

GRAPEVINE

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Zanesville, Ohio

March 2017

PASTOR'S PAGE

Lent: Living Our Baptismal Calling

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

As we prepare to enter the holy season of Lent, I invite you to join me in looking inward, but also in considering how we might live outwardly. For many, Lent is a time for self-examination, introspection and reflection. *Who are we?* and *Who are we to be?* Some give serious thought to self-sacrifice and choose to fast from or give something up for Lent.

Here are some facts about Lent, according to the United Methodist Book of Worship:

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The English word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter.

Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The (scripture) readings during Lent, until Passion/Palm Sunday, focus primarily on the meaning of baptism and discipleship.

(During) Holy Week (beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday) ... the readings focus primarily on the last days and suffering and death of Jesus. (United Methodist Book of Worship, © 1992, p. 320)

This year, like other years, you may choose to give something up for Lent. If it helps you be the person God calls you to be, please feel free to give up your sweets, treats, social media or whatever else may keep you from focusing on the things of God. As a member of this church family, I invite us to live out our baptismal calling. During the Sundays in Lent, we will

be challenged to live out an aspect of our baptismal covenant.

As a reminder, here are some of the things we commit to in our baptismal covenant.

Do you **renounce** the spiritual forces of wickedness...?

Do you **accept** the freedom and power God gives you...?

Do you **confess** Jesus Christ as your Savior...?

Will you **nurture** one another in the Christian faith and life...?

Looking forward to the journey with you.

Pastor Mark

The OWLS will be meeting on Wednesday,

March 1, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12.
Move your clocks ahead one hour!**

Grief Share is a seminar and support group at Grace Church for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. The Grief Share series begins on Monday, **February 27**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. This is a 13-week series; however, each week is independent so you may come any week and not miss information. For more information and/or to register, please contact the church office at 740-452-9317.

Outreach ---

During the month of March, the Outreach Committee will be collecting items for Transitions, our local shelter for battered women. We are asking the Grace Church family to help with this project. There will be "trees" in the back of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall with suggested items. Items they are in need of include dish towels, bath towels, dish soap, laundry soap, bath soap, and other hygiene products. We will be filling laundry baskets with items to help them set up their new apartment. Transitions is also in need of gently used twin sheets and blankets. We thank you in advance for your support!!

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Address Change

Rev. Dennis & Debbie Baker – 1427 Krebs Dr., Newark, OH 43055
Aaron & Emily Richards – 14 Avon Pl., Athens, OH 45701

Birth

A son, Kasen, was born on February 8 to Wade & Devin Kanavel.
Grandparents are Todd & Mellissa Kanavel and Bryan & Tasha Lucas; great-grandmother is Joy Kanavel.

With Sympathy

- . . . to family and friends of Florence Hutson following her death on January 27.
- . . . to Wendy Cochran and Debbie Janakiefski and families following the death of their mother, Shirley Gregg, on February 14.

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Many thanks for the gifts of hats, gloves, and socks given to the Free Store. You bless us with your faithful support. Thanks for helping us serve our neighbors. Thanks for your prayers – you make a difference.

First UMC Family

YOU ARE INVITED. . .

. . . to an open house in the Social Hall of Central Presbyterian Church [40 N. Sixth St.] on Saturday, March 18, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. to honor Revs. Ray and Barbara Morrison. Ray is retiring from ministry at Central Presbyterian.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, **March 3** – 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's AME Church [561 Pine St.]
“Am I Being Unfair to You?”

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Vacation Bible School! Save the Date - This summer, Vacation Bible School will be held June 25-29. This year we will be at Grace Wesleyan Church. Stay tuned for more information!

Disciple Class – The Disciples' Class has moved to a new classroom, the former Parsimar Class, one door further down the hallway. Come join us as we have lessons from I John, Ephesians, John and Joel, depicting God's love for humans as primary and as the source of all love the lessons show that God's love overflows, redeems, unites, and renews

Children & Teens – continue to study the books and stories of the Bible.

