



Amazing

Grace

Newsletter



May 2025

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To the faithful of Grace Church: A Global Methodist Community, my co-laborers in the work of advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the life of the world—from whom is the source of all our hope, promise, joy, and security. The grace and peace of the Lord our God be with you.

Last month we focused on the importance of “who is the source” for all evangelism (not education, age, or some other specialized option) that is the Holy Spirit. For Wesleyans all Christians are called to evangelism. The Christian sets him/her-self up to be the best possible vessel to be used by God for these opportunities through study and prayer. Internalizing the Holy Scriptures and cultivating an intimate relationship to God. This relationship creates a new way of being. Our faith becomes interwoven and indistinguishable from who we are in everyday activity. Think about it this way:

A quiet teacher who prays for her students daily.

A father who models patience and forgiveness at home.

A nurse who serves with compassion even on her hardest days.

None of these people stand on a soapbox, but their lives preach a powerful sermon. Their witness doesn't begin with words—it begins with holiness.

In today's world, the word holiness can feel outdated, misunderstood, or even off-putting. But in the Wesleyan tradition, holiness is the very heartbeat of the Christian life. It's not a private trophy of spiritual achievement; it's the public evidence of God's transforming grace. John Wesley believed that “true religion is right tempers towards God and man.” In other words, holiness of heart and life is not just for your benefit—it's for the sake of the world.

John Wesley taught that the Christian life is one of ongoing transformation. He spoke of personal holiness—a deep love for God that shapes our character, thoughts, and desires. This includes our devotion, our purity, and our pursuit of integrity.

But he never stopped there. Wesley also emphasized social holiness—a life of active love for our neighbor, worked out in relationships and community. “There is no holiness but social holiness,” he wrote, meaning that holiness cannot exist in isolation. It is seen in how we treat others, especially the poor, the vulnerable, and the outcast.

To Wesley, holiness was the engine of evangelism. People might not attend a sermon or read a tract—but they will notice a life that radiates peace, joy, kindness, and self-control. The gospel becomes believable when it is visible.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” This is not about showing off—it’s about showing Him off. Holiness that comes from God’s Spirit is attractive. It’s the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—that makes people curious about the source.

When others see us respond with grace under pressure, forgive when it’s hard, or serve without recognition, they encounter the gospel—not as a concept, but as a reality.

It’s tempting to separate our faith into categories—private devotion vs. public action—but Wesley saw them as inseparable. Personal holiness without social concern can become self-centered or judgmental. Social activism without personal transformation can turn into hollow effort. One without the other is incomplete. Together, they create a living testimony: a heart on fire for God and hands open to the world. This is the kind of life that draws others in.

Let’s reflect for a moment:

Is my life reflecting the character of Christ in a way that draws others to Him?

Do my daily habits deepen my love for God—and increase my love for my neighbor?

Am I open to the Spirit’s work of ongoing transformation in me?

Holiness doesn’t require perfection—it requires surrender. Start with small, faithful steps:

- **Cultivate personal holiness** through prayer, Scripture, worship, and accountability.
- **Practice social holiness** by serving, advocating, and being present with those who are overlooked.
- **Be authentic.** You don’t need to pretend to have it all together. Real holiness is humble, not showy. People are drawn to truth and integrity, not to spiritual performance.

Holiness is the gospel in motion. It is the grace of God reshaping who we are and how we live—for the glory of God and the good of others. Through a life marked by personal devotion and social compassion, we become living witnesses to the power of Jesus Christ.

May we pray:

“Lord, make me an instrument of Your love. Transform me, so that through my life, others may see You.”

Blessings In Christ,



Rev. Todd Christine

Grace Church of Hanover | Senior Pastor



Birthday Month

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Patt Martin	2 April Myers Jenny Puente	3 Christine Holtz
4 Rob Gately	5 Ann Baugher George Small	6	7 Chet McCormick	8	9 Aaron Pecher	10 Tony Emig Chris Hnatkiewicz Cody Parker
11 Richard Erchman Emily Urenko	12 Cindy Spangler Charles Urenko	13	14	15 Corbin Capps Aaron Catlin	16	17
18 Dale Myers	19	20 Ron Cruys Scott Fidler	21 Judith Dutton Jill Masenheimer	22	23 Karen Misner	24 Josh Myers Amber Quance
25	26 Rachel Dubbs Owen Loper	27 Edward Knochel Edwin Millheim	28 Kathy Bredbenner Mark Coons Debbie Kuntz	29 Tanner Koch	30 Mark Parker	31 Grant Howard



