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# Amazing Grace

**Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive**

Joshua 1:7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go." (CEB)

This verse in the book of Joshua is God's charge that God is about ready to take the people under Joshua's leadership into the Promised Land—it will become the culmination of God's holy covenant with the people Israel that he brought out of Egypt 40 years ago. It began with the crossing of the Red Sea and now it will end with the crossing of the Jordan River. God reaffirms the promise that he made to Moses and passed on to the next generation, to go with the people and be with Joshua. God has laid the foundation work for the people to prosper. Out of everything that the people will experience this is the ultimate truth—God is with them and will remain with them if they are faithful.

I have often wondered with all of the controversy plaguing our beloved United Methodist Church over the past ten years (in reality 30+), is God still with us? It is a frightening thought and the existential implications are too vast to unpack in this short letter. After much prayer and study, I believe God has revealed to me the answer, yes God is still with us. Though, I have realized that we are not in the Promised Land but rather we stand on the other side of the Jordan River poised to enter into our promised future. These past 53 years the UMC has been in conflict. Now some may be saying you mean since its beginning? My answer is yes. Because even in the birth of the United Methodist Church from the union of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church we have lost our sense of identity. It was not long after the UMC formed that many

of the provisional concessions honoring the EUB church were disregarded. The EUB brought to the table the importance of the primacy of scripture (which John Wesley would only ever uphold) and the unwavering need to live in the world through the sacred text of our Bible. "Evangelical United Brethren and Methodists walked into Dallas's Memorial Auditorium on the morning of Monday, April 23, 1968. They solemnly prayed, "Lord of the Church, we are united in thee, in thy Church, and now in The United Methodist Church." They walked out as United Methodists. With about eleven million members in the United States, the newly united church was the second largest Protestant denomination in the US, as it has remained since then. Those numbers reflected a remarkable trajectory of expansion that led its Methodist predecessor bodies from about 65,000 constituents in the USA around the year 1800 to about 4.1 million a century later in 1900 (Harmon, 1974, p. 2712). In 1968 the Methodist Church brought more than 10 million US members to the union of that year, and they united with more than 700,000 members from the Evangelical United Brethren Church"—Author Ted Campbell.

It didn't take long for the denomination to lose its roots. We forgot about the foundation of our existence. We got caught up in initiatives, advancement, programming, philosophical relevance, and became something alien to our point of origin. Since then, the United Methodist Church has been labeled (fairly I believe) as the middle of the road church. We had a large umbrella that could allow many avenues of thought and belief. The problem has become we have been unwilling to draw the distinct line to where our belief, values, and goals were to be uncompromised. The problem with not being willing to take a stand is that you inevitably never stand and with that we have come to quagmire. Like the people rejecting Moses and the Land flowing with milk and honey for the sake of having to battle "The Giants of Canaan" God allowed us to wander about for the last 50 years. But now is the time for a great movement—it is an opportunity reconnect, rededicate, reaffirm, and renew our covenant as to what the church is, what it believes, and what it is going to do under our generation of leadership. We have been entrusted with a great gift that is not meant for our own consumption but to be shared with the world around us. We can declare what we believe and what we are going to do. We can be clear in our calling, our vision, and our mission. We are called like Joshua to be strong and courageous because God is going to be with us. The future of the United Methodist Church is uncertain but the future of Grace Church is secure! We have hope. We have the promise. God will be with us. Like the political climate of the United States there is not much we can do as individuals except to do what we are able. It is my prayer that the state of our denomination not sway us from living into God's great plan for Grace Church. We cannot lose who we are and the mission before us. I realize that this letter may not be the upbeat cheerful one that we are used to but I feel the Spirit on me as I write these words. Covid has been a long season, political tension has been a long season, and the conflicts in our global church have been a long season but make no mistake—they will pass. It is our duty as disciples to not be lost or caught off guard. We must be ready and remain faithful and cross the Jordan into the Promised Land when God tells us it is time.

