

# AMAZING GRACE

June Newsletter



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Gracious and heavenly  
Father, we celebrate all  
the fathers, in this month  
who have cared for us,  
comforted us and  
encouraged us  
throughout our lives. We  
pray that you will bless  
them with your wisdom,  
courage, grace and  
peace, as they have  
blessed us. Amen.

**Amen**

# Whats Happening Grace:

## WEEKLY GRACE CHURCH SCHEDULE

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

# 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.	<b>Anchorage Service</b> -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

- June 1-10 am-Sunshine Stickers
- June 1- 6:30 pm-Matchless Class with Mark and Karen Coons (You had to preregister)
- June 6-7:30 am-Men's Fellowship
- June 6-9:30am-Walk By Faith Color Walk
- June 8-6:30 pm-Matchless Class with Mark and Karen Coons (You had to preregister)
- June 10-6 pm-Strawberry Social
- June 15-10am-Sunshine Stickers
- June 16-6:30 pm-Ad Council
- June 20-9:30 am-Car Show
- June 23-7 pm-Grilled Cheese Genesis Study
- June 27- 8:00 am-Blood Drive

# From the Pastors Desk:

## Argue Like A Christian



When I was in seventh grade, I had an English teacher who opened the door to what quickly became my favorite subject: rhetoric. Through the “Rhetorical Triangle” of ethos, pathos, and logos, I began a journey not merely into words, but into how words can be used toward effective communication. In college, I took classes on communication and studied the art of argument. My favorite opportunity was a “Rhetoric in Law” class, which included the experience of serving on Penn State’s Mock Trial Team. Each opportunity reinforced my love for the subject.

One of my favorite books on rhetoric is Jay Heinrichs’s *Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion*. In our world today, rhetoric often carries a negative connotation. Why? Because many people hear the word argument and immediately think of conflict, distrust, manipulation, or corruption. But classical rhetoric understands argument as persuasion ordered toward understanding, decision, and action. Heinrich works to free rhetoric from the stigma of mere verbal combat.

So why write about rhetoric in *Amazing Grace*—or, if we want to sound especially old-fashioned, in a church “periodical”? Because the church has a particular voice, and that voice requires holy communication.

*Let us therefore  
make every effort to  
do what leads to  
peace and to mutual  
edification.*

*~Romans 14: 19*

# From the Pastor's Desk (Continued):

**Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.**

~Ephesians 4: 29

We are the people of “the Way,” followers of Jesus Christ, called to bear witness to the gospel in both word and deed. That means Christians are not only responsible for speaking about our faith; we are also responsible for how we speak about our faith.

One of Heinrich’s most helpful emphases is that persuasion is not merely about expressing oneself. It is also about considering the hearer. A description of his book puts it simply: “Match your argument to your audience.” That idea is not foreign to Scripture. Paul writes, “I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22). Paul did not change the gospel, but he did consider the people before him.

To return to my seventh-grade English teacher and the Rhetorical Triangle, Christians must be aware of who we are speaking to, where we are speaking, and to what end we are speaking. I have often joked with professors that if they wanted to share the gospel effectively, they would need to begin by speaking a language ordinary people could understand. Ivory tower vocabulary can become a chasm through which no communication crosses.

The word pathos points us toward the audience. It asks whether our words are connecting with the hearts, fears, hopes, and questions of those who hear us. Logos reminds us that our speech must be truthful, clear, and coherent. Ethos asks whether our lives make our words credible. For Christians, this may be the most important point of all. The messenger’s character cannot be separated from the message.

Scripture gives us the deeper rule: “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up” (Ephesians 4:29). Paul also tells us to “pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding” (Romans 14:19). Christian rhetoric, then, is not about winning arguments for the sake of winning. It is about speaking truthfully, lovingly, and wisely so that others may be built up and Christ may be made known.

To speak like a Christian is not to speak weakly. It is not to avoid hard truths. Jesus himself could be tender with the wounded and direct with the proud. But Christian speech must always be disciplined by love. Our words either confirm our witness or compromise it.

# From the Pastor's Desk (Continued):

They either reveal the genuine love of Christ for the person before us, or they disqualify the message by contradicting the very gospel we claim to share. A Christian can be right in content and wrong in spirit. Truth spoken with contempt may win a point, but it rarely bears faithful witness. If our speech is marked by arrogance, cruelty, impatience, or the desire to conquer rather than love, the hearer may rightly question whether the gospel has taken root in us. We should ask: Are my words true? Are they necessary? Are they gracious? Are they fitted to this person and this moment? Will they build up, clarify, restore, or bear witness?

The church does not need more noise. The world has plenty of that. What the church needs is a people whose words sound like the gospel: truthful enough to be trusted, gracious enough to be received, and holy enough to point beyond ourselves to Jesus Christ.

