

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SPRINGFIELD, OH 45504

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2025

Romans 12:2-5 (NIV)

² *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

³ *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*



Greetings Grace United Methodist Church!

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Here we are at the end of August, (it is August 27th as I write this) and what in the world happened to summer? What was 90-degrees plus has turned into high-60's and 70's, even though the sunny skies have remained. Now don't get me wrong; I'm not complaining, not at all. But just wondering if we will have to pay for this great weather later. Hmmm.

Just this past Sunday, August 24th we embarked upon a new (and relatively short) sermon series, *No Fair!* Sunday's message was entitled "*How to Fight Like a Christian*," and for any pastor or preacher, it is gratifying to see those in our care receive the messages God places upon our hearts to give. If you missed the first iteration, we still have two more to go in this series, and I hope to see all of you at not only our next worship service, but every service to come.

There are a great many exciting things happening and being planned for Grace in the coming weeks. I have shared a number of ideas with the Worship Team and the Administrative Council, and together we have brainstormed other thoughts as well. We are in the midst of planning on having a Trunk or Treat in the parking lot near Halloween, plus making up welcome packets for the new residents of Rose Commons Apartments; the new building opening just a block away from the church in October. A new Bible Study led by David Speas begins soon (as shown elsewhere in this newsletter), plus other happenings around the holidays. If you would like to help out with any of these events, please contact the church office.

Something my wife, Pastor Amanda shared with her congregation, and I think it bears mentioning here as well, is the notion that it can sometimes be easy for us to get focused on *inviting* people to church, but sometimes we forget about *preparing* for them once they do come. For someone who walks through our doors on a Sunday morning for the first time, their experience can be anything from a breath of fresh air, to something that turns them away from God forever. Now, that is a heavy thought, isn't it? We know from experience different churches can lean in different directions:

- ♦ Some are ministry-centered.
- ♦ Some are theology-centered.
- ♦ Some are casual-centered.
- ♦ Some focus on the down and out.
- ♦ Some are charismatic-centered.
- ♦ Some make grace the main thing.
- ♦ Some are shaped by reacting to what they have always been, and not wanting to change.

In all these points, (or others not listed) where do you see Grace? Where do you *want* to see Grace?

Here's the big question for us: Are we ready for the new believer who walks through our doors?

I came across an article from Saddleback Community Church that gave a list of the "*Top 10 Ways to Make Sure I'll Never Revisit Your Church.*" It included things like not being welcoming in the parking lot, ignoring visitors during the service (or singling them out *too* much), neglecting children's ministry, talking about money more than the gospel, or the worship service being dated or just plain boring.

In other words, even if a church has strong theology and good programs, if they aren't *preparing* well, they may inadvertently close the door before someone even has the chance to meet Jesus.

The early church gives us a different model. In the New Testament, believers first invited their friends to follow Jesus. Then they gathered together as a church family for encouragement, prayer, worship, and growth. The church wasn't the place where salvation happened, it was the place where salvation was nurtured and strengthened.

That's why our goal at Grace shouldn't be just to *invite* people to church. Our real mission is to invite people to Jesus. Church comes later. Church is where disciples are formed, where believers are sustained, and where the community is built up for mission.

So, let's prepare together. Let's go out in the world in service of others while sharing the Gospel, and create ways of leading people to Jesus outside of Sunday morning. At the same time, let's make Grace not only a place where people are *invited*, but a home where new believers can be welcomed and loved, into the fullness of life in Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Rob Stufflebeam

(740) 304-2518

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"FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP"



Ingrid Mossbarger was born in Springfield to Bill and Kelly Myers, who live across the street from the parsonage. Pastor Vicki had the privilege of marrying Ingrid and Jesse. Ingrid's sister is Fiera; she also has a half-brother, Adam. Both siblings have given Ingrid the privilege of being an Auntie! Her nephews are Ares and Ronan. The recent addition to her family is her niece Ashtyn. They have a puppy named Cedar and three cats named Little Girl, Storm, and Cheeto. Ingrid is our youngest Lay Speaker. She has given us several thought-provoking sermons. Ingrid is a constant college student. She has an Associates Degree from Rhodes State College, a Bachelors Degree from Kettering College and she also attended Clark State, College, Urbana University, and The Ohio State University. Ingrid is employed at Kettering Hospital in radiology.

