

# Grace Messenger

April 2023



## **PASTOR'S REFLECTION**

When Jesus told His disciples to feed the multitudes of 5,000+ on one occasion and 4,000+ on another, their heads started to spin. Where would they ever come up with enough? But the lesson they learned was simple: Give generously to God and He will make sure that it is more than enough.

More than enough. You will hear those words a lot through the remainder of this calendar year at Grace. They contain the essential truth that drives what we do as a congregation. We walk in faith, giving generously to God of our time, talent, treasure and testimony, and He makes sure we have more than enough for everything we need. We've seen it in the past. We believe it for our future. In fact, we are staking eternity on it!

For the people of the Old Testament the shed blood of one lamb covered the sins of one family for one year. In Christ, the Lamb of God, the blood shed covered the sins of all people for all time. It was more than enough to cover you and me, and everyone we will ever meet. Jesus is always more than enough.

As we gather for our Easter and Lenten worship services, we gather knowing that truth. In Jesus there is more than enough to cover my sins. There is also more than enough to meet the needs of my life. There is more than enough to make me into a blessing for others. There is more than enough for our congregation to reach this community for Jesus.

In Jesus there is always more than enough.

## SANCTUARY REFURBISHING PROJECT

We will soon start a long overdue project to refurbish our sanctuary. We have not been able to undertake this project due to leaks in our sanctuary roof in various locations over the last twenty plus years. The entire roof over the original building was replaced one year ago and we have had no signs of leaks in the sanctuary since that time. If you look up into the sanctuary you will see plaster peeling in various spots, tape hanging from the ceiling, numerous black spots and other imperfections. Once you look up and identify these spots you will find yourself looking up and continuing to find additional spots that need addressed. As a result, our council has approved the following projects to address the needs of the sanctuary.

A qualified painter has been contracted to repair all water damaged areas, refurbish wood window sills, clean and polish wood beams, and all other wood areas. In addition, they will place light filtering on the high windows in the back of the sanctuary to replace blinds that currently do not work. Electricians will replace all lights in the sanctuary with new LED energy efficient lighting, and the four ceiling fans will be replaced. The carpet will be replaced in the chancel area and also the narthex. The narthex carpet will be the last step in bringing the project to conclusion.

The sanctuary project will begin the Wednesday after Easter and include enlisting help to clear out chairs, banners, electronics, and anything else easily moveable. Please consider signing up to help as you are available.

We will be using the community center for Sunday services beginning Sunday, April 16 and the plan is to return to the sanctuary by the end of May if all goes as scheduled. Keep in mind we will not know the full scope of the project until the work is under way. Pastor and staff are working diligently to create some exciting worship opportunities in the community center. We will continue to live stream our worship service every Sunday.

We are blessed to have the funds to be able to take on this project. God has blessed our congregation and we look forward to the years ahead as we worship in our updated sanctuary and continue to do God's work. We will keep you updated on a weekly basis. If you have any questions, please reach out to me, Pastor Brodbeck, Darla Kalifoot, or any council member.

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## NEW GRACE STAFF MEMBERS

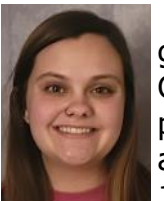
### **Paul Kelly, Director of Youth Ministry**



Paul and his wife, Sarah, and his children, Phin, Zane and Francie, have been worshipping at Grace for over a year now. He has a wealth of experience in Youth Ministry including training at Word of Life Bible College and several Youth Minister and Youth Pastor roles in prior congregations. He is currently an English and Literature teacher at Bishop Fenwick HS.

Paul will be working part time, 10-15 hours during the school year and 15-20 hours in the summer, to coordinate our Youth Ministry including teaching curriculum and Sunday School, Youth Group, special events and mission trips. He will be helping to build relationships with our youth and help our youth grow into spiritual maturity. Paul has a great passion for his work with the youth and we look forward to seeing what God has in store for him and our youth program.

### **Hannah McKinney, Ministry Assistant for Children & Youth**



Hannah, a 2018 graduate of Springfield High School, has been active in Sunday School and Youth group here at Grace, attending prior mission trips as well. She brings experience and knowledge of Grace programs and process and has established relationships with many of our current youth. She plans to study sonography at Clark State and is also coaching a travel softball team. She loves planning and organization and has already been assisting with computer work and events. Hannah will work 10-15 hours per week and her responsibilities will primarily be helping our new part-time Director of Youth Ministries with office support, relationship building, planning, mission trips, communications, fundraising, and assisting the Director of Children's Ministries or other office work when needed.

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## THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

Starting April 23, the Adult Sunday School class will take a journey into the wonderful Christian classic *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. In this book Lewis imagines a series of lessons in the importance of taking a deliberate role in Christian faith by portraying a typical human life, with all its temptations and failings, seen from devils' viewpoints. Screwtape holds an administrative post in the "Lowerarchy" of Hell, and acts as a mentor to his nephew Wormwood, an inexperienced and incompetent tempter. Eric Leeth will facilitate this series. Join us at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday morning for a delightful learning experience as we grow in our faith.

