

JANUARY 2023
Volume 4, Issue 1

Amazing Grace

Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive

Michelangelo famously responded to a question about how he made such beautiful sculptures. His response has endured history when he said “The sculpture is already complete within the marble block before I start my work. It is already there; I just have to chisel away the superfluous material.” As Christians, we have been made right with God through our faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As John Wesley said we are saved and being saved. Sanctification is the process of being made holy. Jesus tells Nicodemus in John’s Gospel that one must be born of water and the spirit. To be born again is to begin the new creation of who we are in God, through our faith in Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. God has completed His work in us but there remains the removal of the superfluous pieces of us that do not glorify God and bring light to His perfect creation. A hammer is a tool that is associated with construction or destruction—depending on the hammer you use. A sledgehammer is not useful for building but is great for smashing away old concrete blocks and cement. My favorite episode to watch on Fixer Upper is demolition day. The sheer action is just fun to watch. But the hammer used in building or sculpting is much smaller and less violent. But as pieces are put together, and the unnecessary removed there is an element of refinement that takes place. Hammers are capable of great beauty. The Divine hammer and chisel are God’s tools as He shapes and polishes our very being and

brings vitality into our lives. God is the craftsman and is working on each of us by means of grace. Means of grace are the ways in which God touches our lives in special and transformative ways. These are the most potent and powerful activities that we can participate with God in our world. The receiving of Communion, Baptismal acts, Prayer, Bible Study, and corporate worship, are the practices that shape our inner lives.

The New Year brings with it many opportunities. It is my hope that you will be intentional in how you can experience God and be transformed into God’s new creation. Be mindful of what is taking place during Communion, reconnect when we celebrate the Baptismal liturgy, make time for Divine Conversation through prayer, dig deep and study the Bible by yourself or with others, and decide beforehand that you will be in corporate worship in the faith community, and take advantage of all that we have access to lead transformed lives. It is my hope and prayer that we can proclaim with boldness that we have drawn closer to God this year than in years passed. If you would like more resources, it would be my pleasure to provide them.

Oh, and Merry Christmas,



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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



Congregational Care

Making an impact by keeping those connected who are "shut-in"



1-1	Keith Garrett
1-3	Sarah Kaltreider
1-4	Carolyn Clark
1-8	Charlotte Mullinix
	Dellany Parker
1-10	Ruth Howsden
	Beth McCormick
1-12	Susan Johnson
1-13	Donald Pritchard
	Jeanne Weister
	Elaine Wilson
1-15	Stephen Garrett
	Brody Miller
1-16	Rebecca Reed
1-18	Dennis Bollinger
	Thomas Miller
	Patricia Trone
1-19	Iris Kauffman
1-24	Joan Hardee
1-25	Andrew Leonard
1-26	Boyd Callender
	Carey Crumling

On Sunday, December 18th, the Path Youth hosted

an afternoon of Christmas Caroling for our Congregation Care members. It was such a blessing to see the joy on the faces of all the folks we visited.

A thank you letter from on of our members:

Thank you to all the carolers that came to sing at our door on a very cold afternoon - December 18th. We enjoyed it and the nice gift bag. Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all.

Bob and Virginia Kirk



Daniel Plan Faith & Food

Bible Study

Did you know that you are what you eat and food is a natural medicine to a healthier life? Join us this January to learn how the 5 "F's" can help you live a healthier life style. Please sign up by Wednesday, January 11th on the events board.

Six week study beginning January 18th. A Wednesday evening (6:30-8) and a morning class will be offered (day TBD).

#40 Days to a Healthier Life

New Year, New Beginnings

Some may not be aware of all the wonderful things we have to offer here at Grace. Covid may have keep you away from wanting to be more involved or maybe you are new and are looking for something but you are not sure what that something is. Below is a list of groups with the time and location. It is our prayer that if you are not currently involved in a group that you consider trying something new this year.

