GRACE CHURCH OF HANOVER// ISSUE 2026 // VOLUME 11

AMAZING GRACE

November Newsletter

Grace Church Of Hanover

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

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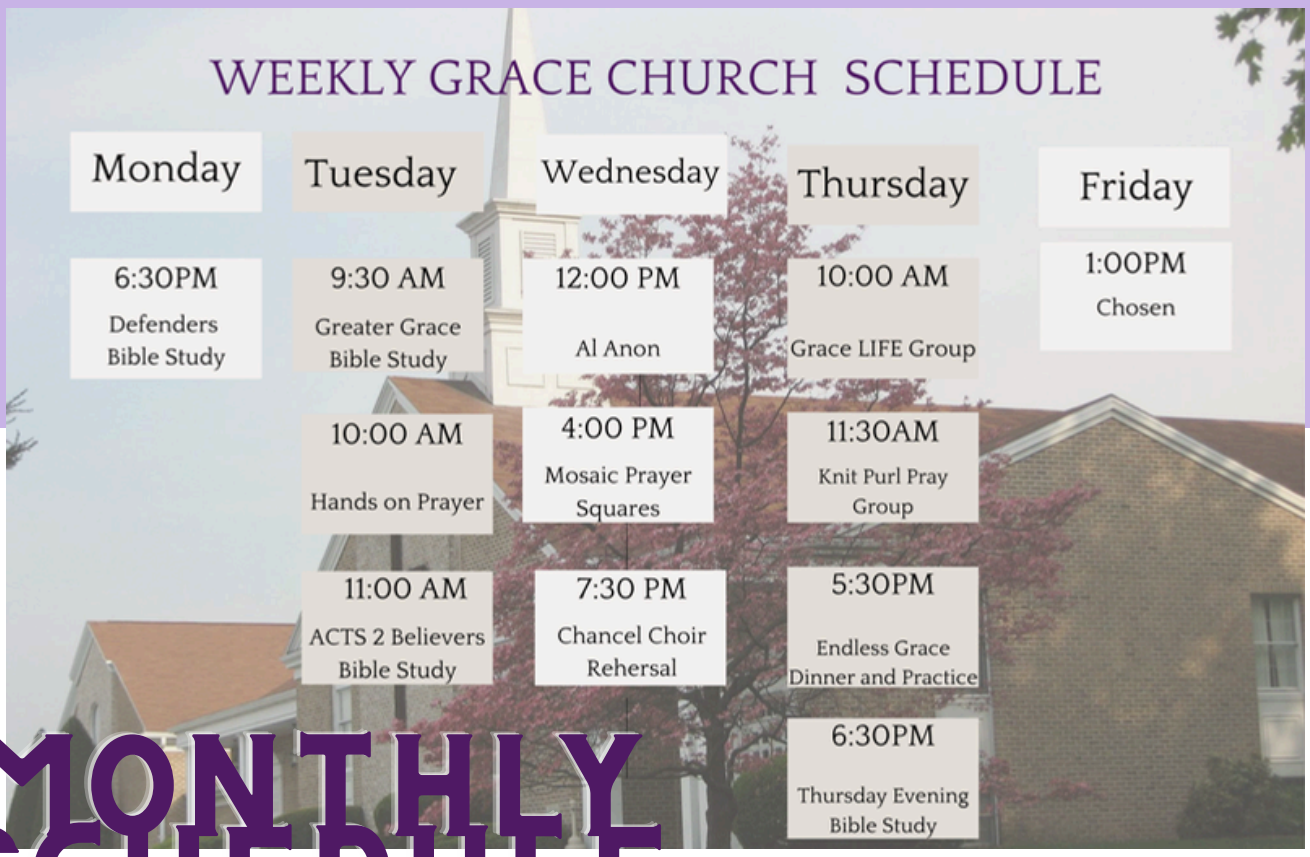
Lord, as we begin the month of November, let us all be thankful for the many blessings that you have given to us. may we share your blessings of love, hope and peace with all whom we encounter.

Amen

Whats Happening Grace:



MONTHLY SCHEDULE

November 9-10am-Healing Team Meeting
November 10-6pm-Forged
November 13-11am-A Christmas Carol Study
November 15-6pm-A Christmas Carol Study
November 16-10am-Healing Team Meeting
November 16-10am-Sunshine Stitchers
November 17-630pm-Ad Council
November 20-11am-A Christmas Carol Study
November 22-630pm-Church Conference
November 23-10am-Healing Team
November 23-6pm-Christmas Decorating at Church
November 24-10am-Christmas Decorating (If needed)
November 24-6pm-Forged
Nov 26-1pm-Thanksgiving at Grace
November 29-6pm-A Christmas Carol Study



MONTHLY SCHEDULE
CONTINUED

MONTHLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSTRUCTION:

DUE TO POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION STARTING SOON, THE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2026. HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE SOME NEW AND CHNAGED EVENTS FOR OUR GRACE CHURCH FAMILY THROUGHOUT THE REST OF 2026.