**Blessings,**



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:

Over the summer please hold onto donations, as there is nowhere to hold inventory over the summer, We will begin accepting donations again the end of August

### Provide A Lunch (PAL):

#### Fridays:

July 10

August 21

October 2

November 13

December 24

#### Saturdays:

August 29

October 31



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






# GRACE

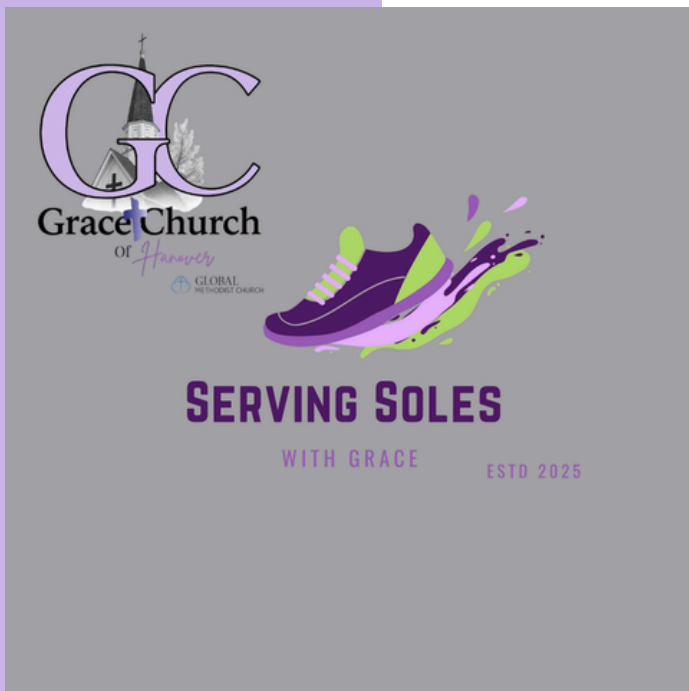
## MISSIONS



## Hanover Area Council of Churches

### *Needs for 2nd Quarter 2026*

Ministry	Special Needs this Month
 <p><b>PROVIDE-A-LUNCH</b><sup>1983</sup> <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> <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> <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> <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> <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

Thank you Grace Church for your continued support of Serving Soles. We had about 75 people show up for our Shoe raiser, and we gathered 2 entire totes full of new shoes as well as \$.705.00

I also wanted to give you an exciting update from our team. Thanks to the work of Dot John's, we were able to submit flyers in almost all of our local school districts' online bulletin boards, and other community bulletin boards, so that more families are aware of Serving Soles. Most were extremely excited to be able to share this with their families.

Lastly, this summer, Serving Soles has 2 important dates we are planning for. First, is National Night Out, where Grace Church will have a table at the community event, to promote our church, focusing on the Serving Soles Ministry, as the event focuses on back to school and community building. Second, our Back to School distribution event is being held on August 15<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate a large crowd and will be looking for volunteers as the time approaches.

**Save The Date**  
*Distribution Event!*

August 15, 2026  
At Grace Church of Hanover  
**9AM-12PM**

**NEW SHOE EVENT**  
**MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND**  
**ONLY FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN**

Every child, who is school aged, who registers, will be given a new pair of sneakers !!!

Registrations are limited, register EARLY!!

\*\*Requirements for Receiving new Shoes:

- Child must be in School (Pre school through High School)
- Each child must be registered individually.
- Children must be present the day of event, and must try on the shoes on site.

Please watch our website,  
[www.mygracechurch.org](http://www.mygracechurch.org),  
starting at the beginning of July  
for the registration link.

Grace Church of Hanover  
55 Albright Drive  
Hanover, PA 17331  
PH: 717-637-3100  
[www.mygracechurch.org](http://www.mygracechurch.org)

“Serving Soles with Grace is a shoe ministry of Grace Church of Hanover. It's sole purpose is to share the love of Jesus by providing shoes to the people of Hanover and its neighbors”

**Name: Rev. Todd Andrew Christine**

**Role/ Ministry position: Senior Pastor**

***How long have you served at our church?***

I arrived on July 1, 2020, so that would be six years on that date.

***What do you enjoy most about serving here?***

The family of Grace Church has become my family. Their home in the Hanover area has become my home. The Hanover area is a strange juxtaposition of a high population, yet it still feels small-town. It is a place where I can see the family of Grace Church at the store and community events, and greet each other with joy. The folks of Grace allow themselves to be challenged to grow in their discipleship and step out of their comfort zones to embrace what God has in store for their lives. It is truly exciting to hear from so many how the Holy Spirit has revealed to them holy things and is sending them to many outsiders to evangelize and share the Gospel of Jesus.

***Favorite Bible Verse:***

Ephesians 4:1, it is a daily reminder and challenge that the called life is not one of passivity but of intentionality. To lead and be a witness to the teachings and promise of Jesus Christ is a great honor and burden. I take that witness seriously. I do not want to take the Lord's name in vain through my life's actions.

***Favorite Worship Song:***

There are so many! If I had to choose one it would be...Matthew Redman's Never Once

***Favorite Christian Rock Band/ Song***

Skillet and Whispers In The Dark

***Favorite Hymn:***

Charles Wesley's And Can It Be, That I Should Gain  
Edward Perronet's All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name

***Favorite Snack/ Treat***

Pretzels and Oreos

***Favorite Restaurant:***

Cheddar's From Scratch Kitchen

***Favorite thing to Drink:***

Coffee, seriously, black coffee.



