

# AMAZING GRACE

April Newsletter



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**Hallelujah, Christ is risen!  
As we begin this month  
celebrating the glory of  
Christ's resurrection, let us  
pray that this month and all  
the months that follow will  
be a time for us to renew  
and embrace our faith,  
trusting that God is always  
walking alongside us each  
day.**

***Amen***

# Whats Happening Grace:

## WEEKLY GRACE CHURCH SCHEDULE

| Monday                          | Tuesday                                  | Wednesday                          | Thursday                                    | Friday                             |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 6:30PM<br>Defenders Bible Study | 9:30 AM<br>Greater Grace Bible Study     | 12:00 PM<br>Al Anon                | 10:00 AM<br>Grace LIFE Group                | 10:00 AM<br>Disciple Bible Study I |
|                                 | 10:00 AM<br>Hands on Prayer              | 4:00 PM<br>Mosaic Prayer Squares   | 11:30AM<br>Knit Purl Pray Group             | 1:00PM<br>Chosen                   |
|                                 | 11:00 AM<br>ACTS 2 Believers Bible Study | 6:00 PM<br>Disciple Bible Study I  | 5:30PM<br>Endless Grace Dinner and Practice |                                    |
|                                 |  | 7:30 PM<br>Chancel Choir Rehearsal |   |                                    |

# MONTHLY SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

- 7:45 A.M. Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
- 8:00 A.M. Donut and Coffee Hour in Multipurpose Room
- 9:00 A.M. Anchorage Service-Modern worship Service lead by Endless Grace Worship Team
- 9:40 A.M. Music ministry for the Cherub Choir and Teen Praise Band
- 10:00 A.M. Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. Upper Room Class
- 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service with Chancel Choir Anthem

- April 12- Communion Sunday
- April 12- 1 pm-VBS Lunch and Planning Meeting
- April 13- 6:30 pm-Matchless Class with Mark and Karen Coons (You had to preregister)
- April 14-6 pm-Forged
- April 17-9 am-Preschool Trike-a-thon
- April 17-6:30 pm-Set up for Serving Soles
- April 18-8:30 am-Serving Soles Distribution
- April 20-10am-Sunshine Stitches
- April 20-6:30 pm-Matchless Class with Mark and Karen Coons (You had to preregister)
- April 20-6:30 pm-Defenders-"Protestant" study begins
- April 21-1 pm-Congregational Care Meeting
- April 21-6 pm-Ad Council
- April 28-6:30 pm-Matchless Class with Mark and Karen Coons (You had to preregister)
- April 28-6 pm-Forged

# From the Pastors Desk:



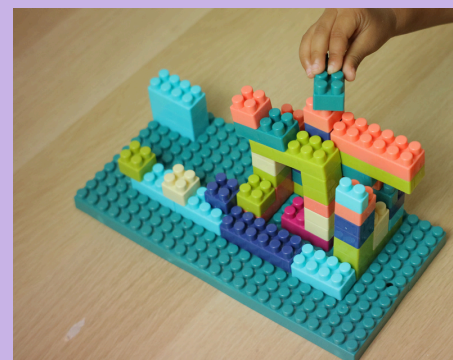
To the faithful of Grace Church: A Global Methodist Community, My co-laborers in the work of advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the life of the world— from whom is the source of all our hope, promise, joy, and security— The grace and peace of the Lord our God be with you:

When we say the word church, many of us instinctively think of a building, a campus, or a Sunday event. Yet the New Testament points us somewhere deeper and far more beautiful. The word commonly translated “church” is ekklesia—a gathering, an assembly, a people called out and called together for God’s purposes. Over time, the English word church also developed through terms associated with “the Lord’s house,” but biblically the emphasis falls not first on place, but on people: a redeemed community gathered by Christ, formed by the Spirit, and sent into the world as a witness to the Kingdom of God.

