

# Grace Messenger

MAY 2021

## THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER AT GRACE

Did you know that in addition to the Email Prayer Chain group, we also have a Prayer Support Team here at Grace? This group was formed under the guidance of Pastor Beverly DeBord and continues to this day. The Prayer Support Team Members come together monthly to pray for church wide concerns, important events or individual prayer requests with permission of the requester. Our prayers will often be spoken but may also be silent or written. (Prior to the pandemic we met in person each month, in the Grace library. During covid we have met on Zoom.) During the month, we are also often praying for others' needs through phone calls or texts. The Prayer Support Team Members certainly have hearts for prayers. In addition, throughout the year we also host some prayer-related activities.

Do you have a heart for prayer, too? Have you felt the nudge to join with others in prayer? Then you have an open invitation to come to a meeting of the Prayer Support Team. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00pm. At present the team consists of Barb Fain, Deb O'Neal, Jeff & Sue Butterfield, Mary Lynn Johnson, Max & Val Holly, Sheryl Stolarski, Sheryl Wineberg and Stacey Laux. Feel free to contact one of the people above or the church office (937-399-6257), with either a prayer request or any interest/questions about the Prayer Support Team.



# NATIONAL DAY *of* PRAYER

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST MAY 6 IN GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Our Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

Please come to participate in a time of corporate prayer and Bible reading **Thursday, May 6 from 7-9 a.m. in the Grace community center**, 1801 St. Paris Pike, 45504. A delicious breakfast will be served. Tickets available at the door for \$12.00 per person. Please call or email to RSVP or for more information: [henniganr@clarkstate.edu](mailto:henniganr@clarkstate.edu), 937-324-4215.

## PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Springtime always brings with it a sense of rebirth. The flowers and trees start to bloom. The grass turns green. Even the air seems to come alive with a fresh and invigorating scent. After a long winter of dull grey, the bright colors of spring are a welcome sight to behold.

This life around us is an encouragement to life within us. That is especially so in light of this season of cloistering that has defined many people. We are experiencing a lifting of spirits and a renewed desire to "get out" and to do something meaningful.

One of my great disappointments in this last year is that so much of what we had envisioned for our church had to be slowed or postponed. Much of the momentum and energy of our pre-covid days was stilled by closures and mandates. For a Type-A personality like mine, that was painful! I had to learn again what it meant to "wait upon the Lord" (Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31).

But now spring has sprung, and the Lord is encouraging us to get moving again. And so we shall. These next months will find us in new places like the Memorial Day parade and the Clark County fair. We will see the return of mission trips, SummerFest and VBS. And many other pieces of our congregational vision will begin to come to life as well.

Welcome back springtime! We missed you last year! We are ready to live once again!

## MESSAGE FROM GRACE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Grace Members and Grace Friends,

This month I would like to share some exciting news in relation to two topics. The first one is the distribution of the Community Outreach funds that was approved by Council and the congregation last Fall. This came about when Council approved the acceptance of the government PPP loan offered to businesses and churches last year due to projected loss of revenue during the pandemic. Council voted to accept the loan in the amount of \$57,494 with the contingency that if it were not needed for operating cost it would be returned to our community.

The money was used for its intended purpose as outlined in the loan guidelines. However, through the continued and faithful giving of our congregation, a surplus was created to allow for these monies to be distributed back to the community as outlined by council. The loan was also forgiven by the government.

As a result, a committee was formed to oversee the application process for nonprofits in the community to apply for these funds. Eighteen organizations in our community applied, requesting a total of \$103,044. The committee went to work and made the decision on how the available \$58,494 would be dispersed. An additional \$1,000 was added to the fund by an anonymous donor. Some of the organizations were funded at their requested levels, some partially funded and a couple were turned down for not meeting the application criteria. Thanks to the committee for their work and to our congregation for the willingness to serve our community in a very generous way. I have heard from a few of the organizations that applied for these funds and they comment on how Grace is a beacon of hope for our community. (*Command them to do good deeds, and be generous and willing to share.* 1 Timothy 6:18)

The second topic is indeed very exciting! At the April Council meeting, a proposal was approved to completely pay off our Line of Credit loan on our debt as of April 30, 2021. God is indeed good! The debt was reduced to \$21,397.58 as of April 20, 2021 after donations and the line item for interest in our budget were applied to the loan. By paying off the loan now with surplus funds in our budget, we will save on interest for the remainder of the year. Council received feedback from several members of our congregation saying the loan should be paid off when we have the funds available. Through the Grace of God and congregational commitment the funds are available now to make Grace "debt free".

To give some perspective, Grace has only been debt free for five of the years since moving to our current location in 1999. We took on a debt of \$3.825M to build the original facility and it was paid off in December of 2007, with a mortgage burning on the last Sunday of December. We began a Capital Campaign in April of 2013 with a total cost of \$2.330M to build our Youth Wing and Community Center. We will pay that amount off on April 30, 2021. Since 1999 we will have paid over \$6M dollars in principle, not including interest, on our current facility. Freedom from debt will allow us to focus even more on our ministries within Grace and in our community.

