

**NOVEMBER 2023**  
**Volume 4, Issue 10**

# Amazing Grace

**Grace Church of Hanover, 55 Albright Drive**

Greetings in the name of the one who brings peace, restoration, and future to our lives- our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Shalom to each of you.

It is the Autumn season and is beautiful and serene time of change. The chlorophyll is retreating from the leaves of the trees revealing a stunning array of color. God has gifted us with such blessing and promise. The words to the hymns play through my heart and the words of Romans "For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature." (Rom. 1:20).

Transition, blessing, and promise are on my mind as I write this to you. On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 we will hold our first local annual meeting as a Global Methodist Church. These types of gatherings have a rich history in historic Methodism. In 1744 John Wesley gathered the first group of preachers under his movement in England. Wesley expected the church in America to follow the same discipline. At St. George's Church in Philadelphia in 1773, under Thomas Rankin was the first gathering of Methodist Preachers in America. Over time as Methodism grew and

took the American landscape the gatherings became regional. Finally, each congregation gathered to host its general meeting called a Charge Conference. This may not sound new and it should not. However, we will begin to notice transitions as the Global Methodist Church solidifies policy and procedures. These policies and procedures are meant to communicate something very special as to our identity as Global Methodists. We are a Holy Spirit filled movement that "worships passionately, loves extravagantly, and witness boldly".

Charge Conference is the opportunity to gather the body of the local church to celebrate in worship and recognize God's work within and through this congregation and the community, to vote on new Lay Leadership and receive our ministry reports. It is a holy gathering that gives the administration of the church a time for transparency and accountability. More importantly and perhaps the most important item is that we have a chance to tell the story of Grace Church and its impact over the past year. Yes, finances, leadership, mission news, programs, and staff are each part of a vital narrative that is directed by the mission and vision of the Grace Church Community. As your pastor, I am excited to lead this endeavor on behalf of the Administrative Board. We have been working diligently and have more work to do so that you have a clear picture of our story. Over the past year, Grace has been through so much. We have formally separated from the United Methodist Church and created a new identity with a new future now held in the Global Methodist Church. Jeremiah 29:11 is a promise by God to the people in exile "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future." This word is a promise for us as well. God has given us a new future filled with hope and vitality on a new path in the Global Methodist Church.

It took courage to take this amazing and faithful step and I could not be prouder of a congregation so engaged in its life and future. God is blessing us and will continue to pour out as we are faithful in the work of Jesus Christ. Mark your calendars!

Blessings,  
Rev. Todd Christine



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## Upcoming Events

**BOOK/PUZZLE  
SWAP  
& SOUP SALE**

On Saturday, November 18 from 10 am until noon we will be holding a book & puzzle swap in the multipurpose room along with a soup sale. You can swap up to 5 books and 3 puzzles. Watch for more information as the date gets closer.

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And what great timing to purchase and stock up on some soups before Thanksgiving! Hope to see you there. Please share with family and friends!

## Veteran's Day Breakfast

Saturday, November 11th, 9-11a.m.

Grace Church of Hanover  
55 Albright Drive  
Hanover, PA 17331  
(717)637-3100

"WE DON'T KNOW  
THEM ALL, BUT WE  
OWE THEM ALL"

WITH RESPECT, HONOR AND GRATITUDE

**THANK YOU VETERANS**

We would like to celebrate all veterans in the community by offering a FREE breakfast. Family and friends are welcome and donations will be accepted from non-veterans. All proceeds will go to a local veteran organization. Join us on Saturday, November 11th in our fellowship hall.

- 11-3 Britt McKee
- 11-3 Ronnie Wentz
- 11-4 Avis Beard
- 11-5 Landon Becker  
Nichole Hinkle  
Michele Parker  
Christine Zoller
- 11-6 Leo DeSantis
- 11-11 Steve Dyke  
Gia DeSantis
- 11-12 Isabella Bulson  
Janet Miller
- 11-15 Emma Miller  
Jerold Howsden
- 11-16 Marilyn Resh  
Kris Parker
- 11-18 Jolisa Lalbeharry
- 11-23 Dylan Griffiths  
Tysha Reed  
Kenneth Wentz
- 11-24 Patricia Orndorff
- 11-29 Anne Wentz
- 11-30 Emily Howard



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN

Open House

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND

4PM TO 7PM

Grace Church of Hanover

55 ALBRIGHT DRIVE, HANOVER PA 17331

717-637-3100

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INDOOR NATIVITY WALK  
BAKED GOODS AND COOKIE SALE  
FREE COOKIE AND DRINK  
OPEN KITCHEN  
TRAIN DISPLAY  
LIVE MUSIC  
PRAYER TABLE  
LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE



**Theology Matters:** *by Rev. Matt Sichel*

This month's issue of Theology Matters brings us to the third article in the Apostle's Creed. This article begins the Creed's coverage of Jesus Christ, which could be argued as the most important part of the whole. It is my prayer that as we work through the Creed together, all of us can begin to create a framework in our minds of what we truly confess as Christians. People tend not to like the details of theology, because they can be confusing or overwhelming. I hope that this series in Amazing Grace will provide clarity for you as the subjects become more manageable in your minds.

In Romans 12:2, Paul instructs: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Thinking deeply about what our faith means, how the pieces work together, and how we can apply them to our lives is an important part of spiritual growth. I encourage everyone to consider the things we believe and allow them to change how we live. This is what spiritual transformation is all about.

**Article 1:** "I believe in . . . Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;"

There is no Christianity if Jesus of Nazareth was simply an itinerant rabbi from the Ancient Near East. If Jesus was simply a man, then you can rank him with all the other great teachers of the ages, but there would be nothing more than moralistic teachings about the Jewish God. This statement in the Apostles' Creed forces the conversation forward into a different spot. It makes the faith that we profess something revolutionary, because it's a confession that Jesus of Nazareth is God.

