



**Grace United Methodist Church
Newsletter
June 2019**

Currently Serving you at Grace UMC

Alan Atchison, Pastor
Jane M Hubler, Secretary
Alicia Spicher, Youth Leader
Nicole Hooper, Childcare Coordinator
Diana Paul, Choir Director
Charlotte Gingrich, Organist
James Carvell, Building Maintenance
Pat Guarneri, Custodian

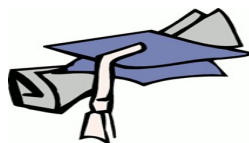
Grace UMC Services

Sunday Worship ~ 8:30 & 10:30 am
Sunday School ~ 9:30 am
Weekday Evening Studies ~ 6:00- 7:30pm

Please call the church office @ 717-692-2838 for information

Graduate Sunday - June 2

We were blessed to honor 8 young men and women who graduated from their studies this year. Please endeavor to keep them lifted up in prayer as they embark on the next chapter of their life.



PLEASE NOTE :

Sunday, June 30th will be a Combined Service of Worship, beginning at 9:00am, with optional Sunday School to follow.

Join us as we are led by our youth, and we celebrate the various God sightings that occurred on the Youth Mission Trip !!

The Pastor's Page

As I participated this past week in the annual gathering of Susquehanna Conference pastors and laity, there was a delegation from another church who sat behind me in the auditorium. From time to time, they broke out in loud conversation, oblivious to the distraction they were causing, or to what was being shared by our Bishop, Jeremiah Park, or whoever happened to be speaking from the platform at that time. Most of the time, their loud conversation was not relevant to what was being discussed, nor was it brief. I will admit that it was, at least for me, a HUGE distraction. As they continued to talk, and as I began running possible scenarios in my mind as to the best way to deal with this distraction, I was reminded of an article shared by our District Superintendent, Barry Robison. Here is an excerpt from that article...

As the minister began the funeral message, a little child's voice carried clearly from the back corner of the sanctuary throughout the rest of the room. So did the mother's increasingly frantic attempts to quiet her child. There was very little chance that no one in the room hadn't heard either the child or the mother. It was definitely a distraction.

Those of us in attendance had a choice to make. How much of our attention would we let the distraction claim? Several people in front of me chose to give their attention to the distraction by turning to see what was going on. As they did I was suddenly struck with the thought of how useless and futile such an action on their part was.

What difference did it make if they could see who was making the noise? It's not like they would be called upon to pick out the offenders in a police lineup. What did they

hope to accomplish by shooting stern looks of disapproval to the back? The child wouldn't notice or care, and the mother was already painfully aware of the disruption her child was causing.

With those thoughts in my head, I chose instead to refocus my attention on the minister and increase my efforts to concentrate on what was being preached up front, rather than on the commotion taking place behind me. It took some effort, but I was able to block out the distraction so that I could hear the Word of God through the minister.

Satan is a master at creating distractions and diversions that steal our attention away from the presence and message of God. Some distractions are large in scope. One example is the current human sexuality debate within our denomination. As important as it is, nevertheless it has distracted many by stealing time, energy and resources, not to mention confidence, away from the joyful and focused work of the people of God to reach others for Christ and make disciples of Jesus.

Other distractions are more subtle. Concerns over dwindling numbers of people and shrinking finances can distract us as congregations into concentrating more on ourselves and our survival than on giving ourselves away for Christ.

Like the people at that funeral, we have a choice to make. It takes some effort, but in both the obvious and subtle things affecting our lives today, ***we can choose*** to keep our eyes, ears, and attention focused on God, rather than yield to Satan's attempts to distract us from God and our work for God...

As I read and reflect on this story once more, I am struck by the fact that all around us, even within our own church family, there are very different perceptions,

and very different responses to the challenges and distractions we face. Although the child didn't see their actions - in this case their talking - as distracting, others most certainly did. Although the mother was surely mortified at her child's behavior, others were willing to consider the source, and the circumstances, and to extend her some grace. And although some were agitated enough to turn and glare, others were able to imagine themselves in those same circumstances, and chose instead to turn a deaf ear, and re-focus their attention to embrace what really mattered more in the moment - a word of encouragement in the midst of loss.