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## Defenders of the Faith

### *“Words Matter”*

#### *(Part 2)*

Words and phrases matter. We must be able to discern and define them appropriately before communicating, particularly as followers of Jesus Christ. Pseudo-Christian cults, secular culture, other worldviews, and even false teachers within the church have hijacked terms to bend towards their desires and beliefs. Let us continue properly defining more words and phrases this month.

**7-Tolerance** - true tolerance is all people are equal, but all ideas and behaviors are not. True tolerance is respecting people whose beliefs you disagree with; disagreeing with someone's belief, but you still give them the right to believe what they choose to believe. Today's (false) tolerance equals agreement and even a celebration of ideas and behaviors. You cannot tolerate someone you agree with. Why? Because you already agree with them!

**8-Reality** - the way things actually are or how the world actually is (we call it a worldview)

**9-Delusion** - belief in something that does not conform to reality

**10-Christianity** – the name of a religion whose worldview is **centered** on a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is the true story of the way things actually are.

**11-Moral relativism** – the belief that truth is what feels right to you; there is no real right or wrong, just whatever you personally feel is best. It seems ridiculous, but many people today believe it because it gives them the okay to act any way they want.

**12-Religious pluralism** – the believe that many religions can lead to eternal life, as there is no one true religion or many paths to God.

**13-Equality vs Equity** – Equality means equal opportunity and it challenges power. Equity means equal outcome and it protects power. Equity for one group alienates another group, equality is what we should be seeking as followers of Jesus Christ. Equity is helping one group by taking away from another group. An example of equity today in the U.S. is “reparations” - guaranteeing one group items no matter what ones' participation or effort in it. Equity is a part of the Marxism worldview puzzle.

**14-Miracle vs Divine providence** - A miracle is an event in the external world outside of natural law that is performed as a sign by the direct power of God. Divine providence is done solely through natural law to bring about God's purposes. Miracles are God on the stage (supernatural). Divine providence is God behind the stage (God acting through, though not against, His natural laws). Divine providence is God working through natural means, whereas a miracle is God working outside of natural means.

**15-Pantheism** - “All is God, God is all” – Everything that exists is God.

**16-Marxism** - a secular political worldview developed by philosopher Karl Marx where the government distributes wealth equally, there is no private property, and every individual gives to the collective.

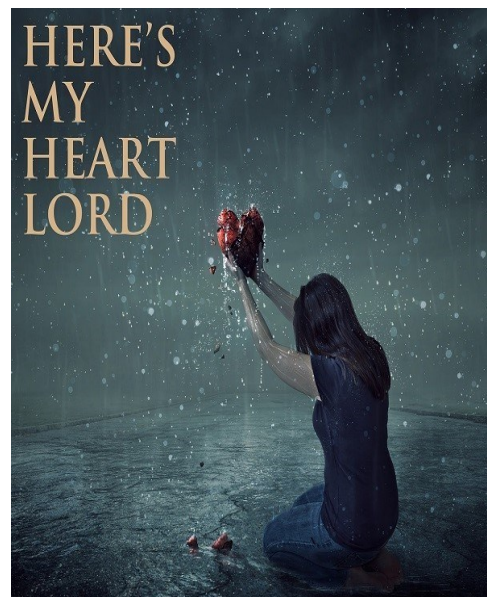
**17-Naturalism** – a secular worldview that natural forces and matter are enough to explain everything .

**18-Karma** – An Eastern religious term which means you get what you deserve in this life and the next reincarnated life. As a follower of Jesus Christ, use scripture instead (Galatians 6:7b – **‘you reap what you sow’**).

**19-Godspeed vs good luck** – God is in control, not chance. Consider using “Godspeed,” which is like saying ‘may God prosper you.’ It is an expression of good-will and desire for the person's prosperity. The KJV (and Geneva Bible) use the word 2 times in 2 John 1:10-11. John is saying we should not wish a false teacher of the gospel a certain success or blessing brought by God. It is similar in nature to saying goodbye—which originated with "God be with ye" in English.