November Birthdays:



Suzanne Gheney	11/4
Janet Miller	11/12
Emily Myers	11/21
Lane Myers	11/4
Marilyn Resh	11/13
Deb Snyder	11/20



Events Board:

Please check the events board weekly for more information and to see sign ups for events and volunteers needs.

If you haven't added your birthday to the list, there are forms at the hospitality desk. We would love to celebrate with you.

WORSHIP:

If you are following along with the scripture readings, we are now reading from the Common English Bible (CEB) during worship services.



From the Pastor's Desk:

Finding Our Rhythm

Pastoral Reflections on Faith, Worship, and the Rhythms of Grace

As a musician, I have always appreciated the importance of a good rhythm section. Whether you are listening to a symphony orchestra, a jazz ensemble, or a rock-and-roll band, there is something essential about a strong downbeat. The drummer establishes the pulse, the bass provides the foundation, and the other musicians find their place within the movement of the music. When everyone is in rhythm, something wonderful happens. What began as individual notes becomes a beautiful, unified expression of music. But when the rhythm falls apart, everyone notices. The musicians may be playing all the right notes, but something simply doesn't sound right. The music loses its coherence because it has lost the rhythm that holds everything together. I wonder if our spiritual lives aren't much the same.

Every one of us lives according to certain rhythms. We wake up, go to work, prepare meals, care for our families, and attend to the many responsibilities that fill our calendars. We develop habits that eventually become so familiar that we hardly think about them. Some are intentional, while others simply develop over time. Yet all of them contribute to the patterns that shape our lives. The question is whether we have established the same intentionality when it comes to our relationship with God. In Luke's Gospel, we encounter a seemingly insignificant observation about Jesus that I believe deserves our attention. Luke writes: "When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom." (Luke 4:16, NRSV)

Did you catch those last four words? "As was his custom." Jesus had established a rhythm of worship in His life. Gathering with the community of faith, hearing the Scriptures, and participating in the religious practices of His people were not occasional activities reserved for convenient moments. They were part of the ordinary pattern of His life. And this rhythm was not limited to corporate worship. Luke tells us elsewhere that Jesus regularly withdrew to deserted places to pray (Luke 5:16). We discover something remarkable about our Lord. His life included both the public gathering of God's people and the private intimacy of prayer with His heavenly Father. There was a rhythm to His religious life.

From the Pastor's Desk (Continued):

Now, I recognize that even the suggestion of establishing religious routines can cause some of us to become uncomfortable. We have grown accustomed to thinking of faith primarily in terms of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and rightly so. But somewhere along the way, I fear we have created an unnecessary distinction between having a relationship with Christ and practicing the very disciplines through which that relationship is nurtured. We would never expect a marriage to flourish without regular communication, shared experiences, or intentional time together. Neither would we expect a musician to improve without practicing the instrument. Yet somehow, we can find ourselves expecting a vibrant spiritual life while giving remarkably little attention to the rhythms that cultivate it.

Sunday worship becomes something we attend when the schedule permits. Prayer becomes something we remember when difficulties arise. Scripture becomes something we hear when someone else reads it to us. And before long, we begin wondering why our relationship with God seems distant or our spiritual lives feel stagnant. I don't believe this is necessarily because we lack faith or desire. More often, I suspect it is because the other rhythms of life have gradually crowded out the ones that matter most.

But here is the wonderful news of the Gospel: God has not left us to manufacture our own spiritual transformation. Through the grace of Jesus Christ and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit, God is actively drawing us into a deeper relationship with Himself. The Holy Spirit works within us, awakening our desires, renewing our minds, correcting our waywardness, and gradually forming us into the likeness of Christ. This is what John Wesley understood as the beautiful work of sanctifying grace. And the ordinary practices of our faith become extraordinary places of encounter with God. When we open the Scriptures, we do more than read ancient words. We make ourselves available to the Spirit who illuminates God's truth. When we pray, we do more than recite requests. We enter into communion with the living God. When we gather for worship, receive Holy Communion, or share in Christian fellowship, we participate in the means of grace through which God continues His transforming work. These practices do not earn God's love. They allow us to respond to the love He has already extended toward us.