# FACES OF GRACE

## ***Favorite Hobby***

Music, video games, and Scouts

## ***Favorite Movie or TV Show:***

Captain America and TV show is Arrow

## ***Favorite Season of the year:***

Ordinary Time, in the church liturgical year it is a time for growth in discipleship but you probably didn't mean that.. So it is the fall.

## ***Just For Fun***

### ***What was your very first job?***

Hanging drywall and cleaning houses for my dad's plastering business. My most unique job was a ride operator at an amusement park (Incidentally, that is where Autumn and I met.)

### ***If you could have dinner with anyone from the Bible, who would it be and why?***

Moses. Moses took a people to a place they could not see and managed their complaints along the way, all while giving up so much to get them there. While they pined for what was he encouraged them to continue and trust in God's promise.

### ***What is your go-to comfort food?***

All things breakfast: French toast, sausage, eggs, hash browns, etc.

### ***Cats, dogs, or something else?***

I have had a dog since I can remember and there is always a space in my life to continue to have one.

### ***If you had a superpower, what would it be?***

Character, one of the reasons I love Steve Rogers from Captain America (He holds a lot in common with Jesus) is his will to do the right thing always no matter the sacrifice. His heart reminds me of the Psalm that describes David's own heart. Strength is fun too.

### ***What inspired you to serve in ministry?***

The Church and its pastor showed me what it meant to listen, wait, pray, serve, give, and surrender. Disciple Bible Study opened the gate, God did the rest through the hands and feet of Jesus and the Holy Church.

Todd at the Bahamian Chapel on the Island of Half Moon Cay



***What has God been teaching you recently?***

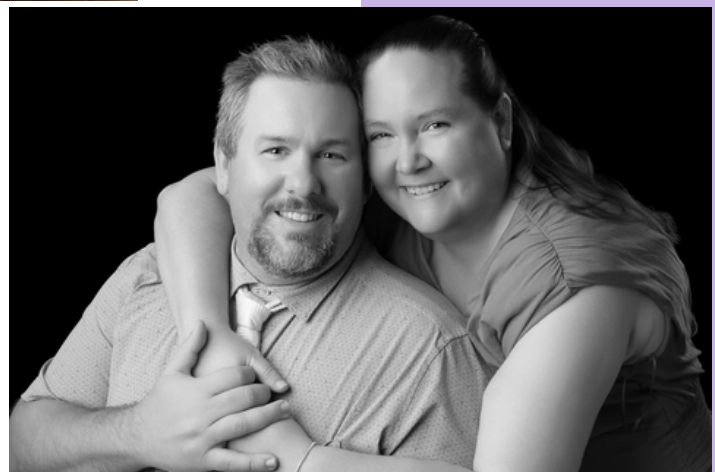
That I am never done learning and can do much more than I dare think possible.

***What encouragement would you like to share with the church family?***

God is here, God is moving, God is doing something truly wonderful among us. Let's keep focused and stay obedient!

***How can we be praying for you?***

We are engaged in cosmic supernatural struggle against the principalities and powers of darkness that seek to disrupt, distract, derail, and destroy the leaders of the church. Pray for protection, pray for wisdom, pray for discernment, and for the strength of obedience to Christ.



