

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SPRINGFIELD, OH 45504

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2026

From the Pastor's Desk

August 1, 2026

Ephesians 4:11-13a (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,



Greetings Grace Church Family,

Some of you may be wondering about the photograph accompanying my article this month. It was taken more than twenty years ago, sometime around 2004 or 2005, during a Bike Night at a Sonic in Prattville, AL. Standing beside my Harley-Davidson motorcycle, I looked very different than I do today. More importantly, I was living a very different life. At that point, I had no idea where God was leading me, never mind I might end up here in Springfield.

If someone had walked up to me that evening and said, "One day you'll become a pastor, and serve two different churches before becoming the shepherd at Grace Church." I think I might have smiled politely, and probably thought they had mistaken me for someone else. You see, at that point, I had not yet returned to my faith. Seminary was nowhere on the horizon. Pastoral ministry wasn't even a thought.

Yet God already knew. Looking back now, I can see His hand at work in ways that were completely hidden to me at the time. Like so many of the stories we read in Scripture, including over these past few weeks as we went through our recent series on prayer, God was preparing the path long before I could see where it led. His timing was patient, His grace was constant, and His call came when I was finally ready to listen.

Years later, as that call became clearer, I found myself facing a practical decision. Pursuing seminary required both time and financial commitment, and I realized I couldn't continue doing everything I had once enjoyed, while also preparing for the ministry God had placed before me. I made the decision to sell the motorcycle, and invest those resources into my education instead.

Looking back, I have never once regretted that choice. Not because there was anything wrong with riding motorcycles – both Amanda and I have so many wonderful memories from those years - but because God had something even greater waiting ahead. The greatest adventures of my life did not happen on two wheels. They happened as I learned to trust where Christ was leading me.

The passage from Ephesians reminds us that God continues to call people for the work of building up His Church. While only a few are called into pastoral ministry, every Christian receives gifts that matter. Some are called to teach, others to encourage. Some to sing, to pray, to visit, to serve, to lead or simply to offer a faithful presence to those around them. Every gift has a place in the life of Christ's Church.

I've been here for over a year now. And as we continue our ministry together here at Grace, I find myself grateful not only for God's call upon my own life, but also for the many ways I see Him working through each of you. Together we are discovering that ministry is never the work of one person. It is the joyful work of God's people, serving side by side, each according to the gifts He has given.

Maybe that's one reason I enjoy looking back at these old photographs. They remind me that while we often cannot see where God is leading in the moment, He always can. And thanks be to God; His destination is always better than anything we could have imagined for ourselves – whether it's on two wheels or four.

In Peace and Love,

Pastor Rob Stufflebeam

Grace United Methodist Church

(740) 304-2518 rob.stufflebeam@gmail.com

AUGUST WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>ACROLYTE</u>	AUG 2,9	LARRY C.
	AUG 16,23,30	LARRY C.
COMMUNION SET-UP	AUG 2	PASTOR ROB
COMUNION SERVERS	AUG 2	BARB MCCOY & DAVE SPEAS
		KIM STEHLE & MARY AHLBORN
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP	AUG 2	BETTY PROSSER
GREETER FRONT DOOR	AUG 2 & 9	TOM & MARILYN MARTIN
	AUG 16,23,30	FONDA SETTERS
GREETER SANCTUARY DOOR	AUG 2 & 9	MARY AHLBORN
	AUG 16, 23, 30	MARY OLMSTEAD
LITURGIST	AUG 2 & 9	BRUCE ECKLER
	AUG 16,23,30	CONNIE MITCHELL
USHERS	AUG 2 & 9	LARRY C & DAVE SPEAS
	AUG 16, 23,30	LARRY C & GREG HOSIER
COUNTERS	SPECIAL MUSIC	
AUG 3	MARILYN MARTIN & PAM SMITH	AUG 2 JAYME TATRO
AUG 10	CONNIE MITCHELL & GAIL ECKLER	AUG 9 JIM MAYHUGH & LARRY C
AUG 17	KIM STEHLE & DEB COOKE	AUG 16 JAYME TATRO
AUG 24	MARY AHLBORN & RAMONA KEETON	AUG 23 JAYME TATRO
AUG 31	CONNIE MITCHELL & PAM SMITH	AUG 30 HYMN SING

