

# **GRAPEVINE**

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Zanesville, Ohio

July 2019

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## **PASTOR'S PAGE**

### ***Learnings From Lakeside***

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

A few weeks ago, about 2,500 people gathered at Lakeside for the 50th Session of the West Ohio Annual Conference. We had a great week at Lakeside!

Some of the highlights in those worship services included: remembering and celebrating those who had died during the past year (clergy, clergy spouses, children of clergy, lay members of the conference, and mission partners). As names (or categories) were read, a bell was rung, while family and friends stood in silence. We shared the Sacrament of Holy Communion, all 2,500 of us! We honored those retiring, and recognized those being commissioned or ordained as Deacons or Elders. We had a Service of Healing and Reconciliation with anointing. We sang old hymns, global songs, and modern choruses, which were led by organ, piano or a full band. We collected special offerings for starting new churches in Africa as well as in West Ohio, and also providing assistance and relief for victims of recent tornadoes in Ohio.

Walking through Lakeside, I noticed that some of the old, tattered cottages are still there. (Yes, I remember staying in some of those!) In recent years, many of the old cottages have been replaced with newer, larger homes. In addition, there are some improvements: a new swimming pool, tennis courts, pickleball courts, an upgraded park, a fitness trail and some new eating establishments. It appears that Lakeside is striving to be more inviting.

As I reflect on our time at Annual Conference, I was struck by the contrast of past and present. Some dilapidated cottages stand next to majestic new homes. Some longtime delegates sat next to newer delegates sharing

wisdom and experience. Some younger delegates helped older delegates navigate through electronic voting. We all worshiped together (young and old, male and female, traditionalist and progressive). Somehow, in the midst of uncertain times, the Spirit fell upon us and granted us peace, harmony and unity.

As Grace Church contemplates our future, it is healthy to look back and learn from our past. It is also helpful to know that whatever God has in store for us may look different than the way we are now, but it is for the next generations to carry on the message of hope.

Thankful to serve alongside each of you!

**Pastor Mark**

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The OWLS will be meeting on Wednesday,

July 3, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **BABY DAY — CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

Join us on **JULY 7** to continue this fun tradition started by Rev. Ray Vincent in the 1990's to celebrate our children.

We will present our Grace children 5 and under with a special gift and . . . for the rest of us to enjoy, we will sing our favorite carols to celebrate Christmas in July.

### **WALK WITH A PASTOR**

School is out for the summer! It is a great opportunity to get moving! Meet with some friends or family members, or make some new friends and join together for inspiration and exercise. Join this month on **Saturday, July 27**, at 8:30 a.m. at the Colony Square Mall (Food Court). We will begin with a time of inspiration from God's Word and then hit the pavement with other members of the Family of God.

## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### Address Change

### Wedding

Allison Arter and Andy Koenig were united in marriage on June 15.  
Allie is the daughter of Dan & Lisa Arter.  
Jayme Schumacher and Chas Albright were united in marriage on June 22. Jayme is the daughter of Pastor Mark & Nancy Chow.

### Birth

A son, Tripp Hudson, was born on June 13 to Brittany Clifton & Evan Moss. Grandparents are Mike & Tracie Moss; great-grandfather is Ned Weaver.

### With Sympathy

- . . . to Jeff, Cris, Brent Sidwell and Lorri Havens following the death of their mother, Helen Sidwell, on June 12.
- . . . to Linda Biddle and Larry Jones and family following the death of their mother, Juanita Jones, on June 14.
- . . . to Bert Tooms and family following the death of his mother, Carol Tooms, of Cumberland on June 19.

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## IN THE COMMUNITY

The Zanesville Memorial Band will again provide free music programs on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. during the summer. There is no charge. All you need to bring is a lawn chair. In case of rain, concerts will be held at Secret Auditorium.

July 21	Zane's Landing
August 4	Zane's Landing

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Disciple Class** – This adult class is doing an in-depth study of the book of Mark. Although it is the briefest of the Gospels, Mark's narrative is often more vivid and detailed than the parallel accounts in Matthew and Luke! You already have the study book, the Bible. You are welcome to come join our discussions as we learn about Jesus' life from Mark.

**Children & Teens** – are studying the books and stories of the Bible.

**Preschoolers** – are learning about God's world around them by helping take care of all of God's creatures, including themselves! These kids are amazing!!

Let us know – if you have any fun ideas for our children and youth! We're always looking for new and exciting things to have fun and learn about God together!



**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](http://www.graceumcz.org). On the website you will find announcements, the bulletins, the *Grapevine*, and more.

Did you know we broadcast the 8:15 service live on Facebook? If you're out of town, join us!

**Thursday Bible Study Group** – At the time of this writing, the topic for the next study is unknown, but for sure it will be amazing. We hope to see you!