**EVENTS &  
ACTIVITIES  
AT GRACE**

**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 †



**American  
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

## Grace Church Hanover

**Saturday, June 27, 2026**

**8:00AM – 1:00PM**

Grace Church Hanover  
55 Albright Drive  
Hanover, PA 17331

Show some love to your fellow man on Valentines Day,  
give lifesaving blood

For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

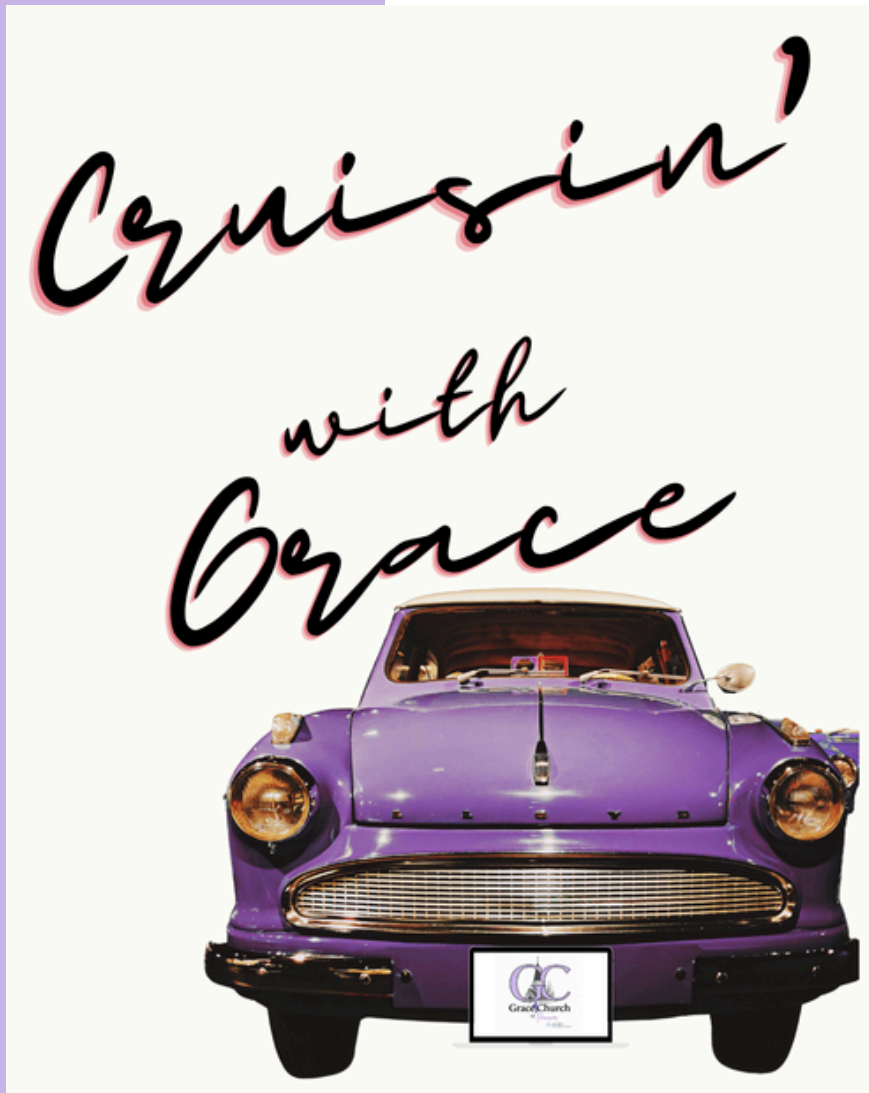
© The American National Red Cross | 101021

Those feelings are valid and respected. You can still help. Spread the word about our blood drive. As of this writing we only have 20 of 50 slots filled for our June 27<sup>th</sup> blood drive. Take a flyer and share it, spread word on your social media. On the day of the blood drive, it is often run by three individuals. Stop in and give of your time. Learn how easy it is to greet our donors and sign them in. Sit and visit in the canteen after their donation. Sign them up for the next blood drive. The drive starts at 8AM on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The Red Cross workers arrive at 7:30 to set up. One or two individuals from the church arrive early, between 7am and 715 to set up tables and chairs for the drive, then sit and visit while the Red Cross does the rest of the work. The last donor is at 1pm and takes about 30 minutes. Then is the cleanup. The Red Cross packs up while we fold tables and chairs setting up for church on Sunday. Even this has gotten easy with the 9am service being moved to the sanctuary. There is a sign up in the entry way or just stop in and see what we do. Your service is a blessing.

# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

Grace Church serves our communities with three blood drives each year. February, June, and October. Over the years our drives have grown from collecting 20 units which positively impacts 60 individuals to collecting 35 units impacting over 105 individuals. This does not happen in a vacuum. Flyers are available for members to distribute. E mails are sent out through the Red Cross to our previous donors. That has been a wonderful improvement as we used to use a team making phone calls for weeks prior to our drives. Now the drive has become simple o run it is still a service we provide our community. Often people think, I cannot give blood for one reason or another.

# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT GRACE



SAVE THE DATE

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

55 Albright Drive  
Hanover, PA 17331

*Space is  
limited*

#### 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](mailto:Office@mygracechurch.org)

Please see the volunteer sign up sheet on the events board to help out the morning of our Car Show.

# The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

## *Theology Matters: The Holy Spirit & Perfect Love*

Have you ever used the statement, “Well, no one is perfect”? It tends to be that phrase we utter when we need to acknowledge that someone has made a mistake or done something we might want to see as excusable, but certainly wrong. All of us recognize that human beings do not always have everything together, and we are keenly aware of our own shortcomings.

Last summer, I did a two-part series in “Theology Matters” which looked evil and why human beings just cannot seem to get themselves together. We saw that we are all broken because sin entered the world in the decisions of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. This sinful nature seems to live deeply in our own personal being, and we know the Bible says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23, NIV). Perhaps some of us resonate more with Paul’s later words in Chapter 7, “Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me” (Rom 7:21b-23, NIV). We recognize the condition of sin, and we know that on our own, we can do nothing about it. Paul continues with vs. 24, “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?”

Thankfully, Paul finishes with this good news, “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” But we often miss what Paul really expresses, and we continue to somehow excuse ourselves by believing that the struggle with sin will never leave us. Paul says that God delivers through Jesus Christ. Now, we must stop and think about what that really means. If we read carefully, we see that Jesus can deliver us from the struggle of sin which enslaves us. This means we can be free from sin’s power that makes us prisoners, and we can be delivered from the war that evil has waged within us. We do not have to be sinners!

