

**Watering
the seeds...**

**... of
Faith**



*Grace United Methodist Church
982 Medical Road
Millersburg, PA 17061*

**May 2018
Newsletter**

Serving you at Grace United Methodist Church

Pastor - Alan Atchison

Secretary - Jane Hubler

Jr./Sr. High Youth Ministries - Alicia Spicher

Building Maintenance - James Carvell

Custodian - Pat Guarneri

Nursery Coordinator - Nicole Hooper

Choir Director - Diana Paul

Church Office

982 Medical Rd. Millersburg PA 17061

(717) 692 - 2838

Email - gracembgoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Alan Atchison

Parsonage (717) 692 - 2896 Cell (570) 847 - 2939

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

EPHESIANS 4:3

MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE UNITY
OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE.

MAY 3, 2018

#PRAY4UNITY
NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG





Pastor's NOTES

I wasn't always a list-maker. There was a time in my life when I **never** made lists. I prided myself on my brain's memory capabilities to remind me of the things I needed (or felt that I needed) to get accomplished. I would work at a task until it was accomplished, and then move on to the next.

No pressure, no hurry, no mistakes. But one of the drawbacks to that method was that at times, I ran out of day before I ran out of tasks, and so my unfinished items got carried over to the next day. And that worked... at least for a while. The problem was that those tasks kept piling up, and inadvertently, I would forget to do something I had said I would do.

And so, in an effort to not disappoint anyone, I began to keep lists. Not long ones, or detailed ones - just a note jotted down on a piece of paper. But as you can probably guess.... I ended up with multiple notes on multiple pieces of paper, and would **still** forget to do something.

And so, I sought to become **even more** organized - keeping everything (well, at least **almost** everything) in a day planner. But as you probably know all too well... old habits tend to die hard. And so, even after all these years have passed, I still find myself jotting down things on note pads. I seem to have them everywhere - pinned on bulletin boards, in piles on the desk, stuck to my computer monitor, tucked in my Bible....



well, you get the picture. But in spite of all my organizational efforts, my list never seems to get any shorter, nor my tasks completely accomplished.

Somehow, I don't expect that Jesus was ever concerned with list-making. The scriptures don't record Jesus ever taking time to record his thoughts in a diary, or to keep teaching notes, or to consult his "three-year plan of ministry" before moving on to a new town. He did, however, take time to stoop down and write in the **sand** - reminding those gathering to stone a woman

who had been caught in the act of adultery of their own failures and short-comings.

What we **do** find recorded in the Scriptures is that Jesus “often withdrew to a quiet place to pray”, seeking the guidance and direction of his heavenly Father - especially after a long day of teaching and healing people. And I believe it was in the midst of Jesus’ prayer time that his Heavenly Father shared what was next to be accomplished on the “yet-to-do” list.

Lest you think I am suggesting that you stop keeping lists... rest assured, I am not. But I **am** suggesting that it most certainly will be beneficial for you to begin each day in prayer, asking God to direct your day, and your schedule. Ask Him to make clear which tasks He wants you to accomplish - which ones have Kingdom worth, and which ones do not. Also, ask God to help you create some margin in your day - some time to slow down and relish each day’s unique experiences.

In a world filled with sticky notes, tablets, day-timers, and planners; with smart phones, *i*-pads, notebooks, and desktop computers; consciously creating time to withdraw to a quiet place to pray won’t be easy. But I promise, as always - it will pay great dividends in the long run.

Your Note-worthy pastor,
Alan



Pregnancy
CARE CENTER

Life
is
precious.



Baby Bottle Fund Drive

Once again this year, we will be participating in Lifeline Pregnancy Care Center’s Annual Fund Drive.

Baby Bottles will be distributed on Mother’s Day to be taken home and filled with your loose pocket change for the next 5 weeks, and then returned on Father’s Day.

All proceeds go toward education and counseling to help young women choose life instead of abortion.

Summer Worship Times are NOT changing....

Over the coming summer months, we will continue to offer two different opportunities for worship on Sundays - a contemporary service at 8:30am and a more traditional service at 10:30am. **Each month, however, we will have one Sunday (see below) with a single, combined worship experience at 10:30am, followed by an opportunity to share a fellowship meal together.** We ask for your patience and understanding, as we continue to explore new ways to connect with each other, and with our community.

Sunday, June 17th

A Combined Service at 10:30

Featuring

Rev. Larry Dunlap, guest speaker

Youth Mission Trip Send-off

Father's Day Celebration

Covered Dish Meal



We will be praying over and commissioning the youth and adults from our church who will be heading out into the mission field during the week of June 17 - 22 at our morning worship service that Sunday.



Pastor Alan and Cathy will be taking some much-needed time away from the demands of ministry during the month of June to re-connect and be refreshed.

