

# Grace Messenger



## Pastor Tom's Reflection

It is traditional for a pastor's column in a November church newsletter to focus on a "thanksgiving" theme. Now, as a general rule, I try to avoid such clichés. But this year expressing thanks seems to be most appropriate.

I'm thankful, of course, for all the obvious things. I have been blessed with a wonderful and talented wife, a real partner in life as well as in ministry. I have three great children and three perfect grandchildren (with one more on the way in late January). My dad's health is still good, as is the health of my in-laws. I have lived in the same very comfortable house for 33 years.

I am called to serve as the senior pastor in a congregation that is growing in its understanding of and commitment to the Great Commission, a congregation that my wife and I thought we would "visit" for a brief time. Now 12 years later, we are still here, and I will soon be joined on this pastoral staff by a talented and energetic young man with whom I've maintained a coaching relationship for more than two years.

The list goes on and on and on. I'm thankful indeed.

But the thought that prompted these thanksgiving musings was the deep gratitude I have for each person who considers this congregation to be his/her church home.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to a congregation in Philippi, he began with these words:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now ... ((Philippians 1:3-5)

As the Congregation Council planned for the time of transition between Pastor Powell and me, it was clear to all that I would be "flying solo" for several weeks. They put into place a plan that provided a network of assistance for me during these weeks of transition.

That "network of assistance" was all of you. Some of you stepped forward into formal responsibilities like teaching Sunday School or visiting the sick. Some moved into leadership roles in areas for which I had previously been responsible. But in the end it was all of you, supporting, encouraging and most of all, praying for my strength and stamina during these last 20 weeks. And like the Apostle, I am filled with joy for your partnership from that very first day.

Well, check this out! We made it! Around the time this newsletter reaches your mailboxes, I will be taking a week of vacation in advance of the arrival of Pastor McGee. I will be gone from the chancel on November 10, and am delighted to announce that Pastor Beverly DeBord has graciously accepted my invitation to preach and lead worship that morning. She will be in town to lead our women's retreat that weekend and will extend her ministry to our congregation one additional day.

So, what am I most thankful for this November? You. Thank you, and thank God for you.

## Welcome Pastor Brian and Christen McGee

On November 12, a new era begins at Grace as Pastor Brian McGee officially joins our pastoral staff as our newest Associate Pastor. His first Sunday in the chancel will be November 17, and he will be welcomed with a full slate of responsibilities. That morning, Pastor Brodbeck will be hosting a Super Sunday event with the high school youth, while Pastor McGee will be the only pastor in the chancel. What a way to start!

By the time you read these words, Pastor McGee will have concluded his ministry at St. John Lutheran Church in Greenville, OH. The intervening days between then and his start date here will be spent on vacation and preparing to move to the Springfield community. Their home in Greenville has already sold (a major answer to prayer) and they are actively searching for a home here.

Pastor McGee will write an introductory article about himself for the December issue of the Messenger, so we will save all those details for him to share. Copies of his brief biographical page, originally shared at the Saturday evening "Meet and Greet" session during his call weekend, are still available in the Grace narthex. Please pick one up if you haven't read it yet.

We do want you to know, however, that a formal installation service will be held on Sunday, December 15, at 3:30 p.m. Pastor Mark Daniels, Dean of the Southwest Ohio Mission District, will be present once again to preside at this service. Be sure to join us.

## Congregational Meeting

This has certainly been a year for congregational meetings at Grace, hasn't it? We held our spring meeting, as required by the Grace Constitution, in March. At that meeting our primary items of business were to approve the annual report and select a Nominating Committee. Then we held two meetings related to the work of the Grace Call Committee, one to call Pastor Brodbeck as our Senior Pastor and the second to call Pastor McGee as our Associate.

Now it is time for the second annual meeting required by the constitution. It will be held at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, November 24. This meeting's agenda includes the adoption of the 2020 ministry plan (budget) and the election of four members to the Congregation Council and one member to the Endowment Committee.

The budget has been mailed to every Grace household. You should have received it within the last week. It is based on the projected giving of the Grace family, as reflected in your responses on the Estimate of Giving cards turned in on Consecration Sunday and the days following it.

