

SEPTEMBER 2023
Volume 4, Issue 8

Amazing Grace

Grace Church of Hanover, 55 Albright Drive

In 1786, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement wrote: *"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out"*

The Wesleyan practice is a faith that has been passed down for generations. John Wesley looked upon a movement that was growing and creating a version of Christian expression in which believers were without a doubt, on fire for their faith. I have long heard it said that a people on fire is a people who ignites the spark in others. I often wonder what it must have been like to have lived in the early days of the Methodist movement (especially in America where the pace of Methodism was growing exponentially). What was Wesley's concern then? Wesley's concern was not that the church would fail but rather would lose its life, its vitality, its passion, its very fire. It would become a hollow lack luster religion that would have only the form of religion but be divorced of power and authority. Looking around the United States in today's world, I can say that many a Wesleyan congregation has indeed fallen victim to the sort of lifeless Christianity that barely is an ember in the believer and is hardly able to set those other hearts around ablaze.

To be fair, this particular context is not limited to the Methodist veins of the Christian faith but to all the protestant faith expressions save one, Pentecostalism. Methodism had at one time a very particular ethos (way of living out). A faith lived with intention and expectation. Through Methodism's practices of holiness, our faith is nurtured from a glowing ember to a roaring blaze. What Wesley and his band discovered and hold to this day is that Christians do not accidentally become passionate and zealous about their faith. It is done with intention. I remind you, that we do not believe in works-based righteousness but we believe in a cooperative effort accompanied by God's sanctifying grace. The work of the Holy Spirit maximizes our efficacy so that we are transformed. As we see the evidence of our spiritual growth day by day, we know that with the help of God, we can be perfected in love in this life.

2 Tim. 1:6, Paul tells his student Timothy to nurture his gifts. To fan the gifts he received when Paul laid hands on him. Paul told his son in the faith to not fall prey to distraction and caught up in subjects that do not matter but to gain a powerful presence of faith to build the Kingdom of God. The Charles Wesley hymn comes to mind

"Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee"

I pray that as we kick off this fall we return to the principle of our faith—to become a people that worships passionately, loves extravagantly, and witnesses boldly to the world. We are going to return to a Holy Spirit on fire people that can and will transform the world through the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us become intentional about our faith and seek to become so much more for what God has in store for our community here at Grace Church.

Rev. Todd A. Christine

Inside This Issue

A Message from the Pastor 1

Birthday's & Ministry News 2

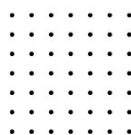
Theology Matters 3

Theology Matters, Connecting
with Council & HACC 4

Upcoming Events 5 & 6

Grace Youth 7 & 8





Daniel Plan Faith & Food

Daniel Plan: Picnics, vacations, guests, have all made a great summer. But if you are like me, it also meant not eating as healthy as I should have been. And did I mention ice cream?!

Last month some of us met that had taken part in the Daniel Plan study last winter. At our meeting we decided that we would like to meet once a month, because we all felt the support we gained from each other kept us on track. If you were part of the morning or evening study we hope you will join us. And if this wasn't for you before, but you feel you could use the support system please feel free to join us too. Watch the weekly news for dates and times.

Please bring your schedule with you when you attend a meeting to help with some activities we will do at our meetings. Hope to see you there!

9-1	Karen Little
9-2	Logan Misner
9-5	Aiden Capps
9-9	George Dement
9-10	Connor Miller
9-11	Judy Davis
9-12	Deb Richards
	Sheila Bollinger
9-16	Joseph Catlin
	Kevin O'Brien
9-18	Kathryn O'Brien
9-20	Matt Capps
	Dennis Kramer
9-24	Aleta Harry
9-26	John Brown
	Mike Kaltreider
	Monica Misner
9-29	Karen Coons

Music Ministry



The Chancel Choir practices on Wednesday evenings at 7:30, starting on August 30. Everyone ages 18 and older who likes to sing are welcome to join us.

We have 2 music opportunities for our youth: the Cherub Choir for children ages 4 - 10, and the Teen Praise Band for youth ages 11 - 17. These groups practice on Sunday mornings.

We are in need of singers and instrumentalists to perform a song for the Special Music portion of our 7:45 service. Most Sundays are open, so you can choose the Sunday you perform. Contact Larry Kuntz for more information.

Theology Matters: *by Rev. Matt Sichel*

Greetings brothers and sisters of Grace Church! It's a pleasure and privilege to be in ministry with you as we begin this new journey together as a congregation in the Global Methodist Church. Serving here at Grace as your Deacon, part of my role is to provide teaching about theology and mission, as we work together to live out our Christianity and engage the world around us. To help with that, I'm beginning a new, regular piece in our newsletter called "Theology Matters." In it, I hope to help us all better understand what we believe about God, why it matters to our lives, and how we can use these things in our work to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The word, theology, literally means "study of God."

