

Celebrating God's Provision

A Newsletter from
Grace UMC Millersburg
November 2024

Connecting This Fall at 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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Reflections

from the Pastor's Desk

This has been a year filled with change. Some of it has been perceived as good, and some... well, not so good. As I reflected on some of the things that have transpired in our church, and in our community, I was reminded of a skit that was a regular part of the Hee-Haw variety show that ran on CBS back in the 70's, featuring Roy Clark and Archie Campbell, called "That's Good!"/ "No - That's Bad!". The premise of the comedy skit was that our perceptions of an event can be quite different - depending on whether they are based on our understandings *in that moment*, or our ability to know what follows. Unfortunately, none of us knows what lies around the next bend in the road of our lives. It could be a large inheritance that we never expected, or a medical diagnosis that we never saw coming. But the constant in all of those things; in all of life's unexpected twists and turns - is that there is One who **DOES KNOW!**

And the promise He makes to us is this: "No matter what, ***I will be there.*** It does not matter if you can see My hand at work, or sense Me in the midst of your current circumstances - I AM working for your good. And whether I choose to involve you in my working, or choose you to just be the passive recipient of my blessing - I am not absent, nor am I idle."

What some people perceive to be the destruction of the UMC, others perceive to be a time of pruning - one that will eventually yield a stronger and more vibrant crop of disciples and disciple-makers. While some continue to mourn the loss of friends and family and long-standing relationships, others have perceived the recent changes as an opportunity to welcome new folks into our midst, and into positions of ministry in new and exciting ways. It really does depend on your ability to see beyond the veil; to glimpse what God's heart is for His people, and for their working in the world.

It's not been an easy road to navigate - that's for certain. But in the midst of the turmoil - there have been glimmers of hope, and a strong and steady presence of God's Holy Spirit in our gatherings, and in our work. And that, my friends, is surely something to celebrate!

Your Giving-Thanks Pastor,
Alan

**Harvest Home Celebration
Sunday is November 24th.**



We will be collecting canned goods (vegetables, fruit, beans, and soups) ; Dry goods (noodles, rice, pasta, flour, sugar, and Mac & Cheese) ; Peanut Butter & Jelly; Boxed Cereal; and bottles of juice (apple, cranberry, grape, orange, etc). Please place your items around the altar anytime after Monday, **Nov. 4th**. All food will be distributed through our own Hearts of Grace to folks and families in need.



HOLY COMMUNION

will be celebrated on November 3rd in conjunction with the Celebration of All-Saints Sunday, and then again on December 1st in conjunction with the 1st Sunday of Advent. Please mark your calendars, and plan to attend!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT ANOTHER
GREAT FISH FRY SEASON !



YOU ARE
O'FISH'ALLY
Awesome!

MANY THANKS to Nancy Coyle, a member of the missions committee, who has sewn together 220 shorts sets which have been shipped to Indian Mobile Mission in Snowflake AZ.

Kudos on using your sewing skills to help children in need of clothing.



t h a n k y o u

I am so appreciative as your pastor for all the cards, gifts, notes of encouragement, and well-wishes extended to me over this past month. I am really so blessed to be able to serve among you all!

Pastor Alan



Hearts of Grace Food Ministry

We continue in our mission to help provide supplemental food for both individuals and families in our community. We currently average between 45 and 50

households each month. Monetary donations are used to purchase fresh meat, milk, eggs and cheese. Canned and dry items come from the grocery carts placed throughout our church, as well as from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

With the Holidays approaching, we appreciate all the donations you can help to provide. As always, Jelly seems to always be in short supply on our shelves. We are also asking for gravy - either chicken or turkey, in cans, jars, or powered mix.

Boxes of stuffing mix, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, and dessert items (brownie mix, cake mixes, cans of icing, and cookie mix are always welcome).

We are also grateful to be one of the recipients of our local Boy Scout troop's community canned goods annual collection. Their partnership will help to feed hungry families throughout our area over the winter months.

Thanksgiving distribution is Thursday, November 21st.

JFY PACKING



Our November JFY packing will be on Monday, November 4 at 3:00 in the lobby of the Family Life Center. We are currently

packing for 68 students per week. This is just a small percentage of the number of free and reduced lunch students that are in our district - which includes almost 43% of our student enrollment. We are touching only a small percent of those kids. Please keep these kids in your prayers.

As most of us go to bed each night with full bellies, I think it's easy to forget those that aren't as blessed.

As always, I am grateful for your support of our program - whatever that looks like. Thank you all.

With thanks in Christ,
Debb Bowman



Our Next Fellowship Meal will be held on Sun., Nov. 10th, following a combined worship service. It will feature a Potato Bar with all the toppings. See the sign-up sheets in the church entryway.



Food for Thought Bible Study is currently be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. This month's study will be held at 7pm at Diane Nestler's home.

If you would like more information, please call Holly Kerwin at 717-877-6883. Everyone is welcome.

Pack a Shoebox. Change a Life.



This year has also brought a lot of changes to this amazing ministry.