Pastoral emergencies will be handled by Rev. Rich Berg at First UMC, and pastor Rick Anderson from Hebron UMC.



Nursery Volunteers Needed

(Please see dates - YOUR help is needed)

8:30 am

10:30 am

May 6, 2017	Nicole Hooper	Kendra Rudisill Nicole Hooper
May 13, 2017	Nicole Hooper	Nicole Hooper Help Needed
May 20, 2017	Nicole Hooper	Shannon Vallier Sarah McAlanis
May 27, 2017	Nicole Hooper	Nicole Hooper Kelsey DeWees

YOUTH GROUP



May 2, 2018, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

May 9, 2018, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

May 12, 2018, JR/SR High 5 - 11:00pm Race4Grace 5K

May 16, 2018, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

May 23, 2018, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

May 26, 2018 Jr/Sr High 9-11:00am - Youth Car Wash Fundraiser, there will be pretzel sandwiches for sale.

May 30, 2018, 5:00-8:30pm - Combined JR/SR High Youth Sky Zone trip. \$10 per youth. The youth will travel to Sky Zone in Mechanicsburg.



Women of Faith Fall Bus Trip

For more information, or to register, please call:
Tina Fetter 717-395-0498 or Ann Strohecker 717-860-4032

A Celebration Dinner for the whole church

will be held on Sunday, May 13th, following a combined worship service at 10:30am, at which we will celebrate both Mother's Day, and the commitment to grow deeper in their faith made by this spring's Confirmation Class.

The Men of Grace will be providing the meal, so mark your calendars, and make plans to attend - you'll be glad that you did!

LeSSoNS FrOM LiFe

My all-time favorite hero when I was a kid was Daniel Boone. I don't think I ever missed an episode of the TV show that starred Fess Parker, and I knew the theme song by heart. Once I had a jumbo-size Daniel Boone coloring book, the pictures of which I colored more carefully than any other. I loved reading stories and histories about Daniel Boone and fantasized about being like him.

My parents helped make their little boy's fantasy come true one year when they got me a coon skin cap and a long rifle cap gun for my birthday. We kids in the neighborhood used to have lots of cap gun battles. It didn't matter if everyone else was a cowboy or a soldier using cap gun pistols, that year I was Daniel Boone wearing my coon skin cap and using my long rifle in every battle.

One day when the battle was over, I put my coon skin cap over the end of the barrel and propped my rifle up against a tree in the yard. We probably got called in to eat or went to do something else like play ball. However, I forgot to bring in my gun.

That night it rained, and rained hard. I don't know now when I remembered that my rifle was leaning against the tree. But by the time I retrieved it, the parts that fired the caps were ruined and never worked right again. My coon skin cap had been so drenched that it stretched out of shape and never fit right after that. I was so heart-broken and crushed that that incident still ranks right up there as being one of the times I have been the most distraught and inconsolable. I don't know if my parents couldn't, or wouldn't, replace them, but I never again had a Daniel Boone coon skin cap or long rifle cap gun.

When we leave our spiritual lives unattended, even for a short time, we may feel that they have become ruined, too. When we neglect to care for and maintain a strong spiritual life, and the storms of life strike, we may feel that parts of it, like prayer, just don't "work right." When we fail to jealously and zealously protect important spiritual things such as prayer, daily Bible reading, weekly worship, fellowship with other believers, and faithful service to God and others, then we may feel like our whole spiritually doesn't "fit right" any more.



The good news is that if we do allow those things to happen, God is eager, willing and able to help us recapture and reclaim the vitality of our spiritual lives, both as churches and as individuals. It takes commitment, faithfulness and desire on our part, but God wants us to cooperate with God in making us more into the image and likeness of Jesus, the Christ, our ultimate hero.

Here in the Harrisburg District, and throughout the Susquehanna Conference and the general United Methodist Church, let us humbly and persistently seek to grow to our spiritual potential, and so serve in ministry so that others might believe in Jesus Christ.

I am privileged to be serving with you as we strive to fulfill the vision of the Susquehanna Conference by growing spiritual, transformational leaders, equipping congregations for vitality, creating new places for new people, and connecting with each other and the world.

Rev. Barry Robison, Harrisburg District Superintendent

GOLF TOURNAMENT

May 21, 2018



TO BENEFIT UM HOME FOR CHILDREN

Dust off your clubs, and join us for the 7th Annual Jim Young Memorial Golf Tournament on Monday, May 21, 2018 at the Carlisle Country Club, Carlisle, PA.

Tournament proceeds support vital youth care programs at the United Methodist Home for Children in Mechanicsburg, PA. These kids—many the victims of abuse and neglect—deal with a multitude of difficult situations. Your generous support provides a safe haven for young people who need specialized care and guidance to overcome educational and skill deficits, and disorders (like PTSD) that make growing up more difficult.