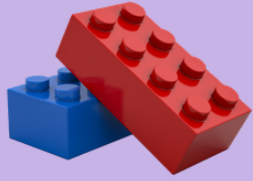
That matters because the church is not a human invention, a spiritual club, or a voluntary association held together by preference and personality. The church is God’s idea. Jesus says in Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Notice the language: my church. Christ does not merely endorse the church; he creates it, claims it, and sustains it. The church exists because the crucified and risen Lord has determined to form a people who bear his name and embody his life in the world.

*“I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

*~Matthew 16: 18*

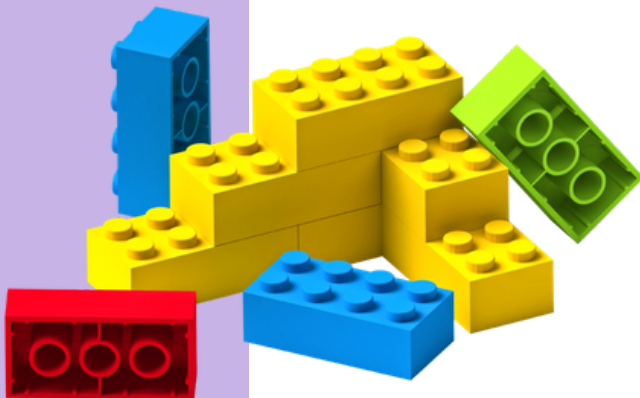


# From the Pastor's Desk (Continued):



And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

~Hebrews 10: 24-25



This is especially important in our cultural moment. In the United States, many have come to view faith as an individual pursuit detached from covenant community. Some have been hurt by the church. Others have grown indifferent to it. Still others have reduced it to content consumption—something watched rather than a people with whom one shares life. Yet Scripture consistently calls us back to intentional, embodied fellowship. The author of Hebrews exhorts believers not to neglect meeting together, “as some are in the habit of doing,” but to encourage one another all the more (Heb. 10:24–25). Christian faith is personal, but it is never meant to be private.

The church in the U.S. needs to rediscover this beautiful truth: the church is meant to be a living sign of God’s reign on earth. In a fractured and lonely world, the church bears witness to the Kingdom by becoming a community of reconciliation, holiness, mercy, truth, and love. Here, strangers become family. Here, burdens are shared. Here, worship reshapes our desires, Scripture forms our imagination, and grace teaches us how to live together under the lordship of Jesus. The church is not perfect, but it is precious because Christ loves it and gives himself for it.

That is the heartbeat behind our new sermon series, Built Together. In the weeks ahead, we will reflect on what it means to be formed as God’s people—not merely attending church, but becoming the church together. My prayer is that this series will renew our love for Christ’s body and awaken in us a deeper commitment to the kind of community through which the world catches a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.

**Blessings,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark".

# GRACE

## MISSIONS

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with Ruth's Harvest and PAL.

We welcome anyone who would like to help. In case you are not familiar with these two programs, Ruth's Harvest is the packing of bags with food for the school children to take home to have food over the weekend.

Provide a Lunch (PAL) is a meal served every day at the Council of Churches to anyone who wants to walk in and get a meal.



### Ruth's Harvest Dates:

May 14

### Provide A Lunch (PAL):

#### Fridays:

`  
April 17  
May 29  
July 10  
August 21  
October 2  
November 13  
December 24

#### Saturdays:

May 30  
August 29  
October 31








If you are interested in helping, please call Mae Woodard at 717-632-0124.

