

Greetings to you Grace Church! I am so thankful and blessed to serve as your pastor. I lift you in my prayers and praise God for you. There is so much to be excited about in this season. We look to the end of Lent and the beginning of the Easter season. I am pleased to announce that we are celebrating my ordination in the church, and I will receive full ordination as an Elder in the United Methodist Church. You may ask what this means and what impact it might have? As for what effect it has on Grace Church, very little. We will continue our direction and work to be salt, light, and that shining city on a hill that Christ calls us to be in his great Sermon On the Mount in Matthew 5. As for me, a great deal. In the book of Numbers, God calls Moses to lay hands on and consecrate Aaron and the Levites to be set apart for work in service to God on behalf of the people of Israel. In Acts, the disciples lay hands-on and set aside those who will continue to walk with them in service to preaching and teaching the church's leaders. It is a Holy Spirited affirmation and confirmation of my vocation to give my life in favor of leading and equipping the bride the church in service to building God's kingdom here on earth. I now have received authority to take all that I have in belief and practice to all the world and live out John Wesley's ideal of "all the world is my parish" I serve God here in Grace Church and the community of Hanover and the world. I will be able to celebrate the Sacraments of Communion and Baptism where ever my feet are

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standing. I have been working out God's calling on my life since 2012 toward this end with much prayer and discernment. God has made the way and removed the barriers. Grace has definitely abounded and gone before me (there are too many examples to produce now). I have had many voices of support and many voices of criticism in my ears of years. There have been many opportunities to turn back or turn to the side away from where I know God is calling me. With each, I needed prayerful support and discernment. I needed to separate my bias of where I wanted God to call me over where God was calling me. Hard conversations and even more difficult decisions clarified that call more and more. With each question, I had to become humble and ask myself, "what is the faithful and obedient action?" over the "what would I rather do?" Nehemiah 6 details a defining moment in Nehemiah's work in rebuilding the wall that would become the bedrock of the restoration work of Israel. Sanballat is working with other enemies of Israel and Nehemiah to undermine the great work that God has called Nehemiah to. He spreads lies, makes false accusations, and even writes letters to Babylon trying to get Nehemiah to stop. Nehemiah, though, knows the calling he left his comfortable palace. Nehemiah understands the discontentment in his heart over the situation of his people and the light of their city.



#### **Defenders of the Faith**

"Thirty-Three on the Three-in-One"

How well do you know the doctrine of the Trinity?

Here are 33 statements related to the Trinity. Simply answer true or false to each one.

The correct answers will be posted next month.

- 1-There is one God.
- 2-God is one person.
- 4-There are three persons in the Godhead.
- 5-The three persons in the Godhead have always related to one another as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 6-Each of the three persons of the Godhead is one-third of God.
- 7-The Father is fully God.
- 8-The Father has the whole fullness of God's being in himself.
- 9-The Father is eternal.
- 10-The Father is not the Son.
- 11-The Father is the Holy Spirit.
- 12-The Son is half human and half divine.
- 13-In his humanity, the Son is subordinate to the Father.
- 14-The Son has the whole fullness of God's being in himself.
- 15-The Son came into being at the time of his incarnation.
- 16-The Son was brought into being in eternity past.
- 17-The Son is eternal.
- 18-The Son is not the Father.
- 19-The Son is the Holy Spirit.



- 20-The Holy Spirit is fully God.
- 21-The Holy Spirit has the whole fullness of God's being in himself.
- 22-The Holy Spirit is a force.
- 23-The Holy Spirit is not the Father.
- 24-The Holy Spirit is not the Son.
- 25-In their nature, the Son and the Holy Spirit are co-equal and co-eternal with the Father.
- 26-The Son and the Spirit are subordinate to the Father in their essence or nature.
- 27-God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in different eras or for different purposes, but never at the same time
- 28-The persons of the Trinity have distinct roles.
- 29-"Father," "Son" and "Holy Spirit" are three different names for the one person of God as he displays his work in three distinct roles.
- 30-A right understanding of the Trinity is vital to right worship of God.
- 31-A right understanding of the Trinity is vital to a right understanding of redemption.
- 32-Any analogy used to explain the Trinity will fail to represent it with complete accuracy.
- 33-We cannot confidently derive the doctrine of the Trinity from the Biblical text.

