



MASKS NO LONGER REQUIRED

**Grace United Methodist Church
Newsletter
June 2021**

Currently Serving you at Grace UMC

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

-UPDATED- Grace UMC Services

Sunday In-person Worship ~ 8:00 and 10:30 am
Sunday School ~ 9:15 - 10:15 am
Virtual Worship ~ 9:45 am

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

*God's love never takes
a vacation.*

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





Our initial purpose for this month's newsletter was to share the plans for the upcoming summer activities taking place here at Grace UMC with everyone in the church, so that we might help people to "be informed". After all - that's the purpose of a newsletter. And that included continuing with our current schedule of programming - at least through the summer, as we eased back into our building, and began making plans for a Fall 2021 church-wide call to prayer, study and action.

But all that changed on Tuesday night this past week, as the Administrative Council met, and voted to "return to two opportunities each Sunday for in-person worship, as well as a virtual Zoom worship service, and a full hour of Sunday school programming between services, so that we might provide as many opportunities as possible to re-connect our congregation with each other."

But for that to happen, there needed to be some adjustment of our Sunday morning timeline.

So, beginning Sunday, June 6th, our Sunday morning timeline will look a little different. If you didn't notice the **updated worship times** on the preceding page, now would be the time to look.

While this may cause some challenges for some, we believe that in the long run, it will provide Grace UMC the best opportunity to become the church that God is calling us to be - a church on a mission to engage our community for Jesus.

(continued on the next page)

Also within the pages of this newsletter, you will find reflections from some of the members of the Ad Council, in hopes of helping you to understand the dynamics that we have struggled with over these past number of months, as well as news of upcoming events and accomplishments in the life of Grace UMC. It is my hope and prayer that you will catch the wind of excitement that is stirring, especially now that **masks are no longer required to be worn in our buildings by fully vaccinated individuals**, as per the CDC guidelines. (If you didn't notice the cover, now would a good time to look). But whether you choose to remain masked, or not, I hope to see you in worship some time soon!

Pastor Alan

Youth activities

Youth Mission Trip -

Please remember to pray for our Youth Mission trip, which will take place **June 6th - 11th**. Pray for our leaders, our participants, and the people from Niagara, NY. who will benefit from the service of our mission team.

Mission Trip Sunday - June 20th -

We will take time in worship to celebrate the movement of God in and through the events of the Youth Mission Trip.

Youth Group Events

June 6 - 11, 2021 **Youth Mission Trip!!** Niagara Falls, NY

June 13, 2021 -Youth Group 6-7:30pm - normal youth night

June 20, 2021 -**Youth Group Mission Trip Sunday** -
10:30am Service, and normal youth night 6-7:30pm

June 27, 2021 -Youth Group 6-7:30pm - normal youth night

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

Who: Elementary and Middle School Youth

When: Various Summer Wednesdays

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost: \$25.00

Tentative Schedule:

Wed. June 9 Swimming @ Camp Hebron

Wed. June 16 Knoebels Amusement Park

Starting Tuesday July 6-8 - Retreat @ Ingleby Camp

Wed. July 17 Delgrosso's Pool & Amusement Park
(this will be an all-day trip)

Wed. July 21 Sight and Sound Theatre - Esther

Please go to this URL to register:

<https://tinyurl.com/Lifesavers2021>

**For more info, please contact
Tracy Barcavage (717) 433-8089 or**

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Friends at Grace UMC

Hello! Rachael and I wanted to drop you a note to say hello and Thank You. Last month, we hit the 25 year mark on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ. That's a lot of years as a missionary, and God has certainly had us on quite an adventure .

I wanted to pass along a heartfelt thanks to Grace UMC and it's congregation for your generous and consistent partnership in our ministry. We cannot overstate how much that has meant to us. Please receive our deepest thanks and warm words of encouragement. Even during these crazy times, God is at work in the lives of young men and women, changing their course and focus to his Kingdom purposes Thanks for your investment in his work through us, but also in the lives of everyone in the valley.

Hopefully, we can visit with you in the coming months to share first-hand an update on our Ministry efforts.

Partners with you in the Gospel,
John & Rachael Biddle

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## **Dear friends at Grace UMC**

Just wanted to express our heartfelt thanks for all the cards, the prayers, and the meals that were provided during our family's recent string of Covid-19 related hospitalizations. Each and every one was very much appreciated. Pam, Jim, and Josh Mauser

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Thought for the day:
When you can't find the sunshine... be the sunshine.