# GRACE

## MISSIONS



### Hanover Area Council of Churches *Needs for 2nd Quarter 2026*

| Ministry  | Special Needs this Month   |
|---|--|
|  <p><b>PROVIDE-A-LUNCH</b> <sup>1983</sup><br/><i>daily lunch from 11:30a-12:30p</i></p>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-White or Wheat Bread Loaves</li> <li>-Hot dog/Hamburger Rolls</li> <li>-Coffee Creamer</li> <li>-Splenda or Sweetener</li> </ul> <p><b>*Please no expired food donations</b></p>   |
|  <p><b>RUTH'S HARVEST</b> <sup>2013</sup><br/><i>weekend food for children</i></p>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Small Canned Vegetables</li> <li>-Single serve Fruit Cups</li> <li>-Single serve Cereal</li> <li>-Single serve Mac &amp; Cheese</li> <li>-Individual non-perishable food items</li> </ul>  |
|  <p><b>CLOTHING BANK</b> <sup>1968</sup><br/><i>FREE clothing for those in need</i></p>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-NEW Bra's &amp; Underwear (Men &amp; Women)</li> <li>-Dryer Sheets</li> <li>-Plastic Hangers</li> <li>-Men's Clothing (all sizes)</li> <li>-Children's Clothing 5T and up</li> <li>-Bedding</li> </ul>   |
|  <p><b>MEALS-ON-WHEELS</b> <sup>1970</sup><br/><i>Food delivery for homebound</i></p>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Adult Hygiene Wipes</li> <li>- Dried Fruit Snacks (no nuts due to allergies)</li> <li>-Pudding Cups, Fruit Cups or Applesauce</li> <li>-Snack Size crackers, granola bars, soft chew snack items</li> </ul>  |
|  <p><b>CHANGING LIVES SHELTER</b> <sup>2007</sup><br/><i>Only Emergency Shelter in Hanover</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Personal Hygiene Items</li> <li>-Feminine Hygiene Products and Deodorant</li> <li>-Shampoo, Conditioner and Body Wash</li> <li>-Men's Boxer Underwear &amp; Colored T-shirts (Med, Lg &amp; X-Lg)</li> <li>-Women's Underwear (Sm, Med &amp; Lg)</li> <li>-Hairbrushes</li> <li>-Toilet Paper</li> </ul> |

# GRACE

## MISSIONS

Our next distribution event will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>. We are preparing now to hand out up to 100 new pairs of sneakers. If you are looking to support this mission, donations of new sneakers can be brought in and placed in the green Serving Soles container. Also, monetary support can be given through the way you tithe, just adding a memo or note that it is for Serving Soles Shoe ministry.

Volunteer sign up sheet for our distribution event are up. We will need help to run our distribution as well as set up the night before.



Our 2026 “shoe” raiser, a shoe fundraiser, is an evening of food and fellowship, where the admission price is a NEW pair of sneakers for school-aged youth, or a monetary donation for the Serving Soles ministry. Since the beginning of this ministry, just last year, we have had 2 distributions, with the third happening on April 18, giving out well over 100 pairs of shoes, and 40 plus scheduled for April. The support of Grace church and the community is how we continue to share Jesus’s love to hanover one pair of shoes at a time. Please mark the date in your calendars and come join us for Serving Soles “Shoe” raiser 2026.

A vibrant flyer for the 'SHOE' RAISER event. At the top, a sneaker is shown with motion lines. A banner reads 'SERVING SOLES WITH GRACE'. A blue callout box says 'Grace Church's Shoe Ministry, serving families of Hanover and the surrounding area'. The main title is 'SHOE RAISER'. Below it, text states: 'Admission to the Picnic event is a new pair of athletic shoes, Sneakers. (for school aged children), or a monetary donation'. A large pink bubble says 'All are Invited'. The date is '17 MAY 2026' and time is '4 PM - 6 PM'. The location is 'GRACE CHURCH OF HANOVER 55 ALBRIGHT DRIVE HANOVER, PA 17331 717-637-3100'. At the bottom, there's a burger and ketchup bottles. Contact info: 'QUESTIONS: EMAIL AUTUMN: OFFICE@MYGRACECHURCH.ORG'.

# The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

## *Theology Matters: THANK YOU*

In place of this month's normal Theology Matters, I wanted to write a note of thanks for all of you who were praying for my PhD exam last month. Thanks also to everyone who offered encouraging words, notes, and hugs. It is a blessing to have such a supportive and caring congregation cheering me on!

Unfortunately, I was not upgraded to PhD from MPhil, but I was continued in the program and encouraged by the committees comments! They said that my performance in the interview was excellent. They said that the work level I had presented was admirable, and that I had an obvious command of the subject matter. They said that if I perform in my final defense the way that I performed in this interview, I would certainly pass the oral component of the exam. In short, the student is PhD level, but the project is not there yet.