Group	Location	Time
Men's Fellowship	Multipurpose Room	First Saturday of the Month @8:00am
Sunshine Stitches	Resource Room	First and Third Monday @ 10:00am
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	Shepard Room	Tuesday's @11:00am
Mosaic Prayer Group	Multipurpose Room	Tuesday's @5:30pm
Al-Anon	Resource Room	Wednesday's @12:00pm
Choir Practice	Choir Room	Wednesday's @7:30pm
Praise Team Practice	Sanctuary	Thursday's @6:30pm
Missions	Various Local Locations helping the community	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

Other Ministries at Grace

Prayer Chain

Prayer is a foundation of the Christian faith. Communication with God is a blessing to all and available 24 hours a day. The Prayer Chain exists to intercede on behalf of others who are in need of prayers. We know that personal challenges and world concerns may occur any time of any day. Members of the Prayer Chain understand that their prayers may be needed 365 days a year and on short notice. The Prayer Chain is available for those who feel committed to participate. Feel free to contact Ron Yingling at 717-225-1260 if you wish to participate.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

Partnering with the American Red Cross for many years we have hosted 50 blood drives collecting about 1200 units of blood positively impacting 3000 lives. Blood drives are held from 8 am until 1pm on a Saturday in February, June, and October.

Garden of Grace

Garden of Grace is a mission intent on feeding our community's less fortunate by providing fresh produce grown and maintained in our church garden. Produce is distributed to the YWCA, Hanover Area Council of Churches for their Provide a Lunch (P.A.L.) Program and to New Hope Ministries. Teams meet one day a week to maintain the garden and to engage in fellowship with one another.



Little Dresses For Africa



Turn pillowcases or a yard of two of fabric into dresses To serve the most vulnerable of God's children: little girls A dress can prevent a young girl from being molested or saved from human trafficking.

CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

Chair: Linda Mixer

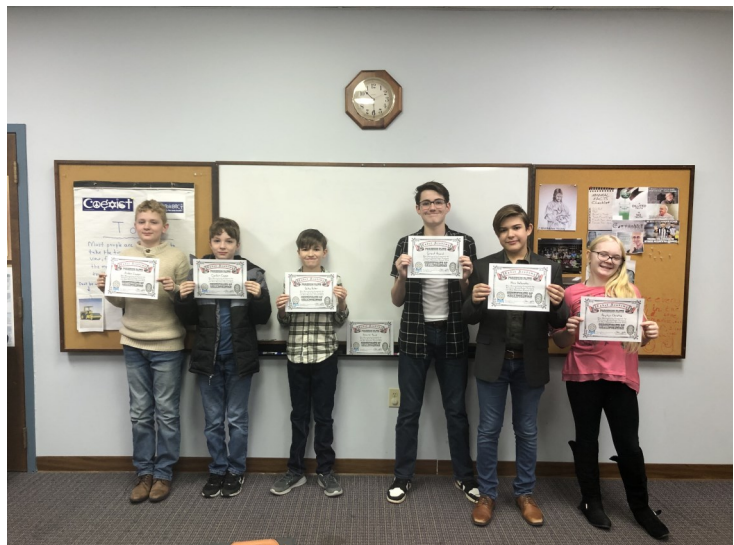
Members: Denny Blum, Ron Carter, Pastor Todd Christine, Karen Coons, Ed Davis, Duane Myers, Amanda Myers, Amber Quance, Brian Jenkins

December

- The Open House was very successful, about 255 people in attendance.
- Council approved changing the name from Budget to Ministry Spending Plan.
- Council approved a Mission budget for the first 6 months of 2023.
- Council approved a General Budget for the first 6 months of 2023.
- 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 Discipleship Team reported that the Daniel plan bible study is ready to start on January 15th.
- At the Church Conference held Dec. 11th at First Church the name change from Grace United Methodist Church to Grace Church Hanover was approved. This change will involve a lawyer filing paperwork with the State. The congregation will be informed when it becomes official.
- The new Church Council was approved for 2023 as follows: Linda Mixer, Amanda Myers, Amber Quance, Denny Blum, Duane Myers, Jim Winbourne, Anna Mae Terry, Karen Coons, Ron Carter, Brain Jenkins. The Lay Members are Duane Myers and Ron Carter with Linda Mixer as back up
- Council approved adding Ed Davis to the Council as an Ex-Officio Member at Large.

Youth Sunday School “The JP’s”

The “JP’s” graduated from the third and final study of the cadet detective academy titled “Forensic Faith” on December 18th. It was a 10-week class that continued to focus on critical thinking and emphasized a forensic faith to share the truth about Jesus like a real detective. We had a surprise ‘anonymous visitor’ during the graduation class that tested their eye-witness abilities! They did very well. The “JP’s” will begin a whole new series January 8th. Great job everyone!



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH

PATH Youth group will be meeting on a new day beginning in January 2023. We will now get together on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Supper will be provided. For more information, please contact Darren Myers at dwm Myers9@mygracechurch.org