# The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

## *Theology Matters: The Holy Spirit & Perfect Love Continued*

John Wesley understood this as the outcome of Christian salvation, and Methodists have preached that not only does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross forgive our sins and bring us into right relationship with God (Justification), but Jesus' destruction of evil and sin on the cross empowers us through the Holy Spirit to be free of the shackles which hold us to a life of sin (Sanctification). In his sermon, "On Working Out Our Own Salvation," Wesley explains, "By justification we are saved from the guilt of sin, and restored to the favour of God; by sanctification we are saved from the power and root of sin, and restored to the image of God."

This is not simply "going to heaven when I die." This is a restoration of the full image of God within broken humans. What does this entail? 1 John 4 says, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:7-8, NIV). God's image is love and having it restored within us by Jesus is not just transactional. It is transformational.

The writer of 1 John continues that "Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:16b-18, NIV). Did you notice? "In this world, we are like Jesus." It does not say, "Finally, when we die we are like Jesus." It is a present tense statement, and we see that it has directly to do with one thing: love.

Wesley would call this, "perfected in love." In his book, *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*, he explains it his way, "its properties, or inseparable fruits, are, rejoicing evermore, praying without ceasing, and in everything giving thanks." Wesley explained that those who have been perfected in love have moved to complete love for God and neighbor. Those who have experienced the full salvation of Christ are commanded by Christ, "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt 5:48), and the writer of Hebrews encourages us all to "press on to perfection."

# The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

## Theology Matters: The Holy Spirit & Perfect Love Continued

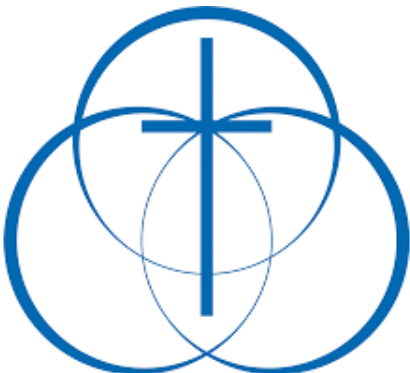
But how can I be perfect? Only Jesus was perfect. This is true, and Wesley points out multiple times in his writings that only God is truly perfect (i.e. sinless). Humans are still prone to the things that make us mortal: mistakes and struggles of this world. That said, he reminds us that Jesus has commanded something, and if “all things are possible with God,” then perfection in love is certainly one of those things. The perfection comes to us by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. It is God’s Spirit indwelling us that begins the work of restoring our nature to Christ’s image within us.

This love excludes the desire to sin, fills the entire soul with a desire for God and his Kingdom, and it brings us hope that, as Paul writes, “does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Rom 5:5, NIV). So we must all admit: if God’s love is overflowing in our hearts, poured into us by the Holy Spirit, then that sounds pretty perfect.

Love to you all in Christ’s Name,



-Rev. Matt



# SMALL GROUP FOCUS

## MISSIONS UPDATE

Our Mission Plan for 2026, supported by your Sunday offerings to Mission/Benevolences, calls for Grace to provide a total of \$36,600 this year in Financial Support to help Missions worldwide. \$18,000 is designated for National and International Missions, while \$18,600 is designated to Local Missions.

Thanks to your faithful offerings, we have provided \$ 8,149 in the first quarter of this year in the following areas:



### **National & International:**

Red Bird Christian School Appalachia Kentucky  
(pictured to the left, provided support for the HVAC replacement of a 40 yr old system)

The Isaiah Projects

Little Dresses for Africa



### **Local in Hanover:**

Ruth Harvest

HACC Changing Lives Homeless Shelter  
(shown to the left)

New Hope Ministries

Olivias House

# SMALL GROUP FOCUS

2026	GRACE CHURCH Mission/Benevolence Spending Plan	2026 PLAN	
National & International			
	Red Bird Mission	\$1,500.00	
	Red Bird -School	\$1,500.00	
	Haiti Mission School	\$4,000.00	
	Little Dresses for Africa	\$500.00	
	TMS GLOBAL -Christine&Moussa	\$6,000.00	
	GMC Disaster Relief/ GMC Initiatives	\$2,000.00	
	Israel Support- The Isaiah Projects	\$1,000.00	
	Operation Christmas Child (\$10/box)	\$1,500.00	
	Total International	\$18,000.00	
Local			
	HACC:		
	Fair Share	\$3,000.00	
	PAL	\$3,000.00	
	Changing Lives Homeless Shelter	\$1,500.00	
	Ruth's Harvest	\$600.00	
	Tender Care Pregnancy Center	\$300.00	
	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$500.00	
	Fruitbelt Farmworker Christian Ministry	\$500.00	
	Domestic Abuse Prevention	\$500.00	
	Adams Christian Prison Ministry	\$500.00	
	Church Sponsored Mission Trip	\$1,500.00	
	Mission Committee General Expense	\$200.00	
	Grace Garden	\$500.00	
	N.East Conference Camp	\$3,000.00	
	New Hope Ministries	\$1,500.00	
	Olivias House	\$500.00	
	TruNorth, Hanover	\$1,000.00	
	Total Local	\$18,600.00	
Total: Missions and Benevolence		\$36,600.00	

## MISSION BUDGET

# THE GRACE OF GIVING: SHARING IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF GOD



Giving is never merely about money. In the life of the Church, giving is an act of worship, a practice of trust, and a participation in the mission of God. When we give, we are not simply helping an institution meet a budget. We are offering ourselves to God, acknowledging that everything we have first came from His hand.