Spend the afternoon  
with your family in  
**ROME!!**

**JULY 14**  
**12:00 NOON – 4:30 P.M.**

**Enjoy a LIGHT LUNCH WITH YOUR FAMILY**  
**Meet PAUL AND HIS JAILER**  
**Learn about the early CHURCH**  
**Try CRAFTS BASED ON LIFE IN ROME**  
**Taste a ROMAN SNACK**  
**CHALLENGE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY**  
**to a CHARIOT RACE**

The Great  Adventure Continues.....

**LOCK-IN!**  

**AUGUST 9, 2019 at GRACE!**

More information to come, soon, but we're working on  
a plan for an "Escape Room" and more!!

Invite your friends!

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Missional Church Consultation Initiative Update

The Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI) is a Resourcing and Coaching process sponsored by the West Ohio Conference, and is designed to assist Pastors, leaders, and congregations to boldly move to the next season of fruitfulness.

#### **MCCI Update - Congregational Self-Study**

The congregational self-study has been compiled by a wonderful team of Grace church members (Frank and Amy Dosch, Tom and Susan Holdren, John Marks and Carol Friel). In addition, Judy Cranz has been an invaluable resource to them.

The purpose of the congregational self-study is to help us take a serious look at ourselves (who we are and what we've been/done) as we strive to move forward. It is to lead us to self-reflection and discussion among our congregation and leaders. The content of the self-study also helps the West Ohio Conference MCCI Leadership Team to better understand our ministry context and our readiness for God's Next Steps for Grace UMC.

Some of the items in the Self-study include:

- the history of our congregation
- a list of staff for the past 20 years (pastors and program staff)
- information about the properties and facilities
- our organizational structure
- demographic information about the congregation
- trends and statistics (average attendance in worship, Sunday School, small groups, etc.)
- demographic information about the community
- reflections on several questions (strengths, areas of concern, potential changes, etc.)

#### **Coming Soon:**

**"MCCI Express Day"** - Grace UMC.

Thursday, **October 3, 2019** — Exact times of listening sessions to be determined. There is an all church dinner and training in the evening.) During this day, MCCI leaders from the West Ohio Conference will take time to listen to many of the Grace Church family, in one on one listening sessions, or in a focus group setting.

The MCCI Express Day is designed for our congregation to express our hopes and dreams, as well as to celebrate strengths and name any concerns. Prayer is foundational for our next steps!

Please be in prayer for our openness to God's Direction leading us boldly to our next chapter in mission and ministry in Zanesville and beyond!

This experience will open our eyes to what the Grace Church family sees as God's plans for our future mission and ministry together. We strongly encourage ALL to make this a priority!

**"MCCI Presentation"** - Grace UMC  
(Sunday, **October 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.**)

On the following Sunday, our MCCI Leaders will share in a combined worship service the results of the MCCI Express Day along with the Next Steps for Grace UMC, as shared and discerned by Grace Church members and developed into a possible plan of action (Next Steps).

Following this presentation, our congregation will have about 30 days to discuss and prayerfully discern our next steps. During this 30 day period, we will have at least two "Town Hall" meetings, in which members of the MCCI Implementation Team will host a gathering for sharing information and answering questions. At the end of that 30 day period, our District Superintendent, Dr. Dennis Miller, will convene a Church Conference for our decision on our next steps. A 75% majority vote is required to accept the full report and next steps.

#### **What is next?**

Keep praying for God to break through in our hearts, lives and congregation. Please continue to pray for breakthroughs.

Pray for an openness to God's hopes and dreams for Grace UMC.

Pray for the Pastor and Leadership Teams to be open to God's wisdom.

### **GRIEF SHARE – LOSS OF A SPOUSE**

### **August 12 – 6:30 p.m. – Parlor**

Do you dread the lonely days and nights?  
Wonder what to do with your spouse's  
belongings?

Feel like your brain is in a fog?  
Unsure of how you'll go on?

At *Loss of a Spouse* seminar you'll discover —

Other people understand and have found ways to make it  
through

Why it won't always hurt so much

Reasons for hope

Practical tips for coping with the death of a spouse

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### **LAY DELEGATE REPORT**

The West Ohio Annual Conference convened June 2 – 6, 2019 at Lakeside Chautauqua on Lake Erie. This was the 50th Annual Conference Session. The theme this year was *BENOT AFRAID, HOPE!* It is based on the scripture from Romans 15:13 – "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

This year we elected a General Conference delegation of seven clergy (deacons and elders) and seven laity. We also elected an additional seven laity and seven clergy delegates for the Jurisdictional Conference.

It was a joy and blessing to serve as your lay delegate for the first time. I enjoyed worshipping, praying, and being with the people of West Ohio.

A big thanks to John Marks and all his time and service as the lay delegate for past nine years. He did a great job!

Blessings – **Linda Friel**