From the Pastor's Desk (Continued):

G. K. Chesterton, in his characteristically provocative way, challenged the notion that Christianity had somehow been tested and proven disappointing. *In What's Wrong with the World*, he observed that the Christian ideal had not truly been tried and found wanting, but had often been found difficult and left untried. I think there is something worth considering in that observation. How often do we conclude that the practices of our faith have become boring, ineffective, or unnecessary when perhaps we have never truly committed ourselves to discovering the depths of grace available within them? There is nothing ordinary about encountering the living God. The rhythms may be familiar, but the One who meets us through them is inexhaustible. So perhaps the invitation before us is not to undertake some extraordinary new religious endeavor. Perhaps it is simply to rediscover the extraordinary grace of God within the ordinary rhythms of faithful living.

Begin with Sunday worship. Make gathering with the people of God a regular priority rather than an occasional possibility. Find a few minutes each morning or evening to open your Bible and listen for what God might be teaching you. Establish a time for prayer, not merely to present your needs, but to enjoy the presence of the One who loves you. Share in Christian fellowship. Serve someone who needs encouragement. Practice generosity as a regular expression of gratitude for God's blessings.

And don't attempt to accomplish everything at once. Begin with a faithful downbeat. Establish one intentional practice, allow it to become part of your life, and then build upon it. Remember, the purpose of these rhythms is not to create a religious checklist. It is to cultivate a life increasingly attentive and responsive to the Holy Spirit. Over time, we may discover that our prayers become more natural, our understanding of Scripture deepens, our worship becomes more meaningful, and our love for God and neighbor grows. Not because we have perfected our religious performance, but because the Spirit of God is faithfully at work within us. Like a good rhythm section, these practices provide a steady foundation upon which the music of our lives can unfold. And when the Holy Spirit becomes the One directing that music, even the most ordinary moments can become beautiful expressions of God's grace.

So, how is your rhythm?

Perhaps it's time to find the downbeat again and allow the grace of God to bring the music of our lives back into harmony.

Grace and Peace,



Grace Church please plan to attend.....



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:

- 2026
  - November 12
  - December 17
- 2027
  - January 21
  - March 23
  - April 29

We are accepting single serve entrees, vegetables, fruits, snacks, breakfasts and drink items here at church. Please place them in the bin marked "Ruth's Harvest" under the coffee bar across from the front entry door.

Provide A Lunch (PAL):

Fridays: **Saturdays:**

November 13

December 24



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

Name: Mrs. Autumn Christine

Role/ Ministry position: Office Manager



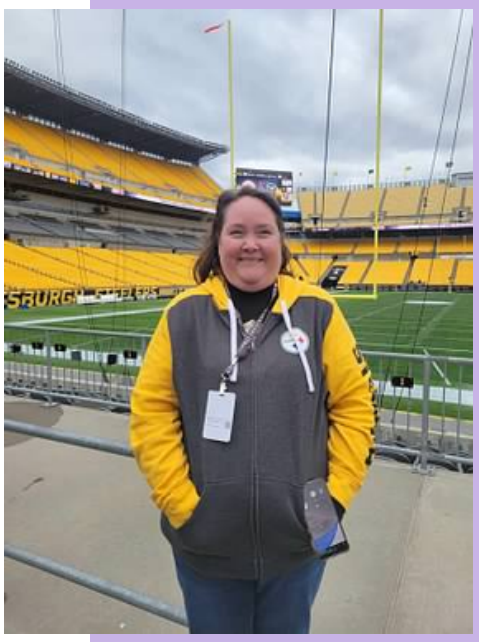
How long have you served at our church?
In this role about 1 year, in different roles, 6 years

What do you enjoy most about serving here?
I am called to do the work I am doing. So I love what I do, and I love who I serve. Also, Grace Church is my family, and I love them.

Favorites

Favorite Bible Verse:
Jeremiah 29: 11-13

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.



Favorite Worship Song or Hymn:
This is hard, I have so many. Right now I'd say "Praise" by Elevation.

Favorite Snack or Treat:
My Aunt Shawnee's Peanut Butter Pie

Favorite Restaurant or Coffee Order:
Restaurant: TapHouse 6
Coffee: None-I DO NOT drink coffee.

Favorite Hobby:
Scrapbooking, crocheting, watching movies, music

Favorite Movie or TV Show:
Movie: I have a lot of favorite movies. I can't pick just one. Since its close to Christmas, I love Elf, and A Christmas Story.

