



**Grace UMC News
October 2024**

The October 2024 Newsletter of Grace United Methodist Church

Pastor - Alan Atchison

Secretary - in transition

Custodian - Pat Guarneri

Maintenance - Mike Liddick

Organist - Charlotte Gingrich

Noah's Crew Preschool -

Lisa VanOlden and Robin Willier

Grace Kids -

Diane White

Elementary/Middle School -

Alex & Jon Martin

Jr./Sr. High Youth Ministries -

Tracy Wertz & Bobbi Jo Riden

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★ Mark Your Calendars ★



Our 2024 Church Conference will be held on Saturday, October 12th at 11 AM in the sanctuary.

We will be hosting the other area churches for a time of worship and a short message from our Harrisburg District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Gary Weaver.

Please mark your calendar, and plan to attend.



As we enter October, we are once again preparing for our annual shoebox collection.

This year brings with it many changes.

As a result of the decisions proposed and adopted at our 2024 UMC General Conference, we are no longer able to serve as a shoebox collection site for the Northern Dauphin County.

We will, however, continue to make empty shoeboxes available, so that you might continue to pack your own, and return them to the church, so that we might pray over them and bless them as part of our continuing support for this amazing and life-changing program.

Empty shoeboxes will be available in the church overflow in October and November.



The Sacrament of Holy Communion

will be celebrated
at ALL SERVICES on

World Communion Sunday - Oct 6th

All-Saint's Sunday - Nov 3rd

1st Sunday of Advent - Dec 1st

SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE READERS



Can you read? If so, you are the perfect person to read scripture during the 10:30 service.

It's time again to create our schedule. We have lost quite a few volunteers this year, and would love to fill those spaces. Names will be rotated alphabetically throughout the calendar year.

The more people we can get, the fewer times you will have to read. If you are already a scripture reader, you don't need to do anything more. Your name will be kept on the list. If you no longer want to read, just let me know and your name will be removed. I want to have all the changes in place by the middle of October, so please talk to me by then. Thank you for your continued support of this program. -Debb Bowman 717-877-5761



GRACE UMC's Annual Fall Fish Fry

Friday, Sept 27th

Friday, Oct 11th

Friday, Oct 25th

Serving from 4pm until it's GONE !

ALL ORDERS WILL BE DRIVE-THRU / TAKE OUT

The Grace UMC Church Choir

is currently sharing their gifts and talents and love of singing twice monthly. There are still some empty seats in the choir loft, so feel free to join in. We practice every other Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the chapel. Please call Debb Bowman, Cheryl Ibberson, or Karen Travitz for more information.



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



COMMUNITY CLOTHING CLOSET

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
10AM ~ 4PM**

**OPEN TO ALL. FREE CLOTHING CLOSET FOR ALL
AGES. ITEMS INCLUDE CLOTHING, SHOES, LINEN
AND TOWELS**

WE ARE EXCITED !!!!!

Grace UMC has recently partnered with the YMCA in Elizabethtown to offer some new opportunities for growth and fellowship.

We will be hosting a new **ZUMBA class** on Thursday evenings in the Family Life Center from 6 - 7pm, led by Beth Davis.

There will be a new **Middle School Volleyball** program in the Family Life Center on Tuesday evenings from 6 - 8 pm, led by Ryan Shoop.

And finally, there will be an ongoing 4-week series of active **parenting classes** held on Sunday afternoons from 4 - 6pm, as well as weekly parenting classes on Wednesday evening - all aimed at helping parents become more involved in their children's lives.

YEE - HAW !!!!!

We will once again hold a Halloween Trunk or Treat event in our parking lot on October 16th from 6 - 8 pm.



Please consider decorating your car trunk, and /or providing treats for the community children.

Note that there is also a collections box in the church entryway for candy donations. With your help, there will be goodies for everyone!

Please call Tracy Wertz (717-508-6575) for details, or with any questions.

October Anniversaries

Willard & Judy Stoneroad 10/04

Doug & Kathy Weiss 10/06

Paul & Joanne Chubb 10/06

Brad & Brenda Kessler 10/08

Don & Peg Lebo 10/26



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 1 Julie Ellis
Ed Miller

Oct. 2 Troy Rowe
Andy Schade
Ruth Wilt

Oct. 3 Danielle Sass
Taryn Wherry

Oct. 4 Connie Bednar
Robin Rowe

Oct. 6 Emily Lepone

Oct. 7 Cody Hepner

Oct. 9 Kendra Rudisill

Oct. 15 Ryan Shoop

Oct. 17 Terry Kerwin
Bobbie Prouse

Oct 18 Trish Lauchle

Oct. 19 Jim Coyle
Emily Ellis
Vicki Kintzer

Oct. 20 Tom DeWees
Summer Oxenrider
Cindy Teats
Lindsay Hepner

Oct. 22 Joanne Wilt

Oct. 26 Mark Dreher

Oct. 27 Phyllis Warfel
Trina Bellis
Doug Savidge

Oct. 31 Larry Bellis
Tom Bowman

Over 80 Club

Marie Messersmith 10/20

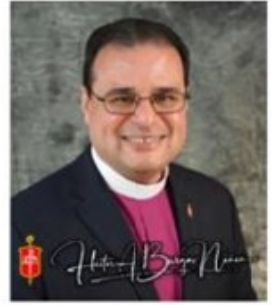
Joanne Wilt 10/22

Dan Crabb 10/21

Over 90 Club

Polly Rubendall 10/01

Meet and Greet our new Bishop
Sunday, October 13th at 3pm
at Otterbein UMC, Carlisle, PA



All are invited to meet and greet our new Bishop, Bishop Hector A. Burgos Nunez, whom has been assigned to us as of Sept. 1st, 2024. We will be sharing him with the Upper New York Conference.

