

JUNE 2023

Volume 4, Issue 6

Amazing Grace

Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive

To the beloved of Grace Church:

Happy month of May in the name of the one who brings us life, vitality, and future—Jesus Christ. It has been an exhausting six months since our decision to separate from the United Methodist Church in December. The tension and stress have been excruciating. I am certain that this atmosphere has matriculated from the highest points of leadership in our church—including myself. There has been a great deal of work going on behind the scenes dealing with attorneys, insurance agencies, the state government, and of course the Susquehanna Annual Conference leadership. We have worked very hard to keep a somber attitude during this time, as you know Grace Church did not make this decision lightly. It has been a very grief filled time with each of us leaving behind a historical relationship with a church that we never imagined would go the direction it is. But today we turn a corner. This past week on May 17th the special session of the Annual Conference approved by a 99% margin the approval of all 141 churches to disaffiliate and formally separate from the conference. So far over 4,000 churches all over the country have done the same. We wish our brethren well and bless them as they continue into their future and we are now focused on ours.

Jeremiah 29:11, is one of my favorite verses. It was written to the Israelite people who were in exile, they found themselves in a strange land and sought to build an identity after they had lost so much. The prophet tells the people the powerful words from God. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.” I can only imagine what these words stirred in the hearts of the people. A people entrenched in grief, loss, and heartache because they were removed from all that they knew were given a great gift. God has promised them He will not forget them. That promise is a promise that we can lean on as well. We have been given a future with prosper and hope. When we are obedient to the will of God and humble ourselves to His word, that promise is what lifts us up. God has great things in store for Grace Church. Isaiah 43:19 “behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” God has given us a hope and a future. On June the 8th we sign the settlement paperwork and July 1st begin a new future in faithful obedience to God and His word. We praise the Lord Jesus Christ for his mercy and grace. We give thanks and receive the power and presence of the Holy Spirit so that as we live into our new identity as a Global Methodist Church God’s rich blessing will spring forth. Be in prayer with me church. Let us pray for God’s anointing on our church, our presence, resources, and service.

In Christ’s Faithful Service



Rev. Todd A. Christine

Inside This Issue

A Message from the
Pastor 1

Birthday's 2

Church News 3

Grace Youth 4



Do you have someone you would like to have featured as our Honorary Member of the Month? If so, please send a picture along with a writeup about the person to be published in next months newsletter. You may send it via u.s. mail, email (kparker@mygracechurch.org or drop it off to the church office.

What is a Vacation?

A vacation is a succession of 2 weeks, which may be 2 short. Afterwards, you are 2 tired 2 return 2 work and 2 broke not 2. Therefore, be sure 2 bring by the church your 2 week's tithe before you leave for 2 weeks. If not, we will be 2 far behind 2 do all the things for the Lord our church wants 2 do!

06-01	Cindy Freet
06-02	Charles Carroll Fredrick Trone
06-03	Lynn Crumling Lisa Dover Erin Trone
06-04	Rebecca Hollinger Eugene Paul
06-05	Richard Dixon
06-06	Dwight Harry Janet Blum
06-09	Judy Largent
06-10	Robert Miller Wilma Lau
06-13	Debbie Kellenbenz
06-14	John Hicks Frank Zeller
06-16	Woodrow Berwager Kathy Gross Mary Hnatkowicz
06-17	Dalton Parker
06-18	Linda Mixer
06-19	Payton Yingling
06-20	Martha Knochel
06-23	Barb Zeller
06-25	Paul Carbaugh Matthew Yiingling
06-26	Beth Paul
06-27	Jacy Miller
06-28	Angie Kaltreider Linda Mohr
06-29	Rhonda Moore
06-30	Wyatt Parker

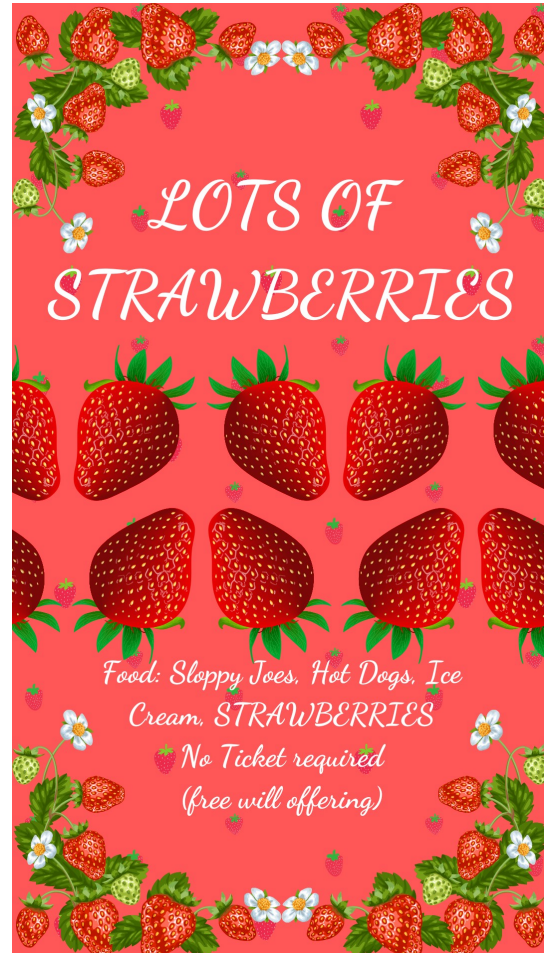


“Every church needs to be able to answer two questions. One, do we have a plan for making disciples? Two, does our plan work?” – Dallas Willard

Christian discipleship is the ongoing life-long self-denying process of learning to live everyday life like Jesus in a relational, intentional, and accountable way,

and then to teach and train others to do so as disciple-makers. Why should all Christians be active disciple-makers? Because Jesus commanded us to do so (Matthew 28:18-20). It is God’s plan to reach the world. The question is not why we don’t make disciples, because we do it daily whether we realize it or not in how we live; the question is why don’t we make disciples of Jesus Christ? Why don’t Christians actively seek to make disciples? Are they too busy, fear rejection, confused on how to start and who to disciple, discouraged because they tried and thought they failed in the past, don’t feel confident and suited to the task, or are they too comfortable where they are? There are many reasons but remember that despite the obstacles, real or not, we are driven by and will sacrifice for the things we love and the convictions we have.

“The invitation to salvation goes to everyone, but it is followed by the command to self-denying discipleship” – Joe Dallas (Christians In A Cancel Culture, page 98)





PERFORMING SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH @11:00AM



VBS All Stars



PAL Lunches

- We will be volunteering again for PAL Lunches this summer on the dates below please meet at the Church at 10:20 so that we can caravan over to the HACC building to help.
- Friday July 14th and Saturday July 29th. We will need some adult help as well for these days.

- Become a Stellar VBS All-star by taking a sponsorship Card off of the VBS All Star board (found by the Grace Kids sign in Table in the lobby). By donating the amount on the card, you will help us purchase some of the items needed for VBS. Please make the donation the same way you give to the church, simply marking it as a VBS donation. Thank you for supporting Grace Kids and VBS
- VBS is scheduled for July 17 to July 21 from 6-8pm each night. How can you help:
 - Pray for VBS. Pray for the kids, volunteers, and families.
 - Volunteer-we still have some needs for volunteers, please see Autumn to get more information
 - Register your kids. Please see the VBS posters as well as flyers. There is a QR Code on them that will take you to a registration page.
 - Check out the Stellar VBS All Stars board for donations
 - Watch for decorating schedules and come help us transform the church into an intergalactic space station.