She introduced the Christmas Silent Auction to Grace church as a class project which became not only successful for the church but gave her a high grade in her class. Ingrid is on a quest to read her Bible regularly by setting a yearly goal. This year she is focused on reading the entire New Testament.

Favorite Scripture: *I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.* Romans 1:11-12

Favorite Hymn: Amazing Grace Favorite Color: Glitter Favorite Ice Cream: Moose tracks—with added peanut butter—a must with any flavor of ice cream. Interests: All things outdoors, arts and crafts, fast cars and motorcycles, going to the gym, traveling and reading. Advice: People and life are constantly changing so learn to adapt or be left behind.

Testimony: When we were having a meeting for the silent auction (the original OG), it came to my attention that the youth group needed a new leader. I was petrified to take over and try to mold young minds and hearts in the Word of God. I prayed A LOT, still feeling the call. I answered. They came! We grew in God's Word together. They matured—moved on to "adult" life. However, being with them gave me the confidence to be able to give God's message to my fellow adults. We are all children of God; therefore, it's just like talking to children, to teens and any age who are still fumbling around in this world, trying to get it right.

Jesse Mossbarger was born and raised in Springfield along with his sister Katie. Jesse's beautiful bride is Ingrid. His parents are Angie and the late Randy Mossbarger. Jesse attended Kenton Ridge High School and earned an associate degree from the University of Northwest Ohio. He is employed at Bill Marine Honda as a mechanic. Jesse is Ingrid's able and willing assistant whenever she heads up church projects, i.e., the Christmas silent auction.

Favorite Hymn: *Standing On The Promises* Favorite Color: Red Favorite Ice Cream: Cookie Dough Interests: All things outdoors, riding my motorcycle as well as fast cars.



"FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP"

Donna Myers is from Dayton and serves in several ministries at Grace UMC and in the Springfield community. As soon as Donna transferred from High Street UMC she was volunteering to work at the Open Hands Pantry as a representative from Grace—she spends many hours working at the Pantry helping the homeless. Donna has a heart for the needy and looks for opportunities to provide for their needs and witness to them of the love of Jesus. She serves as a Trustee and is secretary for the church board. She and Ingrid Mossbarger have originated two beneficial Christmas Silent Auctions for the church. Donna is a Master Gardener who has insured Grace church's yard shines with God's glorious flowers. She participates with Women of Faith as her schedule allows. Donna went to East Clinton High School before entering nursing school at Springfield Community Hospital and after graduation worked there for 40 years.



Donna married her husband, Bob in May of 1973. While serving in the Viet Nam War, Bob was exposed to the toxic Agent Orange and passed away from its exposure in 2002. They had two children—Shane who is the manager of a petroleum company in Columbus, and Heide who is an educator at Oakwood High in the science department. Donna has four grandchildren, Brendan who works at Stevenson's Utilities, Mason works at Kroger, Tayden just finished Sinclair majoring in welding, and Ashlyn who will attend Savannah College of Art & Design majoring in film and television production this year. Donna's home is family oriented whereby her grandchildren feel loved and blessed. Donna has two brothers—one who is a physician in Virginia and her other brother worked in construction before he retired. Interestingly, her sister is a journalist in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Favorite Scripture: *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.* Psalm 100

Favorite Hymn: *In The Garden*

Favorite Color: Teal

Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate chip

Interests: Gardening flowers and vegetables, quilting, knitting, crafts and doing activities with my family.

Advice: Volunteer to help the less fortunate.

Testimony: The various volunteer activities I'm involved with give me the opportunity to serve people and helps me to be a witness of Jesus' love.



September Scriptures

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:

Phyllis & Larry Garber

John Shough

Janet Blazer

Jeann Powell



Shower of Blessings

Recipient for September:

Lois Gram

3017 Brixton Dr E,

Springfield OH, 45503



News from Grace:

PRAYERS NEEDED

- **Grace Family,** Our Lord God is giving us an opportunity to serve Him with our presence, tithes and offerings. The Worship attendance is down and our offerings are at an all-time low. You are missed when you do not attend. Please unite with us in prayer about how we, as a church family, can make worship attendance and our offerings a top priority in our lives.
- As a church family God has brought us through many trials when we have earnestly given them to Him in our prayers. Will you pray that God wants Grace to continue to be *His Light of Jesus' love* in this area of Springfield?
- The church, like our homes, must pay our bills to remain solvent. For several months the debts have overridden the money on hand. Many in the Grace family freely give of their gifts and skills to help keep the spending down--for which we are grateful. However, we are struggling financially.
- We are mightily blessed with a pastor who loves Jesus and joyfully preaches the Bible! You don't want to miss any of Pastor Rob's sermons as they get better and better each Sunday! Invite your neighbors and friends so we can share the love of Christ with them! All are welcome!
- The Rose Commons Apartments, which is located near the church, will be opening 40 new apartments in October. The Grace family plans to distribute welcome packets to each residence. If you would like to help with the packets, please call Aileen at the church office—937-323-9078.