TV: Criminal Minds

Favorite Season of the Year:
Summer

FACES OF GRACE



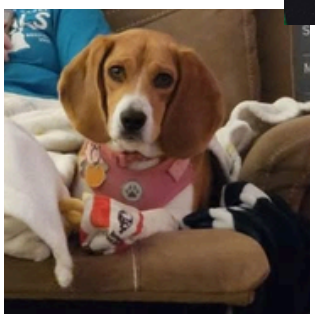
Just For Fun

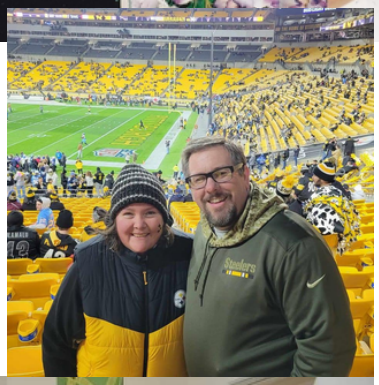
What was your very first job?
Ride Operator for Blands' Park (Delgrosso's Ammusement Park)

One thing people may not know about you:
I love all sports; if someone can win, I like it. That includes Golf, and yes, WWE Wrestling.



If you could have dinner with anyone from the Bible, who would it be and why?
Jonah. I think I relate to his story, running in the opposite direction of what God wanted, passing judgment that isn't ours to pass, and anger. Oh the stories and then also regrets, and if he learned from his lesson, or if he continued, unchanging.





Cats, dogs, or something else?
Dogs, we love our Lulu.

If you had a superpower, what would it be?
Reading Minds





Faith and Encouragement

What inspired you to serve in ministry?
I was called very early on in Todd and my marriage to take a bigger role at the church. I was entrusted with a gift of administration, and when I am not using that gift for the Kingdom, I am unsettled. I also firmly believe I was called into ministry as well, just not preaching.

What has God been teaching you recently?
To listen and share. Everything is not mine to carry.

What encouragement would you like to share with the church family?
Like my favorite verse, God knows you and knew you, he made you and called you to be His, become who He made you to be!!

How can we be praying for you?
Please pray for me to listen for God, and to tune my radio station when His words get fuzzy.

Quick Favorites

Coffee / Tea – Tea
Sweet / Salty – Salty
Sunrise / Sunset – Sunset
Books / Movies - Both :)
Mountains / Beach – Beach
E**arly Bird / Night Owl** – Night Owl
Pancakes / Waffles – Waffles
Hymns / Contemporary Worship – Contemporary Worship











EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

Our October Blood drive was a huge success. Our drive produced 23 usable products. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers and donors.

American Red Cross

Our Fall Fest was a great time. Thank you to everyone who came out.

GRACE CHURCH OF HANOVER

FALL FEST



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT GRACE



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT GRACE



ANGEL TREE 2026

As a Church family, we sponsor a family for Christmas.

The Christmas Wishes are on the main office window

The angels will be available starting Sunday, November 15th.

ALL WRAPPED GIFTS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY SUNDAY, December 6.

ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT BETH MCCORMICK AT 717-476-0060

Faithful Rhythms: The Blessing of Generosity



Growing in Faith, Strengthening Our Church, and Preparing for Generations to Come

There is something beautiful about faithfulness. It is rarely found in grand gestures or extraordinary moments. More often, faithfulness reveals itself in the ordinary rhythms of life: the prayers we offer, the worship we share, the kindness we extend, and the generosity through which we participate in God's work. In Malachi 3:10, the Lord declares: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” (NRSV) These words remind us that generosity has always been a part of the life of God's people. The storehouse was not simply a place where resources accumulated. It was a means through which the community sustained worship, supported ministry, and provided for the needs of others. The invitation was to trust God and participate faithfully in the work God had entrusted to His people. That same invitation continues today.

The Beauty of Consistency

Recently, a national study of charitable giving revealed something interesting. Americans are giving more generously than ever before, yet giving to religious organizations has remained relatively unchanged. Even more revealing, many churches are discovering that fewer households are carrying a greater share of their financial responsibilities. This presents an opportunity for us to consider something important: the strength of a church's ministry is not found merely in the size of individual gifts, but in the shared faithfulness of its people. At Grace Church, every gift matters. Whether large or small, every contribution participates in the ministry we share. It supports the worship that gathers us, the discipleship that forms us, the care we extend to one another, and the mission through which our lives touch the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And there is something especially meaningful about consistency. Just as a life of prayer is strengthened through regular practice, generosity becomes a faithful rhythm of discipleship when we make it an intentional part of our lives. Regular giving allows the church to plan responsibly, sustain its ministries, meet its obligations, and respond to opportunities to serve. Consistency provides stability, and stability creates opportunities for ministry.