- Registration opens at 11:30 a.m. with an extensive lunch buffet.
- Shotgun start is at 1:00 p.m. followed by a reception and awards ceremony at the end of the day.
- Sponsorship opportunities available.

**For more information or to register, please call
717-766-7652, or
visit our website at www.umhcservices.org**

Happy Birthday

- | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| May 1 | Mary Buffington | May 19 | Michael Sharon Weller |
| May 2 | Wanda Brooks | May 20 | Morgan Hooper
Eileen Orr |
| May 3 | Gary Ibberson
John Rubendall | May 21 | Doug Orr |
| May 4 | Stan Leshko
Beth Spicher | May 22 | Barb Zapotok |
| May 5 | Elizabeth Houck
Tanya Myers
Pam Strauser
Dustin Warfield | May 23 | Veronica Davis |
| May 7 | Allison Schade
Cody Shomper | May 24 | Kerry Forney
Greg Shertzner
Pam Troutman |
| May 8 | Sandy Romberger
Becky Hoch | May 26 | Emily Schade |
| May 9 | Layla Weiss | May 28 | Jaden Green |
| May 10 | Tina Billow
Steve Magyar
Calen Reigner | May 29 | Johanna Snyder
Diane White |
| May 11 | Crystal Dreher | May 31 | Marcie Sabolsky |
| May 12 | Tom Billow
John Mangle
Morgan Paul | | |
| May 13 | Carissa Shaffer | | |
| May 14 | Kevin Hepner
Emily Miller
Taylor Musa | | |
| May 15 | Sandra Bell
Diana Paul | | |
| May 17 | Karen Uhler | | |

Our 80+ Club for May

Jim Turnbaugh

May 23rd

We also want to wish

Don Lebo

a very happy *belated* April 4th
80th birthday.

We missed his name last month.

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, or incorrect, please contact the church office, so that we can properly adjust our records.



Jarred & Stephenie Shoop 5/1

Doug & Sue Rubendall 5/2

Phil & Dawn Leer 5/3

Doug & Sandy Snyder 5/10

Tom & Debb Bowman 5/14

Kevin & Bobbie Prouse 5/20

Chris & Nichole Underkoffler 5/22

Jim & Pam Mauser 5/23

Russ & Kathy Boyer 5/26

Jim & Susan Turnbaugh 5/31



May Women's Prayer Breakfast -

will be held Tuesday, May 1 at First UMC Church New Life Center. Donations for the Relay for Life will be collected.

Breakfast is \$8.00. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. Please make your reservations to First UMC Church Office 717-692-2719




Annual Conference
May 31 - June 2, 2018
Hershey Lodge
Hershey, Pa.

Please endeavor to keep Pastor Alan, Jeanette Snell, and Kendra Rudisill lifted up in prayer as they attend this year's conference.

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Will be celebrated on Sunday, May 20th.

Annual Outdoor Spring Clean-up



Each Monday evening through May 21st, we will be gathering to help spruce-up the exterior of Grace church, and to care for some of the "stuff" that has accumulated over the years. All hands are welcome - including yours ! Please bring your work gloves, and join us for a little "earthly" fun, beginning at **6pm each night.**



Race 4 Grace 5K Glow Run

May 12 @ 9:00pm

Kids Fun Run 8:00pm

Register now online at

<http://falconracetiming.com/event/race-for-grace-5k-glow-run/>

Or you can print a form from the church website at
www.gracemillersburg.org

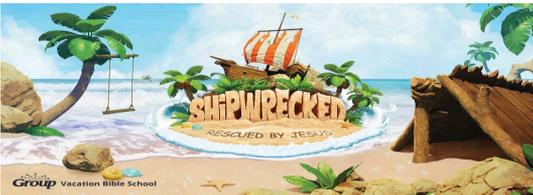
The proceeds will go towards the GUMC Youth Mission trip and future service projects. The Kids fun run collections will be given to the Hearts of Grace ministry.



May 26th
9:00-11:00 am
at Bolig's Propane
Millersburg

Pretzels sandwiches will be available for purchase.

Gradutes Sunday ~ We will be honoring our High School and College graduates on Sunday, June 3rd. If you know of someone who will be graduating from either high school or college, please submit their names to Jane in the church office at 717-692-2838.



“Shipwrecked”

2018 VBS

July 16-19

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Please contact Lisa VanOlden @ 717-649-8931 or Alicia Spicher @ 717-648-9306 for more information, or to sign up to help. Please note that Our Safe Sanctuaries Policy requires that Pa. State Child Abuse Clearances must be provided for any and all persons volunteering.



