

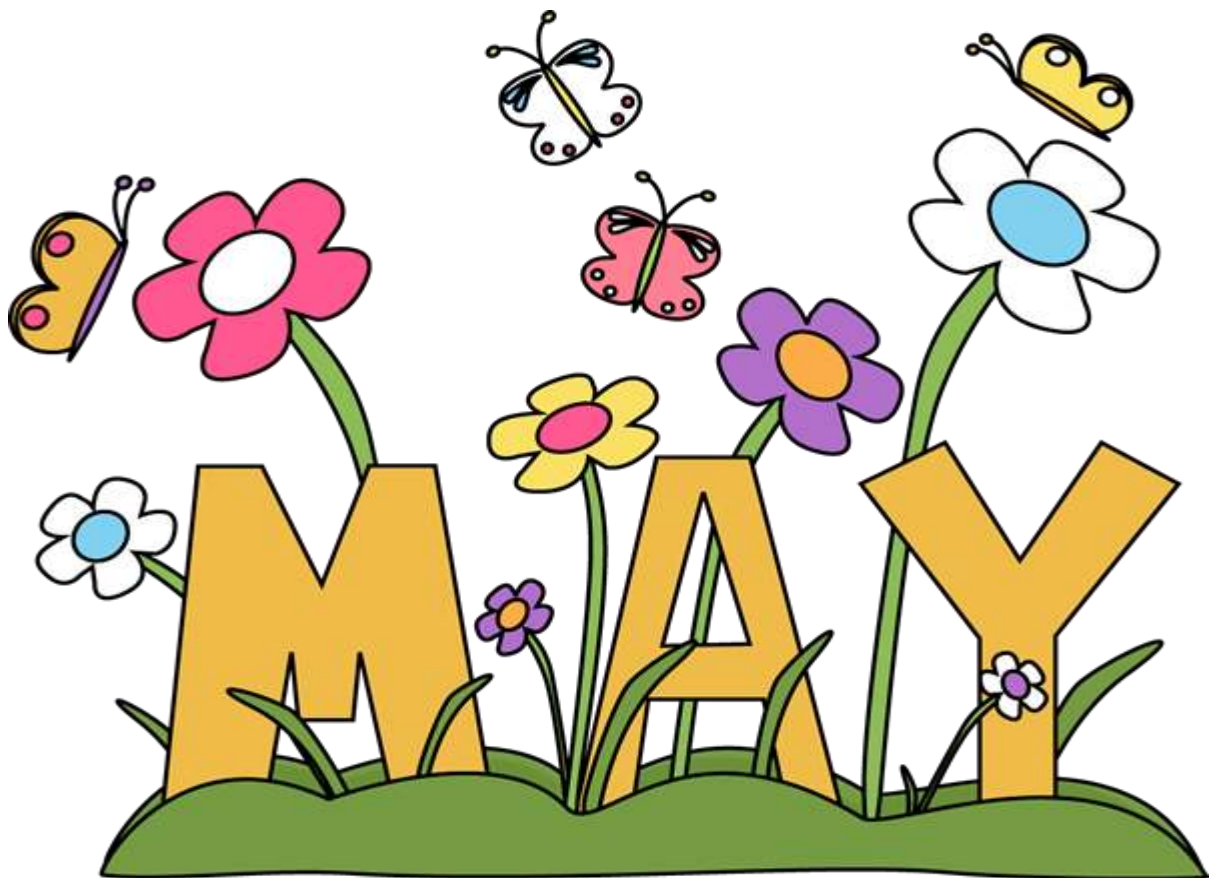
Grace United Methodist Church

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2026



From the Pastor's Desk

May 1, 2026

Psalm 119:1-3 (NIV)

The Glories of God's Law

¹ Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

² Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,

³ who also do no wrong
but walk in his ways.

Dear Grace Family,

There is something deeply grounding about these opening verses from Psalm 119. They remind us that faith is not simply about what we believe, but about how we walk - day by day, step by step, together. To “walk in the ways of the Lord” is not a one-time decision, but a continual journey of trust, obedience, grace, and growth. In many ways, that feels like an appropriate word for us as a church right now.