Faithful Rhythms: The Blessing of Generosity Continued



Making Faithfulness Easier

We recognize that life is busy. Families have schedules, responsibilities, and financial obligations. Sometimes the most difficult part of maintaining a faithful rhythm is simply remembering to do so. That's one reason Grace Church offers electronic giving, including the ability to establish automatic, recurring contributions. Rather than remembering to write a check each Sunday, you can arrange for your giving to be withdrawn automatically according to a schedule that works for your household. Whether weekly, twice monthly, or monthly, this option allows generosity to become a regular part of your financial planning. It is convenient, secure, and particularly helpful during vacations, travel, or those Sundays when life keeps us away from worship. Of course, traditional giving remains just as welcome. The goal is not to prescribe how you give, but to make faithful participation accessible to everyone. For those who have not considered electronic giving, we invite you to explore this simple opportunity to establish a regular rhythm of generosity.

A Legacy That Outlives Us

There is another dimension of generosity that deserves our consideration: the legacy we leave for generations yet to come. Think about the people who came before us at Grace Church. Their sacrifices, prayers, service, and generosity helped establish and sustain the ministries we enjoy today. We worship in spaces they helped provide. We benefit from ministries they helped cultivate. Their faithfulness continues to bear fruit, even though many are no longer with us. Now we have the opportunity to do the same for those who will follow.

One meaningful way to accomplish this is through legacy giving, sometimes called planned giving. By remembering Grace Church in a will, establishing a charitable gift through a trust, or including the church among the beneficiaries of an estate plan, individuals and families can provide resources that support the church's mission well into the future. These gifts can help sustain ministries, care for church facilities, support missions, and provide opportunities for future generations to encounter Jesus Christ. Legacy giving is not reserved for individuals of extraordinary wealth. A thoughtfully planned gift of almost any size can become an enduring expression of faith and love for the church. And importantly, thoughtful estate planning begins with faithfully caring for our families and loved ones. Remembering the church is an opportunity to extend that care beyond our own lifetimes, according to our circumstances and wishes. If you are preparing or updating your estate plans, we invite you to prayerfully consider including Grace Church among the organizations you wish to bless. An estate planning attorney or financial advisor can help you explore appropriate options.

Faithful Rhythms: The Blessing of Generosity

Continued

More Than Meeting a Budget

When we speak about giving, it is easy to think first about budgets, bills, and buildings. Those are real responsibilities, and faithful stewardship requires that we attend to them carefully. But generosity is about something much greater. Our giving is an act of worship. It is an expression of gratitude for what God has already done, a response to the grace we have received, and a declaration that we believe God continues to work through His Church. Malachi's invitation is not a promise that every financial gift will produce material wealth or personal prosperity. Rather, it reminds us that God's people are called to trust Him, honor Him with what has been entrusted to them, and participate in His purposes.

We do not give to purchase God's favor. We give because God's grace has already been generously poured out upon us. And when we give consistently, we join together in something none of us could accomplish alone. A church strengthened by the faithful participation of its people is better positioned to minister today, prepare for tomorrow, and pass along a living witness to generations yet to come. So, as we consider our stewardship, perhaps the invitation is simply this: What faithful rhythm of generosity can I establish in my life? And what legacy of faith might I leave for those who come after me? May our generosity, whether expressed through a weekly gift, a monthly contribution, or a lasting legacy, reflect our gratitude to God and our love for His Church.

For it is not simply what we give that matters, but the faithfulness with which we offer it.



New Bible Study



The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

Theology Matters: From New Room

It is a joy to be writing my November newsletter piece from the New Room Conference in Montgomery, Alabama. Jess, Isaac, and I spent the last days of September and the first days of October in the company of a host of Wesleyan Christians gathered at the Frazer Free Methodist Church, seeking the face of God.The New Room Conference is a yearly gathering of people who hunger for a deeper relationship with God so that they can be sent out to sow seeds for a Great Awakening.



The conference began in 2014 as an outreach effort of Seedbed to provide pastors and church leaders with practical training for discipleship and evangelism, and it centered on the methods of John Wesley: Band and Class Meetings. The three-day event is structured around worship, preaching, and teaching sessions.The call for all who attend is to go deeper into their relationship with God with an emphasis on personal holiness through accountability with other Christians in the quest to be more like Jesus in heart, soul, and mind.

