

AMAZING GRACE

January Newsletter



What's Happening Grace:



January 16: 7pm-Disciple Meeting

January 19: 10am-Sunshine Stitchers

January 19: 630pm-Hope Has Risen Easter Fellowship Planning

January 20: 630pm: Ad Council Meeting

January 24th: 10am-New Membership Classes-Must pre register

January 26th: 630pm-Events Committee Meeting

January 27: 6pm-Forged

January 31: 10am-New Membership Classes-Session 2

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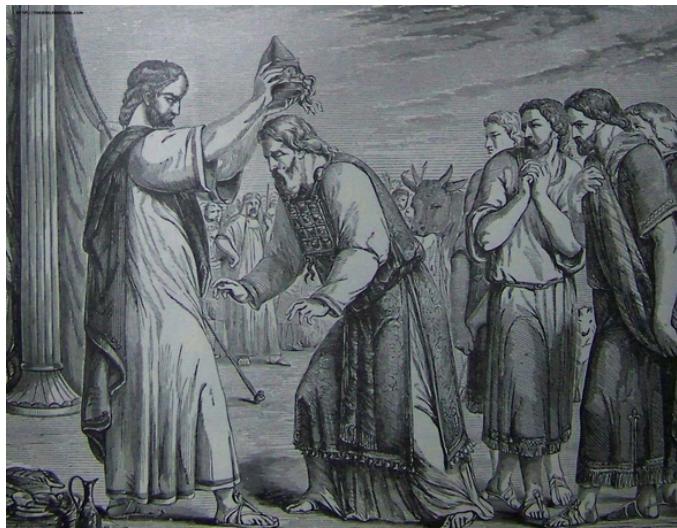
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From the Pastors Desk:



Set Apart: A Call to Consecration

A NEW SERMON SERIES

In a culture that prizes immediacy, self-expression, and spiritual minimalism, Scripture calls the people of God to something deeper, richer, and far more demanding; and far more hopeful.

Beginning this season, we will embark together on a ten-week sermon series titled Set Apart: A Call to Consecration, grounded in the searching words of Joshua 3:5: “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

This summons was spoken on the edge of promise. Israel stood at the Jordan River, poised between wilderness wandering and covenant fulfillment. Before the waters parted, before the wonders came, the people were called to consecrate themselves—to be made ready for the holy presence and active work of God. That call still speaks.

Why Consecration?

Consecration is not about spiritual extremism, withdrawal from the world, or earning God’s favor through moral intensity. At its heart, consecration is a grace-enabled readiness—a yielding of the whole self to God’s sanctifying work so that His presence may dwell among us and His purposes may flow through us.

This series is shaped by a core conviction:

Consecration is not spiritual intensity for its own sake; it is grace-enabled readiness for the presence, power, and purposes of God.

Rooted in Wesleyan theology and the wider Christian tradition, we will explore consecration as God’s work and our response—formed by grace, ordered by holiness, and entrusted with mission.

“Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

JOSHUA 3:5

From the Pastor's Desk (Continued):

What This Series Seeks to Form

Over these ten weeks, our prayer is that God will shape us into:

- A people formed by grace rather than fear or legalism
- A people ordered by holiness, living lives set apart for God's glory
- A people entrusted with mission, ready to be used by God in the world

Consecration is never an end in itself. It prepares God's people to bear witness—to live as a holy presence in an unholy world, not withdrawn from it but sent into it.

An Invitation

This series is not merely something to hear; it is something to enter. It invites prayer, self-examination, repentance, obedience, and hope. Like Israel at the Jordan, we trust that as we respond to God's call to be set apart, the Lord will do wonders among us—not for our sake alone, but for the sake of His redeeming work in the world.

We invite you to walk this journey with us—expectantly, humbly, and faithfully—as we seek to become a people truly set apart for God.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt".

GRACE

MISSIONS

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with Ruth's Harvest and PAL.

We are starting a new year, and welcome anyone who would like to help. In case you are now familiar with these two programs, Ruth's Harvest is the backing of bags with food for the school children to take home to have food over the weekend. Provide a Lunch (PAL) is a meal served every day at the Council of Churches to anyone who wants to walk in and get a meal.



Ruth's Harvest Dates:

February 5

March 19

May 14

Provide A Lunch (PAL):

Fridays:

January 25

February 27

April 3

May 8

June 12

July 17

August 21

September 25

October 30

December 5

Saturdays:

January 31

May 30

August 29

October 31



If you are interested in helping, please call Mae Woodard at 717-632-0124.

The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

Theology Matters: What is a Methodist?

Happy new year, Grace Church! It's good to get back to having a monthly newsletter column where we can talk about things that make a difference in our faith. This month I'm going to begin a new series that I hope will help us understand our Methodist tradition much better. For the next few months, we're going to explore what makes us Methodists, and why that tradition is important, even as we are a part of the larger Christian church across all time and space.

Our highest priority at Grace Church is to bring honor and glory to our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. With the church across the world, we seek to expand the Kingdom of God, both in membership of souls, as well as in the work that makes the world look as much like God's Kingdom as possible. In fact, our denomination's Book of Doctrines and Discipline says that "the Church exists to reflect God's holy and perfect love to all, to boldly proclaim God's Word, to edify all those who believe, and to work for the redemption of the world." The mission statement of Grace Church of Hanover says that "Grace Church Hanover exists to honor God by making more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." These items put us firmly in line with the vision that the Christian church has had for more than 2,000 years. So, Grace Church is a Christian church, sitting alongside all those who claim orthodoxy (meaning correct belief), as we learned in our series on the Apostles' Creed.