There are times that we don't always make the best choices in life. But thanks be to God that we belong to a church family that is willing to look past our shortcomings - both perceived and real - and extend to us a measure of grace. Those are the true marks of Christian Love. It is what Jesus would have us to do.

So, let me encourage you to make a conscious effort to turn aside from the distractions in your life, and focus your attention on the One who can help you find joy and fulfillment in life - both in your work, and in your play. Know that you have an important part to play in God's plan, and that God can and will use you mighty ways - ***IF*** you are willing to allow Him to do so.

I look forward to seeing what the next chapter of our life together holds, as we seek out and explore God's calling for Grace Church together.

Pastor Alan





Summer Prayer Breakfasts - will be held on the **first Tuesday of each month** at First UMC New Life Center, 346 Center Street, Millersburg. A voluntary monetary gift will be gathered to support a different local ministry each month. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. , and the breakfast cost is

\$8.00. Please make your reservations no later than by the Friday before the breakfast. For reservations please call: The New Life Center (717) 692-2719

GUMC Lifesavers



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

When: Wednesdays

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost of Summer program: \$50.00

Tentative Schedule:

June 12th ~ Camp Hebron

June 19th ~ All Day at Del Grosso's Water Park

July 10th ~ Camp Smiles/TBD

July 17th ~ Mystery Trip

(You'll have to solve the clues to find out where we're going!)

Mon. July 31 Vets Picnic @ Myo/Ferry (Please note the change in day for this week only)

**For more info, please contact
Tracy Barcavage (717) 433-8089
Beth Strawser (717) 433-3791**

youth news & activities

June 9, 2019 Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night

June 12-16, 2019 ~ Youth Mission Trip to Whiteville, NC.
Whiteville was devastated by Hurricane Florence this past fall and are in desperate need of rebuild. This will be a work mission trip with lots of growth to be experience! We will be staying at First Baptist Church in Whiteville. We met these folks while on last years mission trip and this is our turn to help friends in need. We will leave early in the morning on the 12th and return late the 16th.

June 23, 2019 ~ Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night

June 30, 2019 ~ Youth Sunday - All Hands On Deck !

NOTE: Combined Worship at 9:00am,
with Sunday School to follow

Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night

GUMC FAITH NIGHT

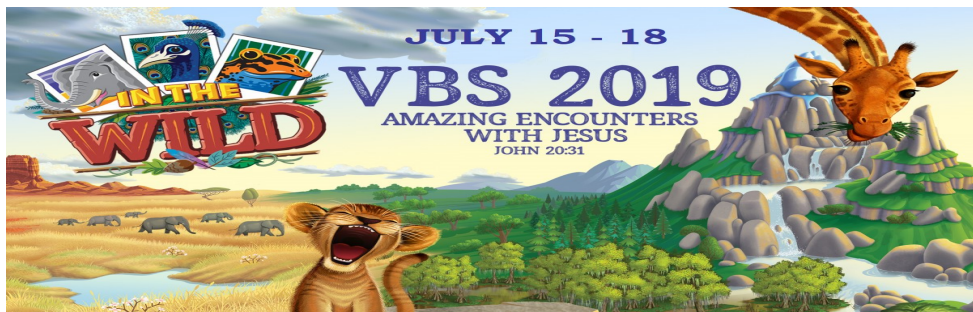
Join us for a night of worship,
personal reflection, and an
amazing message!

**JULY 21, 2019
6PM**

**982 MEDICAL ROAD,
MILLERSBURG, PA 17061**

Faith Journals and Devotionals available
for purchase!

Theme: New You



July 15-18th, 2019 6-8 pm

**Sign-up at the table in the Social Hall
or by calling the church office at 717-692-2838.**

Join us each night for **Amazing Encounters with Jesus.**

We will seek out exotic animals, wend along the way
discover real-life encounters with Jesus in Scripture.