Scripture teaches us that God is not interested in reluctant offerings or empty religious habits. God desires hearts that are awake to His grace, responsive to His goodness, and willing to be used for His purposes. Giving, then, is not primarily a transaction. It is a spiritual formation. It trains our hearts to say, “Lord, all that I have is Yours.”

## **What Does Giving Mean to God?**

To God, giving is an expression of love, trust, and surrender. It is one of the ways His people declare that He is first.

Proverbs teaches, “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops” (Proverbs 3:9). The language of “firstfruits” matters. God’s people were not called to give God what was left over after everything else had been satisfied. They were called to give first, because giving first reveals priority.

This is where the warning of the prophets helps us. In Zechariah, God challenges His people to examine the true direction of their devotion. Their religious practices had continued, but God asks whether what they were doing was truly for Him or ultimately for themselves: “Was it really for me that you fasted?” (Zechariah 7:5).

That question reaches beyond fasting. It reaches into every part of our lives: our time, our worship, our resources, our priorities.

Are we building our lives around God, or are we asking God to fit into the life we have already built?

This warning is not meant to shame us. It is meant to awaken us. God lovingly invites His people to examine what their habits reveal about their hearts. Giving helps us do that. It asks us, again and again: What do I treasure? What do I trust? What kingdom am I investing in?

# THE GRACE OF GIVING: SHARING IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF GOD

CONTINUED

## What Does Giving Mean for Us?

For us, giving is an act of freedom.

So much of life teaches us to cling tightly—to protect, preserve, accumulate, and control. But the Gospel teaches us to live open-handedly because we belong to a generous God. Giving loosens the grip of fear. It breaks the illusion that our security rests only in what we possess. It reminds us that our lives are sustained not by scarcity, but by the provision of God.

Jesus says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). Notice the order. Our treasure does not merely reveal where our heart already is; it also helps lead our heart there. What we invest in shapes what we love.

When we give to the work of the Church, we are allowing our hearts to be drawn more deeply into the things of God. We are saying, “I want my life to be connected to what Christ is doing. I want my resources to serve something eternal. I want my giving to become a witness to my faith.”

Paul writes, “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Christian giving is not meant to be coerced. It is meant to be joyful. It is a grace-filled response to the grace we have already received.

## What Can We Expect from God?

When we give, Scripture does not promise that God becomes a vending machine for our desires. Christian giving is not a way to purchase blessing or manipulate heaven. But Scripture does promise that God is faithful.

Paul says, “God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). That promise is beautiful. God provides not simply so we can possess more, but so that we can participate more fully in every good work.

We can expect God to form us.

We can expect God to teach us trust.

We can expect God to use what we offer.

We can expect God to multiply faithfulness in ways we may never fully see.

Sometimes the fruit of giving is visible: a ministry continues, a child is disciplined, a family is helped, a missionary is supported, a worship service is made possible, a grieving person is visited, a new believer is baptized. Other times, the fruit is hidden. But nothing offered to God in faith is wasted.



# THE GRACE OF GIVING: SHARING IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF GOD

**CONTINUED**

In Philippians, Paul thanks the church for their financial partnership in ministry. He does not treat their gift as a mere donation. He calls it “a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God” (Philippians 4:18). Their giving supported Paul’s ministry, but more than that, it became worship before God.

That is what faithful giving can be: worship that moves through the Church into the world.

## **How Does Giving to the General Fund Advance the Kingdom?**

Sometimes people think kingdom work only happens through visible outreach projects, special offerings, or mission trips. Those are certainly important. But the regular, ordinary giving that supports the General Fund is also deeply missional.

The lights matter.

The HVAC matters.

The staff matters.

The building, the classrooms, the sanctuary, the office, the printed materials, the technology, the nursery, the utilities, the insurance, the administrative systems—all of these may seem ordinary, but they create the space and structure where ministry can happen.

When the lights are on, people can gather for worship.

When the heat is working, children can learn the Gospel in a safe classroom.

When staff are supported, pastors can preach, visit, teach, counsel, plan, pray, organize, and equip the saints for ministry.

When the building is cared for, the church has a place to welcome the grieving, disciple the young, encourage the weary, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

The General Fund is not separate from mission. It is one of the main ways mission is sustained.

A church does not only advance the kingdom when it sends people out; it also advances the kingdom by faithfully maintaining the ministry home from which people are formed, equipped, and sent.

In Acts 2, the early Church devoted itself to “the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42). That kind of shared life required generosity. Believers gave so that needs could be met, community could be strengthened, and witness could continue. Their giving was woven into the life of worship, discipleship, fellowship, and mission.

