

**FEBRUARY 2023**  
**Volume 4, Issue 2**

# Amazing Grace

**Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive**

Happy February all! I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: the one who gives life, sustains, and ushers salvation to the world. Grace and peace to each of you.

Did you know that it does not matter how many times we read God's story in His Word there is always something new that we did not grab hold of in prior readings? The Holy Spirit brings us fresh revelation each time we go to the Holy Scriptures that informs and directs our lives in amazing ways. The month of February, I have a healthy body on my mind. We are in the middle of our Daniel Plan series, and it is my hope that you are beginning to understand and grab hold of how important it is that we worship God with all of our being, and that includes how we treat our bodies. Our body, is God's gift to us, and we are stewards of it. Rick Warren the pastor of Saddleback Church says "we can reject, mistreat, protect, or perfect our body" Our attitude toward our physical health matters to God.

A key principal comes from Ecclesiastes 4:9 "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor." (NIV) Every instance I have read this verse I have aligned with the strength for Christians to be in relationship to each other. Community is vital to our faith. Jesus tells Peter after the great profession of Jesus's identity "On this rock I will build my church."

(Matt. 16:18, NIV). Here is where the revelation comes to the forefront (revelation meaning unveiling). We come together not in our strength so as to be more strong but we gather because of our weakness. It is in our weakness we realize our need for God's strength, in our weakness we depend on others! Paul tells the church in Corinth "...my power is made perfect in weakness" I think about how we describe Jesus in scripture. First God comes into the world not brandishing strength and power but helplessness and utter weakness. Jesus is "the Lamb of God" not a warhorse of God. God defeated the cosmic darkness of sin and death not with an overthrow of power but in Christ's willful surrender of power. This is huge!

I grew up watching wrestling and each participant that entered the ring had a signature power move that would undoubtedly end the match. God's signature power move was not one that displayed worldly strength and bravado but its antithesis. The "Sacrificial Lamb" is Jesus's signature move and through the cross of Christ we are brought together in our human weakness to be a community of faith in weakness so as to be made strong by God's Spirit.

With the Daniel Plan and our journey to lead healthy lives in worship of God, we acknowledge our weaknesses. We acknowledge our struggles, conflicts, and failings. But because of others who also have come into the fold under Jesus we can be raised up to success. Together in Christ through Christ, we are mighty. 1 Ptr 1:3 "God's divine power has us everything we need for life and godliness." (NIV) One of those gifts is the community of believers. The power of groups is vital in our lives. But it is often the most overlooked and under-utilized gifts that the church offers. The Church was Jesus's idea. Jesus knows the importance of community, God exists in the Trinitarian community. When we gather in groups to do life it is our greatest strength because we acknowledge our weakness. Our success is not on ourselves but in God and God's family. The Daniel Plan emphasizes the need for group living. These are the folks who will offer compassion and mercy in our faults and speak truth to power for our success. Get into a group and do not try to live the faithful life in isolation. We need people. Blessings, to each of you and may you be successful on the journey to better health!

Rev. Todd A. Christine



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## Pal Schedule 2023

### Friday's

Mar. 10

Apr. 21

June 2

July 14

### Saturday's

April 29

July 29

Sept. 30

Dec. 30

## Ruth's Harvest

*Begins at 9:30 at St. Matthews*

February - 9

March - 16

May - 4

- 02-01 Nicole Downey  
Paytyn Christine
- 02-03 Mary Zaleskiewicz
- 02-03 Lucas Myers  
Sarah Myers
- 02-07 Louise Bankert  
Josephine Resh
- 02-08 Elaine Foley
- 02-10 Tom Foley  
Chrissy Howard
- 02-11 Scott Kuntz
- 02-12 Randy Hnatkowicz
- 02-14 Kathryn Trump  
Makenzie Yingling
- 02-15 Kim Smith
- 02-16 Alexander Martin
- 02-22 Katherine Blum
- 02-24 Martha Prichard
- 02-25 Scott Miller
- 02-26 Ryan Garrett  
Amanda Myers

# Good Grief

Please join us on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. for the next Good Grief Group meeting. Julia Dunn, from Olivia House, will be our guest speaker for the morning. "What's Next!" will be the title of her presentation. Enjoy fellowship and light refreshments. Hope to see you there!



*Kitchen Clean-up  
will be held on Sat.  
February 11  
starting at 9:00  
a.m. Your help  
is appreciated.*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
Men's Fellowship	Multipurpose Room	First Saturday of the Month @8:00am
Sunshine Stitchers	Resource Room	First and Third Monday @ 10:00am
Defenders of the Faith with Brian Jenkins	Resource Room	Monday's @ 6:30pm
Bible Study with Linda Mohr	Resource Room	Tuesday's @9:30am
Gathering for Prayer	Prayer Room	Tuesday's @10:00am
Bible Study with Sheila Carter	Sanctuary	Tuesday's @11:00am
Mosaic Prayer Group	Multipurpose Room	Tuesday's @5:30pm
Al-Anon	Resource Room	Wednesday's @12:00pm
Choir Practice	Sanctuary	Wednesday's @7:30pm
Praise Team Practice	Sanctuary	Thursday's @6:30pm
Missions	Various Local Locations	Varies
Children's Ministry	Rainbow Room	Sunday's
Music with Mr. Larry and Mrs. Cindy	Resource Room/Choir Room	Sunday's @ 9:40am
Children's Sunday School	Various Room's	Sunday's @ 10:00am
Upper Room	The Upper Room	Sunday's @ 10:30am
Children's Church	Preschool Rooms	Sunday's @ 11:00am
Path Youth	Youth Room	2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 6:00pm
Good Grief	Varies	Varies



## CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

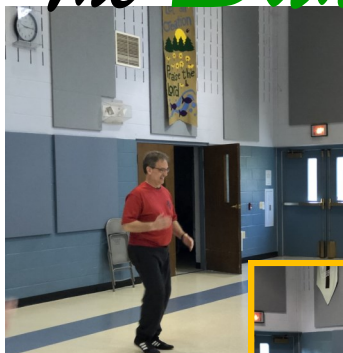
**Chair:** Linda Mixer

**Members:** Denny Blum, Ron Carter, Pastor Todd Christine, Karen Coons, Ed Davis, Duane Myers, Amanda Myers, Amber Quance, Brian Jenkins, Anna Mae Terry and Jim Winbourne

### January

- Two members were appointed to the Council and Welcomed at the January meeting: Anna Mae Terry and Jim Winbourne.
- Staff meetings will now be held on the first Tuesday of the month.
- The Finance Committee recommended all ministries restrict spending to bare minimum until disaffiliation costs are decided.
- The Finance Committee recommended developing a plan to manage the Children's Sunday School Sponsorship for their Compassion Child.
- The 2022 Financial books will be closed Jan. 31, 2023 and the 2022 Audit will take place in February.
- The Navigation Team Reported that Rev. Janet Lord, Global Methodist Church organizer, has been scheduled to speak to the Congregation January 28, 2023 at 10:00 am in the Church Sanctuary. This is open to members and non-members of the church.
- The Congregational member vote to join the Global Methodist Church is scheduled for Sunday Feb. 5th at 3pm in the Church Sanctuary.
- The Rainbow room is being transformed into a nursery. Thank you to those who have assisted with the cleaning and to those who have donated items.
- Horizons Stewardship will be providing a presentation to Council in Feb. regarding a Stewardship Campaign.

## The Daniel Plan



*Thank you to Pastor Mike who was excited to share with and show us ways to maintain our balance.*



*" Making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our community through caring, in-depth Bible study, available to all."*



COMMUNITY  
BIBLE STUDY

*christ*

TUESDAYS FROM 7 - 8 PM  
WE WILL EXPLORE THE BOOK OF DANIEL STARTING  
WEEKLY ON TUESDAY'S THROUGH MAY 2ND  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
PLEASE CONTACT MARY Z.  
MAREZALE@ICLOUD.COM  
443-789-8727







- Clean up of the Rainbow Room and Nursery Room preparation has begun. Deb and Warren Kellenbenz, Dot Johns, Mary Dehoff, Mary Blouse and Anna Mae Terry have been working hard to clean up, clean out and organize room space and closets.
- The Nursery is for babies up to 24 months. We do not have Nursery care volunteers but we will have facilities available for parents/caregivers to take their babies to a room for care and be able to watch the service online while there.
- We are still in desperate need of weekly volunteers in the Rainbow Room or gym (for ages 2 through 4th grade). Can you donate an hour or so every month or every three months?
- We will be having a VBS Meeting on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00. We hope to see you there.

## What Happens During Youth Meetings?

**Dinner:** Students have a chance to hang out, shoot hoops, etc before we gather for supper.

**Activity:** After dinner, we have been trying to have an activity that relates to the lesson. In one of our January meetings the lesson was about "Integrity".

- ◇ The meaning of "integrity"
- ◇ The story of Samuel in 1 Samuel 12:3-4
- ◇ The difference between "reputation" (what other people think of you) and "integrity" (who you are)
- ◇ The benefits of living a life of integrity
- ◇ The meaning of "hypocrite"
- ◇ What is your integrity worth
- ◇ Step to build/live a life of integrity
- ◇ Final comments

**Next Steps:** Try to have conversations with your kids this week about "integrity" and "hypocrisy". The more repetition, the better. Get to know the people they look up to. Especially why they look up to them. Use the attached Discussion Questions to further the discussion. Help them to understand why it is important to live a life of integrity.



*Path Youth Tuesday Meeting led by Darren and Amber.*

## PATH Youth



Get Connected. Go Deeper.

2nd & 4th Tuesday 6-8pm

*Dinner Provided*

Path Youth is a place where youth from all walks of life come together and learn what it means to walk the path of discipleship. Students grow in their faith by building relationships with God, each other, and their community.

**Contact Darren Myers**  
[dwwmyers9@mygracechurch.org](mailto:dwwmyers9@mygracechurch.org)