Both council and endowment members are elected for three year terms, beginning January 1 following their election. Bill Birch and Stacey Laux are the nominees for the Endowment Committee. Council nominees are Judy Carey, Mark Klopfenstein, Kevin Kreider and Bill Stapleton. Biographical on all nominees are posted in the narthex throughout the month of November.

You are encouraged to attend this meeting, even if you are not a voting member of the congregation. It is a wonderful time to learn about the church, its ministries and the plans God has given us for the future.

## Thanksgiving Worship

The Grace congregation will gather to worship on Tuesday, November 26 at 7 p.m. This service of thanksgiving and praise allows us to set our minds on all that God has done for us in advance of the rush of the soon-to-come Thanksgiving holiday. The service is intentionally set on Tuesday to allow families an opportunity to attend before their travel plans begin.

A highlight of this annual service is the opportunity to give voice to those things for which you personally are thankful. Pastor Brodbeck will bring the evening's message. His text will be Deuteronomy 26:1-11, a powerful portion of the farewell address of Moses just before the people cross over into the Promised Land. There Moses warns the people about enjoying all that God has provided while failing to give thanks for Him for what they have.

You are encouraged to make this service (and every opportunity to worship) a priority in your schedule.

## Matching Gift Challenge

An anonymous donor is offering a \$100,000 matching gift challenge in an effort to make a significant impact on the remaining indebtedness from our 2014 Ministry Expansion project. This gift will match dollar-for-dollar anything given during the month of December up to that \$100,000 amount.

The current debt is just below \$600,000. We are praying that by coupling this very generous gift with the incredible generosity and sacrificial giving of the congregation we can cut that amount in half by the end of the 2019 calendar year.

## Outreach Corner

We have a great deal going on for November at Grace. Please see separate articles for another "Stuff the Truck" event and Dayton area Disaster relief work team efforts. In addition, we have several collections happening in our Narthex this month:

- "Snovember" coat Drive: see large trash can for coat collections to be donated to Open Hands Free Store for area residents needing winter coats.
- Springfield Manor Hygiene drive: drop off fragrant body wash, body lotion and/or novelty socks for our men and women at Springfield Manor for this Christmas.
- Operation Christmas Child boxes to fill and return by November 10<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, our Christmas food baskets and Giving Tree will be coming up in December. Thank you all for your generosity to our neighbors in need this holiday season.



Grace has committed to 45 Christmas food baskets for 2019. This reflects an increase in the number of food baskets for last year. As we demonstrated faithful stewardship towards our church, we can also demonstrate the same faithful stewardship towards our neighbors in need. Paper bags with shopping lists will be provided in the Narthex on Nov. 10 with the collection of food beginning on Nov. 17. Please place your contributions in the Grace Community Center on the tables provided. On December 15, following the 10:45 worship service, the food will be distributed and boxed up. Please feel free to be a member of the team boxing that afternoon. Many hands make light work and it's an incredible way to witness to God's grace and glory to our neighbors in need. More details will appear in future bulletins and the December Messenger.

## Dayton Disaster Relief

If you missed our Breakfast Break on Oct 6th, but are interested in signing up for a work team to assist our Dayton neighbors affected by the Memorial Day tornadoes or would like to donate a Lowe's and Home Depot card for this effort please let Sandy Thompson ([spnrj@yahoo.com](mailto:spnrj@yahoo.com), [937-605-0416](tel:937-605-0416)) know how you would like to help out. These folks need help with rebuilding and clean up. It is right to help those in need, Galatians 6:2.

Some of the "Stuff the Truck" items may go to Dayton, but flood buckets and health kits, which are always needed, will likely go to immediate disasters.

## Stephen Ministry

We are pleased to announce Terri Lininger as our Stephen Leader-in-Training. Terri will be taking part in a one-week Leader's Training Conference through Stephen Ministries, St. Louis, to be prepared for this position as well as working alongside Pastor Brodbeck.

In her role as Stephen Leader in Training, Terri will assist Pastor Brodbeck with the numerous tasks placed on a Stephen Leader. These items will include: coordinating the recruiting and training of additional Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leader, building awareness by monthly Messenger articles, providing additional bulletin articles as needed, and continually pray for the program and our Stephen Ministers.

Terri demonstrates all of the characteristics of a Stephen Leader and we are confident she will be an asset to this team. Please join me in welcoming Terri as a Stephen Leader-in-Training and praying for her as she moves forward in this position.