Kids will go from bewildered to believing,
as they experience life "In The Wild" at VBS.

Contact Diane White @ 717-692-0301
for more information or to sign up to help.

Nursery Schedule For June 2019



8:30 am Service

June 09 Nicole Hooper
June 16 Nicole Hooper
June 23 Kristen Snyder
June 30 Nicole Hooper (9am)

10:30 am Service

June 09 Nicole Hooper/
Hannah Hubler
June 16 Nicole Hooper/
Hannah Hubler
June 23 Nicole Hooper/
Hannah Hubler
June 30 No Service



Tom & Tina Bellow
Erik & Janel Bolig
Dennis & Margaret Bowman
Roger & Stephanie Carl
Eric & Tracy Erdman
John & Janet Haines
John III & Sara Haines
Scott & Gail Hill
Mark & Debbie Himmelreich
Becky & Brian Hoch
Robert & Jennifer Leshko
Doug & Barb Zapotok

Ed & Karen Miller
Brian & Jessica Paul
Jamie & Jessica Paul
Jason & Jaci Petroff
Ken & Pam Rudy
Andy & Tammy Schade
Duane & Jeanette Snell
Brock & Kristen Snyder
Tim & Karen Travitz
Dave & Pam Troutman
Scott & Shannon Vallier
Jeff & Patty Weibner

THANK YOU SO MUCH !

I would like to thank everyone at GUMC for all the support and especially the cards you shared at my Baptism. When I recently discovered that I had not been Baptized as a young child (which I had always believed had happened), I felt as if the commitment that I had made to receive Christ at age 18, and my commitment to the church, was incomplete. So I spoke to Pastor Alan about my situation, and he agreed to baptize me as an Adult on Palm Sunday. Surrounded by my friends and my church family, along with the blessing of my birth family, who could not join us because they live out of state, I made my public declaration of faith, and my commitment to Love, trust and put my faith in Christ. I draw strength from this scripture found in 2nd Cor. 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Thank you again so much, Robin Davis.

Happy Birthday

June 1	Laura Troutman	June 17	Wyatt Strauser
June 2	Tanner Prouse	June 18	Lacey Fulkroad
June 3	Decker Klawitter	June 19	Tracy Barcavage
June 4	Ryan Scheib Sam Scheib Tyler Travitz		Evan Herb Heather Kauff- man
June 5	Dave Gilmore Nicole Hooper Brayden Zapotok John Spicher		Kaleb Prouse
June 7	Daniel Wilt	June 20	James Hoffman
June 8	Zachary Leaman Donna Shrawder	June 22	Linda Davis
June 11	Jayne Harman	June 24	Nancy Coyle Millie Fulkroad Karen Travitz
June 12	Garret Leshko Darlene Schaffner	June 26	Grant Matter Cameron Snyder Shawn White
June 13	Diane Zimmerman	June 27	Dee Miller
June 14	Hunter Reed Tim Scheib	June 28	Bryan Bowman Matthew Lontz Douglas Snyder
June 16	Lydia Heim	June 29	Kathy Weiss

*God's love never takes
a vacation.*

*So, please remember your tithes
over the summer months. . . .*



MISSIONS

THE CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

The Mission committee would like to thank everyone for your continued support and financial giving to mission's at Grace Church.

At our most recent missions meeting, the committee approved monetary gifts to be forwarded to New Life Center for Mothers & Children in Glenn Rock and also Armstrong Valley Christian School. Each will receive a gift of \$250.00

Christmas in July has also been put on the schedule for the entire month of July. Due to all the natural disasters this year, it has been decided that all the donations collected will be forwarded to UMCOR Disaster Relief. Watch for our Tree to be on display beginning in July.

Shut-in Visitation Schedule

We are looking for compassionate people who will give a little time each week to brighten the day of one of our friends.

A listing of our Senior Members and Friends at the Manor is listed in the weekly bulletin.

Mission Central

Our remaining volunteer dates are as follows:

July 13th / Aug 17th / Dec 7th

Each Sat. morning we leave the church parking lot at 8 am, in order to volunteer at the Warehouse from 9 am - Noon.

