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# Amazing Grace

**Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive**

To the church of Jesus Christ and the faithful of Grace Church. Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lord and Savior are terms we use often in a generalized sense. The church can be guilty of leaning to heavily on insider language and titles without the command of understanding. There are many Christians unable to articulate what these two terms mean through scripture, let alone what it means from the cosmic scale funneled down to its intimate and most personal applications. The ability to speak about our faith is critical, especially in the current times and culture we are living in. 1 Ptr 3:15 tells us that we are to have the Truth of God firmly in our hearts and that we are to always be ready to give an answer to the faith born within us. This is a command of Scripture, therefore a command of God.

There are two understandings of LORD and Lord used within the Bible. LORD in all capital letters references God as the *creation demiurge* or the Ultimate Creator of all things. In Hebrew it is Tetragrammaton using only four letters *JHVH* or *YHWH*. Jehovah and Yahweh. It reminds me of a humor I heard once, Jesus was sitting on the mount where he was giving his most famous discourse and said "I am the Son of God" the people sitting to hear this were amazed and said "NO WAY!" and Jesus said "Yahweh!". Yahweh is LORD of all

creation and the supreme divinity that has eternally existed. John's Gospel tells us in Chapter one "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God". John the Evangelist is referring to Jesus being the *logos* or the living Word of God. The incarnate flesh of Christ being God in the world.

When we see the term Lord in the Bible it is referring is a human authority. Jesus is often referred to as Rabbi or Lord in scripture and this often conveys the human misunderstandings of not only who Jesus is on earth but his divine origin initially. Lordship, is a level of authority but ultimate authority. It was Pilot who claimed Jesus didn't have any authority because Pilot himself was the local authority. Jesus gives the famous statement "You would not have authority if it was not given to you". This is a slap in the face to Pilot if Pilot understood who Jesus was. Pilot had some authority, but Jesus is THE AUTHORITY.

Jesus is not one God among many. He IS THE TRUTH, The WAY, and THE LIFE. LORD of all creation and at his name every knee will bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ is LORD. The world needs Jesus and we are commissioned as the church to share the message and power of the Living God and His work in Jesus Christ to the world. Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you..." We are as the church to be ready and to share what the Lordship of Jesus Christ means and how his salvific act matters to our lives and our future, and its impact to the world.

Lent is a great opportunity to look to the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead as we walk the journey of Christ in his last weeks leading up to this historical moment at Golgotha. As your pastor it is my hope that you will take advantage of the small group teaching opportunities held at Grace Church and be consistently in worship as we gather and learn more about this epic of Jesus, so that we may be filled with knowledge and understanding in our faith.

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## Honorary Member by Barb Zeller

Meet Russell. Russell is one of the 13 original members of Grace United Methodist Church. His mother was Olga Wallet Miller and she came to Grace church when she was pregnant with Russell. Russell is 95 years old at this time. He was involved in Boy Scouts and Sunday School as a young boy and later as a scout leader and teacher of Sunday School.

Earl Frock was a mentor to Russell in many aspects of his Grace life. He took Russell "to the altar" and helped him in his journey to find out more about his life as a Christian.

Russell and his wife helped with the early team of church members to pick out this "shining spot on the hill" that we all know as Grace United Methodist Church. He was on the Consistory Committee that is now the church Council.

As a young man, Russell served in the Navy on the U.S.S—Cascade. During his tour of duty, Russell went ashore and saw the devastation following the bombing of "Hiroshima Japan. This experience stayed with him forever leading him to enjoy his home and not traveling very much. Russell told us once you're in Japan, "you never want to eat rice or fish again!"



In 1949 Russell married Janet Albright—who he had known since she was 9 years old. Their fathers were friends and buddies in the same stamp club.

Janet and Russell settled in the Hanover-New Oxford area. He attended college and became an accountant. His hobbies include woodworking and landscaping his lawn. All of his family have benefited from his expert woodworking skills such as furniture building, trunks for the children and many other beautiful hand crafted pieces.

The Miller family includes 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

It was an honor and pleasure to spend a lovely afternoon with Russell and his wife Janet.