## LAY MINISTRY

The mission of the 2023 Lay Ministry program is Seek and Save the Lost (Luke 19:10). A compass, as shown below, will help us in selecting a Ministry Team aligning to each person's spiritual gifts.

### NAVIGATE

Tell others about Jesus



### WORSHIP

Grow in our faith

### ENGAGE

Connect with people

### SERVE

Serve everyone, everywhere

Many of you have chosen the Ministry Team(s) you want to serve on this year. We would like for you to think of the direction (N, S, W or E) you will go as you serve on your team. To help remind you of the direction your spiritual gifts are pointing you we have made wooden compass for each of you to carry with you. Wooden compasses may be picked up at the connection center table. Blessings! Janet Rice

## GREETINGS FROM THE GRACE HERB GARDEN

It won't be long and our herb garden will be up and growing again for another season. I am looking for volunteers to come and work in the gardens this season with me. If you are interested please call or text at 937-925-2347, I will put you on a group text for this. I am hoping to get started by the end of March or first part of April. I will be setting up workdays and hours, I try to schedule a day every two weeks. Looking forward to the season of 2023. Blessings, Cathy Zernechel

## WORSHIP AT SPRINGFIELD MANOR RESUMES

Grace started church services at the Springfield Manor on February 5, 2023. We had been active at the Manor for many years until Covid shut us out. Grace is currently offering a church service on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.

The majority of Springfield Manor residents have little or no family and friends that care for them. Most have no wherewithal to buy even the bare necessities of life. Many have mental health problems of one kind or another which leaves them at a disadvantage to cope with themselves, others, and their situation.

If you have an interest in bringing the Word of God to others please let the team know by contacting Steven Schumacher at 937-624-7074.

## UPCOMING NALC MISSION TRIP

In July of 2022 Eastern Kentucky was hit by heavy thunderstorms that caused flash flooding which left much destruction and many residents homeless. The NALC Disaster Response team is planning a trip for April 23-28, 2023, to Hazard County, KY to help residents with home repairs. Contact Steven Schumacher at 937-624-7074 if you have the time and the ability to be part of this mission outreach or if you can contribute to the purchase of materials through lumber yard gift cards. Our last participation was at Port Charlotte, Florida in February where more than 30 team members worked to repair 12 homes over two weeks that were damaged by hurricane Ian last September.

## HEARTFELT THANKS

On behalf of my niece, Leslie Slife-DeBrower, her husband Kyle and son Ethan, our family would like to express our sincere thanks to the Grace congregation for your prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy during the recent death of her mother and my sister Nancy Stoll-Sliffe. Nancy, "*a sinner saved by Grace*" passed forward into God's eternal light on February 6 after a long battle with cancer. God's blessings to the Grace family as you continue to be a blessing to our family. - The DeBrower's, Pleasant Hill, Iowa and Carol and Mike Carpenter

Thank you for all of the outpouring of love and concern about Rocky's diagnosis and the death of my brother, Doug. The prayers are appreciated and deeply felt! - Leslie McKinney

## OUTREACH CORNER

**Grace Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m.** Bring your friends and family!

**Breakfast Break Sunday, April 16** Nicole Patch from The Pregnancy Resource Clinic will be coming to speak to us during our Breakfast Break. Come meet the new director and hear about the plans she has for the PRC and how we can continue to support this critical ministry here in Springfield. We hope to see you there!

**It's Garden Time again!** There are three wonderful opportunities for Grace members to get involved with gardening.

**Grace Herb Garden:** Cathy Zernechel will begin preparing the beds the last of March or the first of April. See page 3 of the Grace Messenger for details and contact information.

**Grace Garden:** Terry Fredrich and Jerry Angst are already busy planning for this year's crops. If you are interested in planting, weeding and garden care, harvest and washing the produce or helping to serve at the Harvest Table on Sunday mornings, please reach out to Terry at 937-215-9400.

**Jefferson Street Oasis Garden (JSO):** If you haven't heard or seen the wonderful work Terry Fredrich is doing near downtown Springfield, you must check it out. At JSO Terry and others are teaching Springfield residents to grow and preserve their own food. At JSO the residents do all the work in their own individual garden plots, but you can come alongside to help teach them, provide mentorship and build relationships while spreading the Gospel and the love of Christ. Call Terry for more information.

**Laurel Mission** trip is scheduled for October 29 -November 4 of this year, with full or partial week options for participants. We will be having an informational meeting on Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 pm. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex if you'd like more information or contact Sandy Thompson to learn more. This is a great mission trip opportunity, and we'd love to have a larger group join us.



CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Grace



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