

MAY 2022
Volume 3, Issue 5

Amazing Grace

Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive

It's May! April showers bring May flowers! Is a song I used to sing as a child and is a song I hear from my children. Did you use to sing this song? Spring is in its prime and there are many of us that are looking to the end of spring and the beginning of summer! As a pastor, this time of year has always been extremely difficult in leadership in the life of the church. With new warm weather, sunny and longer days, I and many other church leaders get apprehensive about the trend. It is this time of the year that attendance becomes a large concern for the local church. Families are taking vacations, impromptu road trips, and sporting events for children and grandchildren. It is my hope and prayer as your pastor that you get to participate in some of these.

I also hope and pray that I can offer you a pastoral word before taking your time away. While you are out and about enjoying God's great creation, deepening relationships, and enjoying this life do not forget about the spiritual things. As Christians, we are called to live and be in worship regularly. Corporate worship keeps us centered on God and Godly things. Scripture tells us in Hebrews 10:25, "do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." The author of Hebrews reminds the church of the importance of not lightly casting away from gathering as a faith community. In our gatherings, we are ministered to and are ministers too! They are critical to the success of our journey.

It is easy to excuse one's self as not being important to worship and maybe not a whole lot will be missed but this is untrue. Each of you is vital to worship and this community. If you are away over a Sunday please seek out and research where you can attend a worship service in your vicinity. There are many campgrounds that have church-sponsored worship. If you want to make sure you have a United Methodist Church a great resource is www.findachurch.org you are never far from a Methodist congregation.

I also, want to offer that as you are making your plans to travel over the summer to remember your church with your tithes and offerings. We are called as Christians through scripture to a holy discipline of generosity that a portion supports the local church. Giving is a pillar of the Christian faith and tithing an integral part of Christian discipleship. Please plan on supporting your local church while you are away. We have the ability for automated giving through Vanco and of course through our Grace Church App. You can schedule reoccurring giving to automatically take place while you are away. Contact the office and we can help you set that up.

I thank you so much for your continued faithful support of the ministry and mission work here at Grace Church. Because of this amazing congregation, we are making a difference through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ here in our community of Hanover and beyond.

Pastor Todd Christine, MDiv.



Pastor of Grace Church

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Defenders of the Faith

"The Case For Biblical Prayer"

(Part 1 of 3)"

Prayer can mean many things to different people. Defined in a general and basic way, prayer is communication with God, a god, or another object of worship. Many religions recognize the need for prayer. But how is prayer defined to the follower of Jesus Christ? How is historical Biblical prayer set apart from other religious prayer?

What is prayer as it relates to the way things really are? What is prayer as it relates to reality? Prayer is relational, intentional, and direct access communication with God anytime and anywhere, accomplished by the finished work of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, in His death & bodily resurrection.

There are 650 prayers listed in the Bible. But why should we pray? Why is Biblical prayer important? What is the case for Biblical prayer? What is the apologetics of prayer?.....

There are two main sticking point questions regarding Biblical prayer that all followers of Jesus Christ should be ready to give an answer with clarity and charity. One: "Why doesn't God answer my prayers? Why does He seem silent?" and Two: "If God is in complete control and already knows what I need, then why pray? Why pray if God is sovereign?" We need to be able to address both questions with compassion and truth. Let's unpack them one at a time.

One of the arguments "against" prayer is that if there is a God, why doesn't He consistently answer the prayers of His followers? There are many devoted Christians who have earnestly prayed to God and seem to have their prayers go unanswered. Why does God seem to not answer all our prayers? Does unanswered prayer serve as evidence that the God of the Bible doesn't exist? How would you answer this objection? In order to do so, we must understand something about God's priorities. Our ideas about prayer and God's idea regarding prayer can sometimes be very different. In the model prayer Jesus gave in Luke 11:2-4, He teaches us how to pray by starting with praising God and acknowledging His holiness. Jesus states for His will to be accomplished before asking for anything for Himself. We need to have a 'God-first' approach in prayer.