- 3-01 Jon Becker, Ryan Miller
- 03-02 Margaret Brown
- 03-03 Brett Miller
- 03-04 William Harrison
- 03-09 Thomas Martin
- 03-10 Missy Leonard
- 03-11 Bobbi McFalls, Logan Miller
- 03-14 Dorothy Johns
- 03-15 Stanley Ferree, Larry Reed
- 03-16 April Gross, Duane Myers, Susan Paul, John Spangler
- 03-17 Amelia Bulson, Jeremy Cruys, Lauren Howard
- 03-18 Joshua Downey, Linda Moore
- 03-19 Krystal Martin
- 03-20 Larry Kuntz  
Josh Masenheimer
- 03-07 Michelle DeSantis
- 03-28 Phillip Dehoff
- 03-29 Barbara Shorb
- 03-31 Jill Dillon

*If you have someone that you would like to have featured as our honorary member, please send an article along with a picture to be featured in a future newsletter.*

## Women of Grace Announcement

**SAVE THE DATES: May 5 & 6 we will host a Women's retreat at Grace Church. Watch for further details. Hope you can make it. Sheila**

Holy Week is just four weeks away. I can't believe how quickly Lent is going by. We have a special event coming to Grace Church on Holy Thursday. Now, you may say well pastor isn't it Maundy Thursday? And you would be well to ask that question. Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum* which means command. Jesus in John's Gospel chapter 13:34, "a new command I give you: just as I have love you, you also are to love one another." Jesus says just after the great act of love in foot washing for his disciples. Therefore, when foot washing will not present at a service it is properly titled Holy Thursday and not Maundy.

This year, Holy Thursday offers a great opportunity to witness the dramatic portrayal of The Living Last Supper based Leonardo DaVinci's famous painting. The sets are already being constructed, the actors are gathering for rehearsals, and the worship is being organized. The drama unfolds as part of a worship service and ending in celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. It will be a beautiful tapestry of prayer, song, drama, and celebration, as we see a in a new way what may have transpired that faithful night with Jesus.



**COMMUNITY**  
BIBLE STUDY

CBS We're almost finished with our study of Daniel, and will finish the year with a 6 week study of Colossians . We will start this March 21....and anyone is welcomes to join us and see what CBS is about! Will need to register by March 13 for materials.

***The Daniel Plan*** may be over but your

opportunity for a healthier lifestyle can continue. Thank you to all of the folks who participated in the classes and in the special exercise events. A special thank you to Pastor Mike Brossman, Karen Coons, Jodi Jenkins and Jim Rogers for leading us in our special events.

Some members of the group have decided to continue our journey for being fit for Jesus and keeping in touch with our group members for exercising and accountability. In addition, we will be offering healthy breakfast options during some Sunday mornings for the 8:00 social hour. If you would like to provide a breakfast or be part of our support group, please contact Karen Coons, Jodi Jenkins, Sheila Carter or Kelly Parker.



*Jim Rogers leading us in a Pilates class. What a great workout. We worked muscles we didn't know we had. Thanks Jim!*



# CONNECTING

**Chair:** Linda Mixer

**Members:** Denny Blum, Ron Carter, Pastor Todd Christine, Karen Coons, Ed Davis, Duane Myers, Amanda Myers, Amber Quance, Brian Jenkins

## February Council Highlights

- Quotes will be pursued for a push bar for the front door of the church.
- A&J will be giving a quote stripping and waxing the nursery.
- Giving is down from last year. Members should still give to the church as the money you give, unless specified, goes directly to our church to pay the bills.
- The Navigation Team reported that on Feb. 5th the church members voted unanimously to join the Global Methodist Church.
- The name change for the church was approved by the State and will be sent to the Conference. We are now Grace Church Hanover.
- The Church and Preschool will be placing an ad on the South Hills Golf course, which will run for a year.
- We need to liquidate our grocery certificates. We will start selling the certificates again and 5% will go to the Campus improvement fund. Some of the cards will be used by the Pastor's discretionary fund to give to people in need.

## What is Discipleship?

Discipleship is a calling for ALL Christians. Jesus told us to do so (Matthew 28:19-20). It is an intentional lifetime process headed and guided by the power of the Holy Spirit developing our faith and becoming more like Jesus. It involves continually growing and genuinely and actively living out our lives in Christ through prayer, reading and studying the Bible, fellowship in the community of other followers and witnessing to others. Theology (the study of God's word), evangelism (declaring the faith), apologetics (the defense of the faith), and relationships through ministry, missions and daily interactions are essential components of Christian discipleship. We were made for community. It is important to understand that none of these parts of the whole are meant to work in isolation, but they complement each other. Discipleship is living a life of complete devotion to Jesus. It is our faith lived out. Ultimately, it is moving people from where they are to where God calls them according to His glory and will. THAT is what it really means to be a Christian, a follower, a disciple of Jesus of Nazareth.





**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

- Vacation Bible School Planning has begun! Please see Autumn if you would like to be included in planning an awesome VBS this summer!
- This years VBS will be from July 17th—21st.



*Congratulations to our Children's Choir who had a wonderful performance during the 11:00 service. They received a standing ovation for a job well done.*