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Amazing Grace

Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive

Uncertainty, is a word that in my short lifetime is one no one wants to hear. It is difficult to make decisions and commitments when things are up-in-the-air. Whether it is the current economy, market values, and employment transitions, and yes, even the conflicts of transitioning out of the United Methodist Church to our new home and future in the Global Methodist Church-- uncertainty impacts us. The first impact that the church feels is through generosity. As your pastor, I am continually impressed at the strength and commitment of our members. We have a lot to celebrate. Unlike many other Methodist Churches, we have a wonderful start into our new future. Why? Because of you and your support, our church poised to step into this new journey with strength and vitality. Over the last two years we have received almost 50 new members, and a large percentage of professions of faith. Our children and youth ministries are growing, and so is our community engagement. We are attracting younger families, and newly retired families who are getting plugged in and have become some of our strongest volunteers and givers. We have a bright future ahead of us.

At Grace Church, we are living into being a family that Seeks God, Shares Grace, and Serves our Community. As many of you are aware disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church had a hefty price tag. We wrote a check for more than a 130,000.00. This has taken a substantial chunk of our operating fund. We have also heard that there are folks not giving because they are concerned about how much more will go to the United Methodist Church. As your pastor, I want to assure that you can give, and I encourage you to give generously to the General Fund so that we can in confidence continue to fund that vital ministry and mission work here at Grace without interruption—the UMC payment has been satisfied, and all of you giving stays with Grace church. I encourage you to give with intentional generosity. I heard a phrase a few weeks back that I have held onto God calls us to disruptive generosity. Disruptive is a willingness to give so that our lives change. Our lives change not only in ability but a fulfillment and spiritual maturity reside with us. Tithing is not only the income that the church depends on, it is a fabulous way to exercise our faith and is a staple of discipleship. It is my hope and prayer that you be in prayer about how you can give to continue the vital work we are doing at Grace Church and so that we may continue to share in the lives of so many who are finding a new home here, and reach out to the many who we have not yet met. Uncertainty in our world is a constant but the Gospel is the answer to uncertainty. The Gospel is about God's generosity and work among us in times of the storms. Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (NIV). As a people of faith, in times of turbulence we do not hold back but push forward. This the only area that God asks to be tested in. God promises us that we cannot out give him. This is not a give to get prophecy but a faith opportunity. I invite you to give generously and make regular generosity a part of your daily/ weekly/ monthly faith practice. Please consider giving through the Grace Church App, our VANCO program, or weekly offerings. We praise God for you and your giving! Thank you Grace!!!

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GARDEN OF GRACE

Time for tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, melons etc. etc.

The Grace garden will be plowed this month and planting is set for May 21 (time to be announced later).

We would love to have new volunteers join us. In light of that we asked the youth to help us plant and maintain after school is out. Adult volunteers will be asked to choose a time every week to work along with others in teams.

This year, as last, we will donate the crops to Y.W.C.A, the Council of Churches and New Hope Ministries. In addition, when certain vegetables are at their peak in terms of numbers we will make them available to the congregation by using space on the grounds near the garden.

Ruth's Harvest

First of all, thank all of you that have contributed generously to the Ruth's Harvest Project. We only have a few more weeks of the school session this year. The last delivery to the children is May 24. We could like donations up to that point, after that, please hold your donations until school resumes again. The closet where we store our food is not air conditioned, so we don't want to have to store anything. We have served 150 children each week this year.

Last year brought us a good harvest and we ask for your prayers that this year will bring a good crop to benefit those in need in our community.



05-01	Patricia Martin
05-02	April Myers
05-05	Ann Baugher
05-07	Chester McCormick
05-09	Aaron Pecher
05-10	Chris Hnatkowicz
05-11	Emily Urenko
05-12	Jim Winbourne Charlie Urenko
05-13	Robert Dillon Janet Ginter Shaylyn Miller Kimberley Urenko
05-15	Aaron Catlin Corbin Capps
05-16	Christopher Reck
05-18	Chad Pritchard
05-20	Ron Cruys Scott Fidler Peggy Garrett
05-21	Jill Masenheimer Judy Dutton
05-23	Karen Misner
05-24	Joshua Myers
05-26	Owen Loper
05-27	Ed Knochel
05-28	Kathy Bredbenner Mark Coons Debra Kuntz
05-30	Mark Parker
05-31	Chloe Miller

Connecting with our Community

Thank you to Giant Food on Baltimore Street for volunteering their time at our church. Five Giant employees came out on Thursday, April 27th and worked on our landscape by weeding and mulching the front flower beds. Thank you to Giant Food for partnering with us!



CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

Chair: Linda Mixter

Members: Denny Blum, Ron Carter, Pastor Todd Christine, Karen Coons, Ed Davis, Duane Myers, Amanda Myers, Amber Myers, Brian Jenkins, Anna Mae Terry, Jim Winbourne

April Highlights

- Path Youth will **not** be holding a Spaghetti Dinner or Rummage Sale this year.
- Autumn Christine has been hired as the Director of Young People's Ministry.
- Caryl Hollinger and Ed Davis are now our Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer.
- Our new name of Grace Church of Hanover has been accepted at M&T Bank. Please make out your checks with the new name starting immediately.
- The Conference shows our shares of ministry for Disaffiliation 100% paid.
- The disaffiliation vote at the Susquehanna Annual Conference will be held on May 17, 2023 at a special session. Darren Myers, Linda Mixter and Pastor Todd will be attending this meeting.
- A new Security Team has been formed within the Church.
- Council has approved the firm New Horizon to do a feasibility study in the Fall.



“A child-advocacy ministry pairing compassionate people with children living in extreme poverty to release the children from spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty. “

Be on the lookout for a Sunday in June to learn more on how you can sponsor a child.

CREATIVE



SMART IDEA

Have an idea for an event? Don't keep these great thoughts to yourself, share them with us. Contact the church office to tell us more.



Children's Ministry

The Children's ministry has been going through some changes the past month, maybe you have heard, but I have joined the Grace team, and am the new Young People's Ministry Coordinator. I want to start by thanking everyone for the work you have done and continue to do with the children of Grace Church. With that being said, I cannot do the job alone. I will continue to need volunteers to help with both the Rainbow Room and Sunday School moving forward. We will be running the normal Sunday morning through June 25th. Then throughout the summer we will have just the rainbow room open, encouraging the kiddos to come to service and worship with their families.

Also we are planning and prepping for VBS, July 17-21. Please be praying now for a fabulous week for the kids and volunteers. We are still in need of volunteers for that week, come see me so we can chat to see if VBS is a place for you.

We have a growing children and youth program and I have big shoes to fill. Please be patient with me as we move forward. There will be meetings over the summer to get ready for a new Sunday Morning schedule and programming. Start praying if you would like to be part of the planning and a volunteer in this new exciting Children's ministry.