It's true that many prayers seem to go unanswered, this perception is likely based on the idea that the only answer we would find acceptable to prayer is "Yes." That is not how it works with God. God listens to and answers all our prayers. No prayers go unanswered. Sometimes the answer is 'yes, I'll do it,' but sometimes the answer is 'no! There's a reason why this is not best for you' or simply 'not yet,' 'wait,' or 'not that way. Now is not the right time. Be patient and keep praying and wait to see what I'm going to do in your life and in others.'

In order to understand why a particular prayer might fall into one of these categories, it might be helpful to look at those prayers that God answers affirmatively. God says 'yes' to our genuine request for wisdom (James 1:5), forgiveness (1 John 1:9) and

salvation (Romans 10:13). Why would God say 'yes' to these prayers? God is more concerned with your eternal character than your temporary comfort. This is a major key to understand why God answers prayer the way He does. God responds to those prayers that help us to understand His priorities. God wants us to develop godly character, to fear the Lord (which is taking God seriously and faithfully), and to realize we are eternal beings.

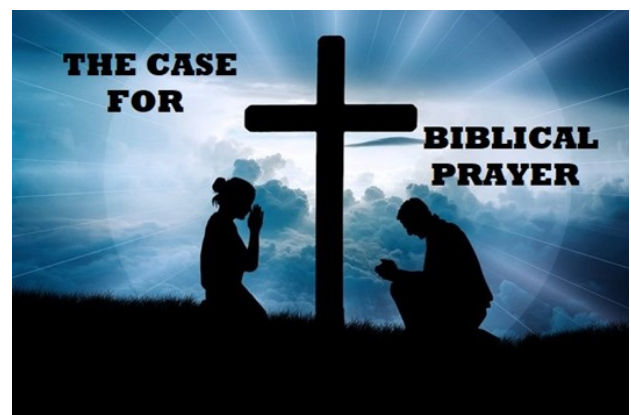
Some prayers do get answered in the negative. It's not because he doesn't love you or isn't listening. He sees the whole picture, the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). God says 'no' to prayers that violate His nature as the perfect source of truth and righteousness.

What about the truly righteous prayers that God doesn't seem to answer? These prayers are 'not yet' prayers. God, according to His perfect will, will say 'yes' to these requests but He may not respond in our desired timing or in our desired way. These prayers might be answered in this life or not until the next life. Our impatience is a result of our mortal focus on the 'now.' We seldom think about how short this life will be especially compared to eternity with God. It might seem that God is never going to answer 'yes,' but compared with eternity, this life is just a blink of an eye. These prayers are 'not yet' prayers because God fully intends to answer them in eternity. In the meantime, God is answering prayers with specific goals in mind. Does this help you understand who God is, does it help you develop the kind of patience, love, or character that He wants demonstrated here and now? Does it help you live for eternity rather than the fleeting moments of this earthly life? All is for His eternal glory!

God's methods and priorities are not like ours. We want things now, and God is concerned about our character in eternity. He has complete and perfect understanding of what is good for us, even if it makes little to no sense to us in the present. His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). We can expect and trust God to answer us, trusting Him even when the answer isn't what we were hoping for (Proverbs 3:5-6), knowing that He does hear and answer prayer. Our Heavenly Father will be faithful to answer our prayers when we call on Him.

Aiding source and recommendation: coldcasechristianity.com

(J. Warner Wallace)





GARDEN OF GRACE

Time for tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, melons etc. etc.

The Grace garden will be plowed this month and planting is set for May 21 (time to be announced later).

We would love to have new volunteers join us. In light of that we asked the youth to help us plant and maintain after school is out. Adult volunteers will be asked to choose a time every week to work along with others in teams.

This year, as last, we will donate the crops 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.

Last year brought us a good harvest and we ask for your prayers that this year will bring a good crop to benefit those in need in our community.



Ruth's Harvest

First of all, thank all of you that have contributed generously to the Ruth's Harvest Project. We only have a few more weeks of the school session this year. The last delivery to the children is May 24. We could like donations up to that point, after that, please hold your donations until school resumes again. The closet where we store our food is not air conditioned, so we don't want to have to store anything. We have served 150 children each week this year.

A Letter from Charlotte Mullinix

To my Grace church family,

Many thanks to all of our Grace church friends for the cards, phone calls, transportation, food, prayers and other kindnesses during our recent difficult journey. We were so blessed to have such a caring church family.

