



**September 2019**  
**Monthly Newsletter of**  
**Grace United Methodist**

# Connecting at Grace United Methodist Church

Pastor - Alan Atchison  
Secretary - Jane Hubler  
Custodian - Pat Guarneri  
Maintenance - Jim Carvell

Choir Director - Diana Paul  
Organist - Charlotte Gingrich  
New Grace Praise Band - Ken Rudisill  
Nursery Coordinator - Nicole Hooper  
Noah's Crew Preschool - Lisa VanOlden  
and Brenda Fultz  
Elementary Lifesavers - Tracy Barcavage  
Jr./Sr. High Youth Ministries - Alicia Spicher

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Parsonage (717) 692 - 2896  
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[www. gracemillersburg.org](http://www.gracemillersburg.org)



# What's Up With Wednesdays? Food, Fellowship & Studies



Starting September 18 - Two Studies Offered

## Defined - Who God Says You Are

Scripture teaches that we're all made in the image of God. We don't define ourselves; the Creator does. "Who is God?" "Who am I?" "Why do I matter?" This study will reveal Biblical answers to foundational questions of identity so you can discover all God has called you to be.

## Christian - It's not what you think

According to Andy Stanley, the words used to describe Christians today often bear no resemblance to what Jesus wanted his followers to be known for.

Children's Groups: Nursery and separate children groups are planned for age 3 thru kindergarten; grades 1&2; and grades 3-5 (Lifesavers).

Sign-up for one of these studies at the table by the front entrance. Please mark how many children you will be bringing.

## Tentative Schedule:

**5:45 pm- 6:30 pm ~ Meal**

(Meals will be available for anyone directly participating in a study and the children of those participating in a study.)

**6:45 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Study**

# Food Backpack Ministry



It is time to gear up for our 2019 - 20 weekend Food Backpack Ministry. With the help of the elementary and middle school administrative staff, we will begin our

7th year of sending weekend food backpacks home in September. We anticipate starting the year with 50 students and growing from there. Our first packing date is:

**Monday September 9 at 5pm.**

How can you help?

1. Pray for these children and their families
2. Financial donations toward the purchase of the foods.  
(mark your envelope JFY Packs)
3. Consider checking with your employer to see if they get involved in supporting local community service programs or if you see a great bargain on single serve, kid friendly items, let us know!
4. Prayerfully consider sponsoring a student for a month (\$10), several months (\$40) or the entire school year (\$75). Sponsorship forms will be available in the overflow.
5. Talk to your Sunday school class or small group about a sponsorship!
6. Help with packaging the JFY Packs and/or with delivery to the school.

Forms for sponsorships will be available in the overflow! We were so blessed to receive so much support from our church family last year, and are looking forward to seeing how God uses this ministry in the coming year.

For more information or to discuss how you can help, please contact a *Hearts of Grace* ministry team member:

***Deb Goudy, John Ramberger, Ina Schoffstall, Beth Spicher, Janine Boyer, Diane Nestler or Becky Witmer***



Loving Nursery Care is provided at each of our services. Our Nursery is located just through the second set of double doors in the educational wing. Ages 0-4 yrs.



### Women's Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday, **September 3rd** at the New Life Center (346 Center St, Millersburg). Life-line Pregnancy Center will be the outreach; monetary gifts are appreciated. Doors open at 8:00am,. Please RSVP with the number attending by August 30th to the First UMC Church Office. 717-692-2719 . Thank You.

**Voices Needed** ~ To anyone who is interested in singing for the Lord, The Grace Choir cordially invites you to join us as we sing to and for the Lord. We are encouraging you and praying that God would increase our choir membership. Choir rehearsals begin Wed, Sept. 4th, at 7pm in the chapel. Call Diana Paul for more information at 717-329-5329.



Holy Communion will be shared in worship on the following dates:

Sept. 8th, Oct. 6th,  
Nov. 3rd, and Dec. 8th

## Youth Group *NEWS*

**September 1, 2019** ~ Senator's baseball game  
**11:45 am - 5:00 pm.** Let's try this again. This is the make up from our last scheduled game that got cancelled. We will depart the church at 11:45 and return for parent pick up at 5:00 pm. No cost for youth. Even if you didn't join us for our last attempt new sign ups are welcome. Sign up deadline is August 25th.

**September 8, 2019** ~ Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night

**September 15, 2019** ~ Youth Group night at the River 5-8 pm. Our annual picnic/swimming/camp fire at the river again this year. We will depart from the church at 5:00pm and return for parent pick up at 8:00pm. Old clothes and appropriate swimwear are recommended.

