

*Grace United Methodist Church*

*1401 West Main St. Springfield, OH 45504-2850*

*Phone: 937-323-9078*

*E-mail: [graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net)*



**2026**

## From the Pastor's Desk

July 1, 2026



Left: Eldon Stufflebeam USAF Basic Training Lackland AFB, TX 1950

Right: Rob Stufflebeam USAF Basic Training Lackland AFB, TX 1980

### **Galatians 5:1** (NLT)

*So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.*

Dear Grace Church Family,

This is good a time as any for a reflective entry for our newsletter. As I write this, the anniversary of our moving day from my last appointment to Springfield is just a few days away. By the time you are reading this, it will be July (or nearly so) and the anniversary of my first Sunday at Grace; July 6<sup>th</sup>, will be nearly here.

Reflections are something of an enigma to some. We were tasked many times throughout my journey through three Seminaries to create a reflection based upon... <insert assignment here>. For any student, these were often met with a bit of relief, since a reflection cannot be graded with the same vigor and attention to detail as say an academic research paper. After all, a reflection is supposed to be based off of one's one observations, memories and experiences, so the only "grading" per se, is one of structure and cohesion. Even so, doing this now, at this time of year seems... appropriate. Not only because it is nearly one whole year since Amanda, Doree and I came to Springfield, but also to reflect on many other things we are all going through.

At this time last year, while you all were saying your good-byes to a dear pastor and friend, I was doing the same to two congregations I had been serving for a number of years. The primary means of doing so was a multi-night revival, with guest-speakers at every service, and musical guests also, making the even truly memorable. The Holy Spirit was truly felt and discerned not only by myself, but many others through those services, and it if my hope and prayer the after-effects were meaningful and long-lasting. They were looking forward to their new pastor, Benjamin Cho, who had only just been assigned at Annual Conference. Meanwhile here at Grace, the Trustees were hard at work trying to get the parsonage ready, and keep the church up and running as best they could. I know many of you had your own "unknowns" that you were thinking about, like what's this new guy really like?

So, fast-forward to today. What all has happened during the course of this past year? We traversed the liturgical calendar extremely well – finishing off the summer season, and diving into the fall, and then Advent. Our Christmas services were fantastic and well-attended. We had a baptism, a wedding, and only one farewell (funeral). We had three Bible Studies, with the next one set to start very soon, and the work of the Trustees never seems to abate – with repairs being made, and systems being replaced. I cannot thank them enough for all they do.

This time of year, also makes me reflect on family, including those who have left us. I love that side-by-side picture of my dad and me, and deciding to share it with you seemed appropriate for as I'm writing this, Father's Day is near. Our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday is also fast-approaching, with some celebrations already occurring, and others still planned. I still remember our 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday back in 1976, and even though I was only a teenager at the time, recall all the patriotism and good things about America being celebrated. I won't go into all the things our country seems to be facing today that are so negative, and so divisive. But I will say that no matter where one lives on this earth, Jesus Christ is still King, God is still on the throne in heaven, and we are all still His children.

So, a year has passed – my first as your pastor – and another year dawns. All-in-all, I would say we have had a great year. Let's make the next one even greater.

*In Peace and Love,*  
*Pastor Rob Stufflebeam*  
*Grace United Methodist Church*  
*(740) 304-2518*  
[rob.stufflebeam@gmail.com](mailto:rob.stufflebeam@gmail.com)



# Americans Say They're Sinners and Want to Mend Their Ways

Two-thirds of Americans acknowledge that they are sinners, and most aren't happy about it. And that's true even as America becomes more secular. To me, secular means pagan.

That's among the findings of a new survey just released by LifeWay Research, a Nashville-based organization that serves Christian leaders by conducting studies to reveal new trends and discover opportunities for ministry.

The survey, which polled a 1,000-person sample, determined that when it comes to sin, Americans tend to fall into one of four categories:

1. About 34 percent say they are sinners but are working on being less sinful.
2. Some 28 percent say they are sinners and rely on Jesus to overcome their sin.
3. One in 10 say either that they are not sinners, or that sin doesn't exist, or prefer not to answer the question about being a sinner.
4. About 1 in 20 (5 percent of those surveyed) say they are fine with being sinners.

Other findings from the study include that Americans with evangelical beliefs are more likely to say they rely on Jesus to overcome sin than those without such beliefs and that members of non-Christian faiths are more likely to say they are not sinners than are Christians. Among "nones" (those with no religious preference) 32 percent are more likely to say sin does not exist, 10 percent say they are fine with being sinners, while 27 percent say they depend on Jesus to overcome sin.