Although Grace UMC will no longer be serving as an area collections hub, we still encourage you to participate in this worthwhile and life-changing effort. Tracy Wertz has agreed to step in to oversee our shoebox packing efforts this year. Empty shoeboxes are available at the display in the church overflow area for your convenience. Filled boxes are due back before Sunday, Nov. 17th, when we will pray over them before delivering them to Riegel's Bible Fellowship, where they will be packed into cartons and then delivered to the Harrisburg HUB.

May God continue to bless this ministry, and the lives of the children around the world who will receive them.



Decorating for Christmas

We will be decorating the church on Monday, Nov. 25 at 4:00pm.

A light meal will be served at 5:30.

Please come and join us for a fun time of fellowship. Even if you can't come for the whole time, we can use your help. There are many different types of jobs that range from sitting to arranging and climbing ladders. It takes about 25 people to complete the decorating in a timely manner.

Please sign the sheet in the front entrance, or call Karen Travitz at 717-418-1561 to volunteer.

THANK YOU

Thank You for your prayers, cards, and messages after my brother Walt Bingaman's passing. Duane and I are very blessed to have the support of caring people like you.

Jeanette Snell and family of Walter J. Bingaman

Women

Encouraging Women

Building Relationships
Building Community

**Just two more months with your current secret sister.
Continue to pray for and encourage one another.**

**Anyone interested in having a secret sister for 2025,
please give Laurel Kolva your name by December 15th.**



Beginning in January

Have you ever wanted to get to know God and His Word? Whether you're brand-new to the Bible, or you grew up in the second pew, reading Scripture can feel confusing or boring at times.

The Bible Recap follows a chronological Bible reading plan with notes that help to explain and connect the story of Scripture, section by section.


We will meet on Tuesdays from 10 AM to 11:30 AM, beginning January 7, 2025. Sign up in the church lobby, or call Deb Goudy at 717-919-2330 to register.



Happy Birthday

- Nov. 1 Jane Hubler
- Nov. 2 Faith Zehring
- Nov. 7 Roger Carl
- Nov. 13 Thomas DeWees
- Nov. 14 Scott Hill II , Kami Nestler
- Nov. 17 Joanne Chubb
- Nov. 18 Tim Travitz
- Nov. 19 Brian Hoch
- Nov. 20 Ken Rudisill
- Nov. 22 Tammy Schade
- Nov. 23 Diane Tobias
- Nov. 24 James Mauser
- Nov. 26 Pat Hoffman
- Nov. 28 Kirby Tobias
- Nov. 29 Joshua Hoke
- Nov. 30 Dawn Leer

Happy Anniversary To:

- Nov. 1 Scott & Cindy Teats
Eric & Tiffany Fite
Andrew and Sally Hilla
 - Nov. 15 Alvin & Donna Baker
 - Nov. 18 Ryan & Barbara Shoop
 - Nov. 20 James & Nancy Coyle
 - Nov. 27 Albert & Lisa VanOlden
 - Nov. 30 Larry & Deanna Bellis
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2024 Egg Project Proceeds Distribution



One of the things that I am so proud of, is the way that the people of Grace UMC and those that come to help give of their time and energies to help support mission and ministry in and around our local communities. With that being said, here is the list of recipients of the proceeds of this year's Egg Project:

Community Needs	\$ 3000
Lifeline Pregnancy Center	\$ 1000
Youth Ministry Projects	\$ 1000
Millersburg Ferry Boat Assoc	\$ 1000
Millersburg Community Pool	\$ 2000
Noah's Crew Preschool Scholarships	\$ 4000
Children's Ministry Projects	\$ 1000
Northern Dauphin Community Cares	\$ 1000
Salem Lutheran Church	\$ 500
Jeff Wommer Medical/Travel Expenses	\$ 500
Millersburg Ambulance Assoc	\$ 500
Millersburg Fire Co.	\$ 500
Capital Spending Projects	\$ 12000
Monies Raised and Disbursed	\$ 28,000

All this because of your generous support of the Missions and Ministries of Grace UMC !!!!

Blessed to Serve,
The Egg Task Force



Once again this year we will be placing Christmas card collection bags in the overflow area. There will be a bag labeled for each member or friend that resides in a nursing home or at Polk Assisted Living. If you would like to add the name of a family member or friend to the card wall that was not on in the past year, please contact Jane Hepner at (717) 381-6958. A list of names will also be available for you to take home. Please bring your completed cards beginning Sunday, December 1st. They will be delivered following worship on Sunday, December 22nd. If you would be willing to help deliver, please contact Pastor Alan at (570) 847 - 2939.

Our Annual Christmas Dinner

will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 15th**, following a **Combined service at 10:30am**. If you are interested in donating a turkey, or preparing a turkey, please contact Deanna Bellis at 717-692-3540. We also need volunteers to help set up, prepare food, serve the meal, and clean up afterwards.



Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Last Day to order is November 20th

\$10.00 each

Check One

White

Red

Pink

Ice Punch

Total \$ _____

Your Name

Check One

In Memory of In Honor of

Name of Person Honoring

A Gift to Missions In Lieu of a Poinsettia

Deadline to give to Missions is December 15th



In Lieu of a Poinsettia

My Gift is

\$ _____

Your Name

Check One

In Memory of In Honor of

Name of Person Honoring

Please Drop this completed form in the Offering Plate, place in the door box at the church office, or you can call Pastor Alan with your request. He can be reached at (570) 847-2939.