

JUNE 2022

Volume 3, Issue 6

# Amazing Grace

Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive

## CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

**Chair:** Linda Mixter

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

- Preschool Graduation will be held May 27, 2022.
- The PATH Spaghetti Dinner made \$2,685.21. The proceeds will be donated as follows: 50% to UMCOR, 30% to God's Meal Barrel and 20% to Compassion Child.
- Jim Ward has become a member of the Facility Committee. Work Day around the Church is June 11th.
- Events Committee: Feeding the Flame: August 20th 11am to 7 pm.
- Church Audit was completed and sent to the Conference May 17th.
- The Seedling money from the Conference has been moved to a Money Market Account established at Santander Bank in Hanover.
- The Youth Checking account will have a debit card. Keith and Darren will have access to this card.
- Ron and Duane will be attending the Church Conference as our lay members.
- Grace Church will be the recipient of the Flying Dove Award at the Awards Luncheon at the Conference.
- The Couples Retreat hosted by Pastor Todd and Autumn was a great success.
- Amanda Myers & family have donated a Baby Grand Piano to the Church.

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## Defenders of the Faith

### "The Case For Biblical Prayer (Part 2 of 3)"

Another major objection to prayer is related to God's character. Since God knows everything and what we need, what's the purpose of praying? Why talk to God when He already knows what you're going to say? Jesus says in Matthew 6:8 "Your Father knows the things you need before you ask him." If God is already in complete control over everything, if there is nothing that happens that escapes His control, do my prayers really make a difference? The scripture also says in Psalm 115:3 "Our God is in heaven and does whatever he pleases". If God is going to do whatever He pleases, then why should we ask Him to do what it is that we want Him to do? That general questioning reveals a limited view on what prayer is. Prayer is so much bigger and significant than simply asking God for things, even though this is part of prayer.

He has made us to be in relationships with each other and Him. One powerful way we are in relationship with God is through prayer from which everything else flows. Prayer allows us to commune with the One who knit us together in our mother's womb. An intimate prayer relationship with God demands investing genuine time and focused effort. Many of us have learned to pray backwards. We rush into God's presence and before our needs have ever hit the ground, we're already thinking about returning to our lives outside prayer. Our prayers should be first and foremost about worship and adoration. Holding up God's name for praise is our primary privilege and delight in prayer. God alone is worthy of praise. That would be true even if God never gave us anything. Notice that the Lord's Prayer begins with "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9).

Our confessions should also be brought before the Lord. Human sin blocks communication with God. "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us" (Luke 11:4). Jesus taught His disciples to pray this way to make sure that there are no stumbling blocks between God and them. In addition, we thank God for all His blessings, guidance, protection, and spiritual growth He has given us and others, as well as praying for the needs of others and ourselves.

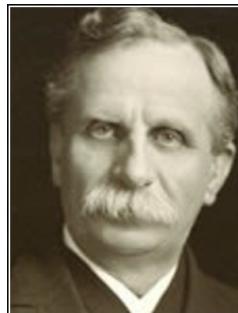
Why pray if God is sovereign? Again, it comes from a fundamental misunderstanding of prayer. The same God that is sovereign, that ordains the ends of everything, He also ordains the means. God has ordained the means that we experience life through intimate communal fellowship in prayer with Him, and that is reason enough to pray. To ask 'why pray if God already knows what we need before we ask Him?' is like saying 'why get up, get dressed and brush your teeth in the morning?' Why do anything at all? C.S. Lewis said you might as well ask why you should breathe as why should you pray. God has ordained it. Ultimately, prayer is not communicating to a God that has fatalistically

determined everything that is going to happen in the future. What we do really matters, and prayer makes a difference. When we get up in the morning and get ready for our day, it makes a difference. When we pray, it makes a difference.

Scripture tells us that God, our creator who loves us commands us to pray. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to pray without ceasing, which means for us to have an attitude of praying regularly as a primary normal part of our lives where we are in a constant relationship with God. It's like spiritual breathing to our lives. Look at all the influential people throughout church history who committed to prayer. Examine those in the scriptures like Moses, David, Elijah, other prophets, and even Jesus. They were specifically called by God for certain tasks and prayed to God. Jesus often withdrew to solitary places to pray because He desired to have fellowship with His Heavenly Father. He said in Matthew 6:6 that we should find a secluded quiet place and pray to God. If Jesus Himself, who is God in flesh, knows the importance of prayer and prayed to the Father, then how much more should we! God knows what we need, but for the sake of the relationship, to humble us before the Lord, and because scripture commands it, praying is essential.

