

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1401 WEST MAIN ST

SPRINGFIELD, OH 45504

937-323-9078

EMAIL: graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net



2024



Newsletter September 2024

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

As classes have begun for the 2024-25 school year, we send prayers for the teachers, school staff, bus drivers, and students. Pray with me that God will keep them safe as they travel to and from school and while they are at school. **Readers: (Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.)**

We pray for families who are facing issues of relationship and money problems. We pray for everyone battling additions to drugs, alcohol, food, and pornography. Especially we pray for our Narcotic’s Anonymous groups. **Reader:(Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.)**

We pray for our community where many are homeless, hungry and hopeless. We pray for those in distress and for all the groups who have poverty ministries such as Open Hands Pantry, Springfield Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul, and numerous others. Help them to give hope to the hopeless. **Reader: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.)**

We pray for our country, sadly deeply divided over politics. Help us to remember that you are the source of hope, and it is you alone, God, who can heal our land and mend our divisions. Help us to turn to you instead of thinking that either political party can make right or healthy and whole a country whose focus is not on God first. **Reader: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.)**

We pray that you will help us to keep our eyes on you, Lord, as the source of our lives. Challenges abound in our church’s finances. We don’t know how God will work things out when so many of our most generous church members went to heaven and took their check-books with them. We believe that God will show us the best way forward. As God has brought Grace Church through so many challenges over the last 152 years, there is no reason to despair. God holds Grace Church in his heart and hands. Lord, help us to walk in faith even when we aren’t positive where you are leading. **Reader: (Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.)**

Now that we have read, prayed and shared our concerns, may the Lord, God, bless us with gratitude for all our many blessings.

Paster Vicki Downing

SHARING BRINGS JOY TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Inflation is a subject we often speak of as groceries, gas, utilities, automobiles, college tuition, health care, and any and everything we may want or need to buy continues to increase in price. Most of us may wonder how we can balance our budgets and continue to give to the church or to help others. A good Bible verse that may be of help to guide us in the right way is found in Hebrews 13:5.

Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for (God) Himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Jesus spoke about 'where our treasure is also is where our heart will be.' In 2 Corinthians, 9:7 we read, *Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

We, the Grace family, are well known for our generosity and cheerful giving. Do you see proof of how we have been blessed for our generosity? We have a paid for modernized sanctuary and have repaired our leaky roofs, while continuing to lovingly share with the needy.

Without a doubt, you may have wondered how we are keeping the church's salaries paid and the utilities operating while continuing to support Narcotics Anonymous, the Free Store, and the Emergency Fund since our attendance is down and our offerings have been very low. God blessed us when we merged with St Mark UMC as their investments became resources for Grace to use when needed to keep the church doors open. However, as you know, cashing in on investments cannot be a permanent solution. Continued withdrawals = \$0 Balance...

Recently, we withdrew \$15,000 from our investment to help pay the church bills. Regrettably, that withdrawal has been depleted. Two weeks ago, we were told that we will receive \$5,000 from the Lois Stroble estate when it completes probation—whenever that may be?

The General Fund (from which salaries, utilities, and supplies are paid) needs revitalized. Our challenge is **TO CONTINUE TO BE A CHURCH THAT HAS THEIR HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE – WE MUST SUPPORT OUR CHURCH-- BE PRESENT IN THIS COMMUNITY WHERE THE LOST ABOUND – THANK GOD FOR OUR BLESSINGS AND THEN PASS THEM ON!! WE ARE THE GRACE FAMILY --**

GOD MAKES OUR WAY AND WE FOLLOW IT!! PRAY FOR STRENGTH TO WALK THE WAY WITH JESUS. PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

In Christ's love,

Mary F Ahlborn, Finance Chair

In Our Community:

September Fellowship Hour

Sunday, September 8th, will be our first **Fellowship Hour** at Grace! Please join us in the Wesley Room after Sunday Worship Service to mingle and chat with the members of our community.

Everyone is invited to bring something to share, such as a casserole, salad, or dessert. This is a great time to meet new friends and learn more about your fellow Grace members.



A big Thank You to everyone who helped with the Super Soup Supper!

We had an exciting turn-out to support the Life Wise program, with 170 people coming and over \$4,800 raised! All of our volunteers did an excellent job overcoming various challenges to keep the day running smoothly.

Thank you!