If you have questions regarding these topics or any other questions you wish to share with Council, feel free to contact myself or any Council member.

Mark Klopfenstein, Council President

## TWO GRACE STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENTS

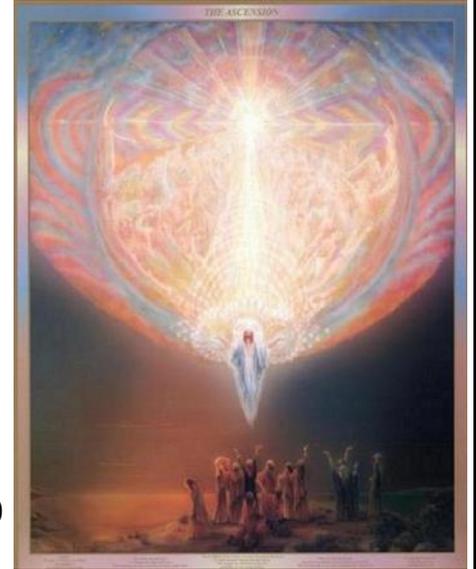
We are pleased to make two major staffing decisions for our Grace Congregation. First Pastor Emeritus Dan Powell has agreed to extend his contract as Minister of Congregational Care through the end of September. With the potential arrival of an intern, coupled with Pastor Brodbeck's upcoming vacation time, this move provides our church with ongoing pastoral support. We are thankful that Pastor Emeritus Powell has agreed to continue for these additional five months.

We are also pleased to announce that we are actively seeking an Assistant Director of Children's Ministries. This will be a part-time position, reporting to our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries Matt Rugh. This person will be responsible for cultivating meaningful relationships with families with young children. This will include not only those currently connected to this congregation but also within the adjacent neighborhoods and at Snowhill and Ridgewood schools. Application packets can be found in the Grace office and on the church's website.

### 'TIS THE SEASON OF HOLY DAYS

As May comes to a close, the church calendar leads our congregation into three very special "Holy-Days." Here is a little bit about each to enhance your preparation for those services of worship.

May 16 is Ascension Sunday. The essential concept surrounding this day is that it commemorates the time Jesus went back (ascended) into heaven where He waits until the end of time. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus did this 40 days after His resurrection. However that day never falls on a Sunday. This year the actual date is Thursday, May 13. Thus, Christian churches use the following Sunday for their commemorations. You can read more about this event in Acts 1:1-11.



The following week, May 23, is Pentecost Sunday. Counting from the resurrection, Pentecost happens 50 days later. In Jewish history, Pentecost

was a long-standing festival, instituted by God back in the wilderness days. It was also known as *Shavout*, a springtime celebration of the harvest. God chose this harvest theme as the day the Holy Spirit would swoop down from heaven and empower the believers to be the church. As they lived out their calling, many souls were "harvested" for the Kingdom of God. Our traditions

encourage us to wear red articles of clothing that day.

The triad of Holy Days concludes the following week with Holy Trinity Sunday. This is the only church calendar Holy Day that commemorates a doctrine of the church. All the others celebrate particular events. A heresy that gained popularity in the third century taught that Jesus and the Holy Spirit were not co-equal to the Father. This heresy was an outright denial of the Trinity, so the church designated the Sunday following Pentecost as a special time to emphasize this important doctrine.

Once these three days have concluded, the church calendar concludes its journey through the two great seasons of church, Christmastide and Eastertide with their preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent. We eagerly look forward to worshipping together during these special days.



# OUTREACH

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

This year, Grace is making a special effort to expand its visibility in the Springfield Community. We will begin that effort by having a presence in the Springfield Memorial Day parade.

Our plan is to create a float using Robert Thompson's hay wagon. (Many of you have ridden on this during SummerFest events.) The sides will be adorned with large banners proclaiming the church's name and service times. A pool of volunteers will toss candy from the wagon as it makes its way along the parade route. In addition, we will have a team of walkers working the sidewalks, passing out printed invitations to attend our service and become involved in one of our ministries.

We are currently recruiting a team of walkers who would be willing to mingle with the spectators on that day. Our youth and children's ministries will man the wagon. If you would be interested, please contact Darla Kalifoot in the Grace office. Even if you will not be able to walk with us, we encourage you to attend the parade, wear a Grace T-shirt, and cheer loudly as our float passes by.

We also plan to be a presence at the Clark County Fair later this summer. You will learn more about that as plans are firmed up.

## MAY OUTREACH CORNER

### Blessings in a Bottle Campaign



Every year, the PRC organizes our Blessings in a Bottle campaign which provides both a fun and easy way for local churches and schools to support the ministry of the Pregnancy Resource Clinic. It will be a little different again this year due to Covid. There will be a QR code available for you to scan and make a donation directly. There will be bottles available at the church for you to drop change or a check into, but not to take home. Watch for more information.

### St John's Food Pantry

May is another of our months to serve at St John's Food Pantry on Wednesday mornings. If you are interested in helping to distribute food, please contact Judy Fredrich at 937-925-1177.