Annual Lock In – Occurred on February 11/12. A great time was had by 17 young people! Thank you to all who helped to make it a success!

Bowling - Is anyone interested in bowling in May? Let Sarah know! We're always looking for new and exciting things to have fun and learn about God together! If you have any other fun ideas for our children and youth, please let us know.

Children of Grace - Families and children now have choices during our 10:30 service. Children can participate in the worship service while playing quietly with a family member or volunteer adult in our new **Grace Space**, play in the **nursery**, stay in the **pew** with their parents or older children may learn a special lesson in **Kid's Own Worship**.

The Women's Group is finishing our study of Joseph and forgiveness. We will study Max Lucado's book, He Chose the Nails during Lent. All women are welcome on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the High School classroom (so we can watch the online videos)!

Where are they now -- spotlight on the class of 2007 – Miriam Zangmeister went to the University of Cincinnati where she spent 1 quarter as an architecture major, then switched to mathematics. She graduated from UC with her Master of Science in Statistics.

Currently she works at Medpace, a clinical research organization based in Cincinnati where she is currently a senior statistical analyst.

CHOIR NEWS

Miriam's memories from Grace, include Ray Vincent's Passion Play and all the kids running down the aisles waving palm branches. But most of all she remembers the music: the beautiful organ, playing in the handbell choir, and all the talented people in the congregation that would play so many different things. The dulcimers and French horns and trumpets... for those of you who remember, she no longer plays the harp, but she has joined a handbell choir in Cincinnati playing the octave 3 bells....much bigger than the octave 6 or so she played at Grace!

Grace is on Facebook! Like the "page" at: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceUnitedMethodistZanesville> or our group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/419305344801902/>. The group is closed, so ask to be included.

Grace also has a website — www.graceumcz.org. On the website you will find announcements, the bulletins, the Grapevine, and more.

"Open your hearts to the love God instills . . . God loves you tenderly. What He gives you is not to be kept under lock and key, but to be shared."
— Mother Teresa

EASTER LILIES

The Easter lilies will be ordered through the church office. The cost is \$10.00 each. If you wish to order a lily / lilies, please complete this form and return to the church by placing in the offering plate or mailing. The deadline for placing orders with payment is Sunday, **April 9**. You are encouraged to pick up your lily following the 10:30 a.m. Easter service.

_____ number of lilies _____ amount enclosed

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

_____ I will pick up my lily the next week.

If you have not noticed, our choir continues to grow. And there is still room!

As we move into Lent and Easter, I want to invite those who aren't able to make a long-term commitment to the choir to consider joining us just for this holy season. We will sing Ash Wednesday evening (March 1) as well as Sunday evening, March 26, when we host Lenten services (as well as all of the Sundays between now and Easter). And if you can't join us for them all, we will be happy to have you whenever you can come.

We are also happy to note that one high school student and two elementary school students have joined the Chancel Choir. We extend a special invitation to other school-agers who love to sing. We understand if you can't attend every Wednesday rehearsal or sing every Sunday. School and extra-curricular commitments take up a lot of time. Just come when you can!

Finally, summer is sneaking up on us. I am starting work now on identifying musicians who can provide music while the choir is taking a summer break. I will be happy to serve as accompanist for you or you can bring your own. If you have a musical gift to share and a Sunday morning to spare, let me know.

Thanks! **Tony Merry** – Music Director

2017 FOOD DRIVE

Grace United Methodist Church has had a long tradition of supporting the work of Eastside Community Ministry and the emergency food pantry they operate. We are continuing that support with our annual **Food Drive**. As in the past few years, Eastside has asked that we donate the money. They will then use their buying network to secure the best value for the dollars donated. This is a wonderful way for our Grace family to share with families in Muskingum County who are in need of basic nourishment. As of February 19, we have received \$5,230.

It is not too late to donate to this cause!