I have written about the power of both Band and Class Meetings here before. A Band Meeting is a group of 3-6 men or women who meet regularly to encourage one another in their walk with Christ, to confess sins to one another, and to pray for one another in a covenanted fellowship. Class Meetings are larger co-ed groups (12-15) who meet for a similar purpose in the context of accountability and the challenge to evangelism.John Wesley saw this as a part of his method in Methodism to bring people toward perfect love of God and neighbor.By challenging people to take their spiritual lives seriously in the context of group relationships, Wesley's method was instrumental in the conversion of England and the United States during the First Great Awakening.

SEEDBED

The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

Theology Matters: From New Room Continued

I can attest to the way that being in a Band presses me to be a better Christian, more dedicated to my own personal journey of holiness. Both Pastor Todd and I are in a Band with other clergy from our district. We meet bi-weekly over Zoom and we consider at least 3 of the 5 following questions:

1. How is it with your soul?
2. What are your struggles and successes?
3. How might the Word and Spirit be speaking in your life?
4. Do you have any sin that you want to confess?
5. Are there any secrets or hidden things you would like to share?

We process the answers in discussion together.In this way, we listen to each other's struggles, remind each other that we are forgiven in Jesus Christ, and we challenge one another to a more consistent walk toward holiness of heart and life. As John Wesley would remind every Methodist, holiness in heart and life is a part of our walk with Christ. Consider these verses from the book of Hebrews:

"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many" – Hebrews 12:14-15.

Notice the tension that the writer leaves in those verses. There is the requirement of holiness, "without which no one will see the Lord," but at the same time, we have the "grace of God," which will assist us in that holiness. We have the standard, and then we have God's abundant grace to pick us up when we fall.This is the power of the Band Meeting to remind each participant that they are fully responsible, fully loved, and fully covered by grace. In so doing, we fulfill another part of the book of Hebrews:

> "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 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 10:23-25.

The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

Theology Matters: From New Room Continued

This is the power of banding together, to help each other live our lives in such a way that we can better reflect love into a world that so desperately needs it. It also helps each of us become the people who Christ has called us to be.

Band Meetings are a gift to discipleship, and it is the denominational intention that they become an integral part of life in the Global Methodist Church. To that end, stay tuned for more information which should be coming out about how we hope to make Band Meetings available to those who are interested in them at Grace Church. I am excited to see how this might bring a new sense of calling, hope, and vitality to our lives together as the Grace Church family.

Last note to all: Jess and I are very thankful for all the gifts, cards, encouragement, and love we have received as a part of Clergy Appreciation Month. We love Grace Church, and I'm so thankful to serve with you in the name of Jesus Christ for the hope of the world. You are a family of love.

Love to you all in Christ's Name,

Matthew S. Sichel

SMALL GROUP FOCUS

Congregational Care



The Congregational Care team will be collecting items throughout the year. Please bring all donations to the church, and place in the container marked for Congregational Care. Thank you so much for your donations.



Grace Church of Hanover

GRACE ROOTS
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WE ARE HIRING!!!!

Tree Fort Assistant
(Child Care Aid, Nursery)

Our Tree Fort is for children from ages of about 2 to 6 years old

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING FROM 8:30AM TO 12:30PM GUARANTEED

Employees will need :
current background checks
and MinistrySafe Course
***Can be obtained during hiring process**

**Employees of Grace Church recieve discounts for our Preschool program.*

55 Albright Drive
Hanover, PA 17331
Email: dwmyers9@mygracechurch.org
717-637-3100



PATH YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES OCTOBER SCHEDULE

November 7: 10am	Youth Sunday Practice
November 8: 11am	Youth Sunday
November 8: 1230pm	OCC Packing Party with Lunch
November 10 6pm	Forged
November 24 6pm	Forged
Coming Soon:	Christmas Caroling 12/6/2026 @ 3pm
Coming Soon:	RVR Winter Meltdown 1/22/2027-1/24/2027

Grace Preschool





November Prayer Spotlight – Prayer of Thanksgiving

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name; for the Lord is good. His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100:4&5

Take time this month to thank God for His many blessings. Come to the Prayer Room or quietly spend time in prayer. Write each blessing, one by one. (Paper and pens are in the prayer room.) Pray and be encouraged by the words from this hymn:

Count Your Blessings.

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

2
Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

3
When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold.
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your Lord on high.

