

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**1401 WEST MAIN ST**

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**JULY**



**2024**



## **Grace Church and Open Hands Pantry celebrate 17 years in ministry!**

Consider these three scriptures that focus on open hands. **Deuteronomy 15:8** says, **“Instead, you are to open your hand to him and freely give him enough for whatever his need is.”** We are to open our hands in response to the example that our Heavenly Father has given us. **Psalm 104:28**, **“When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.”** **Psalm 84:11** reads, **“God does not withhold the good from those who live with integrity.”** Basically, anything we have in our hands is a blessing that God has put there.

When we open our hands to give freely to help those who need a helping hand, we empty our hands and are ourselves then open to what new things God means to do in our ministries, relationships, our church, and our families.

During the 17 years Open Hands has been in existence it has been at three locations. It opened initially in rented space at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. Then we moved to Southern Village followed by two years at Covenant United Methodist Church. The first two locations allowed for the distribution of clothing, household items, and food. When we moved to Covenant in 2022, there was not enough room for clothing and household items to be given out. So, we had to get creative. During the last two years Open Hands has given out \$5.00 Goodwill gift certificates so our clients can buy needed things at Goodwill.

Originally, Open Hands came out of a ministry effort called the Springfield Initiative and was funded and supported entirely by United Methodist Churches. Currently, we still have the strong support of local United Methodist Churches, our Western Lakes District, under the leadership of Rev. Jim Wilson, Jr. and the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. In addition, we have strong support from Covenant Presbyterian Church and volunteers who come to us from the Springfield Senior Center.

In 2023, 915 individuals and 336 households were served. In addition to food distribution, Grace United Methodist Church has produced and districted an average of 115 gallons of laundry soap per month. Our soap production has produced and given away 17,940 gallons of laundry soap through Open Hands since we began making it in 2013.

**Now that you have the history, I invite you to help shape Open Hand’s future.** In May, Covenant United Methodist Church notified us that they would not be renewing our lease for another year; they sited needing the space Open Hands occupies to do other ministry they are planning. We are facing homelessness. Like so many of our clients. We are pursuing every possible avenue looking for a place to relocate Open Hands. We need approximately 1000 square feet of space for the pantry, space for a small office, and a

restroom. It needs to be East Main Street and south, and east to South Limestone.

Most importantly we need a building without steps and with a parking lot.

We have all our own refrigerators, freezers, shelving and furniture. I am sharing this because I believe that God wants Open Hands to continue serving the people in our community who need help. Everyone who works at Open Hands is richly blessed by God through this ministry. Marilyn Martin served on the Board as Secretary at Open Hands for 12 years. Donna Meyers oversees scheduling and is vice-president. Betty Prosser is a faithful Board member and works in the pantry regularly as do Marilyn and Donna. I am serving as co-president with Sharon Doyle, who is also our grant writer. Jim Doyle is our treasurer and statistician. Jerome Adams is our Pantry Manager, he was a client, who started as a volunteer and found his vocation. Jerome is a paid staff member, along with Harold, who does intake, and Ramondo, who works with clients and does a lot of the physical work in unloading trucks..

The Open Hands Pantry also is supported by the United Methodist Church, at the district level, individual UM Churches, individuals, Women's Mission, Springfield Foundation, Moore Foundation, VFW, to name a few, I share this to witness to the shared commitment to feeding the hungry in urban Springfield.

How can you help? Please pray with us that God will guide us to a place to move before August 31, 2024, which is our date to vacate Covent Church. Please, put your thinking cap on; do you know of a place that could fit our needs? Finally, give yourself a pat on the back, through Grace Church's involvement with Open Hands Pantry, we have had the privilege and opportunity to fulfill the verse **Matthew 25, 35-40, "For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was in prison, and you came to me."**

After you pray, if you have any suggestions, please call me right away. Time is of the essence.

May God bless us with vision and heart to open our hands and help. In Jesus' strong name, we pray.

Amen.

*Paster Vicki Downing*



Stewardship isn't a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life. After all, what is stewardship except that God has entrusted to us life, time, talents, money, possessions, family, and his grace? In each case, he evaluates how we regard what he has entrusted to us and what we do with it.

— Randy Alcorn —

AZ QUOTES

### A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Giving to God's work makes me feel secure. Why? Well, it seems like the more I give to help the church and God's ministries, the more I have and the less I want.