A signup sheet will be placed at the Welcoming Desk two weeks prior to the volunteer dates, so please sign the sheet if you plan on traveling with us on that day. This allows us to better plan for transportation and to inform Mission Central of the size of our group, so they can plan our projects.

We are also going to try something new this year and add a visit to Mission Central on a weekday. Same departure and volunteer time as Saturdays.

Friday July 26th

Next Missions meeting: August 15th @ 6:30 pm.

Street Ministry Update

I hope that everyone has a blessed Easter. For me it was one I will never forget. I met an elderly homeless man near the end of March. We would discuss his life and always end up in a conversation and study of the Bible. He asked me if I would meet him and some of his friends down by the river on Easter Sunday for a small sunrise service. It was the most amazing service, you could feel the presence of the Holy Ghost as these homeless people gathered, sang hymns and read scripture. I know in the Bible it says where two or more are gathered in my name I will be there. Let me tell you, He was present at that service. Two of the guys gave their lives to Jesus. It was awesome.



I also had a lot of things that I gave to some of my clients and had a couple of Easter Baskets for the kids I know. Each child got a copy of the New Testament in their baskets.

I have a new girl that I have been working with for a few days now. She says that she is only passing through. However, she has no place in particular she is heading. She claims to have no family and stays mostly to herself. Hopefully I can break through and help her get her life together.

Thank you for the help with this ministry. Without your prayers and support I could not do this. You have no idea how many lives you have touched in our small community.

Patricia Nissel



thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make our Celebration Dinner for Mothers Day a Success! Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the food, clean up and serve.

Larry Bellis

Youth Weis Gift Card Fundraiser



For the past several decades Grace Church has sold Weis gift cards to our members and a portion of those cards purchased (5%) has gone to the GUMC youth.

"We are so thankful for our congregations generosity and will be helping to run this program as it continues. We will be treating this as an ongoing fundraiser and are excited to be a part of it. We are excited to see what God has in store for us and what we can do for His glory with the money we continue to raise. We are so grateful for everyone who has supported this ministry and hope you will continue."

-Alicia Spicher, on behalf of the GUMC Youth

Weis Gift Cards will be available for purchase, from the Youth, in the Narthex before and after Sunday morning services. If you would like to purchase other days please contact Alicia.

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." - Proverbs 16:3

Summer Fellowship Events

A Fellowship Picnic and Family-friendly Movie Night will be held on the following Fridays :

June 7th, July 19th, August 9th

5:15 - 6:30 ~ Hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill

6:45 - 8:15 ~ Family-friendly movie & popcorn in the Gym along with separate activities for younger children.

Cold Drinks will be provided; Please bring a dish to share

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

In order to better communicate the financial needs of the church, the finance committee has decided to include a monthly section on church finances.

At her passing in August of 2012, Ms. Mary Koppenhaver left Grace church a generous gift of \$175,000. With those funds, the sanctuary was re-carpeted, the walls and ceilings in both the chapel and the sanctuary were repaired and painted, new pews were installed, a new sound booth was constructed, new equipment added, and most recently, the bathrooms located at the main entrance were renovated and made handicapped accessible.

All this was possible because of Mary's great love for Jesus, and for the people of Grace Church.

More recently, we have received \$10,000 from the estate of Dottie Troutman, and \$30,000 from the estate of George and Jo Wilt. Those gifts have been deposited with the Stewardship Foundation of the United Methodist Church for use sometime in the future.

However, we inhabit a church building that is now 35 years old, and our Family Life Center, once new, has recently celebrated its 20th birthday. We have also recently discovered that it is in need of some roof repairs, and new shingles.

Our Parsonage is also in need of some repairs and renovations, which we will be sharing about in the near future.

As you make plans to travel and vacation for the summer months, please don't forget to remember to honor God with your tithes and offerings.

It takes all of us, working together, to accomplish the work of God in this place.

Blessed to be of service,
The Finance Committee

Trustee News Items

The Trustees are looking to get rid of some "stuff" from our storage upstairs and the garage, including some things from the old church.