Beginning this month, and running for the next eleven months, I'll be writing about our basic core beliefs as Christians in a series focused on the Apostles' Creed. Each month following this issue, I'll take on a line out of the creed, provide an explanation of its meaning, and finish with a reason that it matters in our walk with Christ. This month, I begin with a short introduction about the creed itself.

The Apostles' Creed: What is it? Why does it matter?

Creed is a word from the Latin, *credo*, meaning, "I believe," which is the way that the Apostles' Creed begins. It is a statement of belief. The things contained in the Apostles' Creed have been accepted as correct and true by Christians throughout history and across the world. It functions as a standard explanation of the Christian faith, and it can be used to separate true teaching from false teaching. Through the history of Christianity, there have been many creeds used to help Christians summarize and state what they believe. The earliest of these was likely the simple phrase, "Jesus is Lord" (Rom. 10:9), which early Christians used to state some very important ideas about who Jesus is (i.e., that Jesus is Lord and Caesar was not!). Other, similar formulas also appear in the Bible. Paul writes:

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

— 1 Cor. 15:3-5 (NIV)

In Philippians 2:5-11, Paul gives a much longer statement of belief which explains who Jesus is, what he has done for us, and what he will do for us at the end of time. In this, we see that Christianity has a three-fold understanding of time. We have seen what God has done, what God is doing, and we look for what God will do. We express this in our Communion liturgy as well: Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. It is the same in the Apostles' Creed.

In the early church, these statements were quite simple, but over time, to strengthen and standardize what Christians believed, leaders in the church worked together in gatherings called Councils to revise and develop the statements. This helped to draw bold lines around what Christians believe and separate the things that we do not believe. Out of these gatherings came another of the creeds which we use in the church as a standard over the whole world, the Nicene Creed. This creed was developed by the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople in AD 325 & 381. The Nicene Creed defines standard Christian belief over the entire world.

While the Nicene Creed is standard across the world, the churches in the West (vs. Eastern Orthodox churches), have tended to favor the somewhat older and briefer Apostles' Creed. The reasons for this have much to do with what originally separated the western Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox churches in AD 1054 (but that's another newsletter article altogether!) Either way, Protestant churches (Methodists included) have continued to use the Apostles' Creed as a sufficient explanation of Christian belief. Even Protestant churches who do not generally use or recite the creed will find that their beliefs are in line with what the creed says. Like Scripture, the creed serves as a sort of measuring rod to define correct Christian belief.

Though tradition said that each of the Twelve Apostles added an article (line) to the twelve lines of the creed, The Apostles' Creed was not actually written by the Apostles. It likely developed in ancient Gaul (modern-day France) in the 5th century and was a revision to an older statement known as the Old Roman Creed, which was commonly used in western Europe for baptism liturgy as early as the 2nd or 3rd centuries. Even today, we have continued to use the Apostles' Creed as a central piece of our Baptismal Covenants.

The move to build the Global Methodist Church (GMC) included a desire to re-emphasize theology and doctrine to end the liberal drift that we had all experienced in the United Methodist Church. As a part of that, those who framed the new Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline decided to begin with three documents that grounded Methodism in historic and universal (catholic) Christianity: The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, and the Definition of Chalcedon. The GMC recognizes these as foundational summaries "of the apostolic witness disclosed in Scripture . . . affirmed by many Christian communities," which "express orthodox Christian teaching." I've already mentioned The Nicene Creed as the universal detailed creed for Christianity. The Definition of Chalcedon was written at the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451 and was the authoritative statement that describes how Jesus' divine and human nature functioned together in one person. The use of these three documents supports all theology and doctrine for the GMC and places our church firmly with those denominations that teach traditional, orthodox Christianity.

Does this mean that we value the Apostles' Creed over Scripture in our beliefs? Absolutely not! Scripture is the primary rule for faith and practice. All our beliefs about God, Jesus, his work, and our salvation are based squarely on the revelation in the Bible. That said, the Apostles' Creed is completely based on Scripture. We use it as an easy written framework to help us understand how the things we believe work and make sense in our lives. It is an easy summary of what Christians believe, and it helps us to communicate those beliefs to the world around us. When we say the creed, it forms us together and reminds us of our common strength in faith. It helps to reiterate what we believe, and it becomes our shared proclamation, uniting us as we speak to the world. If we have doubts, it can help bring us back to we need to be. This is why it is sometimes called a profession of faith. It becomes a strong way to tell the world, "This is Christianity. This is what we believe. Credo!"