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**To Our Church Family,**

We just wanted to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the many prayers and concerns, cards, calls, acts of kindness, and visits shown to Paul and the family during his hospitalization and since his return home during his convalescence. Everything is deeply appreciated.

**Paul & Joanne Chubb and family**

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Dear Friends at Grace UMC,

We cannot begin to thank you enough for all of your prayers of healing following Lois' brain aneurism surgery. Know that they were of great comfort to us all. God heard your voices, and Lois is doing better, though it will be a long road of recovery. May God bless each one of you !

Lois and Jim Watson and family

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**Thanks to Our Maintenance Man, Jim Carvell**

.... who continues to showcase his many talents with a brush, a roller, and a whole lot of paint!

Be sure to check out his handiwork as you move throughout our building, and then make an effort to share your appreciation with him !!!

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A Service Opportunity:
Why Not Brighten Someone's Day
by Sending Them a Card?



- June 1 - Laura Troutman
- June 2 - Tanner Prouse
- June 4 - Sam Scheib, Ryan Scheib
- June 5 - Nicole Hooper, Dave Gilmore,
John Spicher, Brayden Zapotok
- June 8 - Donna Shrawder, Zachary Leaman
- June 11 - Jayne Harman
- June 12 - Garret Leshko, Darlene Schaffner
- June 13 - Diane Zimmerman
- June 14 - Hunter Reed, Tim Scheib
- June 16 - Lydia Heim, Dalton Paul
- June 17 - Wyatt Strauser
- June 18 - Lacey Fulkroad
- June 19 - Tracy Barcavage, Evan Herb,
Heather Kauffman, Kaleb Prouse
- June 20 - Jim Hoffman
- June 22 - Linda Davis
- June 24 - Nancy Coyle, Millie Fulkroad, Karen Travitz
- June 25 - Ashley Oxenrider
- June 26 - Grant Matter, Shawn White, Cameron Snyder
- June 27 - Dee Miller
- June 28 - Bryan Bowman, Doug Snyder
- June 29 - Kathy Weiss
- June 30 - Mark Himmelreich



Tom & Tina Billow	Brian & Jessica Paul
Erik & Janel Bolig	Jamie & Jessica Paul
Dennis & Margaret Bowman	Jason & Jaci Petroff
Roger & Stephanie Carl	Ken & Pam Rudy
Eric & Tracy Erdman	Andy & Tammy Schade
John & Janet Haines	Duane & Jeanette Snell
John III & Sara Haines	Brock & Kristen Snyder
Scott & Gail Hill	Tim & Karen Travitz
Mark & Debbie Himmelreich	Dave & Pam Troutman
Becky & Brian Hoch	Scott & Shannon Vallier
Robert & Jennifer Leshko	Jeff & Patty Weibner
Doug & Barb Zapotok	
Ed & Karen Miller	



August 9th - 13th
Helpers and volunteers needed

Please call either Tina Fetter (717) 395-0498
or Tracy Barcavage (717) 896-2564
to sign-up to help.


Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

		1 7:00 VBS Planning	2
6 Blessing of the Mission Participants	7 Youth Mission Trip	8 Youth Mission Trip 6:30 pm ~ Trustee Mtg.	9 Youth Mission
13 6-8:00 pm Youth Group	14	15 6:30 pm~ Finance Mtg.	16 Annual Clergy
20 Father's Day Youth Mission Sunday 6-8:00 pm Youth Group	21	22 6:30pm - NO Ad Council	23
27 6-8:00 pm Youth Group	28	29	30

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3	4	5
Trip	10 Youth Mission Trip	11 Youth Mission Trip 6pm—Rehearsal /Dinner Scheib Wedding	12 Youth Mission Trip Scheib Wedding
Conference	17	18 Annual Conference	19 Annual Conference
	24 5 pm ~ Hearts of Grace Distribution	25	26
		June 2021	

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox News

It is once again time to start planning for this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection. We will again this year begin by collecting one or two items each month in preparation for our fall packing drive.

For the month of June, we will be collecting both little boys and little girls underpants. Sizes would range from size 4 through 16 or small, medium, and large.

The second item we will be collecting this month is children's socks for both girls and boys.

Please pray about what God is calling you to contribute, and deposit your items in the red bin by the office marked OCC. Please feel free to add to the box anything you might have purchased for the shoe boxes. You are not restricted to just the items listed above.

Thank you for supporting this vital ministry to underprivileged children around the world. If you would like to help, but can't get out to shop for items, please feel free to put a contribution in the offering and mark it for OCC contribution.