Scriptures August 2026

August 1	Luke 12:21
August 2	Isaiah 26:3
August 3	Jeremiah 31:9
August 4	Ruth 4:15
August 5	John 8:28
August 6	Psalms 119:94
August 7	Psalms 23:4
August 8	Proverbs 3:5-6
August 9	Deuteronomy 8:2
August 10	Psalms 3:3
August 11	Deuteronomy 1:21
August 12	Jeremiah 16:21
August 13	1 Kings 8:23
August 14	Ephesians 2:4-5
August 15	Deuteronomy 8:18
August 16	Romans 5:1
August 17	Deuteronomy 6:7
August 18	Philippians 1:6
August 19	Psalms 29:2
August 20	1 Peter 3:3-4
August 21	Ezekiel 34:27
August 22	Galatians 5:1
August 23	Psalms 80:14
August 24	Zechariah 8:12
August 25	Psalms 68:20
August 26	2 Timothy 4:7
August 27	Jeremiah 20:13
August 28	John 10:10
August 29	Psalms 138:7
August 30	Acts 17:27
August 31	Amos 8:1-2

Prayers Needed:

Mardella Hesson
Phyllis & Larry Garber
Janet Blazer



Shower of Blessings Recipient for AUGUST

BILL POOLE
2615 DERR RD
SPRINGFIELD, OH 45503



August 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<i>1</i> <i>TATRO</i> <i>FAMILY</i> <i>WESLEY RM</i>
<i>2</i> <i>7 PM NA</i>	<i>3</i> <i>7 MENS BS</i>	<i>4</i> <i>11 SOAP</i> <i>7 PM NA</i>	<i>5</i> <i>10 BS</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i> <i>7 PM NA</i>	<i>10</i> <i>7 MENS BS</i>	<i>11</i> <i>7 PM NA</i>	<i>12</i> <i>10 BS</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i> <i>7 PM NA</i>	<i>17</i> <i>7 MENS BS</i>	<i>18</i> <i>7 PM NA</i>	<i>19</i> <i>10 BS</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> <i>7 PM NA</i>	<i>24</i> <i>4 PM</i> <i>SOUP</i> <i>KITCHEN</i> <i>7 MENS BS</i>	<i>25</i> <i>7 PM NA</i>	<i>26</i> <i>10 BS</i> <i>10 SNYDER</i> <i>park dedication</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> <i>7 PM NA</i>	<i>31</i> <i>7 MENS BS</i>					

General Announcements

If anyone has brown paper grocery bags, could you please donate to the church.



Pattie Mumma will be on vacation for most of

August. The attendance sheet for worship is put out for the month. Larry Campbell will collect and put in my box . All other paper work for treasurer and counters are made out and when completed please put in my box.

If anyone has a prayer need during this time, please text or email me and I can communicate the need to our church from my phone.

Phone 937-408-9274

Email: pem1000@aol.com

The black dot

Phillipians 4:4-8

One day a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They waited anxiously at their desks for the test to begin. The professor walked around the class and handed out the question papers with the text facing downwards.

Once he handed them all out, he asked his students to turn the page and begin. To everyone's surprise, there were no questions, but just a black dot in the center of the page. The professor read everyone's bewildered expressions and said- "I want you to write what you see there."

The perplexed students began to do what they had been asked to do.

At the end of the class, the professor took all the answered papers and started reading each one of them aloud in front of all the students. All of them with no exceptions described the black dot, trying to explain its position in the middle of the sheet, etc.

After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor began to explain:

"I am not going to grade you on this test; I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same THING happens in our lives. This is exactly what we Tend to do with our lives. We have a white paper to hold onto and enjoy, but we are so busy contemplating about the dark spots that are in there. Life is a special gift and we will always have reasons to celebrate. It is changing and renewing everyday- our friends, jobs, livelihood, love, family, the miracles we see every day."

You need to realize that the dark spots are very small and only few. And yet we allow these to pollute our minds.

Take your eyes away from the black spots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you.

Be happy and live a life positively!



Submitted by



AUGUST

WORD SEARCH

Solve the following puzzle by finding all the hidden words!



TRAVEL

BEACH

ICECREAM

BARBECUE

CAMPING

FIREWORKS

SWIMSUIT

PICNIC

SUNSHINE

HEAT

POOL

SUMMER

AUGUST

VACATION

RELAX