Jesus was clear in Matthew 7:7-8 that we are to ask, seek and knock. Our Savior and Lord was emphasizing persistent prayer. In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus gives us the parable of the persistent widow to show us that we should always pray and never give up. If we want to be like Jesus, then we should pray because He did. He was obedient to the Father and set up an example for us to follow. The Bible records Jesus praying 25 different times during his earthly ministry. Jesus' disciples saw Him pray many times. They made the connection between Jesus' intense prayer life and the power He showed in every aspect of life, realizing that prayer was the link. He would pray all night and sometimes His prayers were just one sentence. Jesus prayed for His followers, for the children, for Peter, that His Father's will be done, praised and thanked His Father in prayer, asked the Father to forgive sinners, prayed for Himself, and prayed with His last words on the cross. Finally, one disciple asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus gave them what has now become known as 'The Lord's Prayer.' Let's model our prayer life after Jesus and pray continually.

**Aiding source and recommendation:** equip.org (Christian Research Institute)



The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.

— Samuel Chadwick —



Women of Grace will meet on Sunday, June 26 at 12 noon for Lunch & Learn with our study of the Beth Moore book, Chasing Vines. All are welcome for food and fellowship. Be sure to mark your calendars for our Retreat at Mt. Asbury Lodge September 9-11th. Watch for more details.

Contact Sheila Carter, [scarter@mygracechurch.org](mailto:scarter@mygracechurch.org)

# What is a Vacation?

A vacation is a succession of 2 weeks, which may be 2 short. Afterwards, you are 2 tired 2 return 2 work and 2 broke not 2. Therefore, be sure 2 bring by the church your 2 week's tithe before you leave for 2 weeks. If not, we will be 2 far behind 2 do all the things for the Lord our church wants 2 do!

- |       |                   |
|-------|-------------------|
| 06-01 | Cindy Freet       |
| 06-02 | Charles Carroll   |
|       | Russell Miller    |
|       | Fredrick Trone    |
| 06-03 | Lynn Crumling     |
|       | Lisa Dover        |
|       | Erin Trone        |
| 06-04 | Rebecca Hollinger |
|       | Eugene Paul       |
| 06-05 | Richard Dixon     |
| 06-06 | Dwight Harry      |
|       | Janet Blum        |
| 06-09 | Judy Largent      |
| 06-10 | Robert Miller     |
|       | Wilma Lau         |
| 06-13 | Debbie Kellenbenz |
| 06-14 | John Hicks        |
|       | Frank Zeller      |
| 06-16 | Woodrow Berwager  |
|       | Kathy Gross       |
|       | Mary Hnatkowicz   |
| 06-17 | Dalton Parker     |
| 06-18 | Linda Mixter      |
| 06-19 | Payton Yingling   |
| 06-20 | Martha Knochel    |
| 06-23 | Barb Zeller       |
| 06-25 | Paul Carbaugh     |
|       | Matthew Yiingling |
| 06-26 | Beth Paul         |
| 06-27 | Jacy Miller       |
| 06-28 | Angie Kaltreider  |
|       | Linda Mohr        |
| 06-29 | Rhonda Moore      |
| 06-30 | Wyatt Parker      |



On May 21st folks came out to prepare and plant Garden of Grace. This year's food will be donated to Y.W.C.A., the Council of Churches and New Hope Ministries. In addition, when certain vegetables are at their peak in terms of numbers we will make them available to the congregation by using space on the grounds near the garden.

*Thank you to Dawn Toutloff for the photos.*





WILL PERFORM JUNE 12TH 11AM

A vibrant illustration of a desert scene with a stone archway. Inside the archway, there are tents and a small market. The text "Jerusalem -MARKETPLACE-" is written in a stylized, brown font across the arch.

**Vacation Bible School**  
**July 18-22 6-8pm**

**Grace Church**  
A United Methodist Church  
55 Albright Dr.  
Hanover, PA 17331

Questions?  
Call Meredith  
917-664-7222

Register Here:  
[vbspro.events/p/events/155593](http://vbspro.events/p/events/155593)

**Vacation Bible School  
Donation Wish List**

- large appliance card board boxes
- burlap bags or material
- 8 ft EZ Up type canopies
- flat sheets - plain colors or strips. No florals or wild patterns
- rugs
- baskets and crocks for decor
- throw pillows
- foam board
- spray adhesive
- plastic/fake fruit
- long cardboard tubes
- pool noodles
- alien tape
- small cardboard boxes
- carpet squares or remnant
- oil cloth
- flannel backed table clothes
- dried beans
- empty oatmeal containers

A smaller version of the Jerusalem Marketplace logo from the previous slide, featuring the same desert scene and market stall.

**Please supply  
or confirm by  
June 30th**