

GRAPEVINE

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Zanesville, Ohio

February 2019

PASTOR'S PAGE

Beloved Children of God

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

I was standing in the middle of a creek on a hot summer day in German-town, Ohio. I was a camp counselor at Camp Miami (formerly a West Ohio United Methodist Camp). The cool, refreshing water of Twin Creek felt good in the heat and humidity of July. (I know, it's hard for me to think of that misery in the bleak midwinter weather of January!)

We were re-enacting the baptism of Jesus.

One of the counselors, dressed like John the Baptist, called out to the crowd "*Repent and be baptized!*" With that, some of the counselors approached him, and re-enact the baptism. and then, one of the counselors, dressed as Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized. After a brief exchange, John obliged. Then, all were invited to step into the water and remember their baptism.

For me, even though it was a re-enactment, it was a profound moment of remembering God's gift of grace for us.

For those of us who were baptized as infants or small children, it was a tangible memory of baptism. Feeling the water wash over me was overwhelming.

In that moment I was reminded WHO I WAS. I was a Child of God. I was LOVED, ACCEPTED and FORGIVEN. Washed of my sins, I was a NEW CREATION.

"One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, '*You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.*'" (Luke 3: 21-22 New Living Translation)

When Jesus was baptized, He was affirmed as God's Beloved Son. The Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove.

"You are My Beloved Son. You are Mine."

At our baptism, we are also affirmed as God's Beloved Sons and Daughters.

"You are my Beloved Child. You are Mine. I love You."

It doesn't matter what anyone else thinks or says about you. You are a Beloved Child of God. And, because we are beloved, may we treat others as Beloved Children of God.

Let us show kindness, respect, and generosity to others (no matter what we may think of them). After all they, too, are Beloved Children of God.

Let us love one another!

Pastor Mark

The OWLS will NOT be meeting in February.

GRIEF SHARE SEMINAR

Grief Share is a seminar and support group at Grace Church for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. The next Grief Share series begins on Monday, **February 25**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. It is open to anyone in the community. For more information and/or to register, please contact the church office (740-452-9317).

Walk With a Pastor

You are invited to join area Pastors each month for a time of exercise and inspiration. "Walk With a Pastor" (similar to "Walk With a Doc") is designed to help us become more fit and active while learning about wellness. "Walk With a Pastor" is set for the fourth Saturday of the month. One of the Pastors from the area will share a brief devotional thought, followed by a time of walking and talking with the Pastor and other community members. On **Saturday, February 23rd**, Rev. Richard Purvis will be the Lead Pastor. We will meet and walk at the Colony Square Mall at 8:30 a.m. and conclude by 9:30 a.m.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Address Change

Barbara Hardesty – 136 Cressingham Ln., Powell, OH 43065
Chuck & Mary Beth Tippie – 3901 Sundown Dr., Zanesville, OH 43701

Birth

A daughter, Robin Elizabeth, was born on January 20 to Nick & Becky Forster. Grandparents are Doug & Carla Waltman and John & Debbie Shaner.

With Sympathy

. . . to family and friends of Dr. William Black who passed away on January 21.

* * * * *

Many Thanks

Thank you to our Hospitality team for:

Providing space, hospitality and/or meals for various community groups (Barbershop Chorus).

Extending hospitality at the doors, elevators and during worship (Dana A Swope, Cindi Swope, Dana C Swope, Cindy Lawyer, Tracie Moss, John and Diane Marks, Mary Ruth Mock, Bill and Becky Woods, Coty Brown, Judy McAllister)

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!

- Liturgists (Dana C Swope, Cindi Swope, Christy Swope, Joyce Cooper)
- Children's Moment (Cindy Lawyer, Sarah Burris)
- Musicians (Marcie Butterfield, Joyce Cooper, Tony Merry, Sarah Burris, Christy Swope, Mary Mason, Dorothy Cronk)
- Communion Steward (Janet Hill, Cindy Lawyer, Pam Kuntz)
- Communion Servers (Mary Mason, Coty Brown, Cindi Swope, Dana C Swope Linda Friel, Cindy Lawyer)
- Children's Ministry [Grace Space, Kids Own Worship, Nursery] (Cassie Burris, Sarah Burris, Cindi Swope, Cindy Lawyer, Julie McAllister, Jennifer McCune, Sarah Tippie, Allison Palmer)

WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS AT GRACE UMC

Season of Epiphany — **“Greater Gifts”** Worship Series

Sunday, February 3 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — **“Love”**

Scripture – I Corinthians 13:1-13

Sacrament of Holy Communion. Reception of New Members.

Sunday, February 10 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — Rev. Bill Cronk —

“Don’t Allow Fear to Guide You” Scripture – I John 4:16-18

Sunday, February 17 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — Dr. Dennis Miller –

Superintendent of the Foothills District, West Ohio

Conference, United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 24 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — **“Loving the Unlovable”**

Scripture – Luke 6:27-38

Sunday, March 3 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — **“Shine the Light”**

Scripture – Luke 9:28-43

Sacrament of Holy Communion. Transfiguration Sunday.

Season of Lent Worship Series – **“With All Your Heart”**

Wednesday, March 6 – 7:00 p.m. — Community Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, March 10 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — First Sunday in Lent –

“God’s Generous Heart” Scripture – Deuteronomy 26:1-11;

Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 10 – 6:00 p.m. — Community Lenten Service

Central Trinity UMC will host the first of six services that are the collaboration of the area United Methodist Church pastors and leaders. Fellowship time to follow each service.