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

Prayers Needed:

Jack Yeager
 Phyllis & Larry Garber
 Jane Shough's Grandson,
 John
 Janet Blazer
 Ron Stevens



Shower of Blessings

Recipient for July:

Betty Stanley
7200 Excaliber DR
Painsville, OH 44077





<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
Acolyte		Larry Campbell
Communion Set-up	Sept. 1	Pastor Vicki
Communion Servers	Sept. 1	Kim Stehle & Mary Olmstead Bruce & Gail Eckler
Communion Clean-up	Sept. 1	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	Sept. 1,15 Sept. 8 Sept. 22, 29	Holly Norman & Cheryl Gilbert Betty Prosser & Ramona Keeton Marilyn & Tom Martin
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	Sept. 1-15 Sept. 22, 29	Pam Smith & Deb Cooke Mary Olmstead & Kim Stehle
Liturgist	Sept. 1-15 Sept. 22, 29	Mary Ahlborn Pat Hart
Ushers	Sept. 1-15 Sept. 22, 29	Larry Campbell Bruce Eckler

Counters

Special Music

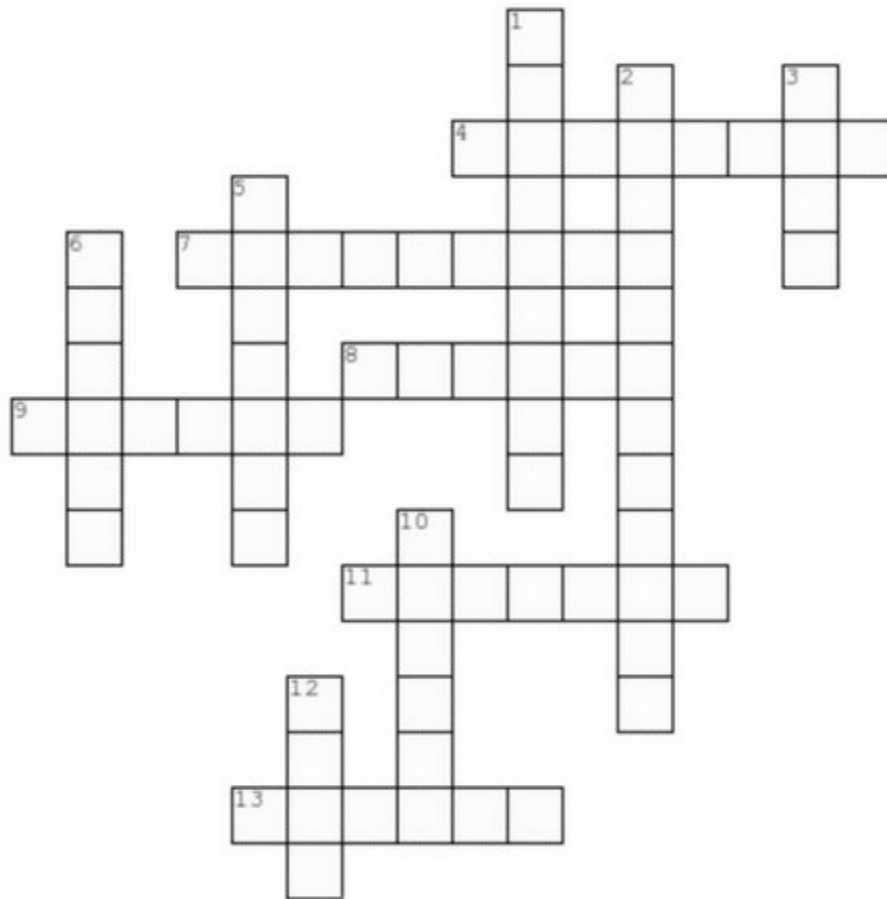
Sept. 2	Kim Stehle & Jennifer Sabo	Sept. 1	Hymn Sing
Sept. 9	Marilyn Martin & Pam Smith	Sept. 8	Jim Mayhugh
Sept. 16	Mary Ahlborn & Deb Cooke	Sept. 15	Becky Frantz
Sept. 23	Kim Stehle & Jackie Gregory	Sept. 22	Hymn Sing
Sept. 30	Connie Mitchell & Mary Ahlborn	Sept. 29	Jayme Tatro



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7pm NA	Labor Day— Office Closed 6pm Men's Bible Study	Soap Making TBA 7pm NA				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Fellowship Hour after Sunday Wor- ship 7pm NA	Soup Kitchen 4:30pm 6pm Men's Bible Study	7pm NA		6pm All-Church Meeting		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
7pm NA	6pm Men's Bible Study	7pm NA				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
7pm NA	6pm Men's Bible Study	7pm NA				
29	30					
7pm NA	6pm Men's Bible Study					



Fall Crossword



Across

- 4. Jewish Holiday, Rosh _____
- 7. Scary Holiday
- 8. Fall from oak trees
- 9. Change colors
- 11. For carving and pie
- 13. Color

Down

- 1. Used to frighten birds
- 2. Feast Holiday
- 3. Tool to clean the grass of leaves
- 5. Marks the end of the growing season
- 6. Squirrel
- 10. Another name for Fall
- 12. Grows on stalks