Over these past several weeks, I have sensed a quiet but meaningful shift in the life of Grace Church. There have been good and productive conversations among leadership, particularly with our Worship Committee and Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. These moments of collaboration matter more than we sometimes realize; they are signs that we are seeking God's direction together, not just individually but as a body.

Worship itself continues to be a source of encouragement. Week after week, I am grateful for the spirit of attentiveness and openness that fills our sanctuary. Whether it's through Word, prayer, music, or simply being present with one another, God is at work among us, and that is something worth holding onto.

At the same time, we remain a church very much “in process.” There are still needs around our building and grounds that weigh on our minds. I know many of you share that concern. And yet, I am also mindful - and I invite you to be mindful - that those who serve in these roles do so faithfully as volunteers, giving what time and energy they can. The work before us is not just about fixing what is broken, but about continuing to build a spirit of shared care and responsibility for the place God has entrusted to us.

Looking ahead, the coming weeks offer several meaningful opportunities for us to gather, celebrate, and grow together, both at our church and in the community. For **Teacher Appreciation Week**, on May 7th we are providing lunch for the teachers at Snyder Park Elementary School. Donations are requested for the luncheon which will be administered by the Women in Faith.

On May 10th we will honor **Mother's Day**, which is a time to give thanks for those who have nurtured, guided, and shaped our lives in faith and love. These can be joyful days, and for some, and tender ones as well. At the top of this entry for the newsletter, I've included a precious picture; one of my favorites, of my own mother, Roxie Stufflebeam. You can see all three of my brothers in that portrait; the eldest



David in front, the next eldest, Jim to the left, and the youngest, Chuck, at the back in the middle. It seems a lifetime ago that picture was taken, but it always makes me remember that day – the laughter we all shared, and the time we spent together. For our worship on that special Sunday, Pastor Amanda will be bringing a message to us that will serve to both inspire and reflect upon our Christian journey's. May we hold one another in grace through both celebration and remembrance.

The Master Gardener Volunteers of Clark County are creating a Storybook Trail and Little Library at the Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum, with a dedication for Snyder Park Elementary School Students who perished in a fire just prior to Christmas last year. The dedication to the two students will be on May 13th at 10:00am.

The **Snyder Park Field Day** will be held on May 15th from 9:00am–12noon, and we will be providing water and cookies for the entire student body that day. There are 375 students to cover, so bring your cookies to the church by May 14th at noon, where we will need lots of help with packaging.

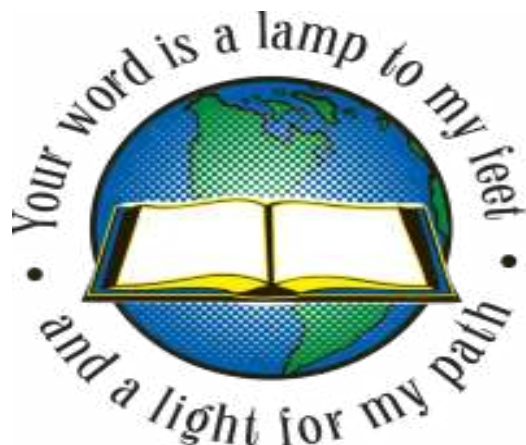
On **Pentecost Sunday (May 24th)**, we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit - the breath of God that brings life, renewal, and boldness to the Church. Pentecost reminds us that we are not called to walk this journey alone; the Spirit moves among us, within us, and through us. It is but one of my very favorite worship experiences on the Christian Calendar, and I invite everyone to come be a part of it.

That same weekend brings **Memorial Day**, when we pause as a nation to remember and honor those who gave their lives in service. It is a sacred moment to reflect on sacrifice, gratitude, and the hope of peace.

