elementary age.

During the service children have an opportunity to join our Faith Formation leaders in the conference room for storytelling, craft, snack and discussion. We want our children to learn the stories of faith. We are careful not to scare children into faith. We want them to experience the stories of the Bible at their developmental level and allow them to explore with their questions and ponderings.



Pastor Joel leads Children's moment during a recent Sunday service.

If you'd like to **volunteer** for this program please contact Liz Iler or Pastor Joel.

Our next focused Faith Formation will begin on **Sunday, November 26**, and continue through Christmas. During the first few Sundays Debbie MacDonald will help lead a new Children's Chime Choir with the hope of performing during our Christmas service on December 24.



'May the Force Be With You' Advent Series

Get your light sabers out and your star wars trivia brushed up for advent at Harmony Springs. During this four-week series Pastor Joel will weave the centuries old Christmas story with Star Wars.

Just in time for the release of the next Star Wars movie—we'll journey to a galaxy far, far, away. Beginning Sunday, **December 3**, we'll highlight Star-Wars spiritual themes as we consider the birth of Christ into this world.



Merry Force Christmas Eve

December 24 | 10:30am

On Sunday, December 24, our 'May the Force Be With You' Advent series will come to an epic conclusion. Carols, we will sing. Special music we will hear (choir, musicians, bell choir and children's chimes). A special star wars themed story-telling time for children is being planned and your children may have the opportunity to raise a light saber towards the dark side. We'll light our own sabers (battery-powered candles) and bring in the birth of Christ! Join us on Christmas Eve morning at 10:30 am to see Christmas in together!

Spiritual Discussion Groups Sundays 9:30 AM

Grab some coffee and gather for spiritual discussion on Sundays mornings. We host two adult discussion groups. The atrium group is currently discussing the book of Revelation using Dante's Inferno and other historical references as a guide.

Another group meets in the Admin. Conference room using The Present Word, a popular adult Bible study. Through the exploration of biblical text, adult study groups are invited into a deepened relationship with God. The Present Word engages participants in an experiential style of learning-connecting faith and life.

Join in a group anytime!

Children's Chimes

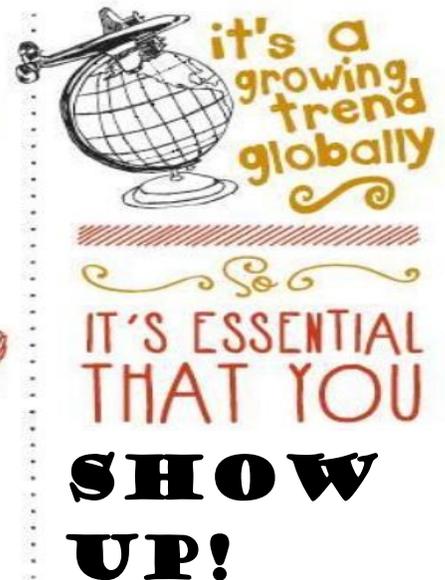
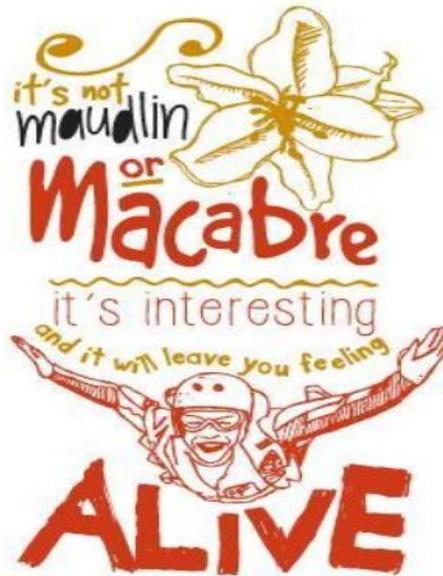
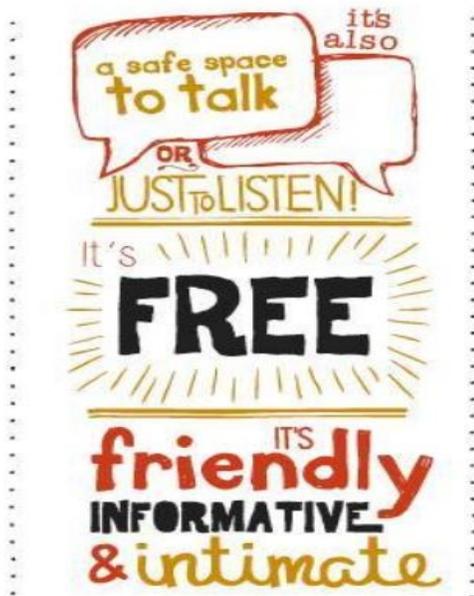
November 26 | 10:30 AM

We've recently received a donation of chimes and we're getting excited to use them! They are perfect for Christmas :) We'll dismiss those interested children (Pre-K - Elementary age) with Debbie MacDonald and Liz Iler during Sunday service beginning November 26. The chime choir will perform at our Christmas Eve morning Worship service on December 24 at 10:30 am.



DEATH CAFÉ

what is it?



Harmony Springs will be hosting another Death Café on **Thursday, October 26**, at ACME on Massillon Rd. at **6:00 pm**. We've host two previous death cafes and each has offered a vibrant discussion.

The Death Café is a discussion group about death and our (finite) lives. The goal of the café is to increase awareness of death with the view of helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.

The Death Café meetings are confidential and not-for-profit. Our guiding principles are that participants respect one another's beliefs and avoid trying to change others' viewpoints. The Death Café is not a bereavement or grief support group or end-of-life planning session. It's all about an interesting, unstructured conversation – open and free-flowing with no specific agenda.

The Death Cafe' is an international group (over 2,000 cafes across the world). The Death Cafe concept was started in the United Kingdom by Jon Underwood. He was influenced by the ideas of Swiss sociologist Bernard Crettaz, who started holding Cafe Mortel events in France and Switzerland. At these events, people come together in a relaxed, confidential and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea (or your favorite beverage) and eat delicious cake or cookies.



The late, rainy start in the spring couldn't put a damper on the garden this summer! It was a very successful year with 550 tomatoes collected, 50 banana peppers, 25 zucchini, 47 jalapeños, 24 green peppers, as well as radishes, cucumber, cantaloupe, watermelon, acorn squash and green beans. Wow, that's a lot of vegetables! There was so much that we were able to donate a significant portion to Green Good Neighbors in order to provide fresh vegetables to persons in our very own community who find themselves food insecure.

As of the first of October, with the recent warm trend in the air, there are still dozens of tomatoes to harvest, a few lingering green beans and watermelon, as well as 15 zucchini continuing to grow on the vine! We will continue to harvest as long as the garden continues to produce. You can find these goodies on the back table during Sunday worship service - please feel free to take home some of our goodies!

Thank you so much to everyone who came out to help, with special mention to Janice Cuckler, Carol Blystone, Tom Benjamin, Liz and Ted Iler, and Shannon Getz.

Psalm 67:6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us.