The difficulty that they shared with me was that outline of project is still too broad for a PhD-level work at 80,000 words. They seemed convinced that my push for an integrative project (as opposed to a one-subject deep dive) was a strength for originality. But because it is integrative (bringing several subjects together to solve the problem), I need to be sufficiently narrow so that I can demonstrate appropriate depth for each piece. It must reflect the "Piled high and deep" part of the PhD, so that I truly show I know absolutely everything there is to know about very little!



# The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

## *Theology Matters: Thank you continued*

They agreed to provide me a 6 month to 1 year continuance so that I can further hone the scope down to the level they can approve. Then, after a second, successful upgrade exam, I can have 1-2 years to complete the project. In that same time, they are requiring that I have a 3rd supervisor onboard who is a systematic theologian who can properly assist in narrowing the project. They are working hard to find one for me, and both of my primary supervisors, Drs. Graham (in London) and Kelly (in Kentucky) have told me that they are fully committed to seeing me through graduation. I am confident that someone can be brought on soon.

In the end, I am pleased that they saw me as a PhD-level student, even if I have more work to do on the project. I believe all of this is very doable, and I will press on! I know that your prayers made a difference. My reception by the committee and my ease in the interview were evidence of that. You all have been fantastic. I love Grace Church!

If you'd like to specifically support the tuition financial part of my progress, you can certainly do that in your offerings. Just designate your gift as Post Graduate Education Fund. Either way, I continue to be amazed at God's faithfulness and the love that all of you have shown me through this process. You make the difference in everything with how you care.

In the end, my goal is to help Grace Church be the best reflection of Jesus Christ that we can be. I hope that my teaching ministry will improve for all of you. It is one of my greatest joys to teach the adults every other week at Forged and to help guide your Discipleship Team.

Keep being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, and we will work together to bring him glory!

Love to you all in Christ,



-Rev. Matt



# SCENES FROM PALM SUNDAY



# YOUTH SUNDAY

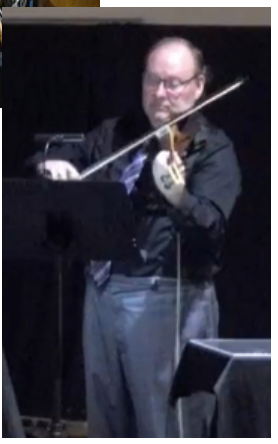


# SCENES FROM PALM SUNDAY



# CHANCEL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA EASTER CANTATA

# SCENES HOLY WEEK



# SCENES HOLY WEEK



# A GIFT THAT REACHES BEYOND OUR LIFETIME



## An Invitation to Consider Legacy Giving at Grace Church of Hanover

Grace Church of Hanover is here today because faithful men and women before us believed deeply enough in the mission of Christ to think beyond their own lifetime. Their prayers, sacrifices, and generosity made it possible for the Gospel to be proclaimed, families to be formed in faith, and leaders to be raised up from among God's people. We are living in the fruit of their legacy.

Scripture reminds us that faith is always meant to be passed on:

“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4).

Legacy Giving is one way the Church continues this sacred rhythm. It is an intentional decision to include the ministry of Grace Church of Hanover in one's will or final plans, ensuring that Christ's work here continues to shape lives long after we are gone. This kind of giving is not about wealth or estate size. It is about witness. It is a declaration that the Gospel matters enough to be carried forward—to children who will learn to pray here, to families who will be strengthened here, and to future leaders who will one day rise from these pews.

The Apostle Paul speaks often of sowing with the future in mind:

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

Legacy Giving allows us to sow into a harvest we may never see—but one we trust God to bring forth.

Jesus himself taught that our treasures reveal our deepest commitments:

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

Including the church in your final plans is a way of placing your heart—your faith, hope, and love—into the hands of the next generation. It is a quiet but powerful testimony that the mission of Christ is larger than any one season of life.