It is EASTER, and I hope and pray that your celebration was full of God's grace, presence, and hope. It's hard to believe that last year at this time, in this very column, we were covering an earlier article of the Creed which also had to do with Easter. Last year, I wrote:

"The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1 Cor. 15:26). That is what Easter is about. Do not miss the power of it. Since Eden, we have cowered in fear of the destruction caused by humanity's cooperation with the enemy. But, early on Sunday morning, that changed in one moment as the God of the universe began the New Creation. He breathed in, got up, and walked out of the place of death into the light of glory. Now he must reign until all enemies are trampled under his feet (Ps. 8:6, 110:1, Mic. 7:19, 1 Cor. 15:27-28), *and the last enemy is death.*

Easter is about resurrection and the fact that Christ defeated death and the grave. But did you know that Easter is also about our own resurrection from the dead? *It is*, and that brings us to the penultimate article in the Apostles' Creed:

Article 12: "I believe in . . . resurrection of the body."

Paul has much to say about resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15, but the focus is not just on Christ's resurrection, it is on our own too! Here are verses 21-23:

So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

Don't miss this! It is incredibly important and in today's church, widely misunderstood. After you die, your body will end up somewhere. Many people are buried and others are cremated. Some people's bodies are never found. Nevertheless, God has kept track of every bit and piece of everyone. He created you and me, and he knows exactly how to put all of us back together.

Here is what God promises: *Your body will come back to life again.* Just like Jesus walked out of the tomb in a physical body, so too will you rise from wherever your grave is, and you will have a rebuilt and remade physical body. See what Paul says in that last sentence? "all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back."

I want my Grace Church family to understand this completely, because this is the Christian hope. When we die in Christ, our souls go to the presence of Jesus immediately. This is what the Bible promises. Paul writes this in 2 Cor. 5:8, "Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord." But this is

not our final destination. This is what theologians call the “intermediate state.” We are simply there waiting. . . for something.

Our final destination is the new heavens and the new earth. These will arrive upon Jesus’ return, and in that recreation, our bodies will be raised from the dead, and our souls will reinhabit them once again. There, we will remain with Jesus forever in a perfected world. This is what Bible scholar, N.T. Wright, calls, “life after life after death.” This resurrection is our forever eternity, and it is very much a *physical* experience on a *physical* new earth. Notice how he puts it:

In the New Testament outside of the Gospels and the beginning of Acts, again and again, the fact of Jesus’ resurrection is closely linked to our own ultimate resurrection, which isn’t life after death – it’s life after life after death. . . Whatever life after death is, being with Christ which is far better, being in Paradise like the thief, etc., the may rooms where we go immediately. . . that is the temporary place. The ultimate life after life after death is the resurrection in God’s new world.

So, what does this mean? It means your and my final destination is not “somewhere over yonder,” but that it is going to be a real, physical reality in God’s new heaven and new earth. When Jesus comes back, he will remake all of creation, and you and I will be literally brought out of the grave to live on the new earth with Jesus *forever*.

In many ways, I envision it like the end of Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast.” When Belle finally confesses her love for the Beast, we see a most fantastic transformation, but it is not just the Beast who is transformed. His entire ugly castle is remade into a palace of light. His servants are restored from their forms as household items back into their human likeness again. Finally, the Beast is completely remade into the most handsome of princes. I believe that this image, while only an animated movie, is something that can at least give a small glimmer into the true picture of what resurrection will be like.

When we focus everything on our destinations after death, we miss God’s purpose in sending Christ. We like to ask, how is God going to rescue people from a fallen world? What we should ask instead: how is God going to redeem a fallen world through the salvation of God’s people? Our salvation calls us to begin God’s new Creation. Because we are called “Children of God” now, not in some future heavenly place, the work to restore Creation is now.

Our calling as God’s new creation is to bring God’s will in every space we can, and what we do in our physical bodies matters. Why does it matter? Because you are building God’s Kingdom *now*. The work you do will not be lost. It will be brought as your gift into the world that will be remade when Christ returns. This is exactly what we pray for in the Lord’s Prayer when we say, “Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Nothing you do for Christ is ever lost. Those things will come through the fire of judgment and be there for you to continue for an eternity in Christ’s Kingdom.

Go announce *that good news* to the world!

Love to you all in Christ,


-Rev. Matt



HAPPY

Mother's Day

God's Masterpiece Is Mother

God took the fragrance of a flower...
The majesty of a tree...
The gentleness of morning dew...
The calm of a quiet sea...
The beauty of the twilight hour...
The soul of a starry night...
The laughter of a rippling brook...
The grace of a bird in flight...
Then God fashioned from these things
A creation like no other,
And when his masterpiece was
through
He called it simply - Mother.