Many Thanks

Thank you to our Hospitality team for:

- Providing space, hospitality and/or meals for various community groups (OWLS, Barbershop Chorus, the family of Shirley Gregg, Grief Share, Head Start, Lularoe).
- Extending hospitality at the doors, elevators and during worship (Libby Dolen, Ned Weaver, Kevin & Tracy Miller, Judy McAllister, Cindi & Dana Swope, Tracie Moss, Dan & Karen Vincent, Doug & Carla Waltman)
- Tending to the audio/video/computer needs (Craig Hill, Cindi Swope, Sarah Burris, Debbie Collett)

Thank you to all who provided excellent leadership in worship last month!

- Fifth Sunday Service worship leaders (Jessica Stonecypher, Amy Dosch, Lexi Oldfield, Dana Swope, Jenn Sands Jenkins, Nathan Zangmeister, Carrie VanSickle)
 - Acolyte (Lucy Thorne, Carley Oldfield, Hailey Lepi)
 - Liturgist (Cindy Lawyer)
 - Lay Leader (Todd Sands)
 - Children's Moment (Christy Swope, Cindy Lawyer, youth, Sarah Burris)
 - Musicians (Marcie Butterfield, Joyce Cooper, Tony Merry, Sarah Burris, Christy Swope, Mary Mason, Nathan Zangmeister, Carrie Van Sickle)
 - Communion Steward (Janet Hill)
 - Communion Servers (Mary Mason, Christy Swope, Jessica Stonecypher, Nancy Chow, Rick & Cynthia Tuck)
 - Children's Ministry [Grace Space, Kids Own Worship, Nursery] (Cassie Burris, Sarah Burris, Cindi Swope, Cindy Lawyer, Julie McAllister, Julie Sands, Dana C Swope, Amelia Lepi)
 - Youth Ministry Leaders [Youth Lock In and work project] (Cassie Burris, Sarah Burris, Cindi Swope, Ann & Mike Thorne, Amy Dosch, Heather Dolen, Nathan Zangmeister, Janet Hill, Christy Swope)

Worship Celebrations at Grace UMC

Season of Lent

Wednesday, March 1 – 7:00 p.m. Grace UMC will host a **Community Ash Wednesday Service**, including a combined community choir, imposition of ashes and the sacrament of Holy Communion. Rev. Joy French will be preaching.

Sunday, March 5 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. - First Sunday in Lent. Holy Communion. Scripture: Matthew 4.1-11 *“Renounce”*

Sunday, March 12 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. - Second Sunday in Lent. Scripture: John 3.1-17 *“Accept”*

Sunday, March 19 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. - Third Sunday in Lent. Scripture: John 4.5-42 *“Confess”*

Sunday, March 26 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. - Fourth Sunday in Lent. Two By Two Band will lead us in worship. Scripture: John 9.1-41 *“Nurture”*

Sunday, April 2 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. - Fifth Sunday in Lent. Holy Communion. Scripture: John 11.1-45 *“Believe!”*

Sunday, April 9 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. - Palm/Passion Sunday.

Season of Easter

Sunday, April 16 – 8:15 a.m. - Easter Vigil. Service of Light. Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, April 16 – 9:15 a.m. - Easter Breakfast. Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, April 16 – 10:30 a.m. - Easter Sunday. Celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord.

PRAYER ROOM RELOCATED

The Grace Prayer Room has been moved from the third floor to the basement area across from the Fellowship Hall. The room is available for use anytime the office is open or on Sunday morning. There is devotional materials throughout the room.