I grew up in church and was so happy as a little girl when I had a nickel (tied tightly in my handkerchief) to put in the offering Plate. As a child I was taught about tithing (giving God 10 percent of my income).

I was 13 years old, when I had my first job working on Saturdays at Max's 5 and 10 cents store making \$3.46 a day. After paying for my lunch from my pay, (remember I had a teenagers' appetite) there wasn't a lot left and my tithe was \$.35 My first dilemma. I really wanted to buy an Elvis record and a lipstick. However, I came up short. I fretted over it, but I finally gave God His tithe. Whew! ,that was a close one.

Guess what my sister, Nancy, gave me when she got paid from her job at the Lane Company, a record of Elvis belting out "Jailhouse Rock"! This is not to say I was rewarded for tithing, but fortunately, similar surprise gifts often show up for me as I happily give back to God.

God's love and grace are abundant and freely given. Rejoice! that He has chosen you to love! Trust Him!

***TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART; DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. SEEK HIS WILL IN ALL YOU DO, AND HE WILL SHOW YOU THE PATH TO TAKE.*** Proverbs 3:5 (NLT)

Blessings. *Mary Ahlborn*

July 1	Deuteronomy 10:19
July 2	Galatians 2:14
July 3	Ruth 2:10
July 4	Job 31:32
July 5	Matthew 25:38
July 6	Matthew 25:44
July 7	3 John 1:5
July 8	Deuteronomy 26:16
July 9	Leviticus 19:34
July 10	Leviticus 25:35
July 11	Hebrews 13:2
July 12	Deuteronomy 14:29
July 13	Leviticus 23:22
July 14	Deuteronomy 24:19-21
July 15	Genesis 47:4
July 16	Exodus 22:21
July 17	Exodus 23:9
July 18	Jeremiah 7:6
July 19	Jeremiah 22:3
July 20	1 Thessalonians 4:12
July 21	1 Timothy 3:7
July 22	Colossians 4:5
July 23	Ephesians 2:19
July 24	Exodus 12:48
July 25	Hebrews 11:13
July 26	Matthew 27:7
July 27	James 1:27
July 28	Psalms 67:4
July 29	Zechariah 7:10
July 30	Psalms 146:9
July 31	Psalms 94:6

**Prayers Needed:**

Jack Yeager  
 Millie Luttrell  
 Phyllis & Larry Garber  
 Jeanne & Shelley Powell  
 Janet Blazer  
 Ron Stevens