- Herbert Farnham



Questions: Call Autumn at
717-637-3100

WALK BY FAITH

Color Walk

Saturday, May 31
930am to 12pm

**Come join us for fellowship,
food, exercise, and lots of
fun!!!**

**Help raise money for the
youth programs of the
church**



55 Albright Drive
Hanover, Pa 17331

Register here!!!!



Grace Preschool

Providing a quality Christian education

**REGISTRATION FOR
GRACE PRESCHOOL
IS NOW OPEN FOR
THE 2025-2026
SCHOOL YEAR.**

REGISTER NOW



**PreK Class has
openings for
the remainder
of this year!**



Jennifer Freeman
717-632-3140

GracePreschool@mygracechurch.org



**3-4 YEARS
Mon - Fri
9 - 11:30 am**

55 Albright Dr. Hanover PA



Music Ministry

Do you sing or play an instrument?

The Music Ministry is looking for musicians to provide Special Music at our 7:45 am service. If you are willing to share your gift of music with others for the glory of God, or want more details, please contact Larry Kuntz at (717) 965-0444 or lkuntz123@gmail.com.



STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

FOOD
MENU



Hot Dogs



Ice Cream



Sloppy Joes

snacks and.....

MORE STRAWBERRIES!!

COMING IN JUNE

WATCH BULLETIN FOR DATE

1st or 2nd Wednesday
depending on berry harvest

55 Albright Dr.
Hanover PA 17331

Sponsored by Men's Fellowship

Free Will
Offering



DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL
AVAILABLE

STRIKE A MATCH

Saturday
JUNE 7TH
10AM - 12PM



BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED

SANDY STUDY
GUEST SPEAKER

LET'S INGNITE A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND CONNECT WITH
OUR FAITH WHILE SANDY SHARE HER AMAZING JOURNEY OF
FAITH THAT CHANGE HER LIFE IN A BEAUTIFUL WAY

PLEASE CONTACT SHEILA CARTER 717-521-7590 OR DEB KELLENBENZ
717-632-1623 WITH ANY QUESTIONS

GRACE CHURCH OF HANOVER | 55 ALBRIGHT DR. HANOVER PA 17331



DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.

Grace Church Hanover Blood Drive

Saturday, June 28, 2005
from 8AM until 1PM

Grace Church of Hanover will once again host the American Red Cross. This service project requires little effort yet has a huge impact in our community. Every unit of blood donated positively impacts three lives.

You, as a member can help.

- You may be a blood donor. This will take about an hour of your time. Go on line to RedCrossBlood.org and register.
- You may work the blood drive.
 - **We need help setting up in the morning.** Set up begins at 6:45 AM with the Red Cross Staff arriving at 7AM
 - **Greet and sign in donors.** Donors begin arriving at 8:00AM and continue through the day until 1:00PM
 - **Visit with donor's post donation at the Canteen and sign donors up for our next blood drive in October.** The first donor to finish donating is usually about 8:30 AM and continues through the day until about 1:30PM
 - **Clean up after the drive begins about 1:30PM** and does not take long.
- Pray in thanksgiving for the American Red Cross, the Blood drive workers and our blood donors.

There are 50 openings for donors at this blood drive. Should we fill all of those slots we will have a positive impact on 150 lives. Please sign up to help with the blood drive in the welcome center when you enter the church. You may contact Belinda Maxwell or Linda Mixer for any questions you may have.

Grace Church of Hanover
Invites you to:



Ages
3-5th
grade



Questions
email Autumn:
[achristine@mygrace
church.org](mailto:achristine@mygracechurch.org)

Vacation Bible School

June 23-27, 2025

Dinner
Start Time:
5:30pm

Program
Start Time:
6:00pm

Register here:



55 Albright Drive Hanover, PA
717-637-3100



Encountering
GOD



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
Northeast

Summer Camp

Experience the awe of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit as we go deep in our faith journey at this year's summer camp for the Northeast Global Methodist Church. Your child or youth will encounter the Holy Spirit, go deeper in their discipleship walk with Jesus Christ, and be equipped to defend the Christian faith. This will all be combined with faith building activities, powerful daily worship, and practical hands-on-lessons that will transform your child's relationship with Jesus Christ. This five day camp will directly impact your child/youth, your family, your church, and your community. Be part of this new journey and come expecting the movement of the Holy Spirit. (Financial Aid is available)

- July 7-11th at Penn Grove Retreat Center,
6419 Pamadeva Rd, Hanover, PA 17331
- Campers in 3rd-12th grades
- Cost per camper \$250

Scan
Application Form





EMPOWERING FUTURES



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Application
QR Code



High School Seniors who have been accepted into an Institution of Higher Education, and are a member of Grace Church of Hanover, are eligible to apply for a Scholarship Award



The announcement of the Scholarship Awards will be made so that funds can be distributed in time for the coming school year. Contact the Church Office for an application form

Applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee on or before June 8, 2025

The scholarship fund of Grace Church of Hanover is supported by proceeds from the grocery card sales and donations.