**20-“Follow your heart,” “Be true to yourself,” “You do you,” or “live your truth.”** - Why do these phrases and those like them fall short? Should we follow our heart? What if you wanted to be a thief, polygamist, or murderer? As followers of Jesus Christ, we should want to be LESS like our sinful nature and more like Jesus. In today's post-truth culture, **feelings rule**, and following your heart means you assess reality based on emotion instead of reason and logic, and ultimately a robust evidence-based faith. We need to ask God to give us a new heart where we depend 100% on Him. Once we are born-again, He gives us a new heart.

Next month we will complete our words matter series by discussing fallacies, self-refuting statements and clichés.





## THIRTY BOOKS OF THE BIBLE...CAN YOU FIND THEM?

Answers:

This is a **most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends...One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **john** boat. Another friend studied it while playing his **banjo**, Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving, **she brews** a cup of tea to help her nerves. **There** will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact**. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. **Ruthfully**, from answers we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or a scholar **to see** some of them **at the worst**. Research has shown that something in our **genes** is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund-raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phi lemonade** booth set a new record. The local paper, The **Chronicle**, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel** Humana **humbly** puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." **Those** able to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A **chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**. There really are 30 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Note: Osee appears in the King James Version translation (often listed as KJV) of Romans 9:25 as a variant spelling of Hosea.

## July

- 07-01 Riley Cue
- 07-02 Pam Berwager
- 07-03 Robert Forrest
- 07-06 Cathy Mitzel
- 07-08 Lester Bankert  
Stanley Fidler  
Sara Miller
- 07-10 Ben Hollinger  
Nash Miller
- 07-11 Laura Erckman
- 07-13 Lisa Yingling
- 07-14 Alexandra Cassetta  
Mary Crumling
- 07-16 Shirley Cruys  
Kyle Little
- 07-17 Lovelle Lovell
- 07-19 Mary Catlin  
Thomas Newcome
- 07-22 Terry Hollinger  
Kelly Parker
- 07-24 Jean Fidler
- 07-26 Kristy Loper
- 07-28 Samantha Bankert  
Virginia Kirk
- 07-29 Barry Pecher
- 07-30 Troy Misner
- 07-31 Colton Cromer

## August

- 08-01 Dana Capece
- 08-02 Caralee O'Brien
- 08-03 Ashley Parker  
Dixie Schaefer
- 08-05 Jason Reck
- 08-06 Brad Butt
- 08-08 Maureen Downey  
Ben Grudziecki
- 08-09 Riley Abel  
Sandy Larrick  
Alex Pecher
- 08-12 Rex Daniel  
June Kline  
Daniel Ziegler  
Derek Ziegler
- 08-14 Jessica Abel
- 08-15 Mary Dehoff  
Dennis Mitzel  
Pamela Reed
- 08-16 Max Dusman
- 08-18 Chad Cruys  
Eric Leonard
- 08-19 Crystal Miller
- 08-20 Janice Garrett
- 08-21 Vallie Hinkle
- 08-23 Christine Forrest  
Beverly Hoffman  
Tom Howard
- 08-24 Brian Jenkins
- 08-25 Vance Adkins  
Lance Reed  
Kerrie Grudziecki
- 08-27 Kim Miller
- 08-31 Nicolas Kime



## CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

### June Council Highlights

- General Funds to budget and expenses are below budget, cash flow positive.
- Preschool will replace some of their furniture with furniture from First Church.
- Facilities will be looking to buy mulch for church and playground mulch.
- Church Picnic date has been changed to September 4th at Penn Grove Pavilion.
- Church garden has been planted and 3 teams are assigned to work on the garden on Tu/Wed/Fri. YWCA will be distributing the produce.
- Staff reviews will be conducted in September.
- Scholarships will be given out in July.
- There were 30 people at the first Wednesday night worship.
- Council created a Clergy Candidate Mentoring position which will be funded by a grant from the conference and the Church. The position was presented to Melia Garrett and she accepted. The position will start July 1, 2021 and end on June 30, 2022.
- A Policy and Procedure Manual for the church is being updated.
- Council will not hold a July Council meeting.
- Our next Rummage sale will take place in spring 2022.

