

Grace Messenger

JUNE 2021



GRACE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

By the time you are reading this, our group's mission trip will be just a few weeks away. One final update for the congregation:

Just a reminder that when you might think "why are they leaving our city to do mission work?", there is a method to our madness. Yes, there is mission work available in our city EVERY DAY, and many of our families/youth participate in a variety of charity work throughout the year, based on what they can work into their busy schedules. When these kids "go away" for a week, they are leaving behind their work, sport, family, relaxing schedules and are TUNED IN to serving others and growing in their faith. Between the work they do for those less fortunate, and the power of studying, worshipping and getting out of their comfort zones away from home, these trips continue to be life-changing for our Youth.

The entire group of attendees (21 youth) and their parents are meeting on June 6th to receive their information binders and discuss specific details regarding tools they are responsible to bring, general packing lists, pre-trip devotions, and more. This is also a great opportunity for our veterans to give out helpful hints to the newbies to help them all feel a little less nervous and a little more organized for the trip. We have 10 students and three chaperones returning, 11 first time youth and two new chaperones. The entire group also plans to attend the very beginning of the 8:00 a.m. service on June 20th before we hit the road to Imperial, PA. We look forward to a corporate blessing for safe travels and a meaningful week of growth and service.

There has been a sizeable amount of money donated by the church, all of which is being equally distributed amongst the group (unless something else was requested for the money) Over \$5000 has been contributed since last year to the cause from a variety of sources: \$4000 from a local VFW, profits from the narthex pie and popcorn sales, \$500 from a Grace couple, the proceeds from the stained-glass silent auction, a community group that uses the church space, and a number of private donations from another dozen or so people. This generosity equates to almost \$250 towards EACH of the participant's trip costs. All of us headed to Pennsylvania on June 20th say THANK YOU!

GRACE INTERN POSTPONED

In our March congregational meeting, Pastor Brodbeck reported that Grace would be receiving an intern sometime during the summer months. This intern would serve in that capacity, but could be later called into the role of Associate Pastor if the congregation felt so led.

Unfortunately the arrival of an intern has been postponed until the beginning of the year at least. The two candidates earmarked for our congregation have themselves decided to postpone their internship year. One of these candidates has decided to postpone it indefinitely, while the other plans to begin in January.

Pastor Garrett Siemsen, chair of the NALC's Internship Committee, communicated this word to Pastor Brodbeck, adding this affirmation of our congregation: "I think you and your congregation are a great place for someone to complete an internship year." Pastor Brodbeck offered this response: "Obviously we are disappointed, but we remain confident that the Lord has a plan and that He ultimately directs our path. We keep moving forward in order that we might grow in GRACE."

With this news the Grace Council will begin working on a Plan B to assist Pastor Brodbeck as he leads this congregation. Please continue to lift this issue in your prayers.

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Grace is also more than the name of our congregation or an important theological concept. It is an acronym for five characteristics of a disciple. Let me break it down for you, beginning with the letter G, which stands for "Growing in God's Word." A disciple spends time regularly engaging with the Bible. This is foundation because in the Bible God speaks to us, and by knowing what He has to say, our lives can be shaped and molded into the people He wants us to be. Nothing will help you grow as a Christian more reading your Bible.

We suggest three skills and practices for you to incorporate into your devotional life. First, use a "response-focused" Bible study methodology; that is, your Scripture reading should always lead you to a point of application. What did you read that will impact what you will do? Was there a promise to claim? A sin to confess? An example to follow? A command to obey?

Second, we encourage you to memorize verses of Scripture that have special meaning for you. Doing so allows God's Word to form you from the inside out and guards your heart from temptations and sin. The best place to start is to think about what is happening in your own life and find verses that speak to that issue.

Third, as you become more comfortable with God's Word, dig deeper into it. A more in-depth study allows you, over an extended period of time, to find the deepest and most complete meaning of what you read. This is often best experienced in a group setting.

Because we are committed to helping you "Grow in G.R.A.C.E." we provide several resources to help you with the letter "G." If you don't own a Bible, we have copies that you can have free of charge. These are found in the Grace library. We also provide daily Bible reading schedules called "5x5x5" and daily devotional guides, all of which can be found on the table outside the library. And of course, we have a team of people eager to walk alongside you as you learn how to do any of these skills and practices. See Pastor Brodbeck for more information about any of these resources.

Keep growing!