Our Mission Grant Recipient for May is:

Mission Central

Mission Central is the mission warehouse affiliate of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. Their outreach focus is made up of 3 key components: Disaster Response, Mission Outreach, and Mission Education. Mission Central has played a key role in helping to providing aid and assistance to people around the world through the UMCOR network since 2002.

They are also connected with local ministry partners such as Bethesda Mission, New Digs, Computer Ministry and Project C.U.R.E. - providing relief and assistance right here in Central Pennsylvania and the surrounding regions.

Last year, Mission Central helped provide assistance to over 3 million people globally, connecting them to much-needed resources and equipment.

Future Upcoming trips to volunteer to Mission Central are scheduled for May 19, Aug 18, and Oct 27, 2018.

Please see John Ramberger to sign-up, or for more information.

Shut-In Visitation Schedule ~

Please don't forget our shut-in members. A listing of our Senior Members and Friends at the Manor is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Missionary Outreach Support ~

Greeting cards that were designed by Sandy Romberger and Jane Hubler will be circulated through the congregation at both services on **Sunday, May 6th**, in hopes of collecting as many signatures as possible, and then sent to the missionaries that we support to let them know that we appreciate their efforts. Please endeavor to keep them in your daily prayers.

You are invited to join our next Missions Committee meeting, held on **June 14 at 6:30 pm.**

Upcoming Mission Trip Opportunities

Date	Place	Cost	Work	Sponsor / contact
May 6-12	Tarboro NC	\$175	Flood Recovery	Williamsport District John Best- jmbest2@gmail.com
May 14-18	Sky Lake Camp	\$25/day	Camp clean up	Scranton Wilkes-Barre District - Ron Lucas- ron-kar976@comcast.net
May 18-19	Wesley Forest Camp	0	Spring Clean up & painting	Calvary Harrisburg Jeff Fisher jfisher@susumc.org
June 3-9	Red Bird Mission, KY	\$450	Work on homes	Calvary Harrisburg Jeff Fisher jfisher@susumc.org
June 17-22	Allport/Bigler/ PA	\$50 week \$10 day	Home repair	Calvary Harrisburg Jeff Fisher jfisher@susumc.org
July 22-27	Onodaga Native American Camp	\$225	Home repair	Calvary Harrisburg Jeff Fisher jfisher@susumc.org
Sept 6-15	Shiprock, NM	\$1,600	Home repair	Calvary Harrisburg Jeff Fisher jfisher@susumc.org
Sept 16-22	Nicaragua	\$ 1000	Various	Christ - Wanesboro Steve Cowfer- scowfer@susumc.org
Oct 13-28	Gilgil, Kenya	\$2,950	Various work	State College District Jill Pecht- 1962pecht@gmail.com
Oct 20- Nov 03	Tarapoto, Peru	\$2,400	School construction	Susq. Conference Curt Knouse- cknouse@susumc.org

Thanks!



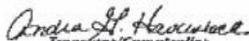
Thank You

Grace United Methodist Church

For Giving 100% for Shares of Ministry in 2017

By this support you enable the Denomination and the Susquehanna Conference to present the Gospel and minister to the needs of people in the name of Jesus Christ.


Bishop
Jeremiah J. Park


Treasurer/Comptroller
Andrea G. Havestock

United Methodists in Northwestern and Central Pennsylvania making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

A sincere Thank You for the many cards and letters of encouragement that have come our way over these past months, but even more so for all the prayers that have been offered up. We are truly blessed !

Pastor Alan & Cathy Atchison

A very special thank you to everyone for their cards, prayers and condolences on the passing of Rick. They were comforting. Rick had accepted his uncertain future without regrets and lived his final years with a positive attitude. He is now at peace, breathing easy and still celebrating the Eagles' big win! He enjoyed his interactions with the people of Grace Church and even though he was only with us for a short time, his impact will live on. We will remember him for his smile, his wit and his heart of gold.

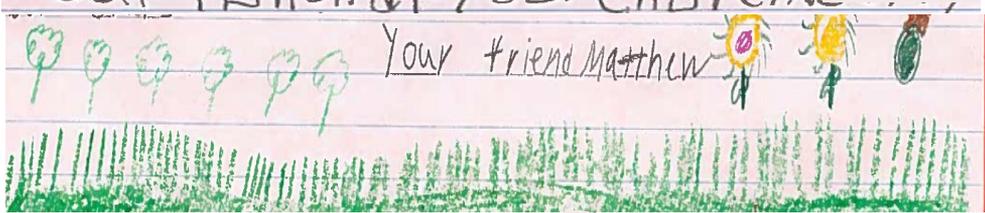
Blessings, Charlotte





Thank YOU GUM CHURCH for
giving us the OPPORTUNITY to
eat lunch at YOUR church.

Your friend Matthew



Love McKayla

Love Angel

Lauramarie

Your friend Riley

Elizabeth

Arianna