Sunday, March 17 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. – Second Sunday in Lent

“Imitating” – Scripture – Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18;

Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 17 – 6:00 p.m. — Community Lenten Service –

Grace UMC

Sunday, March 24 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — Third Sunday in Lent

“Repenting” – Scripture – Isaiah 55:1-9; I Corinthians 10:1-13;

Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 31 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — Fourth Sunday in Lent

“Coming Together” – Scripture – Joshua 5:9-12;

II Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday, April 7 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — Fifth Sunday in Lent

“Making a New Thing” – Scripture – Isaiah 43:16-21;

Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, April 14 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. — Palm/Passion Sunday

“Preparing” – Scripture – Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9;

Luke 22:14-23:1-56

Season of Easter

Sunday, April 21 – 8:15 a.m. – Easter Vigil; Service of Light;

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 21 – 10:30 a.m. – Easter Sunday –

“Believing” – Scripture – Acts 10:34-43;

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 15:19-26;

John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 28 – 8:15 a.m./10:30 a.m. **“Trusting”**

Scripture – John 20:19-31

THANK YOU

Dear Grace Church Staff and ‘Family’,

My family and I want to thank you all for the wonderful gifts of service each of you gave in my mother’s (Mary Helen Straker) honor and memory.

Her memorial service was just as she wanted, but we know it took many people to orchestrate. Mark was warm and welcoming, and Tony’s playing was nothing short of masterful. I know Mom would have been delighted Dave played the timpani with “her” *Rondo*.

Our Sarah has now watched the service courtesy of Sarah Burris and we could all hear with Craig on the job. Tracie was a friendly face to greet those who attended. And we could never have done without Judy who made the program appear as if by magic and who, along with Diane, made sure our large family was well fed. Those tables didn’t just pop into place on the second floor. I can’t even imagine the work it took to get them there. The food was wonderful and plentiful. No one went away hungry! I know the great effort the meal took and we want you to know how much we appreciate it.

I’m sure I’ve left out many behind the scene things that were done. But this is what it means to have a church family—we love and care for each other. It was our good fortune to be on the receiving end.

Love, **Susan Holdren**

Christian Education Updates

Disciple Class – This adult class is doing an in-depth study of the book of Romans, written by Paul to the believers in Rome, giving them a concrete theological foundation on which to construct their faith, and to live and serve God effectively. You already have the study book, the Bible. You are welcome to come join our discussions as we look to Paul's directions to the early believers.

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!

Coloring — In the back of the sanctuary or on the table as you enter the Fellowship Hall, are some coloring pages. They are not just for kids! Studies have shown that coloring can help you concentrate or even help to relieve stress. Feel free to take a sheet, some colored pencils and a clip-board [for the sanctuary] and color away.

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. On the website you will find announcements, the bulletins, the *Grapevine*, and more.

Thursday Women's Group – is helping a local pastor [Geoff Geyer] complete work towards his doctoral thesis. We will study his book – “Understanding How God Reproduces Churches and Groups.” The study's intent is to increase our overall awareness of the sending nature of God and the multiplying nature of His Kingdom. This group continues to meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. This study began on January 10 and will run 6 weeks. We will start a new study after that. New members are always welcome!

**YOU ARE LOVED.
YOU ARE WONDERFULLY MADE.
YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL.
YOU HAVE PURPOSE.
YOU ARE A MASTERPIECE.
GOD HAS A GREAT PLAN FOR YOU.**

THANK YOU

Dear Friends of Eastside,

On behalf of Eastside Community Ministry, I want to take the time to thank you for your generous donation of \$3,225.59 from the *Race for Grace* for our Food Pantry. Your giving allows us to better serve our neighbors in need.

“For it is in giving that we receive” [St. Francis of Assisi]

Thank you for believing in our ministry; we are so grateful to have your support! May your New Year be filled with many blessings!

Jamie Trout – Executive Director

THE 2019 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**. On Sundays in February, you will have the opportunity to make a contribution to the "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.

Below is a list of items that Eastside needs and a typical price for each case quantity.

Macaroni & Cheese	24 per case	\$20 per case
Spaghetti	20 per case	\$20 per case
Spaghetti Sauce	24 per case	\$30 per case
Tomato Soup	24 per case	\$20 per case
Vegetable Soup	24 per case	\$20 per case
Chicken Noodle Soup	24 per case	\$21 per case
Jelly - 32 oz. jar	24 per case	\$33 per case
Peanut Butter	24 per case	\$50 per case
Pork & Beans	24 per case	\$20 per case
Pears	24 per case	\$28 per case
Peaches	24 per case	\$28 per case
Instant Potatoes	18 per case	\$25 per case
Green Beans	24 per case	\$19 per case
Corn	24 per case	\$19 per case
Peas	24 per case	\$19 per case
Ramen Noodles	6 pack	\$ 2 per pack

Total = \$375

Please keep in mind that there is an increase in "food insecurity" this year with the government shutdown and the threat of interrupting Food Stamps for those who need it most. Because of this, the services provided by Eastside are even more necessary!

Name _____

NEW E-MAIL

The church has a new e-mail address = office@graceumc516.org. We request that you send a message to this address (if you have not already done so) and when you do that we simply click on your name and it is added to the address book. This will help us have addresses without having to type each one (and maybe make mistakes). Thanks for your assistance!!

Call to Prayer for the United Methodist Church and all Christians

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer issues a Call to Prayer for the mission and the unity of the church. This invitation is two-fold; first, for The United Methodist Church as we prepare for the Special Session of General Conference and secondly, for the unity of all Christian Churches worldwide.

For more information check out this you tube link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=39&v=I8SRJ8bOQIQ

2019 Special Session of the General Conference

The General Conference is the highest legislative body in The United Methodist Church. The voting membership consists of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the annual conferences. General Conference convenes every quadrennium (four years) to determine the denomination's future direction. It is the only body that can speak officially for the denomination.

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to act on a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward. The 32-member Commission was appointed to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

For more information, check out the West Ohio Conference website:

<https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/2019-special-session-general-conference>