# A GIFT THAT REACHES BEYOND OUR LIFETIME

CONTINUED

Legacy gifts help ensure that Grace Church of Hanover remains:

- Present for emerging generations, proclaiming Christ clearly and faithfully
- A place where families grow in Christ, supported by vibrant ministry
- A training ground for future leaders, called and formed for God's service

Scripture calls us stewards of what God entrusts to us:

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Legacy Giving is one way to live out that faithfulness—to pass on what has been entrusted to us so that the Church remains strong, faithful, and mission-focused for years to come.

We invite you to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to make a legacy gift through your will or final plans. This is not a request made in pressure, but an invitation offered in hope—hope that the Gospel will continue to be preached, lives will continue to be transformed, and Christ will continue to be known through the ministry of Grace Church of Hanover. If you would like to learn more or have a confidential conversation, we welcome you to reach out. Together, we can ensure that the story God is telling through this church continues—faithfully, fruitfully, and for generations to come.



# HOPE HAS RISEN: EASTER FUN & EGG HUNT

Hope Has Risen was a huge success this year, for many reasons.

First, it was the last event for me, and the first event for Darren to be the Youth Ministries Director. It was a great event for us to work together. It was a blessing for me to be able to serve the youth and their families in that capacity for the last 3 years.

Hope Has Risen was a huge success also because we had about 60 youth and their families in the building to participate in the games, crafts, food, and egg hunt. But most importantly, almost all of the children took the opportunity to meet with Pastor Todd and hear the story of Jesus and the resurrection.

Finally, a huge thank you to the many hands that helped plan, set up, and execute this event. It was amazing to see our Grace Church Family working together to share Jesus.

~Autumn



# Grace Preschool



**GRACE PRESCHOOL  
NEEDS YOUR HELP**

**WE NEED SUBSTITUTES OR  
VOLUNTEERS TO HELP IN THE  
PRESCHOOL**  
(MUST BE ABLE TO PASS ALL CLEARANCES)

**Monday-Friday 8:30-12:30  
as needed**

Contact Jennifer Freeman  
717-632-3140  
jfreeman@mygracechurch.org



# Grace Preschool

**Learn . Play . Have Fun**

**3-5  
years**

**PROGRAM FEATURES:**

- ✓ Certified Teachers
- ✓ Kindergarten Readiness
- ✓ Full size indoor gymnasium



<https://gumpreschool.weebly.com/>  
55 Albright Drive, Hanover PA

717-632-3140  
Gracepreschool@mygracechurch.org

Register Here





# GROWING & GOING

Youth Ministries Updates and Info!!



Grace Church  
of Hanover

Grace  
Preschool

GLOBAL  
MEMBER CHURCH



GRACE ROOTS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## SAVE THE DATE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 13-JULY 17

QUESTIONS, EMAIL DARREN @  
DWMYERS9@MYGRACECHURCH.ORG



GRACE CHURCH  
OF HANOVER  
55 ALBRIGHT DRIVE  
HANOVER, PA 17331



Exploring the Nature of God

PITCH YOUR CHANGE TO HELP CHANGE LIVES!!!

LENT MISSION OPPURTUNITY

PLEASE BRING YOUR BOTTLES BACK THIS SUNDAY, 4/12.

Embrace  
the Journey

Tender Care  
Pregnancy Consultation Services

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

your change, changes lives

Tender Care  
Pregnancy Consultation Services

# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT GRACE



## Serving with Grace

5 | 6:00 PM  
MAY | Dinner begins

*Dinner and  
Ministry Fair*

Grace Church , You are invited:



*Dinner and  
Ministry Fair*

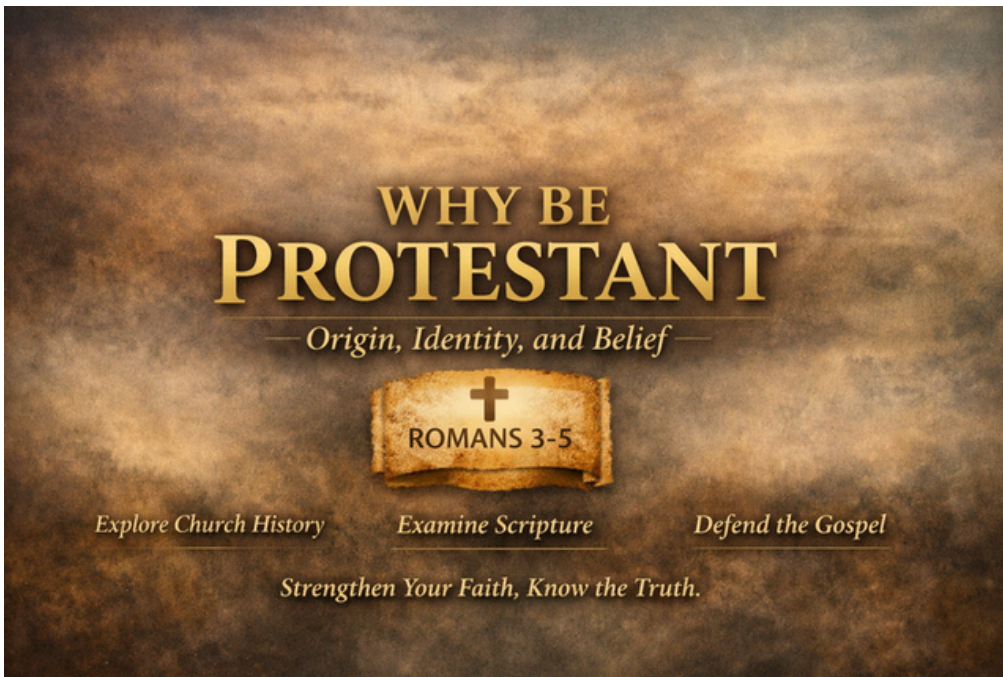
## Serving with Grace

5 | 6:00 PM  
MAY | Dinner begins

Come out to Grace Church for a night of fellowship, food, and a look at what Grace Church has to offer for discipleship, community, and ministry. Dinner will begin at 6 pm, with a short presentation introducing everyone to the opportunities available here at Grace to grow in your faith, and to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Hanover Area. Followed will be a time where you can gather more information on the areas that you feel drawn to.

*Please RSVP,  
by signing up  
on the events  
board, or  
contacting  
Autumn in the  
office.*

# NEW BIBLE STUDY AT GRACE



*STARTING APRIL 20TH @ 6:30 (A DEFENDER'S STUDY)*

## *WHY BE PROTESTANT: ORIGIN, IDENTITY, AND BELIEF*

*IN A TIME WHEN MANY CHRISTIANS ARE ASKING DEEPER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHURCH, AUTHORITY, AND FAITH, THIS 12-WEEK STUDY INVITES YOU ON A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY, SCRIPTURE, AND THEOLOGY TO EXPLORE WHAT IT TRULY MEANS TO BE PROTESTANT.*

*WHY BE PROTESTANT IS NOT ABOUT CRITICIZING OTHER TRADITIONS, BUT ABOUT CLEARLY AND CONFIDENTLY UNDERSTANDING OUR OWN. TOGETHER, WE WILL TRACE THE STORY OF THE CHURCH FROM THE APOSTLES TO THE REFORMATION, EXAMINE KEY BIBLICAL PASSAGES LIKE ROMANS 3-5, AND ENGAGE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT AUTHORITY, JUSTIFICATION, AND THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH.*

*THIS CLASS IS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE GOSPEL, DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE, AND EQUIP YOU TO THINK AND SPEAK WITH BOTH CLARITY AND GRACE.*

*WHETHER YOU ARE NEW TO THESE TOPICS OR SEEKING DEEPER GROUNDING, THIS STUDY WILL HELP YOU STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH.*

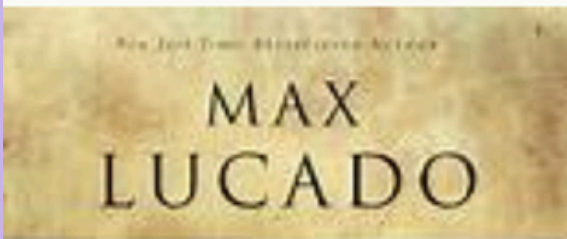
*PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US!*

## Acts 2 Believers Bible Study

Tuesdays at 11am in the Resource Room

Start Date: Tuesday May 5th

See Sheila Carter for  
Questions.