The same is true today.

Every Bible study, every worship service, every pastoral visit, every children’s lesson, every outreach event, every communion table prepared, every prayer gathering, every act of mercy that flows through the church is supported by the quiet faithfulness of God’s people giving together.



# THE GRACE OF GIVING: SHARING IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF GOD

CONTINUED

## How Do Ministry and Mission Take Place?

Ministry and mission take place when God's people offer themselves to God.

Money alone does not create ministry. Buildings alone do not create mission.

Programs alone do not make disciples. But when the Holy Spirit fills a people with love for Christ and love for neighbor, their time, talents, prayers, presence, service, and gifts become instruments of grace.

Giving is one part of a larger life of offering.

Paul writes in Romans 12:1, "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." That is the heart of Christian stewardship. We do not merely give God a portion of our income while withholding the rest of ourselves. We offer our whole lives to Him.

And yet, because our finances are such a real part of our lives, they are also a real part of our discipleship. Our giving joins our daily labor to God's eternal work. The paycheck earned through ordinary work becomes, in part, an offering for extraordinary grace.

Through giving, ministry becomes shared. Mission becomes communal. The work of the Church is no longer "what they do" but "what we do together in Christ."

## A Promise-Filled Invitation

The invitation to give is not an invitation into loss, but into deeper life with God.

Jesus teaches us, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33). Seeking first the kingdom does not mean we will never face hardship or uncertainty. It means our lives become rightly ordered around the faithfulness of God. We learn to trust the Father who knows what we need.

Giving helps us seek first.

It helps us resist the fear that says there will not be enough.

It helps us resist the pride that says everything belongs to us.

It helps us resist the distraction that causes the urgent to crowd out the eternal.

It helps us become people of gratitude, generosity, and faith.

And perhaps most importantly, giving allows us to imitate the heart of God.



# THE GRACE OF GIVING: SHARING IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF GOD

CONTINUED

## The Gift Before Our Giving

All Christian giving begins here:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son” (John 3:16).

Before we ever give to God, God has given Himself to us.

The Gospel is the story of divine generosity. God did not give from a distance. He gave His Son. He gave grace. He gave mercy. He gave forgiveness. He gave life. In Jesus Christ, God gave the greatest gift heaven could give.

So we do not give in order to earn God’s love. We give because we have already received it.

We give because God first gave to us.

We give because Christ gave Himself for us.

We give because the Spirit is forming generosity within us.

We give because the Church is the body of Christ, and through it, God is still reaching the world with grace.

When we give to the Church, we are not merely funding expenses. We are participating in worship, discipleship, mission, and hope. We are helping create a place where the Gospel is proclaimed, where people are formed, where the hurting are welcomed, where the young are taught, where the saints are equipped, and where the love of Jesus Christ is made known.

Giving is an invitation to trust God more deeply, love Christ more fully, and join the Spirit’s work more freely.

And when God’s people give with joyful and surrendered hearts, the Church becomes not merely a place we attend, but a living witness to the generosity of God.



Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



# Operation Christmas Child Collection

Help share Jesus Love to Kids around the world!!

For the next 6 months, we will be collecting items for our Operation Christmas Child packing event. Each month will be a different category of item, ensuring we have many different items for our boxes.

Remember: All items must fit in a Shoebox!!

At that event, all of our collected items will be put out for us to pack those boxes together as a church family, write cards, and pray over together. It's a wonderful time of community building and outreach as we work together to share Jesus love.

Questions see Amber or Darren Myers



## June

### Clothing and Accessories

Clothing & Socks	Flip flops or shoes
Cold weather items	Sunglasses
Bags, bookbags, and purses	Hair accessories
Kats Watches & Jewelry	Flashlights

### DO NOT INCLUDE

- Soap
- Food, candy, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- Scary or war-related items
- Wearable traditional camouflage
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids
- Medication or vitamins
- Money
- Breakable items (eg snow globes, glass containers)
- Matches, fire starters, or aerosols
- Knife, saw, or razor blades

Place all items in collection bin in Lobby

Questions see Amber or Darren Myers

**GROWING & GOING**  
Youth Ministries Updates and Info!!

Grace Church

Grace Roots  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Grace Preschool

# 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

## PROGRAM FEATURES:

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



3-5  
years



<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 ROOTS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Grace  
Preschool



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### JULY 13-JULY 17

DINNER: 530PM-6 PM

PROGRAM: 6 PM-8 PM



DINNER IS OPTIONAL,  
HOWEVER IT IS OPEN  
TO EVERYONE WHO  
ATTENDS.



QUESTIONS,  
EMAIL DARREN @  
DWMYERS9@MYGRACECHURCH.ORG



GRACE CHURCH OF  
HANOVER  
55 ALBRIGHT DRIVE  
HANOVER, PA 17331



**GROWING  
&  
GOING**

Youth Ministries Updates and Info!