Choir Season Starting



Choir Practice will be starting September 10th. Practices will be every Wednesday at 11:45am after Bible Study.



The monthly **Fellowship Hour** will

be Sunday, September 14th, after service. Everyone is invited! If you are able, please bring a dish or snack to share.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Wednesday Bible Study

We will be having another Bible study starting Wednesday, Sept. 10 and running until Wednesday, Oct. 29 at Grace. The study is featuring the book The End of Me by Kyle Idelman. He has written a number of wonderful Bible based books and a review of this book is with this invitation. If you are interested in attending the study, it will be held on Wednesdays at 10 am and end at 11:30 am. I will make sure you get the pass outs from the class if you have to miss one at times.

You may sign up by email or at church. The class is free and the book will be provided for the study. I hope to see you there and look forward to teaching the class.

Blessings,

Dave Speas

Soap Slippage!

Due to Labor Day, Soap Making slid back to Tuesday, September 9th at 11am. Everyone is welcome to join us!



<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
Acolyte	September	Larry Campbell
Communion Set-up	Sept 7	Pastor Rob
Communion Servers	Sept 7	Mary Ahlborn & Becky Frantz
Communion Clean-up	Sept 7	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	Sept 7, 14	Kim Stehle & Greg Hosier
	Sept 21, 28	Mary Olmstead & Mary Ahlborn
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	Sept 7	Dave & Karen Speas
	Sept 14	Ramona & Bob Keeton
	Sept 21, 28	Bruce & Gail Eckler
Liturgist	Sept 7, 14	Connie Mitchell
	Sept 21, 28	Marilyn Martin
Ushers	Sept 7, 14	Larry Campbell
	Sept 21, 28	Greg Hosier & Donna Layne

<u>Counters</u>		<u>Special Music</u>
Sept 2	Marilyn Martin & Pam Smith	Sept 7 Jayme Tatro
Sept 8	Connie Mitchell & Ramona Keeton	Sept 14 Jim Mayhugh
Sept 15	Kim Stehle & Deb Cooke	Sept 21 Choir
Sept 22	Mary Ahlborn & Pam Smith	Sept 28 Becky Frantz
Sept 29	Marilyn Martin & Deb Cooke	

Hello, September!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	¹ Labor Day – Office Closed	² 7pm NA Meeting	³	⁴ 6pm Trustee Mt	⁵	⁶
⁷ 7pm NA Meeting	⁸ 7pm Men's Bible Study	⁹ 11am Soap Making 7pm NA Meeting	¹⁰ 10am Bible Study 11:45am Choir Practice	¹¹ 6pm All-Church Mt	¹²	¹³
¹⁴ Fellowship Hour after Worship 7pm NA Meeting	¹⁵ 7pm Men's Bible Study	¹⁶ 12pm Women of Faith 7pm NA Meeting	¹⁷ 10am Bible Study 11:45am Choir Practice	¹⁸	¹⁹	²⁰
²¹ 7pm NA Meeting	²² 4:45 Soup Kitchen 7pm Men's Bible Study	²³ 7pm NA Meeting	²⁴ 10am Bible Study 11:45am Choir Practice	²⁵	²⁶	²⁷
²⁸ 7pm NA Meeting	²⁹ 7pm Men's Bible Study	³⁰ 7pm NA Meeting				

September

September is a good time for reflection.

We can embrace the transformation of the seasons by spreading kindness and positivity, by finding meaning in the quiet changes of the month. Here are 5 prompts on kindness to pray or journal about.

1. What is Kindness? Reflect on its nature.
2. List five simple acts of kindness you can preform for a stranger.
3. Describe a time someone was kind to you when they didn't have to be.
4. Imagine you have an unlimited budget to help others. What would you do?
5. How can you be actively kind in conversation?