## **Surviving the Holidays**

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? You are not alone.

On Sunday, November 17, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Grace will host "Surviving the Holidays." This seminar is designed especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. Those attending will be welcomed by warm, caring people who understand what you are going through and who want to help.

You will learn:

- how to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays,
- what to do about traditions and other coming changes,
- helpful tips for surviving social events, and, how to discover hope for your future.

During the seminar, we will watch a 40-minute video, filled with practical holiday survival tips and the real-life stories of people who have navigated the season after their loved one's death. We will hear the stories of other seminar attendees and learn how they are dealing with the holidays. You will also have the option of sharing how grief is affecting you. (No pressure—this is 100% optional. We want you to feel comfortable.)

This event is a meaningful component of our congregation's ongoing GriefShare ministry and is open to anyone who is grieving. People do not need to be members of the Grace congregation, so invite your friends and families members to attend. There is no cost.

For questions or to register, call the Grace office at 399-6257. You can learn more by visiting [www.griefshare.org/holidays](http://www.griefshare.org/holidays).

# **SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

**4:00 –6:00 P.M.**

**GRACE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**To register call the church office, 937-399-6257**

**Or email Pastor Brodbeck,**

**[tom.brodbeck@grace-nalc.org](mailto:tom.brodbeck@grace-nalc.org)**

**GRIEF SHARE®**

[www.griefshare.org/holidays](http://www.griefshare.org/holidays)

# November Events

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 1801 St. Paris Pike. Springfield, OH 45504

937.399.6257 www.grace-nalc.org

## Friday, November 1

## Saturday, November 2

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:00 am 3rd-5th grade party  
6:00 pm 8/9th grade dinner & movie

## Sunday, November 3

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship

## Monday, November 4

## Tuesday, November 5

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed

## Wednesday, November 6

9:30 am Embroiderer's Guild  
5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal  
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:30 pm GriefShare  
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm Life of Moses Class

## Thursday, November 7

9:00 am Service Quilter's Guild  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Friday, November 8

6:30 pm Women's Gathering

## Saturday, November 9

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
8:30 am —3 pm Women's gathering

## Sunday, November 10

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:00 am Worship at Springfield Manor  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship

## Monday, November 11

## Tuesday, November 12

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
9:30 am Faith Guild  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
2:00 pm Joy Guild  
6:00 pm Executive committee  
7:00 pm Agape Guild

## Wednesday, November 13

9:30 am Hope Guild  
1:30 pm Charity Guild  
5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal  
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:30 pm GriefShare  
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm Life of

## Thursday, November 14

9:00 am Service Quilter's Guild  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
12:00 pm Hope Guild

## Friday, November 15

## Saturday, November 16

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
3:00 pm Stuff the Truck Drop off

## Sunday, November 17

8:00 am Worship  
9:00 am High School Super Sunday  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship  
4:00 pm Surviving the Holidays

## Monday, November 18

2:00 pm Stephen Ministry

## Tuesday, November 19

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
7:00 pm Grace Council

## Wednesday, November 20

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal  
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:30 pm GriefShare  
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm Life of Moses Class

## Thursday, November 21

9:30 am Messenger Mailing Team  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team

## Friday, November 22

## Saturday, November 23

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, November 24

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for youth  
9:15 am Congregational meeting  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship  
12:15 pm Financial Stewardship

## Monday, November 25

## Tuesday, November 26

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
7:00 pm Thanksgiving Worship

## Wednesday, November 27

12:00 pm Grace office closed

## Thursday, November 28

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving  
Grace office closed

## Friday, November 29

Grace office closed

## Saturday, November 30

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Women of Grace with Pastor Beverly DeBord  
present

## *Priceless and Precious*

November 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

November 9, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

What is *priceless*?

Who is *precious*?

And what does jewelry have to do with Jesus?

Jewels sparkle and shine, embellishing and  
enhancing beauty.

Jewels say, "Look at me!" They might be only glass.  
But the jewels precious to Jesus are real.  
And they cost Him everything.

"Let your lives shine," Jesus says, "to glorify  
God" (Mt. 5:16).

The jewels Jesus prizes he polishes with love,  
to live as loving reflections of the Lord God,  
adorning the splendor of Christ.

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