This article is a distinct echo of the conversation that Jesus has with his Apostles in Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:13-20). Jesus brings them to a place that is the center of pagan Roman worship in occupied Palestine, and he asks a very important question:

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

It is in response to this question that Simon makes his famous declaration of faith, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." When we confess the Apostles' Creed, we make the same declaration of faith that Simon Peter did in this story, and we become like him in Jesus' renaming him as Peter (in the Greek, Petros, Πέτρος), which means Rock. On the rock of this faith, Jesus builds his church.

But what does this all mean? It is helpful to consider all the important words in the line of the creed. "Jesus" is followed by modifying words which clarify what we're saying. We'll look at each of the modifiers and see what they tell us about our faith.

**"Christ"**

No, this is not Jesus' last name. It is an adjective to describe him, a title. The word "Christ," comes from the Greek word, Christos, Χρίστος which means "anointed one." This word is the Greek version of the word Messiah (in Hebrew Meshiach, מָשִׁיחַ). This title makes a specific claim about who Jesus is and links him directly to the Old Testament visions of the Messiah, who brings redemption to Israel and the entire world. This title helps us to connect Old and New Testaments together in our understanding of how God brings salvation to everyone, both Jew and Gentile. To claim Jesus is the Christ, is to link your faith with everything that came before Jesus and the promises that God made to Israel, and through Israel to the whole world.

**"Only Begotten Son"**

This phrase should bring into our minds the famous verse, John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." However, it is also a reference to Psalm 2:7. There, David writes specifically of the Messiah, "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'" So, the idea of the begotten son is related to Jesus' status as the Messiah, the Christ. But beyond these Biblical things, the words have importance to understanding more of who Jesus is.

There was serious disagreement in the very early church about Jesus' relationship to God. The word "Trinity," is not in the Bible, and the church struggled to come up with the correct language to explain how Jesus and "his Father" could be related together, as well as how Jesus' divinity and humanity were related to one another.

There was serious disagreement in the very early church about Jesus' relationship to God. The word "Trinity," is not in the Bible, and the church struggled to come up with the correct language to explain how Jesus and "his Father" could be related together, as well as how Jesus' divinity and humanity were related to one another.

Some people claimed that Jesus was not actually eternal at all, but simply the first and most perfect human being that God ever created. This is a heresy known as Arianism, named after the early church teacher Arius (AD 256-336). This heresy continues to this day in the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Latter Day Saints (Mormons). This statement, that Jesus is the "only begotten Son" of the Father, means that we recognize that Jesus is eternal and has always existed as the "Word" which comes directly out of God the Father, distinct, but completely and utterly of the same "divine stuff" as the Father (John 1:1-18).

**Article cont. on page 5**

### "our Lord"

To say Jesus is Lord is to say that Cæsar is not. This is a political statement (as much as it is another way of saying that Jesus is God). To call Jesus "Lord," means that we recognize that we are no longer primarily citizens of any earthly kingdom or nation. It is to echo Paul's statement in Phillipians 3:20, "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

This is an important distinction for Christians to make in a world that is increasingly no longer connected to Christianity and the church. This means that we recognize a higher authority in our lives, and we live to bring a new Kingdom to bear on the world. Our lives should reflect the fact that we live for a different Lord and his Kingdom. When we pray, "thy Kingdom come," it is another way of pledging allegiance to our Lord, Jesus, who is the King of heaven and earth. This is what we declare when we say, "Jesus is Lord."

What does it mean to you when you say, "Jesus Christ is Lord, the only begotten Son of God."? I hope that this month's piece will help put more meaning to those words as we confess the statement together in worship. Perhaps it can be a moment for you, one where you imagine yourself in Cæsarea Phillipi, in the sandals of Simon Peter and the other Apostles. When Jesus looks at you and asks, "Who do you say that I am?", what will you answer? I hope this now gives us all the confidence to speak out boldly, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."



Love to you all in Christ,

-Rev. Matt



## Path Youth

- 11/4 Hanover Against Hunger @ 11:30am-1:30pm
  - This is a meal packing event sponsored by Rise Against Hunger
  - Anyone is invited to participate with us
  - Please RSVP to Darren Myers by 10/29
  - We will meet at the church at 11am
  - Wear comfortable clothing and shoes.
  - Leave watches and loose jewelry at home. Plain rings such as wedding bands are OK.
  - Wear a baseball cap that fully covers your hair. If you need more coverage, we will have hairnets at the event. Gloves will also be provided.
- <https://hanoveragainsthunger.org/>
- 11/5 Operation Christmas Child packing @ 1pm
  - We will be gathering as a church to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes
  - The goal is 75 boxes this year
  - Food will be provided
  - 11/14 Path Youth/Forged

11/28 Path Youth/Forged

***The garden is all cleaned up and ready for next year. Thank you to all of our volunteers.***

# CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

**Chair:** Linda Mixer

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

- Council approved the purchase of oil filled candles for the Advent Wreath and the Altar Candles.
- Council approved the purchase of an aluminum Podium for \$700.00 using money from Memorial Funds that have not been designated for specific items.
- SPRC has been conducting staff reviews during October.
- Council approved the removal of 13 Trees, various bushes, grinding of stumps, cleanup & removal of debris for \$10,500 from the Church Maintenance Budget.
- An Annual Church Conference will be held Tuesday, Nov. 21st in the Sanctuary.
- The Church has written a grant requesting up to \$25,000 for the improvement of security around the church.

## PAL (Provide-A-Lunch) Dates for 2023

### Friday's

November 17th  
December 29

### Saturday's

December 30th

## Ruth's Harvest Dates for 2023

### Thursday

December 14h