Aiding sources and recommendations:

- 1-Delighting In The Trinity Michael Reeves (2012)
- 2-challies.com (Tim Challies)

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#### **Amazing Grace**

Letter from the pastor cont.

He has a clear calling, and all that he does is toward living in obedience to that call. His vocation was before him, and he needed to either come down from the work, be distracted by the doubters and negative attitudes, walk away, or remain and do the job. This journey has many echoes in my life from friends and family and ministry situations within the church. Ultimately God has laid blessings for my ministry. I am not saying there have not been heartaches, hurt feelings, or even wrong decisions, but the light has always pierced the darkness. My calling is toward the spiritual revitalization of the church and our church at Grace. Everything we are working toward at Grace Church is to feed the flame of revival. I believe God has placed us together for a "Time such as this" to pull from Esther, and we are to be in a position to receive the incredible outpouring God is doing. What evidence of this is there, do you ask? We are poised to receive twenty members to our congregation this year and celebrate five baptisms, and ten of these new members are new professions of faith. Our community has been through so much over the past two years. We have been through so much together, and your faithfulness and trust in me and our Administrative Council has been unwavering. We have a vision of faithfulness to build a community that knows who Jesus is and lives it out to impact our community of Hanover, coworkers, friends, and family, strangers- to any we encounter. We are a discipling community discipling the world around us. We have seen the fruit that confirms our vocation as a faith community. John Wesley has been attributed to saying, "set yourself on fire, and people will come for miles to watch you burn" We are becoming the fire of God's presence, working hard in our community for the work of Jesus Christ. I hope and pray we are confirmed in our effective ministry together; we cling to the vocation. We will not come down from the great work we have been called to together. Let's build the kingdom! Amen!

**Pastor Todd** 

## March Defenders of the Faith Answers

"It's All In A [Biblical] Name" Answers:

Jared - Genesis 5:15

Japheth - Genesis 5:32

Nimrod - Genesis 10:8

Rebekah - Genesis 24:15

Rachel - Genesis 29:6

Dinah - Genesis 34:1

Tamar – Genesis 38:6

Miriam - Exodus 15:20

Balaam - Numbers 22:5

Deborah – Judges 4:4

Jephthah – Judges 11:1

Micah - Judges 17:1

Ichabod - 1 Samuel 4:21

Abigail - 1 Samuel 25:3

Jedidiah – 2 Samuel 12:25

(God's second name to Solomon)

Dodo - 2 Samuel 23:24,

1 Chronicles 11:26

Ben-Hur - 1 Kings 4:8

Naaman 2 Kings 5:1-27

Vashti - Esther 1:9

Dorcas - Acts 9:36

Rhoda - Acts 12:13

Lydia - Acts 16:14

Publius – Acts 27:7

Jemimah - Job 42:14 (? with respect to time)



# Update on the status of the United Methodist Church General Conference and Global Methodist Church

Many of you know to some degree the state of the UMC as it relates to different views which include the Gospel message (including the soul-saving good news of the atonement of Jesus, that is Jesus Christ dying as a substitute for sinners) over the last 50 years that have ultimately brought the denomination to a crossroads of separation which is now upon us. The next step to that end was to be addressed and implemented at the UMC General Conference later this year; however, General Conference will now not be held until 2024. The reasoning is in the article linked here:

https://www.umnews.org/en/news/general-conference-postponed-until-2024

This decision has caused The Global Methodist Church to be officially launched on May 1st of this year. You can read more about why this decision was made here: <a href="https://globalmethodist.org/global-methodist-church-sets-official-launch-date/">https://globalmethodist.org/global-methodist-church-sets-official-launch-date/</a>.