Over the next 11 weeks, it is my hope and prayer that you will look deeply at the words of the Apostles' Creed and what they communicate. Let the words become a way for you to feel confident about your faith in Christ. We use the creed to strengthen both our personal faith and our community that is Grace Church Hanover. When we profess our faith together with one voice, it forms us into Christ's Body, the church, and it unites us to all other churches who confess and profess it with us. When we live and speak in a way that aligns with the creed, we declare the reality to which the creed points: that there is more to the world than what we see. It becomes the rallying cry in much the same way that "Jesus is Lord" was for the early church. Let it form and reform you as you seek to be a witness for Jesus in a world that needs to know him.

Love to you all in Christ,



-Rev. Matt

PAL (Provide-A-Lunch) Dates for 2023

<u>Friday's</u>	<u>Saturday's</u>
October 6th	September 30th
November 17th	December 30th
December 29	

Ruth's Harvest will be starting up soon. You may start bringing in your donations. Single serving entrees, vegetables, fruits, snacks, drinks and breakfasts. The schedule is not yet posted as to when we are asked to work. We will let you know as soon as we receive it.

CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

July/August Council Highlights

Chair: Linda Mixer

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

- Approval was given by the SPRC for Kelly to decrease her weekly hours from 25 hrs to 20 hrs. The Council approved closing the church office on Wednesdays.
- We are still having a positive cash flow.
- A lighting strike knocked out multiple electronics including parking lights and pre-school door locks. We will be filing a claim with our Insurance company for these damages.
- The Council approved placing an ad on Penn Township's Marketing Flyer (Map and Resource Guide) which will run for 2 years at a cost of \$599.00.



Do you have a special artistic talent? The events team is so excited to be hosting our first craft fair this October. We are looking for a wide variety of crafters from metal work, wood turning, jewelry, candy, sewing and more. Table space is available to our church family at a discounted rate (\$20.00 per table or 2 /\$35. Space is limited so be sure to contact Kim Smith at . If you know of anyone who is interested in renting a space but does not attend our church, the fee is \$25 per table or 2/\$40) If you do not have a special artistic talent, please consider coming out to support some of your fellow congregation members and vendors in our community. Our kitchen will also be

CRAFT FAIR

21 OCTOBER, 2023

mygracechurch.org

9:00-2:00



open and we would love for you to stop by to catch a bite to eat. We prayerfully ask that you stop by the hospitality desk to pick up a flyer and help us advertise by taking it to your favorite local retailer. Thank you in advance for your support.

Food

Served in the fellowship hall
(Multipurpose Room) beginning at
3pm

Fun

Games
Bounce House w/ wet slide
Tie dying
Live Music

Fellowship

Spending time with our Grace
family

GRACE PICNIC

Food, Fun, Fellowship

September 2 • 3 pm • Grace Church

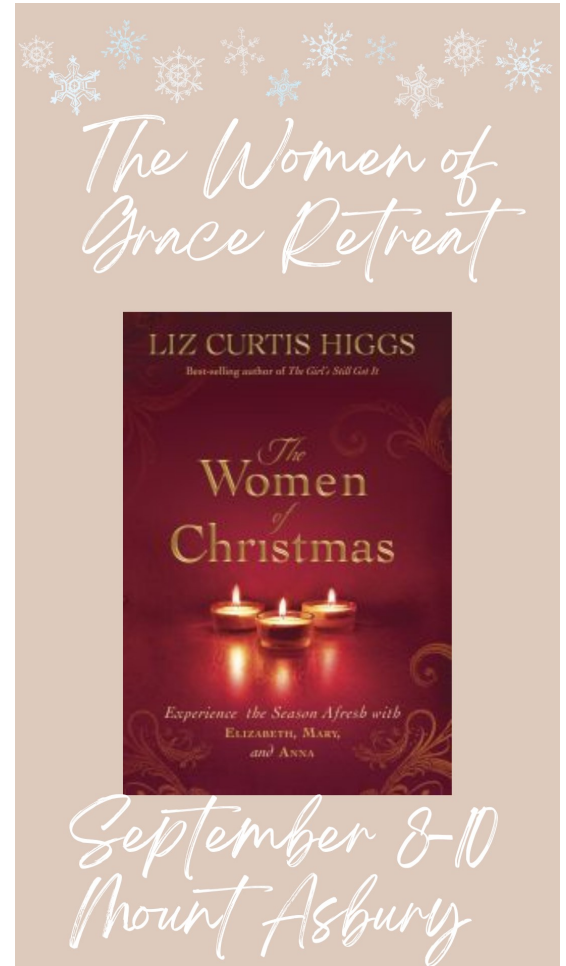
RSVP AT THE EVENTS BOARD BY: AUGUST 27



Fall Retreat

God is calling us to a life of adventure and a journey of faith. The Women of Grace embrace this journey by sharing their gifts, talents and personal stories of faith. Nothing beats the friendship between women. When we share our personal stories of what God is doing in our lives you will laugh out loud and tear up a little. All for the glory of God!