Fall Retreat

# SAVE THE DATE

09-10 thru 09-11



Friday 6-9pm

- \$25 registration fee
- Food provided

Saturday 8-4pm

- Guest speakers
- Women embracing one another

Where: Grace Church  
55 Albright Drive  
Hanover, PA 17331

Contact Sheila Carter for more information  
scarter@mygracechurch.org

Save the Date

# GRACE CHURCH FALL FEST

SEPTEMBER 4TH

Penn Grove Retreat  
6419 Pamadeva Rd, Hanover, PA 17331

More information to follow soon!

# Sharing Our Time



*A huge thank you to the helpers (Linda Mohr, Mary Blouse, Sheila Carter, Mae Woodard, Jeanne Weister, Deb Kellenbenz, Jennifer Conway, Barb Zeller) who worked in the kitchen on Saturday, June 5. A lot of work was completed and we of course had snacks! Thank you all so very much for the hard work, laughs and fellowship.*

*God Bless,*

*Kim and Keith Smith*



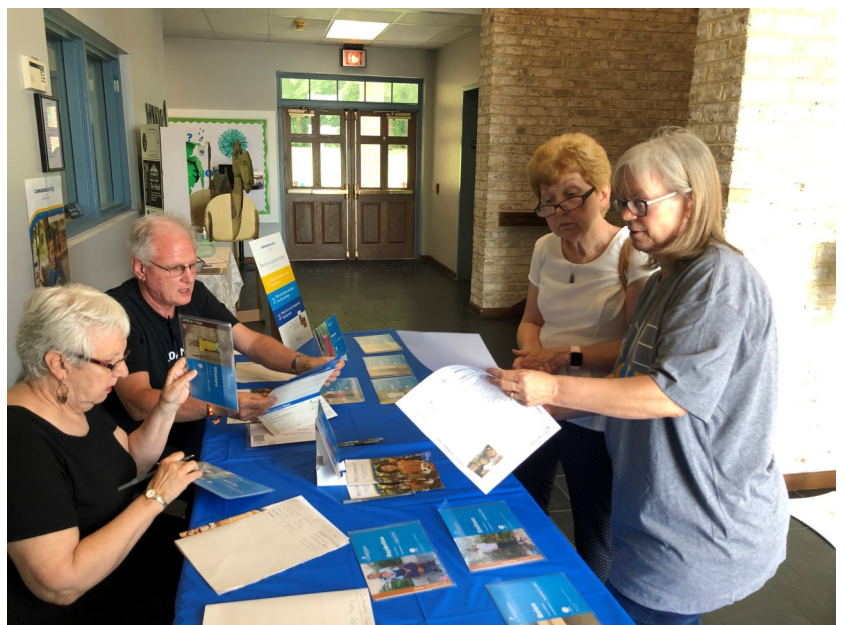
*Thank you to the folks (Missy Leonard, Mary Blouse, Ron Cruys, Deb and Warren Kellenbenz) who helped weed the front gardens. We will be having another outside work day on Saturday, July 17th. More details to follow soon.*



# Compassion Sunday



*Compassion Sunday was a huge success. Our church was provided with 15 children to sponsor. We are so happy to announce that all of the children were sponsored. Thank you to everyone who adopted a child in need. Your generous commitment will provide a child in poverty the ability to change their life forever.*







### **Childcare Volunteers**

We are looking for volunteers the months of July and August to work in the nursery. We definitely need help on July 11th.