MESSAGE FROM GRACE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Grace Members and Grace Friends,

As we move into the summer months and slowly emerge from the COVID Pandemic, Grace is also getting back to more normalcy. It is exciting to see faces I have not seen at worship for months as more and more people feel comfortable returning to Grace. We have learned much through the last fifteen months that will benefit us in the future, especially in the area of technology and, how we can use it as a platform to deliver information, services and ministries to our members and community.

With our debt paid off, effective April 30, 2021, Council has approved to have any monies that come in for debt reduction to be applied to a new line item in the budget titled "Property Enhancements" to be used for future property improvements. July 1, 2021 will be the date for this changeover. Any money for debt reduction received before that date will be put back into our surplus fund.

Council also approved a revision of our Constitution that is required every five years according to chapter 12.06.01 in our Constitution. 2021 is the year for this review. Thanks to Council Vice President Bill Stapleton, Clem Meyer, and Tom O'Neal for serving on the review committee and for their work to keep our constitution updated. The new version will be posted online on the Grace website and members are encouraged to give Council feedback on any items in the Constitution that they may have questions on.

Our excitement over having a pastoral intern in place by June or July of this year has hit a "pause." We received word from the NALC Internship Committee that both of the candidates under consideration for placement at Grace are delaying their placement, one indefinitely and the other until January 2022. "When the time is right, I, the Lord, will make it happen." (Isaiah 60:22) The good news is that it looks promising for Grace to have an intern placed with us in January. We will keep members updated on this topic as we receive further information from the NALC. This means for the remainder of 2021 we will need to be creative in the area of pulpit supply and other ministries in order to give Pastor Brodbeck his much-needed vacation time.

Pastor Powell has agreed to preach and officiate at both services on June 27 and also will stay on as Minister of Congregational Care through at least September 30 of this year. Pastor Brodbeck will be on vacation June 21 through July 4th, so the July 4th services are currently being designed by Pastor Brodbeck and staff. Members will be informed what that Sunday will look like once it is finalized.

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.

Blessings, Mark Klopfenstein

OUTREACH

CLARK COUNTY FAIR

Let's go to the fair! As a congregation, we have made the decision to be more intentionally visible in the community this year. We want to be seen where the people are. Our first action toward this end was our participation in the annual Memorial Day parade. Now we are headed to the Clark County Fair.

We have secured a large tent that will serve as our home base. The exact location is not yet known, but we believe it will be near the Mercantile Building. We will have a number of items to giveaway, including bottles of cold water, the Grace grocery bags and a wide assortment of other trinkets we've amassed over the years. We will also be selling the remaining Grace cookbooks (leftover from our 100th anniversary celebration). More importantly, we will highlight our various ministries and offer to pray with people as they stop by to visit.

We are currently recruiting people to help work the tent each day. We will move into our space on Friday, July 23. Then each day, Saturday, July 14 through Friday, July 30 we will be there between noon and 8 p.m. Workers are asked to volunteer for a four-hour shift. You will work in teams, but don't need to volunteer as a team. You will need to pay your own admission to the fair, but Grace will reimburse you the cost of that ticket.

You can volunteer through the Grace app, the Sign-Up Central form or by calling the office. Thanks for helping your church reach out into the community!

JUNE OUTREACH CORNER

Disaster Care Kits and Flood Buckets

Our Disaster Response Task Force in the NALC is in need of "Health Care Kits" and "Flood Buckets" for disaster response, wherever it occurs, across the United States. The Disaster response arm of the NALC has been highly active these past two years alone. It is helping communities across the States in areas as near as Nashville, Tennessee and Dayton, Ohio with tornadoes that destroyed over a thousand homes. It also helped Pacific coast residences in 12 states that experienced more than 100 million acres burned in 2020 forest fires.

Grace's congregational (our) challenge is to build as many Health Care Kits and fill as many Flood Buckets as possible during the month of June. The lists for the kits and buckets will be on Grace's web site and displayed in the narthex. For those of you who are not able to build the kits or buckets, you have an option to offer national chain gift cards from Lowe's, Home Depot or Walmart instead. A typical amount would be \$30, and giving several is ok too.

This would be a great opportunity to commit to supporting this outreach ministry of helping others now that Grace's expansion project is completed.

The NALC web site is <https://thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/> for more information.

If you have any questions, please call or text Steven Schumacher at 937-624-7074 or Sandy Thompson at 937-605-0416.