Hearts of *Grace*

We continue to do our best to feed individuals in our community - from 40 to 50 households once a month. From aging adults to young children, there is a need for nutritious food. Monetary donations are used to purchase fresh meat, milk, eggs and cheese. Canned and dry items are used from the grocery carts placed throughout our church. We also purchase items from the Central Pa Food Bank to supplement our dry goods donations. We greatly appreciate your continued support of our ministry. **Note that It is getting more difficult to find certain items to fill our boxes. We are seeking dessert items such as cake mixes and icing, brownie mixes, cookie mixes. We are also still in need of jelly and instant mashed potatoes.**

If you need help, or have questions, please contact John Ramberger, Diane Nestler, Janine Boyer, Debb Bowman, Carol and Terry Uhler, Karen Travitz, Mark Dreher or Beth Spicher. You can also contact the church secretary or Pastor Alan.

The next food box distribution is Thursday, October 21, 2024



October 2, 2024 - Normal Youth group 6-8pm

October 9, 2024 - Hay Ride 6-8pm

October 16, 2024 - Millersburg Halloween Parade 6-8pm

We will be riding on the church float.

October 23, 2024 - Trunk or Treat 6-8 - church parking lot

October 30, 2021 - Normal Youth group 6-8pm OR

Hay Ride Rain Date

**Thank You for supporting the Fall Mum Fundraiser !!!!
101 Mums Sold !!!**

FALL BOOK / BIBLE Study

Laurel Kolva will be facilitating an in-depth discussion of the book **The Power of the Names of the Holy Spirit** by Tony Evans. Meeting dates will be on Tuesdays at 2pm in the church library.

Weis Gift Cards

are available in denominations of \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.

weis
quality since 1912

5% of your purchase gets donated to GUMC Youth
Please contact Tracy Wertz or Scott Teats to purchase.

Just For You



The school year is in full swing, and JFY packing is back for the school year. October JFY packing will be held on Monday, Oct. 7 at 3:00 in the lobby of the New Life Center.

We welcome all those who wish to help. Below are the dates for the rest of the year. Please feel free to come as you can.

I want to thank the Zion Rife and Salem Lutheran Churches for making our JFY program the recipient of their *God's Hands, Our Work* program. They collected and donated items for the bags, and several persons came and participated in our September packing. I am amazed at the love our community and other churches have for the children of the school district. God continues to provide for this very important program.

As always, I appreciate your prayers for the program, and your donations through your envelope. You are all a blessing.

With thanks in Christ,
-Debb Bowman

Future Packing Dates: November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 6.

A Season of Change
The image features a title "A Season of Change" in a white, serif font with a subtle drop shadow, set against a background of vibrant autumn leaves in shades of orange, red, and yellow. The leaves are scattered across the top of the page, with one large maple leaf prominently displayed on the right side. The overall aesthetic is warm and seasonal.

At this time of the year, change seems to come to pass a little faster. The days - once stretching into the evening hours, seem to retreat more and more quickly with each passing day. The air, which one day might seem comfortable in just shirt sleeves, may just as easily the next bite through the layers that we have chosen to wear. It serves as a not-so-subtle reminder that fall is surely here.

Leaves begin to loose their grip on the branches that have so strongly held them in place - allowing them to flourish and dance in the breeze as they flaunt their colors for all to see. The grass, once watered by summer rains, no longer has need of a weekly trimming. Flowers and plants begin to drop their seeds - trusting that the cold, hard earth will keep them safe until they are ready to sprout forth after a long winter's nap. Is that the prancing of hooves on the rooftop that I hear? All too soon, I expect that day will come, as well.

As the years slip slowly by, I've come to understand that change is a necessary part of life - not always welcome, mind you - but necessary. Our hearts long for the comfortable spaces, and the easy pace of life that so easily seduces us into a sort of melancholy existence. And in the midst of that sweet soothing of our souls, it becomes easy to get stuck in the comfort of our days - so much so that we slowly begin to forget the excitement that we once thrived on. No longer do we long for the promise of adventure, or the thrill of the unknown. Instead, we begin to dread new adventures, and fear the unknown, and long for the comfortable. But such are the days of our lives.

Isn't it funny how some of those common phrases from the past seem to suddenly rush into our present? The Days of Our Lives. Long before there was reality TV, there were daytime soap operas that entertained millions with a daily dose of unexpected drama. Sadly, the drama that once was found only on our TV screens has made it's way into the reality of our lives.

And that drama has changed the landscape of our country just as drastically as it has changed the landscape of our churches. Many of the chapels and sanctuaries that once stood as a testimony of our faith have been silently shuttered and forgotten in the minds and hearts of the people who gathered there for worship each Sunday. They sit quietly by - paint peeling from their once-white clapboards, waiting for the continual march of rot and decay to slowly consume their once-strong timbers. Everything has a season.

These past few months have been a particularly difficult season to navigate: Long-time friends have parted ways - each assured that their way is the right one. What was once warm and familiar and comfortable has become cold and un-inviting. Summer has given way to fall, and winter is surely coming. The most difficult season to navigate is just around the bend. But beyond the bend; beyond where we can see; beyond the cold, and the darkness, and the loneliness - lies the promise of a new day. It is the very thing that our hearts long for, and yet are afraid to embrace - because it is unknown. Only God knows what lies in store for each of us. May you muster enough courage to stand in the rawness of the moment - trusting Him to provide the layers that you need, and the warmth that you so desperately crave.

Pastor Alan