Thank you,
The OCC Shoebox team

NOTE: If you would be interested in being a part of the OCC team for this year, please contact either Lisa Van Olden (717) 649-8931 or Cathy Atchison (717) 692-2896. Both have been truly blessed by OCC Ministry!

POWER *of* PRAYER

**You are encouraged to hold the
following people up in prayer:**

Recent Requests:

Janine Davis
Ron Brooks
Beth Spicher
Nancy Coyle
Jim Coyle
Carl Eiswerth, Jr
Helen Stroecker
Paula and Jeff Snyder
Charlie Lebo
Polly Rubendall
Diane Tobias
Mike Kelly
Laney Cambell
A co-worker Lisa
Tammy Pottiger
Aaron Troutman family
Heggins fatal fire family

Ongoing Requests / Continued Healing / Recovering

Jim Turnbaugh
JoAnne Wilt
Edna Margolis
Alison Horchler
Sandy Romberger

Barb Douty
Greg Shertzer
Donna Shrawder
Hilbert Moyer
Eleanor Ramberger
Jenn Womer
Chad Lebo
Brooke Jury
Don Markel
Tammy Dalton
Roy Witmer
Marsha Troutman
Angela Seebaugh
Dana Foltz
Jim Hockenstein
Simon Campbell
Marsha Michael
Larry Paul
Brad White
Bradley Deitrich
Cathy Atchison
Janet Rush
Sherry Davis
Paul & Joanne Chubb
Pearl Chubb
Jim and Pam Mauser
Josh Mauser
Ed Webster

Views from the Council Table

from **Alicia Spicher, Jr. / Sr. High Youth Ministries**

It is no easy feat, to be responsible for the working of our mission at Grace UMC, as well as its parishioners. What a huge responsibility! Please know that we try very hard to remember that, especially when making decisions that affect the entire ministry of Grace church - one that has been tested even more over this past year.

We, as a council, thank you all for your patience and support of our work over this very difficult season. Please know our goal is to align our work here in Grace church with His intention for us: being His hands and feet and growing His Kingdom in the process. Your prayers for guidance, discernment and endurance are much appreciated. Blessings.

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*rom* **Sue Rubendall, Egg Task Force representative:**

Returning to join our church family for in person worship has been a wonderful time for our whole family. Seeing those friendly faces of our fellow Grace church members and visitors brings a feeling of belonging that I was not aware that I was missing until we walked into our first service after receiving our vaccinations. The Grace Church Sanctuary was a place of immediate warmth and welcome from friends and our gracious God...just what we all need!

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from **Holly Kerwin, member at large:**

As a member of Ad Council for many years, I have to say this past year was one of the most difficult. Every month, our main focus was on when and how to safely reopen, in light of the virus that hadn't disappeared. We asked for God to guide us as we tried to balance safety concerns with the desire to be a unified church body back in fellowship with each other. Now that things are opening up, we have been deliberating as to whether we should have a goal of continuing with one service or returning to two services plus Zoom? We are always glad to hear all church members' suggestions and thoughts and if there are younger members of our church who would like to serve on Ad Council, that would be great.

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*from* **Mark Dreher, SPRC chairperson:**

I just wanted to touch base with everyone at Grace Church from the Staff Parish Relations Committee. As my first year on the committee, and also as committee chairperson, I am still in the process of getting up to speed. I have been made aware that a few things that were being discussed that got put on hold due to Covid-19. My hope is to have these discussions continue. One thing for sure that I know we need to continue to work on is better communication within our church family. But let us commit to continue to pray for Grace Church, Pastor Alan, and all the committees within the church. I strongly believe growth will come in many ways to the church, *IF* we sincerely seek the Lord's guidance in all things. As a current contemporary Christian song says, "Love God and love people". Let us at Grace Church strive to live that out.

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Views from the Council Table

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from **Karen Travitz, Finance Committee :**

A couple of months ago, Ad Council made a decision to go to one service. As a board, we really struggled with this decision and with the question of how do we meet everyone's needs? We decided that with the ongoing challenges presented by Covid-19, and having to limit the number of people being able to attend, this was a good opportunity to try to re-develop a sense of unity within our church family.

It is difficult if you always attend one service to know or get to know people from the other service. It is a very difficult task as a board to try to foster a sense of unity within our church and somehow get people involved in helping in the vision to grow our church. In hindsight, I'm not sure we accomplished that goal.