Annual Juneteenth 2021 FatherFest and Good Dad Award:



Juneteenth 2021 FatherFest: Saturday June 19th from 10am to 2pm, at the Gammon House address listed above. There is a 5k walk/run starting at 8am, vendors with crafts and food, Quilt displays and tour the Gammon House. Please come out and enjoy the food and people and support Urban Light Ministries and their father initiative. See flyers

around the church to sign up for the 5K or to learn about the Juneteenth/FatherFest event, or go to <https://gammonhouseoh.org/juneteenth/>

The aim of the Good Dad Award is to recognize the significant role fathers play in their children's well-being and development, and to raise awareness of the value of fathers in their families and in their communities. The award identifies and honors outstanding fathers for their exceptional commitment to raising their children and/or for their exemplary contributions to the development of children in their communities.

In Clark County, the local Good Dad Awards will be presented at 1:00 PM on Saturday, June 19 during the annual Juneteenth/FatherFest event on the green in front of The Gammon House Museum – 620 Piqua Place, Springfield, Ohio. To learn more about The Good Dad Award and to nominate a good dad go to <https://urbanlight.org/good-dad-award/>



LAY MINISTRY

MAKING DISCIPLES THROUGH ADULT EDUCATION

One of the more visible ministries at Grace is known officially as "Adult Education." The goal of this ministry is to do more than "educate." It is to create mature, faithful disciples (followers of Jesus), who in turn raise up other mature, faithful disciples in obedience to Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20).

Traditionally, this ministry has been delivered in four venues: Adult Sunday School, Adult Midweek Bible studies, Wednesday night FUEL studies, and Life-to-Life discipleship groups. Volunteer leadership is essential in each of these four venues.

One such volunteer is Sam Poston. Sam and his wife Kathy have been a part of the Grace congregation for six years. Over that span of time Sam has (twice) led a 24 week course titled "Discipleship Fast Track." He has also facilitated the Tuesday morning Bible study on multiple occasions and been the initiator of several Life-to-Life Discipleship groups. Currently Sam is teaching the Adult Sunday School class's study of the book of James. Clearly, he has a heart for making disciples.

When asked why he is involved in ministries such as these, Sam replied: "Because God told me to! The Holy Spirit was definitely prompting me in this way."

Over the next several months, there will be many opportunities for others like Sam to facilitate Adult Educational opportunities. See Pastor Tom to get more involved in this very important component of life at Grace.

MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

I am humbled by the invitation, extended by the leadership of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, to care for this congregation I've come to love over the past 3+ decades. This part time ministry position began in October 2020 and was to conclude at the end of April 2021. But, in mid-April I was invited to continue this ministry through September 2021. Honored by the invitation, my reply was an immediate 'yes!'

I have been contacting an average of 65 people each month so far. Making phone calls, writing texts and e-mails, and praying with dear ones, often on their birthday or Baptism day or wedding anniversary. Just as often, I'm contacting people who are preparing for and/or recovering from surgery and people who are hospitalized or in care facilities.

I thank Pastor Brodbeck and the Grace Council for this privilege afforded me and I look forward to many more contacts and conversations in the months ahead.

Sharing in His Service, Pastor Daniel M. Powell

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

July is just around the corner. Last year due to covid restrictions, we had to forego this important ministry. In the past, members would bake cookies and deliver them to our homebound residents. This year we have decided to restart Christmas in July with a few alterations.

You will be able to sign up to volunteer in Sign-Up central. Instead of baking the cookies, we are going to purchase them from GFS. We will be asking for donations to purchase the cookies. We will have the opportunity to deliver them to our homebound members while implementing safety precautions. Some stipulations will be checked beforehand if the resident prefers us to visit or just drop off the cookies. Some of our nursing facilities will require a 24-hour notice before we will be delivering and visiting. We plan to deliver the cookies on or around July 25th. Watch for the sign up in mid-June.

We wish to thank all our past volunteers and future volunteers. Our homebound residents appreciate this meaningful ministry and look forward to it each year. If you have questions regarding Christmas in July please call, text or email Mary Beth Stelzer at 937-215-880, marybstelz@sbcglobal.net.



ABOUNDING IN HOPE

Paul speaks to the churches in Rome and to us today with this prayer: "May the God of hope (Jehovah Tikvak) fill you with all joy and peace, so you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13.

Our human side sees 'hope' as making a wish or longing for something. I hope I will pass the test, I hope the pandemic ends, I hope the new medicine works, I hope I can be with family soon, and so on.

The Hebrew meaning of "hope" is 'waiting in expectation': Abraham having a child, Israel seeing the Promised Land and the coming of the Messiah. When writing for the card ministry, I use a prayer of hope that one might feel His Presence during the times of waiting, healing and grieving. I smile as I think of "hope meaning expectation." Knowing the power of prayer and feeling 'His Presence' IS my expectation. It will happen!