LIFE LESSONS from  
ACTS



The Acts 2 Believers bible study will be starting Max Lucado's "Life Lessons from Acts" Bible Study on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to join us for this study.



**Prayer Point:** Prayer is our source of strength, hope and connection with God. When we anchor prayer in scripture, we draw on the promises and truths to guide our intercession.

#### Prayer for Peace in the Middle East

*Father, At this time of unrest and turmoil in the Middle East, may we offer this prayer. We turn to You, seeking refuge and safety for Israel and the surrounding nations affected by conflict. As Your Word promises, may You, the Most High, shelter them under Your protective wings. Bring calming assurance to both civilians and peacekeepers. May they find comfort and security in Your presence. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen*

Psalm 91:1-4

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.”

# MUSIC MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

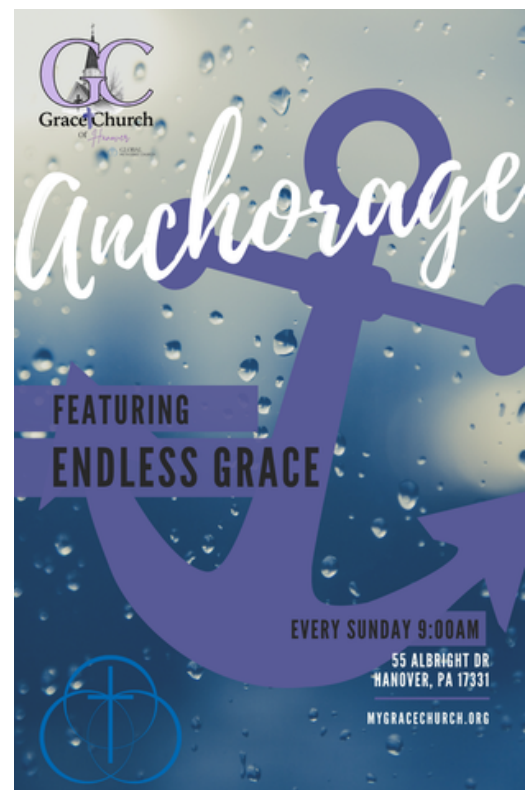


## Like to Sing: **We got an Opportunity for YOU!!!**

The Chancel Choir, the group that provides music for the 11:00 service, is actively recruiting new members. Those under 50 years of age are especially encouraged to join. The only two requirements the Chancel Choir has for membership are 1) you love to sing praise to the Lord, and 2) you are available to practice with us in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. If you've ever thought about singing with us, but were afraid to step up, now is a great time to give it a try!

### ***“I LOVE THAT SONG”***

Is there a Contemporary WORSHIP song you love that you want to share with the others of Grace Church? We are asking you to share your favorite contemporary worship songs with us. Please take a sheet, fill it in and turn it into the office. We will take your songs, and create a list to share. You may also hear a few of these favorites on Sunday Morning at the Anchorage Service.



# COMING

Soon!!!



HOLY  
SPIRIT  
COME!

PENTECOST  
SUNDAY  
SUNDAY  
MAY 24, 2026

WEAR RED

GRACE CHURCH



SAVE THE DATES!!

## Strawberry Social


More Info to Come!!

Wed. June 3rd or June 10th  
Starting @ 6:00pm

Free will offering      No tickets required

† Sponsored by Grace Men's Fellowship †

# Cruisin' with Grace



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 20th  
9:30a.m.-12:00

55 Albright Drive  
Hanover, PA 17331

**Car Participant Details**

Pre-register \$5.00 per car  
\$10.00 day of the event  
Dash Plaque for first 50 cars

Awards for top 3 favorites with kids pick and pastors pick. Awards at 12:00pm.

Contact Grace Church for a registration form  
Office@mygracechurch.org

Space is limited