4
So amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged; God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

MUSIC MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT











MUSIC MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

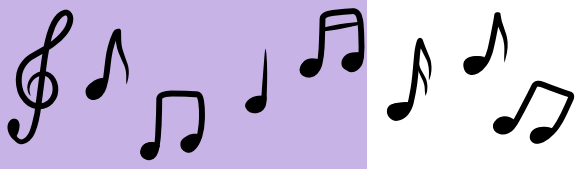


Mark your calendars:

The HSO, directed by Larry Kuntz has an upcoming concert:

A Happy, Happy Holiday
A Holiday Pops Concert
Featuring Soloist Beatrice Gilbert

Saturday, December 19, 2026 at 3:00pm





Throughout the Spring you turned in your top ten, plus some favorite worship songs. From those lists we made a playlist for the church to listen. Hear what your family is worshipping with, and maybe your will find your new favorite. If you dont hear your favorite, we can add new songs, please turn them into Autumn in the office.

Grace Church of Hanover-Favorite Songs

~Spotify List~





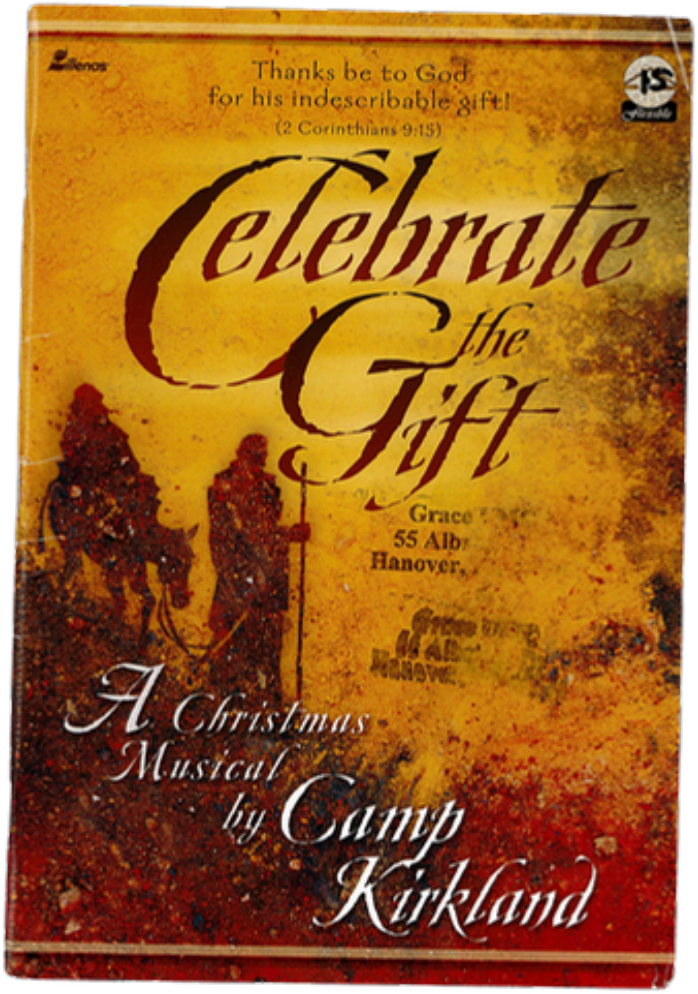
Grace Church of Hanover-Favorite Songs

~Amazon Music List~

These are the codes for the Grace Church of Hanover Playlist, at Spotify and Amazon Music. Both are free services, that you can use. If you have a subscription, it will be ad-free.

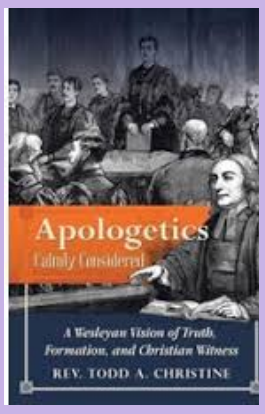
MUSIC MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

The Grace Church Chancel Choir, under the direction of Mr. Larry Kuntz, accompanied by a live orchestra, invites you to the presentation of our Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 20th at 11am



ANNOUNCEMENT

New Book Release: Apologetics Calmly Considered



Grace Church of Hanover Pastor Releases New Book on Wesleyan Apologetics and Christian Formation

The Rev. Todd A. Christine, Senior Pastor of Grace Church of Hanover and an Elder in the Global Methodist Church, is pleased to announce the release of his first book, Apologetics Calmly Considered: A Wesleyan Vision of Truth, Formation, and Christian Witness.