And then, on **May 31st**, we will gather for something we haven't done in a little while; a **Hymn Sing Service**. This will be a morning centered entirely on music and praise, with no sermon, but plenty of opportunity to lift our voices together in the songs that have shaped our faith. I am especially excited that the **Haitian Ladies Ministry** will be offering special music through their choir. This will be a beautiful reminder that the Body of Christ is wonderfully diverse, and that worship transcends language, culture, and background.

Through all of this, I return again to the words of the Psalmist: *"Happy are those...who seek Him with their whole heart."* That is my prayer for us—not perfection, not having everything figured out, but a sincere and wholehearted seeking after God. If we continue to do that – **together** - I believe we will find ourselves exactly where God is calling us to be.

In Peace and Love
Pastor Rob Stufflebeam
Grace United Methodist Church
(740) 304-2518
rob.stufflebeam@gmail.com



MAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- May 1 2 Kings 18:32
- May 2 Joshua 24:15
- May 3 Isaiah 30:19
- May 4 Romans 15:4
- May 5 1 Kings 8:61
- May 6 Psalm 37: 5
- May 7 Psalm 86:15
- May 8 Proverbs 3:28
- May 9 Isaiah 30:15
- May 10 2 Corinthians 3:4-5
- May 11 Ecclesiastes 4:6
- May 12 Philippians 4:11
- May 13 Psalm 3:3
- May 14 John 16:33
- May 15 Colossians 2:6-7
- May 16 Ephesians 5:15
- May 17 Proverbs 16:19
- May 18 1 Corinthians 2:16
- May 19 Proverbs 13:4
- May 20 Psalm 37:4
- May 21 2 Chronicles 15:7
- May 22 Hebrews 10:23
- May 23 Deuteronomy 6:5
- May 24 Psalm 86:2
- May 25 Hebrews 10:24
- May 26 John 10:27-28
- May 27 1 Timothy 4:12
- May 28 Philippians 2:15
- May 29 Psalm 5:3
- May 30 Luke 12:40
- May 31 1 Corinthians 16:13-14



PRAYERS NEEDED

**Phyllis and Larry Garber
Rachelle Kneiss**

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SHOWER OF BLESSINGS FOR May

**Juanita Juergens
627 Basswood Dr
Springfield, Oh 45504**



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MENS BIBLE STUDY

The Grace Men’s Bible Study Group continues to meet every Monday at 7:00 PM. They discuss topics of today, scriptures, and have lively discussions. All men are invited and feel free to bring a friend.

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Haitian Womens Choir

This group will be performing at our Worship service on May 31, and Followed by a Haitian Luncheon provided by the group.

Please plan to attend.

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MOTHER'S DAY

May 10 th is Mother's Day this year. We will have a special gift for all the ladies of the church on that day.

Outreach Dates

Teacher Appreciation Week

We are providing lunch for the Teachers @ Snyder Park Elementary School on May 7, 2026. Donations are requested for the Luncheon provided by Women of Faith.

Field Day @ Snyder Park Elementary School is May 15 from 9a-12p. We provide water and cookies for the entire student body on that day. There are 375 students. Last year we provided popsicles too, but Kona Ice is there that day too!

Please have cookies @ Church by May 14 @ noon. Help is needed to package them @ 12-2pm on May 14.

Dedication for Snyder Park Elementary School students who perished in fire prior to Christmas 2025.

The Master Gardener Volunteers of Clark County are creating a Storybook Trail and Little library on the new completed sidewalk in the Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum. Dedication to the 2 students will be on May 13 @10am. Our church serves these loving children by providing Halloween treats, Christmas cookies , and May Day water and cookies for the past 4 years. Maiden Lane Church of God also serves the school. It takes a village.....

You are invited!

Through Him all things are possible,

Connie Mitchell



.FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP

Jackie Brown is a local Springfield girl who graduated from Springfield South. You may know her as the host of the Pennsylvania House. After graduation Jackie worked at the Wright State University School of Medicine. Jackie married an Air Force officer and while they were stationed in southern California, she was an extra in TV films and movies. Consequently, she met a number of actors, had great times, and had many adventures (we're hoping she'll be sharing them with us). Jackie's daughter, Jennifer, lives in California where she serves as a paralegal for the Lemon Law Firm. Jackie's brother, Jeff Keener lives in Alabama.