That love and support and my deep faith has truly helped me get through each day. God Bless you all!

Love and prayers,

Charlotte Mullinix

05-01	Patricia Martin
05-02	April Myers
05-05	George Small Ann Baugher
05-07	Chester McCormick
05-09	Aaron Pecher
05-10	Chris Hnatkowicz
05-12	Jim Winbourne
05-13	Robert Dillon Janet Ginter Shaylyn Miller
05-15	Aaron Catlin Corbin Capps
05-16	Christopher Reck
05-17	Riley DeCoursey
05-18	Chad Pritchard
05-20	Ron Cruys Scott Fidler Peggy Garrett
05-21	Jill Masenheimer Judy Dutton
05-23	Karen Misner
05-24	Joshua Myers
05-26	Owen Loper
05-27	Ed Knochel
05-28	Mark Coons Debra Kuntz
05-30	Mark Parker
05-31	Chloe Miller Grant Howard

Cultivate

Please join us in our next Cultivate series. There will be a variety of different topics

in our services. Testimony, singing, skits, discipleship and prayer will be included. Please come out and support Melia as she leads us the next several weeks.

Hope to see you there!



“Thirty-Three on the Three-in-One”

Answers:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| | 17-True |
| 1-True | 18-True |
| 2-False | 19-False |
| 3-False | 20-True |
| 4-True | 21-True |
| 5-True | 22-False |
| 6-False | 23-True |
| 7-True | 24-True |
| 8-True | 25-True |
| 9-True | 26-False |
| 10-True | 27-False |
| 11-False | 28-True |
| 12-False | 29-False |
| 13-True | 30-True |
| 14-True | 31-True |
| 15-False | 32True |
| 16-False | 33-False |

CREATIVE



SMART IDEA

Have an idea for an event? Don't keep these great thoughts to yourself, share them with us. Contact the church office to tell us more.

Women of Grace

Our Lunch & Learn will be held on Sunday, May 29th at noon. We will continue our Beth Moore **Chasing Vines** study, Session 3, *The Vine*. Lunch is provided and all are welcome, so bring a friend for some fellowship and discussion.

On Saturday, May 7th a Spaghetti Dinner will be prepared and served by our Path Youth. All proceeds from this event will benefit **Women at Risk, International. WAR, Int.**, offers "at risk and rescued individuals holistic healing through physical, emotional, spiritual and vocational support." In addition, we will be hosting a speaker from **WAR, Int.** at 4:00 p.m. and a **WAR, Int.** Pop-Up-Boutique. We look forward to partnering with our Path Youth to benefit this organization. Be sure to invite your family and friends.

Dinner will be served from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 - adult, \$6.00 - child, under 5 is free.

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

May Highlights

- **Preschool Graduation will be held May 27th, 2022.**
- **A PATH Spaghetti Dinner will be held May 7th, 2022 at the Church.**
- **Council empowered Linda Mixter, Ronald Carter and Ed Davis as authorized signatories for our accounts with the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania.**
- **A reimbursement policy has been established for all groups within the church.**
- **Council approved the Event Committee's request to hold an Event on August 20th from 11 am to 7 pm entitled Feeding the Flame pending a budget.**
- **The 2021 Church Audit will be completed by May 2, 2022.**
- **Council approved establishing a \$100.00 petty cash fund for the office from the General Fund.**
- **There has been positive feedback from the congregation regarding Holy Week. Creative ideas for next year may be shared via email with Pastor Todd.**
- **Council approved taking up to \$450.00 from the capital fund to purchase a TV and a mobile cart.**
- **Finance Committee would like to create an account for Capital Improvement.**
- **A Couples Retreat hosted by Pastor Todd and Autumn will be held at the Church May 13 and 14th. Childcare will be provided.**



Parents' Night Out
TIE DYE EDITION!
Coming this June!

Lauren and Emily Howard, Paytyn Christine and Natalie Teegarden enjoying our Easter Family Fellowship.



Vacation Bible School
Save the Date
July 18-22
6-8pm



Dalton Parker, Nico DeSanctis, Grant Howard and Xzavier Raup were confirmed on April 10, 2022.