Although many Americans say they are sinners, most did not believe their sins put them in spiritual danger. Three-quarters of Americans disagreed that even the smallest sin deserves eternal damnation.

Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research, said that he was struck that the survey showed that aside from those Americans with evangelical beliefs, few say they rely on Jesus to overcome sin. This coincides with the study that shows 67 percent of Christians did not know what the Great Commission of Jesus is today. Knowledge of Biblical teachings seems to be lacking in today's world.

"To some Americans, saying you're a sinner is a way of admitting you are not perfect," McConnell said. "To those folks, it doesn't necessarily mean you're evil or should be punished for your sin. That's something the church should pay attention to."

Submitted by Dave Speas



**JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

- 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 Psalm 67:4
- July 29 Zechariah 7:10
- July 30 Psalm 146:9
- July 31 Psalm 94:6

**PRAYERS NEEDED**

- Ken Cooke*
- Jackie Brown*
- Juanita Juergens*




---

**SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS FOR JULY**

**JOANN DAVIDSON**  
**3150 MEADOW WOOD DR**  
**SPRINGFIELD, OH 45505**



**GRACE NEWS**

**IN THE MONTH OF JULY AND AUGUST, THERE WILL NOT BE TRUSTEE MEETING OR ALL CHURCH MEETINGS. THESE WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.**

=====

**STARTING JULY 8, AT 10 AM, DAVE SPEAS WILL BE TEACHING A BIBLE STUDY IN THE LOVE ROOM. ALL ARE INVITED. PLEASE LET DAVE KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.**

**dspeas@wor.rr.com**

**937-360-8419**

=====

## JULY 2026 WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

### 9:30 am SERVICE

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>NAME</u>	
ACROLYTE	JULY 5,12	LARRY CAMPBELL	
	JULY 19, 26	DAVE SPEAS	
-----			
COMMUNION SET UP	JULY 5	PASTOR ROB	
-----			
COMMUNION SERVERS	JULY 5	KIM STEHLE AND PATTIE MUMMA	
		BRUCE & GAIL ECKLER	
-----			
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP	JULY 5	BETTY PROSSER	
-----			
GREETER (FRONT DOOR)	JULY 5 , 12	BRUCE & GAIL ECKLER	
	JULY 19, 26	GENE & PAT HART	
-----			
GREETER (SANCTUARY DOOR)	JULY 5, 12	DONNA MYERS	
	JULY 19, 26	DONNA LAYNE	
-----			
LITERGIST	JULY 5	MARILYN MARTIN	
	July 12	BARB MCCOY	
	JULY 19, 26	PATTIE MUMMA	
-----			
USHERS	JULY 5, 12	LARRY CABBELL & GREG HOSIER	
	JULY 19, 26	LARRY CAMPBELL & DAVE SPEAS	
-----			
<u>COUNTERS</u>		<u>SPECIAL MUSIC</u>	
JULY 6	CONNIE MITCHELL & PAM SMITH	JULY 5	JAYME TATRO
JULY 13	KIM STEHLE & DEB COOKE	JULY 12	JIM MAYHUGH & LARRY
JULY 20	MARILYN MARTIN & RAMONA KEETON	JULY 19	PATTIE MUMMA
JULY 27	MARY AHLBORN & GAIL ECKLER	JULY 26	JAYME TATRO
AUG 1	MARY AHLBORN & DEB COOKE		

*THANK YOU FOR SERVING GRACE CHURCH !*

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE FOURTH OF JULY

**Happy 250th Birthday to the USA !!!!!!!**

**\*\*John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. \*\***

**\*\*John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826- The 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. \*\***

**\*\*Thomas Jefferson is often called the “author” of the Declaration of Independence, but he wasn’t the only person who contributed important ideas. Jefferson was a member of a five-person committee appointed by the Continental Congress to write the Declaration. The committee included Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. \*\***

**\*\* There were 2.5 million people living in America in July 1776. last years population on the same day, was 332 million!**



# July 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 6 pm WEST END MT	2 NO TRUSTEE MT	3	4
5 9:30 WOR- SHIP 7 P NA	6 7 P MENS BS	7 11 AM SOAP MAKING 7 P NA	8 10 A BS	9	10	11 TATRO FAMILY US- ING WES- LEY RM
12 9:30 WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP MEAL 7 P NA	13 7 P MENS BS	14 7 P NA	15 10 A BS	16	17	18
19 9:30 WOR- SHIP 7 P NA	20 7 P MENS BS	21 7 P NA	22 10 A BS	23	24	25
26 9:30 WOR- SHIP 7 P NA	27 4 P SOUP KITCHEN 7 P MENS BS	28 7 P NA	29 10 A BS	30	31	