Drawing from Scripture, the Wesleyan tradition, and the broader Christian intellectual heritage, Apologetics Calmly Considered presents a fresh vision for Christian apologetics—one that moves beyond simply defending the faith through arguments to forming disciples whose lives bear faithful witness to the gospel. Rather than asking only, How do we prove Christianity is true? The book explores the deeper question, What is apologetics for? Christine argues that the defense of the faith finds its highest purpose not in winning debates, but in leading people toward Christlikeness through grace, truth, and holy love.

Written with pastors, church leaders, students, and thoughtful laypeople in mind, the book offers a distinctly Wesleyan perspective that seeks to recover apologetics as a ministry of discipleship. It emphasizes that reason is a gift of God, but that reason is most faithful when it serves the work of spiritual formation and the mission of the Church.

The book has already received strong endorsements from leaders across the Global Methodist Church and beyond. Northeast Conference Superintendent Rev. Steven M. Taylor writes that Apologetics Calmly Considered "has the ingredients to reorient the church," calling Christians to move beyond merely defending the faith intellectually and toward lives deeply rooted in "truth, grace, holiness, and holy love."

Rev. Dr. Bob Kaylor describes the work as "a framework for a distinctly Wesleyan approach to apologetics," noting that it encourages both bold Christian witness and transformational discipleship while inviting the church to embody the message it proclaims.

Similarly, Ken Loyer, Ph.D., commends the book for presenting "a holistic approach to defending the faith" that emphasizes "relational presence, transformed character in Christ, and bold proclamation of the gospel," making it "a helpful reframing and a vital resource for discipleship."

Rev. Christine holds a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and has devoted more than fourteen years to pastoral ministry. His work centers on Wesleyan theology, Christian formation, apologetics, and discipleship, with a passion for equipping the Church to proclaim and embody the gospel in an increasingly skeptical culture. Apologetics Calmly Considered: A Wesleyan Vision of Truth, Formation, and Christian Witness is now available in paperback, hardcover, and e-book editions.

"The goal of apologetics is not merely to defend the faith, but to form a people whose lives make the gospel believable." That conviction lies at the heart of Apologetics Calmly Considered and reflects its invitation to the Church: to recover apologetics as a ministry of truth, holiness, and faithful Christian witness.

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE INFO



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A Pastoral Letter to the Clergy and Laity of Episcopal Area 2, November 1, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As I begin my episcopal ministry, I greet you with a heart filled with gratitude, humility, and joyful anticipation. I thank God for the privilege of serving alongside you in Episcopal Area 2 of the Global Methodist Church.

Our episcopal area beautifully reflects the global body of Christ. Across North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, we represent different nations, cultures, languages, and traditions. Yet we are united by one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

The Apostle Paul reminds us to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

As we begin this journey together, I would like to share three commitments that will guide my ministry among you.

First, I will seek to be a bishop who listens and prays.

I come not with all the answers, but with a heart willing to listen, learn, and pray. I look forward to hearing your stories, understanding your challenges, and discerning together the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Second, I will seek to be a bishop who encourages and equips.

Our church is strengthened through faithful clergy, dedicated laypeople, and congregations committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ. I desire to encourage pastors in their calling, strengthen local churches in their mission, and support the development of future leaders.

Third, I will seek to be a bishop who builds bridges and nurtures unity.

Throughout my ministry, God has called me to build bridges across generations, cultures, and communities. Though separated by geography and language, we are one family in Christ. I pray that we will learn from one another, strengthen our relationships, and work together in God's mission.

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Above all, I believe that our future depends not merely on what we accomplish, but on how faithfully we remain rooted in Jesus Christ, grounded in Scripture, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

As your bishop, I ask for your prayers. Please pray that God will grant me wisdom, humility, courage, and a shepherd's heart. I also commit myself to praying for you, your families, and your congregations.

May God's abundant grace and peace rest upon each of you and your families. May your homes be filled with His love, your churches be strengthened by His Word and Spirit, and your communities be blessed through your faithful witness. May the Lord renew your strength, deepen your faith, and make your congregations beacons of hope and holiness in the world.

Let us move forward not with fear, but with faith; not in competition, but in cooperation; not as strangers, but as brothers and sisters united in Christ.

Together, let us build bridges of faith, hope, and love for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

With gratitude, prayers, and love in Christ,

Bishop Jonathan S. Lee
Episcopal Area 2
Global Methodist Church

Grace Church of Hanover
GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

55 Albright Drive
Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-3100
Email:
office@mygracechurch.org