The List includes -

- (2) - 36"w X 30"h plywood wall cupboards from the Hearts of Grace room
- (1) - 36" base unit (No counter top)
- (1) - Industrial duty wet/dry vacuum canister
- (1) - 43" wooden desk (not in real good condition)
- (1) - 60" metal desk (fair condition)
- (2) - Drop-in tray ceiling lights
- (1) - Used Women's Bathroom Mirror 86" X 30"
- (2) - Wooden Podium
- (3) - Decorative overstuffed wooden chairs from the altar area of the old church (matching set)
- (1) - antique wooden 24" curio cabinet
- (6) or (8) old white clamp-on candle holders (used on the ends of pews)
- (3) - 6 panel interior doors (From restroom project)

If interested in any of the above items, please call or see Larry Bellis, Trustee Chair. Donations not necessary, but always gratefully accepted!

**Please remember to return
your filled Baby Bottles on
Father's Day,
Sunday, June 16th,
as we seek to partner with
Lifeline Pregnancy Care Center
here in Millersburg to provide
services to mothers and babies.**



OCC NEWS



Throwing a punch in a schoolyard fight nearly caused Ernesto to be expelled from school. It wasn't the first time that the pre-teen had gotten into trouble at his school in Mazatan, Mexico. If one of the boys at school taunted him by taking his backpack, or calling him names, Ernesto would strike back. Then one day he received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift from a church. The shoebox contained a variety of school supplies, hygiene items, and toys - including a soccer ball with pump. Ernesto was thrilled to have his own ball. "I was so excited when I saw the school supplies in the gift because most of mine were broken or used up," Ernesto said. "They helped me improve my grades." Not only did his shoebox's school supplies help him with his homework, the soccer ball would play a key part in Ernesto's discipleship as a new believer in Jesus Christ. As Ernesto participated in our follow-up discipleship program for shoebox recipients, The Greatest Journey, he learned more about how to follow Jesus and tell his family and friends about Him. Ernesto, now 12 years old, still uses the ball he received in his shoebox gift as an avenue to talk with his peers about Jesus. Ernesto's mother has also accepted Christ as her savior because of his testimony.

Your gift of a simple shoebox, or items to be used in a shoebox gift, can change the life of a child in need.

For the month of June, we will be collecting packages of children's underwear (both boys and girls), children's T-shirts (small sizes), children's socks, shorts, and pants.

Thank you for your contributions.

Cathy Atchison

Welcoming Is the Top Factor in Church Choice

A survey of spiritual “seekers” released in 2018 found that the top motivators for considering a church are knowing that everyone will be welcomed (32%), making friends and nurturing friendships (29%), support during difficult times (28%), and learning more about God (27%). Less motivating are opportunities for Bible study, volunteer opportunities, discussions of issues and topics, and the provision of childcare.

These findings point to a desire for genuine community. About three-quarters of those who might visit a church said that having friendly and welcoming people might cause them to continue attending.

Among survey respondents, women were more interested in being welcomed into a church and in relationships that might develop, while men were relatively more interested in knowledge about God. About one in three said they do not believe church has anything to offer them. Enjoyable sermons and insightful teaching rank high as attractive church characteristics among both men and women, and these characteristics were twice as likely to be named as motivators than worship experience.

What do spiritual seekers spend their time doing?

Two-thirds spend free time at restaurants and coffee houses, especially high-income earners and those without children, while parents are more often found at parks. Prayer is the most common spiritual activity, practiced daily or weekly by 48 percent of respondents, followed by spending quiet time alone reflecting on spiritual life and spending time reflecting in nature. More than 90 percent use smartphones and internet daily, while 83 percent use social media every day and about half watch TV or listen to radio.

“This data provides insights into how and where churches can connect with people who may be looking for a faith community where they can belong,” said Krause.

The survey was conducted in November 2017 by the Barna Group and included people aged 25-49 who consider themselves spiritual, socially conscious, and seeking meaning in their lives, but who are not affiliated with a church.