**04-03** Melia Garrett

Kathleen Jones

**04-09** Ed Davis

04-10 Denise Warner

04-16 Kayla Dehoff

**04-22** Ray Johns

**04-24** Anna Mae Terry Neil Myers

**04-25** Brian Link

**04-29** John Nickey

There are still a lot of unknowns out there and information that will continue to arise over the weeks and months ahead. The next significant event to gather more data and direction for Grace church will be at our annual conference which will be held at Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pa **Wednesday**, **June 1 through Friday**, **June 3, 2022.** We want to keep you informed of all this as best as we can. These events will certainly have an impact on Grace Church as we focus on the near future. Please contact Pastor Todd or Brian Jenkins with comments or questions. Thank you.

Update on UMC General Conference

https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:cff47ff2-b386-3203-885c-11db2935afa8 Global Methodist Church Overview & Quick Facts

https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:5f27a527-efc4-3463-b998-be1e03c738b0
Top 10 Reasons to Join the GMC

https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:5755c0f9-ffd6-332f-80cc-5494d112fb71

Please stop by the hospitality desk for printed copies of the literature.

## **CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL**

Chair: Linda Mixter

**Members:** Denny Blum, Ron Carter, Pastor Todd Christine, Karen Coons, Ed Davis, Duane Myers, Amanda Myers, Amber Quance, Brian Jenkins

## **March Highlights**

- Flooring bids are being gathered for the Preschool area in the basement of the Church. The new floor will be laid in July.
- A Spring Rummage Sale, which will be a Path Youth Charity Fundraiser/Service Project, was approved by Council. This event will be run by the Youth and will be held at the end of April.
- A Praise Team fundraiser to sell R & K Sandwiches was approved.
- Council approved having the church property surveyed.
- Council approved the Event Committee's request to hold an Event on August 20th entitled Feeding the Flame pending a budget.
- Council approved Pastor Todd's request for a Couples Retreat to be held May 13th & 14th at the Church.
- Council approved The Glory Way Quartet concert event at the church using \$300 from the event budget. Concert date TBD

#### **Cultivate News**

We had a nice fellowship time at our Lenten Suppers. Thanks to everyone that provided part of our meals. Discussion following our music time was also very meaningful! We will look at the ordinary things in our lives differently now.

The upcoming Cultivate schedule will be as follows.

April 6<sup>th</sup>- No Cultivate

April 13<sup>th</sup>- No Cultivate (Holy Week)

April 20<sup>th</sup>- No Cultivate

April 27<sup>th</sup>- Cultivate at 6:30



Come join us on April 27<sup>th</sup>. We will kick off our new sessions of Cultivate by having Deb Kellenbenz share her testimony with us that evening. These have been very moving experiences and a way for us to get to know each other better. We hope to see you there!



Vacation Bible School: Jerusalem Marketplace

Save the Date: July 18-22

If you would like to volunteer, please join our next planning

meeting on May 2 @ 7pm in the Shepherd Room.

Parents' Night Out was a huge success! The kids - and volunteers - had a blast making bouncy balls, play dough, elephant toothpaste and their very own ice cream! We will host another Parents' Night Out next quarter! Details coming soon!

Children's Choir will perform 'The Little Donkey's Easter Journey' - a children's cantata - on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the 11am worship service.









Upcoming





## **COUPLES RETREAT**



May 13th & 14th, at Grace Church Facilitated by Pastor Todd and Autumn S35.00 per couple

Friday Evening: Gathering at 65pm, dinner to start at 630pm Sessions begin at 730pm. Saturday: Breakfast begins at 830am, sessions ending by 4pm Lunch included Food and book included in price.

Food and book included in price.