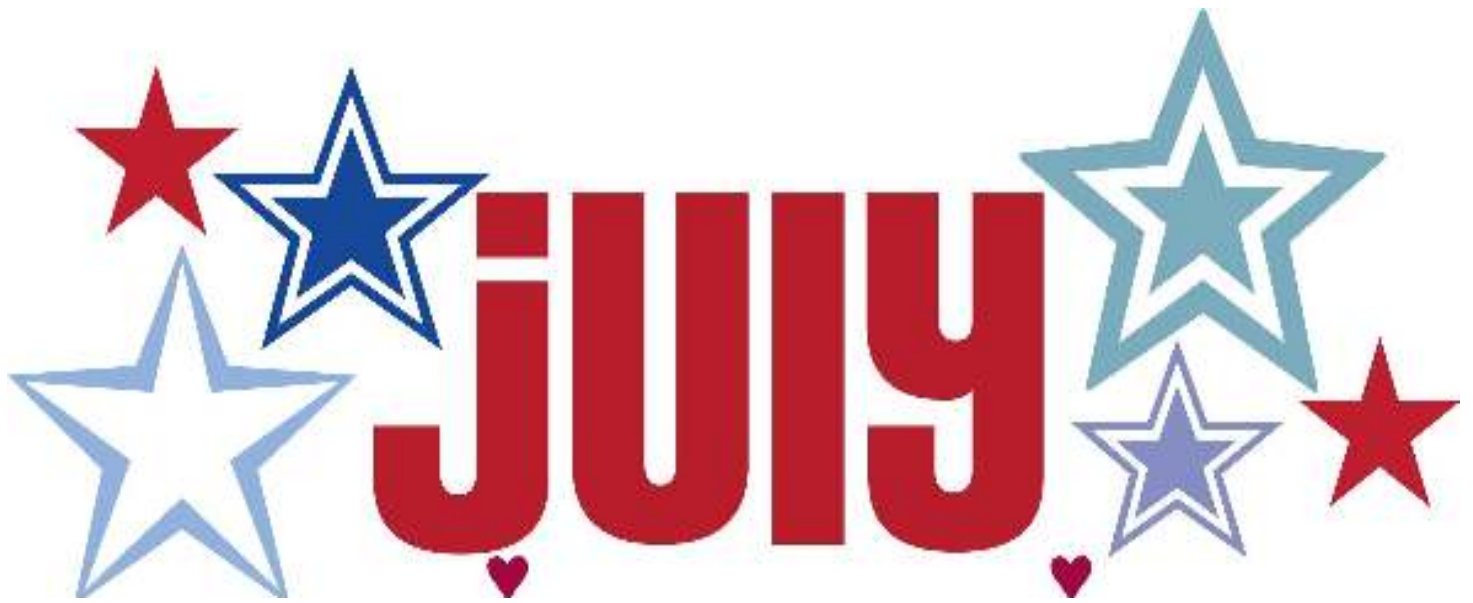
**Shower of Blessings**

Recipient for July:

**Mardella Hesson**  
**2421 Northmoor Dr**  
**Springfield OH, 45503**







<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
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Acolyte	July	Larry Campbell
Communion Set-up	July 7	Pastor Vicki
Communion Servers	July 7	Gene & Pat Hart Mary Ahlborn & Connie Mitchell
Communion Clean-up	July 7	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	July 7, 14	Deb & Ken Cooke
	July 21, 28	Donna Layne & Greg Hosier
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	July 7, 14	Marilyn & Tom Martin
	July 21, 28	Betty Prosser & Kim Stehle
Liturgist	July 7, 14	Marilyn Martin
	July 21, 28	Connie Mitchell
Ushers	July 7, 14	Greg Hosier & Donna Layne
	July 21, 28	Donna Myers & Dave Speas

<u>Counters</u>	<u>Special Music</u>
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July 1	Mary Ahlborn & Pam Smith	July 1	Hymn Sing
July 8	Marilyn Martin & Jackie Gregory	July 14	Jim Mayhugh
July 15	Mary Ahlborn & Connie Mitchell	July 21	Jayme Tatro
July 22	Kim Stehle & Deb Cooke	July 28	Pattie Mumma
July 29	Marilyn Martin & Jennifer Sabo		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Men's Bible Study	Soap Making 11am 7pm NA		Independence Day!	Warder Rummage Sale 5-7pm	Warder Rummage Sale 9am-3pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7pm NA	Soup Kitchen 4:30pm Men's Bible Study	7pm NA				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7pm NA	Men's Bible Study	1pm Computer Security Simplified 7pm NA				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
7pm NA	Men's Bible Study	7pm NA				
28	29	30	31			
7pm NA	Men's Bible Study	7pm NA				



# 4th of July Word Search



D P  
 E F  
 D C R O  
 K L E F  
 N R A V T G  
 W C R O V I  
 G H T B Y Q F V O A L E N N A T I O N P  
 C W D R B K T X L T U M D P G Z F L A G  
 L P A A H S F O I T R E A Z L O Y D  
 V V R N T I N O I E P T F O H O  
 E B Y A R I N O M E R E L L  
 E L T E E S N E N I F J  
 S C I E W S U Z M D O L U Z  
 T U B S O D W F B E T H L L  
 A A E E E R C J L E N I G Y V G  
 D R C R P K O R C C G C K D  
 U U S O T Z S E N N R U A P  
 D R X F Y T K B L A  
 L C V R J U L Y  
 T S I T



BARBECUE  
 REMEMBER  
 BRAVE  
 REVOLUTION  
 NATION  
 INDEPENDENCE

FIREWORKS  
 LIBERTY  
 DECLARATION  
 PATRIOTIC  
 JULY

FLAG  
 STARS  
 JULY  
 COLONIES  
 STATES



## Word Chain

**DIRECTIONS:** Work with the words below to get from the first to the last by changing just one letter in each step. Each word must be a real word! Give it a try!

**Example:**

Change Diver to Major

RIDER

RIPEN

DIVER

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DINER

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MINER

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MINOR

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MANOR

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MAJOR

HOPES

LONER