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH



Online

LAITY EQUIPPING
(L.E.T.) TEAM

COURSES

Congregational Care and Ethics



TUESDAYS

JUNE 3RD, 10TH, 17TH, 24TH

JULY 1ST & 8TH

Basic Bible Training



SEPTEMBER 16TH, 23RD, 30TH

OCTOBER 7TH, 14TH, 21TH

TIMES: 6-9 PM

REGISTER NOW



arlenedschmidt@gmail.com (June & July)



brendarroof@gmail.com (September & October)



Fee \$20 6 Sessions per Course



Open QR Code for
more information



2nd Planning Meeting
for the
**FUN DAY IN THE
PARK WITH JESUS**
May 13, 2025 at 6pm



Valley Forge Restoration Center
3 Center Square
Hanover, PA 17331

Contact Pastor Ronald Thomas for details
(223) 291-1208

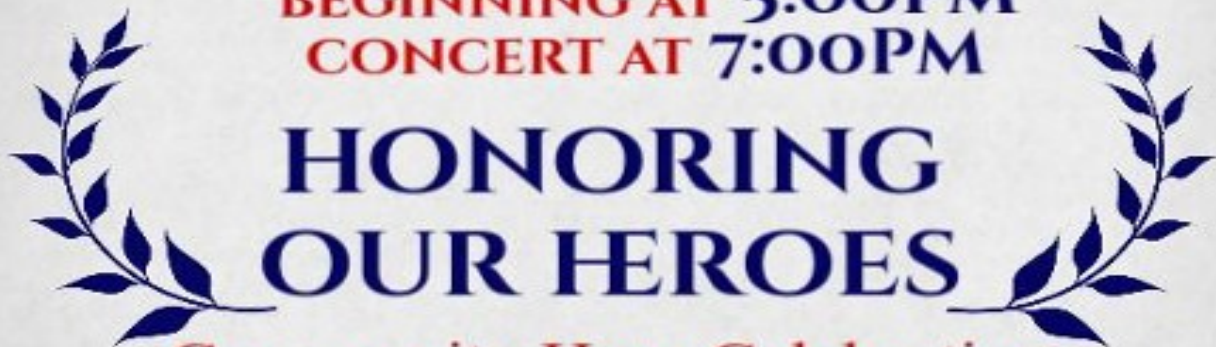


SUNDAY

May 18th

BEGINNING AT 5:00PM

CONCERT AT 7:00PM



Community Hero Celebration



Fire Trucks ★ Ambulances ★ Police Cars

Face Painting ★ Stickers

Military and Veterans Support Groups

Color Guard ★ The Barbershoppers

Littlestown Municipal Band

Sing-a-Long ★ Ice Cream

and More!



ST MARK CHURCH
129 CHARLES STREET
637-8904 • stmarkhanover.org

Vendors Welcome!
Call 717-637-8904 or
download an application
from our website
by May 1st

Final Planning Meeting
for the
**FUN DAY IN THE
PARK WITH JESUS**



June 10, 2025 at 6pm

Valley Forge Restoration Center
3 Center Square
Hanover, PA 17331

Contact Pastor Ronald Thomas for details
(223) 291-1208

FUN DAY in the park with *Jesus*

June 14, 2025 from
12pm-5pm

Wirt Park
Hanover, PA

FREE

- Fish Fry
- Hamburgers and Hotdogs
- Games
- Children's Bounce House
- Face Painting
- Praise and Worship Music



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Pastor Ronald Thomas
Valley Forge Restoration Center
(717) 991-1000

Sponsored by
the local church, body and
community businesses



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We are in the planning stages for the 2025 National Night Out event here in Hanover.

The event will be at Emory H. Markle Middle School, 225 Bowman Road, Hanover, PA 17331 on August 5, 2025 from 5:30pm to 8pm (note time change).

We also reserved a rain date on Thursday, August 7, 2025, same time and location but hopefully we will not need it.

If you are interested in attending our event please contact B. Wheeler, Patrolman at 717-637-8751 or email bwheeler@pennpolice.com