As Christians, we remember the Risen Christ and look forward. "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness."(LBW 293) Paul reminds us that God is the source of our hope, joy and peace through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 10:9 "If we confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved." Our faith and the words of Jesus tell us that 'He goes to prepare a place for us and He will come back and take us to our Heavenly Home.' (paraphrased) John 14:3.

May THAT promise fill you with hope, joy and peace. 'In Christ alone, my hope is found; He is my Light, my strength, my song.' - a sister-in-Christ, from that place called Grace, Melody Leonard.

HEARTFELT THANKS

We want to thank our Grace family for the dinners given to us over the last six weeks while I was recovering from a triple bypass surgery. So many dinners were delicious and even new recipes for us. The daily cards of encouragement and prayers were so appreciated in the more than 86 cards received from our Grace family. A huge thank you for everything. Agnes and John Smoot

I want to send my heartfelt thanks to all who have continued to keep in touch with me via email, cards, prayers, phone calls, etc. I was especially touched by those who sent sympathy cards in memory of my dog Mila. Some even remembered her name. The Easter cards were especially meaningful this year. I miss my friends at Grace.

My recent health problems put me a little behind in getting established here, but all is coming along slowly. I am back to quilting and worshipping on Sunday. I thank God for the doctors who have seen to my care and the therapists with my rehab. God's grace has been at work through them. To Him be the glory!
Blessings, Susan Truchses

I want to thank the scores of people who have lifted Bonita's family up during this time of sorrow. From all the cards sent to me showing the Christian love they had for Bonita, to Pastor Brodbeck and staff, to those who provided the meal following the service and to the choir singing the 23rd Psalm. I am truly blessed to be a member of the family of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. Sincerely, David Holl

Dear Grace friends,

We truly appreciate all your love, support and prayers during our journey of medical issues. The Card Ministry cards and prayers lifted our spirits and put us back on track at exactly the right times. Thanks so much for all you've done for us!

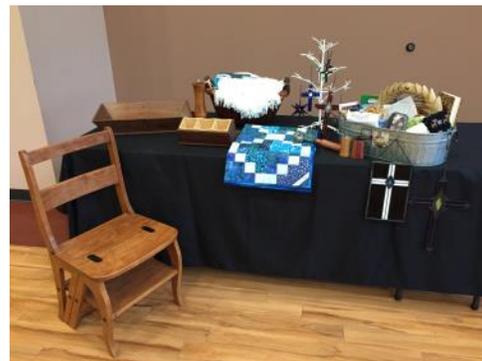
Rick's last radiation treatment was this past Tuesday, and he rang the bell. We pray it truly is his final time of needing any treatment. We know he is in God's hands.

Love, hugs and blessings, Rick and Sherry Potts

SAVE THE DATE

- **Grace Pictorial Directory, photos will be taken September 16-18, 2021. More information to come.**

- **Grace's Charity Auction, December 4, 2021 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**



June Ministry nod is to **Stephen Ministry**. **Nurturing Leadership**, those with this gift glorify God by loving and caring for others with protective authority. **Shepherding** those with this gift feed those under their care with the Word of God.



Hospitality

Kitchen Ministries

Property

Parish Care

DO YOU...

- ◆ Enjoy helping others get things done?
- ◆ Like to work behind the scenes?
- ◆ Support others?
- ◆ Help when there is a need?
- ◆ Have trouble saying no when someone needs your help?



LAY MINISTRY FUN CORNER

Match the description to the correct name:

Man of Passion and Destiny	Elijah
Woman of Strength and Dignity	Hannah
Man of Integrity and Forgiveness	Mary Magdalene
Man of Selfless Dedication	Sarah
Man of Heroism and Humility	Paul
Man of Heroic Endurance	Moses
Man of Grace and Grit	Moab
Woman who was first witness at empty Tomb of Christ	Job
The son of Lot's eldest daughter	David
Isaac's mother (at age of 90)	Esther
Samuel's mother	Joseph

Answers to May Grace trivia:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Maxine Shroyer | 6. Bill Stapleton |
| 2. Max Holly | 7. Larry Snyder |
| 3. Peanut butter, Peach or Cherry (depends on his mood) | 8. John Smoot |
| 4. Karen Jordan | 9. Debbie Fralick |
| 5. Joe Jordan | 10. Barbara Blackburn (sisters married brothers) |

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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