But Grace Church of Hanover is also a Global Methodist Church, and we stand in a long line of churches that claim the title, Methodist. This means we are a part of those who trace our heritage to the work of the Revs. John and Charles Wesley. John (1703-1791) and Charles (1707-1788) were both ministers in the Church of England (Anglican), who sought to revive and reform that church with a focus on evangelistic mission, holiness, and methodical discipleship, hence the name Methodist. Both had a very vibrant conversion experience which drove them toward this work. Though they did not set out to form a new denomination, their organizing skill and diligence created the Methodist Church in America in 1784 and in Britain in 1795.

John went an estimated 250,000 miles on horseback across the British Isles, delivering over 40,000 sermons, with a focus on the poor and working-class people. He organized them into Methodist Societies, which were groups that focused on active discipleship and growth in grace, mission, and Christian love. Charles also worked tirelessly to bring a vibrancy to the church, writing thousands of hymns, which became the backbone of worship for Methodists even to this day. Charles' hymns, and John's practical writing formed the basis for the distinctive teaching that Methodism holds to this day:

The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

Theology Matters: What is a Methodist? continued

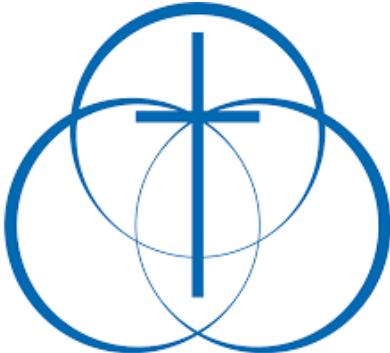
- The gospel is for everyone; everyone can be saved; everyone can know they are saved.
- The Christian faith is not private and must be lived out practically.
- Group accountability is the way we work toward holiness.
- Salvation comes by grace, and grace generally comes through prayer, Scripture study, communal worship, the Lord's Supper, and works of mercy.
- The power of the Holy Spirit can bring us to perfect love for God and neighbor.
- The church is a connectional body, working together to bring God's Kingdom to bear in all situations.

These bullet points form the unique DNA that is Methodist Christianity, and they set us apart from other traditions which might emphasize different things.

This is similar to the way that people might describe what it means to be an American. For some, there is an emphasis on individual liberty. Others might lift the power of democracy, and still others might key in on the way that each State has authority and a unique character. Yet, there is also the tradition of representative government. Each idea is a part of what makes the American system, but different things resonate differently depending on the group or person.

Likewise, our Christian faith is a tapestry with many strands, and we all bring out our own unique color within that fabric. Methodism has a powerful voice and a positive contribution to what it means to follow Jesus Christ. Each one of these bullet points expresses an important concept. For the next six months, we will explore each bullet point, and I hope that once we're finished, you will have a better appreciation for what it means to speak your Christian faith with a Methodist accent! It is also my prayer that these will encourage you to grow in grace and be excited to move toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

If I were to boil down Methodism, I would choose two words: grace and holiness. Jesus lavishes God's grace on us (John 1:17-18), so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we become a holy people (1 Peter 2:4-5) learning together to love like Jesus (1 John 4:18). In the end, perfection in God's love is what it's all about (Matthew 5:48).



Love to you all in his Name,

-Rev. Matt

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

We still need help to staff the Blood Drive. Please consider volunteering. A sign-up sheet is on the events board. Questions, please see Linda Mixter or Helen Weaver.

BLOOD DONORS ARE LIFE-SAVERS.

DONATE NOW

Saturday, February 14th
8:00am - 1:00pm

Grace Church of Hanover
55 Albright Drive
Hanover, PA 17331

Show some love to your fellow man on Valentine's Day. Give lifesaving blood. For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Grace Church Fleece



Mens Full Zip



Mens 1/4 Zip



Mens Vest



Womens Full Zip



Womens Vest

- All items come in sizes Adult small to 4XL.
- All S-XL Items are \$50.00. 2XL-4XL are \$55.00
- See Order Form on the Events Board.

Orders
due
February
1



Service Project for
Children's Sunday School

Feb. 8, 2026

We are asking for donations of the
following items for
Bags for members of our Grace Church
Family

hand lotion, chapstick, nail polish, hard candies,
large print crossword puzzles, large print sudoku,
large print word searches, adult coloring books &
colored pencils, lap blankets, tissue packets, warm
socks, pencils, & pens, devotional books, book
lights, scarves, gloves, and hats

Donation Deadline 2/06/26

START of LENT

Shrove Tuesday ☀ 2/17 @ 530pm+◆

Shrove Tuesday would
simply be incomplete without
these fluffy stacks of deliciousness
piled high and served with syrup,
butter, and all of your sides.

Join us on February 17th from 5:30-7:00 in
the fellowship hall for Shrove Tuesday
dinner. Please R.S.V.P to the church
office or stop by the hospitality board by
Sunday, February 15th. ☀



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18th @ 7pm

Grace Church of Hanover
55 Albright Drive
Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-3100
mygracechurch.org

Lent Begins

COMING Soon!!!