Grace Church  
of Hanover

Grace  
Preschool



GRACE ROOTS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

# WALK BY FAITH

Color Walk

Saturday, June 6  
930am to 12pm

Questions: Email Darren at  
[dwwmyers9@mygracechurch.org](mailto:dwwmyers9@mygracechurch.org)

Come join us for fellowship,  
food, exercise, and lots of  
fun!!!

Help raise money for the  
youth programs of the  
church



Grace Church  
of Hanover

55 Albright Drive  
Hanover, Pa 17331



Register here!!!!

Coming Soon

IN THE STYLE OF OUR FORGED  
GATHERINGS, WE WILL BEGIN A NEW  
SERIES...

# Genesis:

## The Original Melted Cheese



*Studying the Bible Like  
A Grilled Cheese Sandwich*

**GENESIS:  
THE  
ORIGINAL  
MELTED  
CHEESE**

**Four Weeks  
in Genesis**

**JAMIE LYNN WARD**

\$7 /book on  
Amazon. Or see  
MaryZ. 8 copies  
available.

7-8pm  
Grace Church  
Multipurpose Room  
Dessert Provided-

Questions: Contact  
MaryZ:  
[marezales@icloud.com](mailto:marezales@icloud.com).

WE WILL HAVE 4 GATHERINGS... ON THE  
FOLLOWING TUESDAYS:  
JUNE 23, JULY 28, AUGUST 11 & 25



## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

# PRAYER POINTS

### **For Summer Camps, Campers, and Spiritual Renewal**

As churches and leaders prepare for summer camp ministry and other summer outreach opportunities, we pray for every camper, counselor, volunteer, and director who will gather to live the Jesus life among campers. May these camps become holy places where young people encounter Jesus Christ, form lifelong friendships, and hear God's call upon their lives.

Scripture: *"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example."* – 1 Timothy 4:12

### **For the Northeast Vision & Training Team Traveling to Malawi**

We lift up the Northeast Conference leaders preparing for the Malawi Annual Conference session and leadership training in Malawi this July. Grant safe travel, unity, wisdom, and fruitful partnership as they encourage pastors, strengthen churches, and deepen relationships within the Global Methodist Church.

Scripture: *"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else."*  
– 1 Thessalonians 3:12

### **For Churches Seeking Renewal and Awakening**

Across the Northeast, we pray for a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit in local churches. Renew prayer, deepen discipleship, awaken evangelistic passion, and draw people to salvation in Jesus Christ.

Scripture: *"Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?"* – Psalm 85:6

### **For Leaders Being Raised Up Across the Conference**

Pray for pastors, lay leaders, church planters, and emerging young leaders throughout the Northeast Conference. Ask God to raise up faithful servants who will lead with courage, holiness, humility, and a heart for multiplication.

Scripture: *"The things you have heard from me... entrust to faithful people."* – 2 Timothy 2:2

### **For the Mission and Future of the Global Methodist Church**

As the Global Methodist Church continues to grow around the world, pray for wisdom, unity, and spiritual clarity for bishops, conference leaders, pastors, and delegates preparing for important decisions in the year ahead. May our movement remain centered on making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness across the globe.

Scripture: *"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* – Matthew 6:10

### **For the Northeast Annual Conference Gathering in Williamsport**

Pray for the Northeast Annual Conference Session, June 11–13 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Lift up the worship services, speakers, leaders, volunteers, and every church preparing to gather. May this annual holy conferencing strengthen our unity, deepen our vision, and inspire us for greater mission.

Scripture: *"From Him the whole body... grows and builds itself up in love."* – Ephesians 4:16

### **For a World in Crisis and the Church's Witness**

We pray for those affected by war, violence, poverty, natural disasters, and unrest around the world. In the midst of fear and uncertainty, may the Church rise up with compassion, truth, generosity, and the hope of Jesus Christ.

Scripture: *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."* – Psalm 46:1

**PASSING  
IT ON**  
**GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
**2026 NORTHEAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Held June 11-13<sup>th</sup> in Williamsport PA. It's a time of prayer, worship, and community, as we celebrate what the holy spirit has done within our conference this year, and prepare for the next year. If interested please see Autumn Christine or Jess Sichel, both members of the Sessions team, the team that plans and executes our Annual Conference.

Please pray for our annual conference. Pray that the Spirit prepares the way and hearts of all who will be attending. Pray that the Spirit makes his presence known and moves and works in awesome and powerful ways while there.



# MUSIC MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT



The Music Ministry provides Special Music at the 7:45 and 11:00 services over the summer months while the Chancel Choir is on break. Please plan on coming to enjoy the talent we have at Grace Church as well as some visitors from the community.

Please see Larry Kuntz if you would like to sing or play an instrument for Special Music this summer.

**THE EICHELBERGER  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
★ presents ★  
**OF GOD AND  
COUNTRY**  
*Celebrating America's 250th Birthday with*  
**THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHOIR**  
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**at 3:00pm**  
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CALL or go to [www.TheEich.org](http://www.TheEich.org) for Ticket Information

# COMING

*Soon!!!*