R.S.V.P. to Autumn Christine by April 24th

flutterby8199@gmail.com









YOU ARE INVITED TO WITNESS

## Todd's Ordination

JUNE 2, 2022 | 7 PM

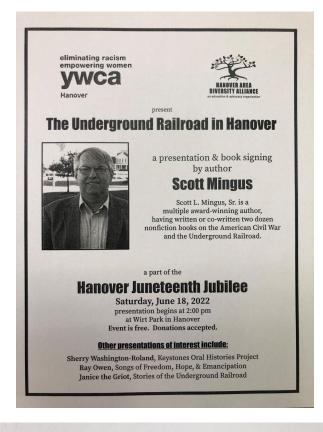
at The Hershey Lodge and

Conference Center

Eph. 4:1. I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.



# Connecting With Our Community







Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A MATTER OF BALANCE is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.

This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

#### YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- · view falls as controllable
- · set goals for increasing activity
- make changes to reduce fall risks at
- exercise to increase strength

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- · anyone concerned about falls
- anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength
- anyone who has fallen in the
- anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns

The class is held twice a week for 4 weeks. The program is FREE for those 60+ yrs old!

Location: St. John's Blymire's UCC Church

1009 Blymire Rd. Dallastown, PA 17313

Dates: April 18 - May 9, 2022 - Last class is Thursday 5/12

Mondays & Wednesdays

Time: 1:00PM-3:00PM

To register: Call Faye at 717-852-4902 ext. 1044

Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls Volunteer Lay Leader Model ©2006 This program is based on Fear of Falling: A Matter of Balance. Copyright ©1995 Trustees of Boston Univers

## Living Well With Diabetes-

Diabetes Self-Management Program

#### **Self-Management Workshops:**

- · Healthy eating · Problem solving
- Exercise
- Stress
  - management
- Manage blood
- glucose levels
- · Action planning

#### complications

- · Skin & foot care
- · Communication · Reduce &
  - manage weight
  - Goal setting

#### Who is Eligible?

- 60+ living with prediabetes or diabetes
- 60+ caregiver/family member of someone living with pre-diabetes or diabetes

#### **Upcoming class:**

Where: Virtual using Zoom When: Tuesdays, April 12-May 17, 2022

Time: 1-3:30PM

Register by March 25, 2022

To register: Megan at 717-855-0437



No charge. Free toolkit. Space is limited. Sign up today!



### **Hope for Hanover**

The Hope for Hanover Leadership Network was established in 2021. This is a group of Hanover leaders from all areas of life in the community who vision to bring hope to the people in the Hanover community that we share. The flyers on page 6 and 7 of this newsletter are some of the organizations who are partnering with Hope for Hanover. Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 1:00 pm in the fellowship hall at First United Methodist Church.

We are about "promoting mutually respectful and cooperative work and conversation among local churches, agencies and organizations, schools, and businesses for the sake of offering hope to the community that we share."







#### **Amazing Grace**

May 12, 2022 – May 15, 2022

#### Men's Walk #42

Lay Director – Brandon Mitchem Spiritual Director – Rev Ralph Hibbs

Location: Wesley Forest

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. "Emmaus community," made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend, support the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk typically begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends.

May 19, 2022 – May 22, 2022

#### Women's Walk #55

Lay Director – Mary Forshey

Spiritual Director – Rev Bill McNeal

**Location: Wesley Forest** 

During and after the three days, Emmaus leaders encourage participants to meet regularly in small groups. The members of the small groups challenge and support one another in faithful living. Participants seek to Christianize their environments of family, job, and community through the ministry of their congregations. The three-day Emmaus experience and follow-up groups strengthen and renew Christian people as disciples of Jesus Christ and as active members of the body of Christ in mission to the world.

If you would like to experience this life-changing, Christ -centered retreat, please let your Pastor know. Fill out the "Walk to Emmaus" application form and give it to your Pastor, he or she will submit it to the Keystone Walk to Emmaus group. One of the Board Members or one of the team members will contact you. Thank-you for prayerfully considering attending.

Please contact the church office for an application or stop by the hospitality desk.