## HIGH SCHOOL 2021 MISSION TRIP

Sunday morning, June 20, a Grace group, consisting of 22 high schoolers and five chaperones, will fill up two 15-passenger vans and a 16 x 9 covered trailer, and head to Imperial PA to participate in another GROUP "Work Camp" Mission Trip. This is our fifth year attending what has become a landmark event for our youth. It's a great group of kids including high school graduates who have done all four trips, freshman on their inaugural journey, youth from other churches, and everything in between.

Our goal will be the same as previous years:

- Provide community service on a large scale, joining 325 other high schoolers and youth leaders from around the country, as we paint and repair homes of older or disabled folks who met the GROUP criteria for assistance.
- Strengthening our relationships with each other and with all the new friends we will make, building common bonds that will in many cases, last a lifetime.

Growing our faith by participating in worship, bible study, and multiple activities that are interwoven throughout our week-long stay.

The overwhelming generosity of our congregation, as well as members of our community through various fundraisers, have greatly reduced the \$464 fee each person is responsible for. In the next several weeks, we'll be asking supporters to borrow or purchase tools and supplies before the 20<sup>th</sup>, since we are responsible for taking all of our own equipment to PA (specifics TBA). Keep an eye out for a Mission Trip display table in the Narthex soon.

It's impressive in this day and age to be surrounded by teenagers who are willingly giving up a week of their summer, to sleep on the floor of a high school classroom for a week, getting up at 6:30 AM to spend the day in a labor of love. They deserve and appreciate your support and prayers!



## BEHIND THE SCENES

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 H.O.P.E Ministries began providing meals to families in need. Families are able to pick-up a hot meal every Wednesday from Dream City Church located at the corner of Selma and Linden. Grace Church members Kim and Greg Bachman use the Grace kitchen to joyfully prepare 100-200 meals each week. They began preparing meals in July 2020 and have recruited friends, Teresa and Jim Ehalt, to help with this temporary ministry. For more information about H.O.P.E Ministries go to [1hope4u.org](http://1hope4u.org).



## CHARITY GUILD RETURNS TO IN PERSON MEETINGS

Charity guild returned in April to a shower of stuffing and sewing projects for Hospice.



## HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Friends,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the beautiful get-well cards. The messages shared in each card were very comforting, and your prayers were (and still are) so appreciated.

As most of you already know, I was diagnosed with Acute Epiglottitis. Thankfully, I responded favorably to steroids and antibiotics. I was in the hospital for about five days and on a ventilator for part of that time. I returned home on the 30th of last month. I continue to feel better and stronger each day and expect a full recovery very soon.

After being showered with so many cards (and they are still coming), one can truly appreciate the wonderful ministry serving God and those that need encouragement during challenging times.

I thank you again so much for remembering me in your prayers and for your uplifting messages and continued support.

With warmth and appreciation, David Grimes

Our Ministry “nod” this month is to the **Music Ministry. Apostleship** is a gift for the care and construction of the church at large. God gives those with the gift of **Evangelism** a sense of urgency and a passion for reaching out to others with the love of Jesus.

Evangelism:

To touch people where they are to experience God.

Mufasa from The Lion King was a just and wise

leader who taught important life lessons to his son

and his subjects. He knew how to reach each one in such a way that they would better grasp and understand the delicate balance in this Circle of Life.

Do you too possess the gift of reaching people in such as way as to foster their understanding? Do you desire to share the Good News of the Gospel with others?

Please consider serving in one of our Outreach Ministries and Music Ministries



**LAY MINISTRY FUN CORNER**

**Grace trivia corner questions:**

1. Who among us (at Grace) is named Emma but doesn't go by that name?
2. He likes to have a peanut butter sandwich with his chili.
3. Who (other than Karen) knows Pastor's favorite pie?
4. Do you know who holds the volleyball season serving percentage record at Shelby High School, Ohio?
5. Do you know who holds the record ("unofficial") for most consecutive Employee of the Month awards from K-mart while working in their shoe department in high school?
6. This gentleman was a lifeguard and competed in swim meets (50 years ago) and was a long-distance runner in high school.
7. Puzzling? Can you name the gentleman in our congregation that loves to solve puzzles?
8. Was a lifeguard at the Holiday Inn in Springfield during the summers of 1963 and 64. That is where pop stars stayed while performing at the Coconut Lounge at Lakewood Beach, and was invited to have a couple of brews with the Four Seasons after work.
9. Who among us (at Grace) is named Mary but doesn't go by that name?
10. This person and her sister both have the same married last name. Who is it and how can that be?

**Bible trivia answers from April:**

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Malta              | 7. 13                      |
| 2. Luke               | 8. John the Baptist's head |
| 3. Moon & Sun         | 9. 127                     |
| 4. Land Mammals/Human | 10. Ahithophel             |
| 5. Jonah              | 11. Philadelphia           |
| 6. Sychar             | 12. Bathsheba              |

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Evangelical Lutheran Church



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