A sacred season is about to unfold for three women whose hearts belong to God. Elizabeth is barren, yet her trust in God remains fertile. Mary is betrothed in marriage, yet she is willing to bear God's son. Anna is a widow full of years, yet she waits patiently, prayerfully for the Messiah to appear in the temple courts. Following in their footsteps, you too can prepare for the savior to enter you heart, your mind, and your life in a vibrant, new way this season. We hope you are able to join us for the wonderful weekend of quality time with love, learning and fellowship.



**FIRST SATURDAY
IN DECEMBER
4-7PM**



**55 ALBRIGHT DRIVE
717-637-3100**



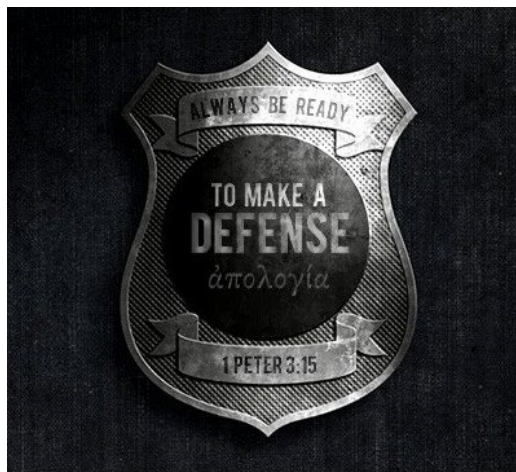
Hold onto your hats the Youth Programming has a lot going on this month. Please reach out if you have any questions!!!

- Sunday September 10th-Sunday School Kick Off-Sunday school will begin again for the 2023-2024 year. Sunday School runs from 10 am to 11am every Sunday Morning. There are three classes, the JP Class for middle and High schoolers, the elementary classes for 2nd to 5th graders and the early elementary class for 4-year-olds to 1st graders. Welcome letters and registration forms will be coming out SOON, please be on the lookout.
- Sunday September 17th-Cherub Choir and The Teen Praise Band begins-Every Sunday from 930 to 10am the children of the church have an amazing opportunity. Our younger youth will begin practicing together for the Cherub Choir. This group shares special music several times a year with the congregations. The Teen praise Band under the direction of Grace Church's musical director, Mr. Larry Kuntz, compose their own music based on bible verses, and perform these pieces for the congregation. Even more exciting, if you play an instrument, you are encouraged to bring it and play it in the band. No matter what it may be. We have guitars, drums, violins, trumpets, tubas and more. Vocalists are needed as well. All middle and high schoolers are welcome in the Teen Praise Band.
- Grace Kids: Starting Tuesday September 26th-6pm to 8pm: We will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. This is a time for all of the kids from age 4 to 5th grade to come together for learning, food, fellowship, crafts, and fun. This will be part of Forged at Grace. Please see the flyers for more information.

As always to do these things, I need many volunteers. Without volunteers the youth program will not be able to function. I am in need of Sunday School teachers, Rainbow Room workers (Sunday and Tuesday evenings), Grace Kids volunteers (about 4 per Tuesday), event volunteers, and so much more. If interested, please see me.

Path Youth

NEW JP YOUTH CLASS



Apologetics is a vital tool for effective ministry to youth today. Here are three reasons why. **#1**-The Bible teaches and models the importance of apologetics. **1 Peter 3:15** says, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect," Jesus was an apologist; we read of Him giving reasons.



Paul was an apologist. **#2**-studies show that up to 2/3 of students today who call themselves Christians will walk away from church and their faith when they enter the college years. Some of the biggest questions on kids' minds are related to apologetics. The intersection of science and faith. The trustworthiness of the Bible. The uniqueness of Jesus. **#3**-it gives people confidence. It's incredible when they really grasp that there's evidence that the Bible is true, or there's evidence for intelligent design. The boldness it gives them to know, live out and share their faith is amazing. That is the purpose of the next JP study. A systematic, cutting-edge, high-quality series for students. We'll take 32 weeks to walk through issues like truth and critical thinking, through different worldviews, through science and faith, the reliability of the Bible, the deity and resurrection of Jesus Christ, archaeology, the problem of evil, the problem of hell, and even doubt. The mission of the JP class is to equip and strengthen the next generation, to know what they believe, why they believe it, and why it matters to them, and this study will do just that. The study will be for the youth 11 years of age and up and will begin Sunday morning at 10 am on September 17th. Everyone will receive a free spiral-bound booklet for the weekly study. Bibles are required each week. Get ready to discover the amazing evidence for Christianity! Please contact Brian Jenkins or Mary Crumling with any questions or comments. See you then.