While living out West she volunteered at an Indian museum thinking they would feature the Indians of the great Plains, but they were their pre-historic ancestors. Jackie said she learned a great deal about them (more stories!!).

Jackie's number one hobby is genealogy—researching her family roots. She is a member of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), currently serving as the Regent of the Lagonda Chapter and the Chairman of the Pennsylvania House. Jackie is a member of the Eastern Star, the Springfield Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, and the VFW 1031. In addition, she "pet sits," -- dogs/cats. Jackie has had six surgeries for her face cancer and will be having further treatment in June. Praying with her.

Favorite Scripture: All of them

Favorite Hymn: Amazing *Grace*

Favorite Color: Green

Favorite Sport: Baseball

Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate

Advice: Always have a plan.

Testimony: "I had facial cancer and that has changed my life quite a lot. I am thankful that Grace Methodist found me – I feel welcome here.

Thankful for YOU!!!



MAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

POSITION	DATES	NAME
ACROLYTE	MAY 3, 10	Doree McAdams
	MAY 17,24,31	Doree McAdams
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COMMUNION SET UP	MAY 3	Pastor Rob
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COMMUNION SERVERS	MAY 3	Betty Prosser & Mary Ahlborn
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COMMUNION CLEAN-UP	MAY 3	BETTY PROSSER
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GREETER (FRONT DOOR)	MAY 3, 10	Mary Ahlborn
	MAY 17, 24	Ken & Deb Cooke
	MAY 31	Tom Martin
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GREETER (SANCTUARY DOOR)	MAY 3, 10	Mary Olmstead
	MAY 17, 24	Mary Ahlborn
	MAY 31	Marilyn Martin
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LITERGIST	MAY 3, 10	Becky Frantz
	MAY 17, 24	Connie Mitchell
	MAY 31	Mary Ahlborn
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USHERS	MAY 3, 10	LARRY CAMPBELL & Dave Speas
	MAY 17, 24 , 31	LARRY CAMPBELL & DAVE SPEAS

COUNTERS

MAY 4 Marilyn Martin & Ramona Keeton
MAY 11 CONNIE MITCHELL & PAM SMITH
MAY 18 KIM STEHLE & DEB COOKE
MAY 26 MARY AHLBORN & GAIL ECKLER
June 1 MARILYN MARTIN & DEB COOKE

SPECIAL MUSIC

MAY 3 choir
MAY 10 James Mayhugh and Larry C
MAY 17 choir
MAY 24 choir Patriotic cantata
MAY 31 Haitian choir

Spring Word scramble

treweah _____

uorspt _____

hnieussn _____

inar _____

bitbar _____

ctahh _____

sertae _____

omolb _____

Orilamem yda _____

puitl _____

gpnirs _____

ssenao _____

brnowia _____

tens _____

elfsrwo _____

gsge _____

rsasg _____

rflytteub _____

"They waited for me as for showers and drank in my words as the spring rain."

Job 29:23



May 2026

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

					1	2
3 7 pm NA	4 7 PM MENS BS	5 11 SOAP MAK- ING 7 pm NA	6 10 BS 11:45 CHOIR	7 11 am Snyder Teacher Lunch 6 PM TRUSTEE	8	9 2 pm Tatro family using Wesley Room
10 MOTHERS DAY 7 pm NA	11 7 PM MENS BS	12 7 pm NA	13 11:45 CHOIR	14 6 PM ALL CHURCH MT	15 9-12 Snyder school Field Day	16
17 7 pm NA	18 7 PM MENS BS	19 7 pm NA	20 11:45 CHOIR	21	22	23
24 Patriotic 7 pm NA	25 4 PM SOUP KITCHEN 7 PM MEN BS	26 7 pm NA	27 11:45 CHOIR	28	29	30
31 Haitian choir and luncheon 7 pm NA						