**September 22, 2019** ~ Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night

**September 29, 2019** ~ Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night



Fall Classes will be held Sundays from 4 - 5:45 pm beginning October 6th, for youth 13 -18, who are ready to grow in their understanding of God's gifts of mercy, grace, forgiveness, and love.



Craig & Carole Fetterhoff 9/01

George & Sarah McAlanis 9/01

Roy & Becky Witmer 9/08

John & Lori Schoffstall 9/11

Mark & Crystal Dreher 9/13

Jason & Lori Leaman 9/13

Doug & Deb Savidge 9/13

Randy & Diane Nestler 9/15

John & Eileen Orr 9/17

Terry & Karen Uhler 9/21

Brian & Yonnie Miller 9/22

Dave & Mary Buffington 9/28

### Weis Gift Cards

The Youth are selling Weis gift cards as an ongoing fundraiser.



They come in denominations of \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.

The Youth receive 5% of all gift cards purchased.

Thank you for your support!

See Alicia Spicher, Scott Teats or a Youth Group Member to purchase or for more information.

Sept. 1 Alexander Myers  
Sept. 2 Dave Matter  
Alana Peiffer  
Sept. 3 Karson Engle  
Porter Kauffman  
Russell Klinger  
Sept. 4 Brooke Barcavage  
Kelly Scheib  
Alicia Spicher  
Sept. 5 Sandra Troutman  
Nicole Wehry  
Sept. 6 Seth Landgraf  
Deb Rothermel  
Makenzie Shoop  
Sept. 7 Damien Erdman  
Deanna Savidge  
Sept. 8 Sue Rubendall  
Sept. 9 Dalton Kessler  
Kevin Prouse  
Sept. 10 Marcie Bellis  
Jane Hepner  
Alexa Southard  
David Boyer  
Sept. 11 Isaac Kissingner  
Ava Zehring  
Sept. 12 Deanna Bellis  
Sept. 13 Russ Boyer  
Dan Matter  
Rochelle Troutman  
Dylan Shoop  
Jennifer Orr  
Willard Stonerod  
Sept. 14 Doug Rubendall  
Scott Teats  
Sept. 16 Laurel Kolva  
Benjamin McAlanis

Sept. 18 Tucker Klawitter  
John Orr  
Matthew Snyder  
Collen Rettinger  
Sept. 19 Shane Davis  
Nathan Leaman  
Zackary Wehry  
Sept. 20 Nicolle Nestler  
Kasey Travitz  
Sept. 21 Peter Messina  
Sept. 22 Breanna Buffington  
Laura Phillips  
Carter Sass  
Sept. 23 Rachel Fulkrod  
Sept. 25 Tyler Bower  
Sept. 26 Jason Leaman  
Austin Marks  
Sept. 27 Elizabeth Maser  
Jace Harman  
Pastor Alan Atchison  
Sept. 28 Cooper Erdman  
Stewart Miller  
Sept. 29 Brandt Bowman  
Sept. 30 Ryan Hoffman  
Amanda Tobias

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR  
80 Plus Club Members:***

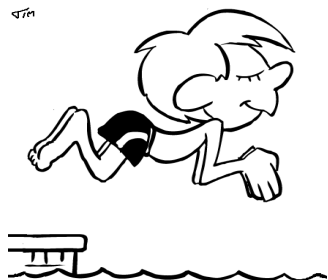
*Nancy Travitz 9/01*

*Paul Chubb 9/28*

**Happy September Birthday**



Jim



**Millersburg Pool Association  
Chicken Pot-Pie Dinner  
September 28, 2019  
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Grace UM Church  
Family Life Center**

**Adults ~ \$10.00  
Children 5-10 ~ \$5.00  
Children 4 and Under Free  
Take Out is Available**



**Take It To The Cross**

*"You shall call and the Lord will answer; you shall cry and He will say, 'Here I am'." Isaiah 58: 9*

The Take it To the Cross team continues to offer daily encouragement through simple yet profound devotions in your inbox, using the Scripture from the Pastor's message. Members break it down, and prepare a short comment and prayer daily Monday through Friday. Sometimes, we use a concordance, sometimes we share thoughts that God has placed on our hearts that day. We also include prayer needs for church members and programming throughout the week.

If you would like to receive these daily devotions, please send an email to Becky Witmer at [bqwitmer@comcast.net](mailto:bqwitmer@comcast.net). If you have any questions or would like to join the team, see any team member: Jeanine Boyer, Beth Spicher, Ina Schoffstall, Jeanette Snell, Peter Messina or Becky Witmer.