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*from* **Beth Spicher - Recording Secretary:**

I am the recording secretary for our church's Admin Council. I had always wondered the purpose of the council. Just what does it do? Perhaps you have wondered, as well? The Council is the primary decision maker of the business side of our church, including looking after the well-being of our congregates.

The council has subcommittees such as Staff Parish, Finance, Trustees, Christian Education, and Missions. There are representatives from each of these committees at each meeting, as well of any church member who cares to sit in or has concerns/input that affects our congregation.

This past year, Covid-19 impacted the operations of our church enormously. We spent numerous anxiety-filled hours discussing how to keep our congregation intact after the mandated shutdown implemented by our Governor, and backed by our Bishop. Yes, we lost some members, and group programing has suffered, but there have also been many blessings! Modern technology was a God-send,



allowing our Pastor to be able to share God's Word through our virtual Zoom services to people and places never thought possible!

We are thankful that in-person worship is now happening and that Zoom worship continues for all who want to participate. But we need your help ! As members of our congregation, you are called to be involved. We are in need of volunteers to help with Sunday School classes for children and adults, as well as people to help lead small group studies. Our goal is to have everyone actively engaged in some way, as we seek to minister to the community in life-giving and life-changing ways.

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from **John Ramberger, Mission Committee:**

The Mission Commission continues to be thankful for your faithfulness in giving! Thanks to your generosity, our covenants and commitments are being fulfilled, and we are on track to meet our 2021 Mission goals. We hope to be able to respond to appeals as we receive them.

As we slide into the summer months, the Missions Committee is already making plans to put up the Christmas Tree... Yikes ! Seriously, our Christmas in July fundraiser this year will benefit UMCOR , the United Methodist Committee On Relief. All monetary gifts received will be donated to those in need that have been hit by natural disasters and are struggling to get back to a normal daily life (whatever that looks like...).

By way of an update, our Blanket Drive during Lent amassed an amazing \$1120.00, which has been forwarded to Church World Services to be used for the purchase of blankets for individuals in need.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK !!!!

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## **Some Final Thoughts .....**

A church is no different than any group of people - be it a workplace, social setting, or sports team. We all have different personalities; sometimes they mesh and sometimes they don't. It is human nature to think that our ideas or solutions to any situation are the best. We become frustrated when others don't see things as we see them. How many times do we see the speck in our brother's eye and miss the plank in our own? More than ever, I believe it became evident this past year.

In the spring of 2020, as Covid restrictions were in full swing, I really believed that this awful virus was going to be unifying as we all struggled with isolation and loneliness. But combined with a climate of unrest across the nation, I think in many ways it has become just the opposite. I found myself reading and hearing things I never thought people would say. We have become so passionate about what is going on around us that it has, in many ways, created a challenge for the administrative council.

The ad council is the governing body of the church. Committee heads, appointed members and the pastor come together to discuss the concerns of the church. As a group we then vote on how to move forward with the issues at hand. Covid brought about some deep and intense discussions as well as some difficult votes. In the beginning it was issues such as do we open or do we close, and if we open, when is best and how do we keep people safe? How do we continue to gather tithes so we can pay the bills? What ministries should we continue? What would seem like a simple decision became complicated when you had people who viewed the answers to these questions from different directions.

Once the church opened, the questions became a little more difficult. How do we justify two services when we only have twenty people attending? What do we do about the children and a program for them? Every discussion we held and every vote we took focused on the possible effect it would have on our congregation.

Now that people are getting vaccinated and feeling more comfortable about getting out, our Ad Council finds itself working to get the church back to as “normal” as possible. But even “normal” has its challenges. We have lost families and individuals to other churches, as we remained closed while others stayed open. How do we move forward? How do we make sure that, first and foremost, our current members remain a priority - but not lose sight of the need to rebuild in the years to come? The answers are no easier now than they were a year ago. I encourage you to seek out someone on the ad council and have a conversation with them if you have thoughts and ideas about how to best move forward. We need your input in order to move on in a way that is best for the church. We need everyone to help us do that. We are, as a committee, made up of individuals with different beliefs. I know that I have had times when I struggled with separating my opinions about what is best for the church with what truly IS the best for the church. Decisions were made with which I didn’t agree and I struggled to understand why people thought the way they did. But when I take the time to still my mind, focus not on my selfish desires, but on the church - OUR church and the people I have come to call family - I know that using my voice to do what is collectively best for all of us is what God is asking me to do. I believe he is calling on all of us to become united in Him. When we do, everything will fall into place.

Respectively,

Debb Bowman