Lenten Worship Services 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
March 1 Ash Wednesday (7:00pm)	Grace UMC 516 Shinnick Street	Rev. Joy French Faith UMC/ First UMC
March 5 Loved	Central Trinity UMC 62 S. 7 th Street	Rev. Dr. Steve McGuire Foothills District UMC
March 12 Forgiven	Faith UMC 1616 Blue Avenue	Rev. Justin Williams Coburn UMC
March 19 Blessed	Coburn UMC 3618 Maple Avenue	Rev. Mark Chow Grace UMC
March 26 Called	Grace UMC 516 Shinnick Street	Rev. Richard Purvis Dresden UMC
April 2 Sent	First UMC 857 Putnam Avenue	Rev. Steve Judson Central Trinity UMC
April 9	Rolling Plains UMC 3350 Moxahala Park Road	Easter Cantata

Services will be dramatic presentations. Come and witness miracles and hear the teaching of Christ! Each service will begin at 6 p.m. at an area United Methodist Church and will include a 15-20 minute monologue by one of our clergy portraying Jesus and teaching on a specific question that Jesus addressed during his earthly ministry.

All services begin at 6:00 p.m.* with a time of fellowship to follow. Monetary offerings will be directed to support the children and youth ministry of *TheLifeWell* at W. Main. You are also invited to bring socks and mittens to donate for *TheLifeWell Free Store and Shelter* at First UMC, Zanesville.

*Ash Wednesday Service begins at 7:00 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW? Apportionments 101

Most of us have heard the term *apportionments* over the years. Certainly if you have served on various boards or committees you have been exposed to this term.

It is a significant part of Grace's budget each year and we thought it might be helpful to learn a little more of the what and the why of this financial/budget item.

First off, Grace's apportionments represent approximately 15% of our overall budget for 2017. Our Conference apportionments are \$42,124 and our District apportionments are \$8,039. That is over \$50,000 that we "send out of here."

So, let's address the what and why. To begin, apportionments should not be viewed as a tax. A more appropriate term is Connectional Giving. Connectional giving is as simple as people coming together and combining their money to accomplish something bigger than themselves. By combining several smaller gifts into a larger amount, we can effect change across the world. Individual churches can minister to a small area, however as a connectional church we can do big things in the name of Jesus Christ.

What is connectionalism? One word, unique and basic to United Methodists, "connectionalism" means simply that all United Methodist leaders and congregations are connected by certain loyalties and commitments. The United Methodist Church, which began as a movement and a loose network of local societies with a mission, grew into one of the most carefully organized and largest denominations in the world. United Methodists may be amazed at the many organizational layers of the church life, but members of other denominations have been heard to say "if you want something done, get the United Methodists to do it."

Grace United Methodist Church does not stand alone. We are part of the Foothills District which represents approximately 175 churches in 10 counties. We are also part of the West Ohio Conference representing two-thirds of the state and approximately 1,000 churches. Beyond the West Ohio Conference, we are part of the North Central Jurisdiction which is approximately 10 Midwestern states and, of course, beyond that, all United Methodist churches worldwide.

Our Connectional Giving allows our District and Conference to help out churches that are struggling as well as churches that are striving. They also provide for the administrative support necessary. As Methodists, we have boots on the ground literally all over the world.

We hope this explanation of a significant budget item is helpful and sheds more light on the importance of connectional giving. We should all be proud of ourselves in that we were recently recognized as paying 100% of our apportionments for 2016. Your Finance Committee and Administrative Board made a commitment to continue meeting our 100% apportionment goal. Understanding that as Methodists, we are all truly connected. The term connectional giving will be used to better convey the “what and why” of our apportionments.

Thank you for your financial contributions for 2016. We continue to deal with ever increasing expenses for our church and sincerely appreciate your prayerful consideration for having an increase (to whatever degree you're comfortable with) in your 2017 giving.

A link to learn more about connectional giving —
<http://www.westhioumc.org/conference/what-connectional-giving#>

Frank Dosch – Finance Chairman

Please mark **June 16 – 17** on your calendar for our **Grace Church Garage Sale**. Our set up day will be Thursday, June 15. As you clean up the holiday decorations, look at the winter items you no longer need, remember to bag or box these things up and keep for our garage sale. Summer will be here before you know it! Thanks for your continued support. As you are aware, many hands make light work!