**Pray for the right reasons: "Do not become devoted to the habit, but to the Savior. Do it not because other people are doing it - not as a spiritless duty every morning, not merely as an end in itself, but because God has granted the price-less privilege of fellowship with Himself." - Bob Foster**

**Fundraiser Breakfast for**  
**Brad Kintzer**  
**Medical Expenses**



On Saturday, **October 12th** the BCC Sunday School class and Grace Youth will be serving a breakfast in the

Social Hall from 7 - 9am to raise funds for the Kintzer family.

Brad attends Grace Church and his children are active in youth fellowship. Brad was in the hospital for an extended period of time and has had a long recuperation period, including ongoing physical therapy. The breakfast proceeds will go towards covering some of his medical expenses which weren't covered by insurance.

We are accepting food donations if you are interested in helping to defray the costs of the breakfast. Please call Doug Orr at 717-395-0499 for a list of items needed.

The menu will include choice of cream chip beef over toast, pancakes, eggs, sausage and bacon and home fries. Tickets will soon be on sale for \$7 each. Please consider joining us as we help to care for Brad and his family.



**It's that Time of Year !!!!!**  
**Soup N Sandwich Luncheons Begin.**

Our first Luncheon will be held on  
**October 13, 2019.**

Please mark your calendars and join us in the sanctuary for worship and then continue your fellowship in the Family Life Center over hot soup and a great sandwich .

**Hope to see you all there.**  
**No reservations Needed !!!**



I want to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to all who have helped and/or contributed to our OCC Item collections over the past number of months. With September already upon us, National Shoebox Collection Week will sneak-up before we know it .

Our OCC display table is up in the Social Hall, along with a pile of empty shoeboxes for you to take home and fill over the next two months. On the table, you will find a display of shoebox samples, along with a list of ideas of items to include in your box, along with a list of items NOT to include. There are also labels and directions.

As always, we will also gladly accept monetary donations in lieu of packing your own shoebox gift. Please include Grace OCC Shoebox Ministry in the memo line, and place your gift in the offering plate, or simply mail it to the church office.

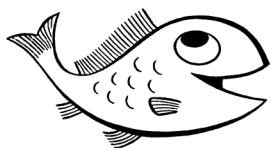
May you be reminded of how this simple ministry brings the Gospel of Jesus Christ to millions of children throughout the world.

Know that the donation tub will remain in the church entryway if you would like to contribute additional items.

Finally, if you would like to help with the packing of shoebox gifts, please call Cathy Atchison, or look for packing opportunities in the coming months in both the newsletter and the weekly bulletins. Happy Fall !



# Grace United Methodist Annual Fish Fry



Fall 2019 Dates:

**October 4th; October 25th;  
November 15th**

**Serving from 4pm - 7pm**

Take out is available .

**All Dinners include:** Baked or Fried Fish; Cole Slaw or Applesauce; Baked Potato or French Fries; & drink. Dessert is available at an extra cost.



Delivery Service is available  
for a limited area.

Pies Needed



Call Karen Lentz at (717) 692-4340  
to help volunteer, or to donate pies

## MISSION UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER

Our Monthly Home Mission Project for September is Samaritan's Purse. They will receive a \$350 donation to be used for their OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD project.

The Christmas in July UMCOR Disaster Fund drive gathered a total of \$640.00. The Mission Committee thanks you for your great generosity.

Our next scheduled trip to Mission Central to help is **December 7th.**  
**Meet at the Church at 8:00 am.**

Harvest Home Sunday has been set for **November 24th.**  
Please bring your donated food items to adorn the altar, which will then be used to feed the less fortunate persons in our community.

**Next Missions meeting November 18, 2019 6:30 PM.**

# *Journeying Together*

...and other thoughts about life



The past couple weeks, as I have been sorting through fall programming, I've been reflecting on the construct of being "better together."

I believe that God purposefully created each of us (including those that we don't like, get along with, or agree with), and placed us in the midst of community. God has also blessed each of us with special insights and giftedness to build up that community. Each of us is better because of our connection with others around us. We need our church community to help each other grow and learn.

To that end, I want to challenge you to pray about attending a Wednesday evening study group this fall. I am not asking for a lifetime commitment - just 8 weeks spent growing your faith, and getting to know others within this community we call the Church. Read together. Study together. Pray together. Serve together.

I know from experience that simply being together (along with a little super glue and/or some duct Tape) can repair bonds that have been previously fractured. When we are willing to talk together, laugh together, learn together, and serve together, God can, and will, show up in amazing ways, and do amazing things. I can't wait to see how God will use our time together for His Purposes, because...We are... Better Together !

Pastor Alan