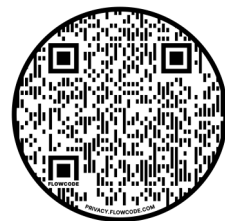
### **Vacation Bible School**

- We are decorating for VBS on July 15 and 16. Please join us if you are available.
- Donations are still needed. Please see the board in the lobby or contact Meredith directly at 917-664-7222.

VBS Registration is still open. Please register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/7ddeb0>. or scan the QR

## **PATH**

- July 4th - No meeting
- July 11th - 6 pm
- July 18th - 6 pm
- July 25th - 6 pm



# Recognizing Our Graduates

Olivia Kuntz is a South Western High School graduate from the class of 2021. She will be pursuing a degree in Dental Hygiene starting out at Harrisburg Area Community College. While in high school, Olivia played violin in the orchestra and sang in many of the choral groups as an Alto 2. She was also a part of various Pennsylvania Music Educators Association festivals for both orchestra and chorus and achieved membership of the 2020 and 2021 All State Chorus Mustang Vision, where she did various technical jobs. Her duties included: camera operator, text operator, technical director, and audio. Olivia was a part of Technology Student Association, where she entered in competitions for both Music Production and Photography. She is very excited for the next chapter in her life and would like to thank everyone for their love and support.

Hi, I'm Owen Loper. I'm 18 years old and I just graduated from New Oxford High School. I have been playing soccer for 14 years. I played for Hanover Soccer club and also for my high school. I was a member of my high school orchestra, playing the string bass. I am currently working a part-time summer job at the Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12 in New Oxford where I am a summer mover. I am planning on attending York College of Pennsylvania this fall. I will spend my first year commuting and see if I want to stay on campus in the future. In college, I will be a part of their orchestra so I can continue with my love of music. I will be majoring in civil engineering. York College will have co-ops for three of my years, so I will be able to get some much needed experience in the field and even a possible job offer upon graduation. I enjoy playing soccer, music and hanging out with my friends and family.

Trevor Kuntz is a South Western High School graduate from the class of 2021. He will pursue training in the field of animation; receiving certification classes for 3D character animation through the Animation Mentor online trade school. While in high school, he studied graphic design and was in many ensembles in the music department. He sang and played viola in many choral and orchestral groups, respectively. He also represented his school in various Pennsylvania Music Educators Association festivals. He made District level for both orchestra and chorus in 2020 and 2021; and qualified for Regional Chorus in both the 2020 and 2021 seasons. Trevor was a member of the Link Crew his junior year as a leader to guide incoming freshmen and make them feel welcome in their new setting. Trevor was also involved in Tri-M music honor society his senior year as a part of the music department relations committee; helping plan events to have the department engage in activities to bond over their love of music. He is eager to start his new chapter in life with the support of his family and friends.



## Recognizing Our Graduates Cont.

Hello! My name is Sara Grove and I graduated from Spring Grove Area High School in 2019. I am currently pursuing a BFA degree in Theatre Performance at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. I have just finished my second year at Belmont and I am looking forward to returning in the fall to start my junior year. During my short time in college, I've been blessed to perform in multiple theatrical productions, serve my community, learn about The Bible, and meet many amazing people. I was confirmed and became a member of Grace United Methodist Church in 2014. However, I've been attending GUMC for as long as I can remember and I truly feel like I have grown up here.



My name is Abby Leonard and I graduated from Spring Grove Area High School this year. In the upcoming fall, I will be attending George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and will be majoring in environmental and sustainability studies. While in high school, I played softball and was a part of the school's climate change club. I have been vegetarian for about 3 and a half years and I love spending time outdoors. My favorite outdoor activities are gardening, hiking, and running around with my two dogs. In my free time, I enjoy making jewelry (which I soon intend to make a business out of) and attending festivals, especially bluegrass music festivals. I have been a member of Grace United Methodist Church for almost 5 years but I have attended basically my entire life. I love the family that I have made here and cherish the memories I have and will continue to make at this church.