

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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2025

Luke 17:5-10 (NIV)

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

⁶ He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

⁷ "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? ⁸ Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? ⁹ Will he thank the servant because he did what he

was told to do? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"



Greetings Grace United Methodist Church!

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is my hope and prayer that this newsletter finds you doing well, feeling well, and enjoying your own journey of faith in Christ.

It seems a bit strange writing this, because full disclosure; today is actually more towards the middle of September. You see, since I am undergoing knee-replacement surgery in two days, and with Aileen going on vacation soon, I was asked to provide a bunch of stuff early. So, to that end I have been diligently working to get the Order's of Worship to Aileen so she can print the bulletins and produce the PowerPoint slides before her departure, plus since I will be convalescing for Lord knows how long, it seemed prudent to just write my newsletter article submission as well.

We have so much both going on, and coming up in our church, it cannot hardly be contained within the confines of just one newsletter article. At least not with any sort of adequate justice to each event with a mere line or two as a summary. But do take the time to peruse the rest of the newsletter, and take note of all that we have coming up very soon.

As of today, we are two iterations into David Speas' teaching of *The End of Me*, by Kyle Idleman Bible Study. The first session saw *twenty* of our people in attendance, and today we had *fifteen*. Well, sixteen if you count Lt. Dan. <grin> The study continues every Wednesday at 10:00am in the Love Classroom through October 29th. On Saturday, Oct 25th we are having our Trunk or Treat event, which coincides with Begger's Night in Springfield and Clark County, from 3:00-5:00pm. Sign-ups will be out soon, and we would love to fill up the parking lot. The Pennsylvania House is partnering with us to make the event even bigger, so it will be a wonderful time of fellowship and fun as we reach out to our community. On Oct 27th we will be assembling welcome bags/packets for our new neighbors moving into Rose Commons; the new apartment complex being built a block away from the church which opens in the middle of October. This will be a wonderful opportunity to let our new neighbors know that a loving, welcoming, Bible-believing church lies just down the hill from them filled with people just waiting to give a warm welcome, and share the love of Jesus with all who walk through the doors. Our community meal outreach, Super Lunch & Super Supper will be held on Oct 23rd, a Thursday, with lunch being served from 11:00am to 1:00pm, and picking back up for dinner from 4:00-7:00pm. Lastly, we will be assisting Snyder Park Elementary with their Halloween celebrations on Oct 31.

And all that just takes us through the end of October! It is so hard to believe that Fall has arrived, and the holidays are rearing up in the distance. The Grace Choir is already hard at work getting ready for choir season, and Advent is fast approaching as well. Don't forget soap-making on Oct 7 – we've broken our best-results twice now, and September saw 137 gallons made. Can any of us even imagine the love and grace that lies in store for us as we journey into the Advent and Christmas seasons? Excitement just doesn't give the feeling justice, truly. I am beyond astounded at the amazing spirit and attitude and enthusiasm of our people. It is truly an honor and blessing to serve as your pastor.

In Christ,
Pastor Rob Stufflebeam
(740) 304-2518
rob.stufflebeam@gmail.com

"FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP"

Mary Ahlborn – Mary has been a member of Grace UMC since September 1981. When she and her husband, John, moved to Springfield they visited Grace UMC where they were warmly and lovingly received. So, of course, they enthusiastically joined the Grace UMC vital ministry. Mary and John were married for 40 years before his passing in 2022. Mary grew up in the small town of Altavista, VA. She graduated from Altavista High School, attended Thomas-Nelson Community College, Langley AFB, VA, and received an Associate Degree in Applied Scientist, University of Anchorage, Alaska. Mary feels she was totally blessed to be a "stay-home" Mom during her sons, Rod and Micah's early years. Later she began her civil service career at Elmendorf AFB, AK in 1975; retiring in 2000 from Wright-Patt AFB, OH. She was a totally dedicated military wife for 26 years. She has one grandson, Harrison, who lives in Huntington Beach, CA.



Mary has served in a number of jobs at Grace, currently serving as Finance Chairperson. She has been overwhelmingly exalted to participate in Emmaus communities (Dayton, Springfield, and Darke County) and serve with the ministry of Kairos at the prisons in Lebanon and Marysville, OH. Mary as "Lashes" and John as "SonRise" led an active Christian clown ministry at Grace for many years. Grace Clowns brought much joy when visiting hospitals, pediatric wards, church events, and wherever a smile was needed. Mary is a teacher at Life/Wise Academy. Teaching "little souls" has been a long-time dream of Mary's.

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE: *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.* Isaiah 40:31 and *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* Philippians 4:3

Favorite Hymn: *My Chains Are Gone*

Favorite Colors: Blue and Rose

Favorite Sport: Football (Steelers—John was from Pittsburgh)

Favorite Ice Cream: Lemon Custard

Interests: Reading, writing, and cooking.

Advice: ALWAYS-BE RIGIDLY-FLEXIBLE!

TESTIMONY: I feel that God has always been with me. In my home church, a child had to be 12 years old to accept Jesus as the Lord of their life. When that day finally came for me, I ran down the aisle and almost knocked the Pastor over in my acceptance. I have always truly loved the Lord --but have often failed Him too. Still, I continue to have Hope and believe He accepts me as I am. All I want to do is tell others of His amazing Love and Salvation.



"FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP"



David Sheehan is a well-known local farmer. David's farm is on Gerlaugh Road in Medway and is notable for his and Barbara's gorgeous displays of flowers. David grew up in Clark County on his parent's farm. A life he treasures as God's wonderful blessings. Of course, times have advanced in variable methods of growing plant life, but David has ensured he is 'grounded' and ready to proceed. He is active in soil analysis for planting without soil—officially called "hypertonic." David loves to experience with a variety of tomato plants and has chosen "heirloom tomatoes" as his choice. He is an example of the willing servant and has always been available to help anyone in need. David lives his "faith."

David graduated from Tecumseh High School and from Ohio State University with a degree in Animal Science. David has a

sister, Nancy and a daughter, Leah. He is an honored Veteran as he was in the Navy during the Vietnam conflict and wounded while on a ship in their coastal waters. He still "hobbles" around from that wound. Welcome home, David!

Favorite Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:2; Mark 4:14-20; the Book of James

Favorite Hymn: *How Great Thou Art* by George Beverly Shea

Colors: Red, white, and blue.

Ice Cream: Chocolate/vanilla

Interests: Advanced methods for producing plants.

Advice: Stay alert and be prepared as technology is advancing at rapid paces. Become involved with AI – learn all you can consume.

Testimony: I have loved the Lord with all my heart and soul during my long life. God is always first and foremost in my life decisions. He has always been with me. I am very blessed!



"FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP"

Barbara Sheehan has been a member of Grace UMC for over 30 years. Barbara grew up in MI, FL, TN, and SC, where she attended five schools during her high school years. She graduated from Chigora High School in SC. Barbara has always been active throughout her lifetime and has had several interesting life experiences. Barbara has held numerous jobs at Grace and is always willing to help when she can. She and her husband, David met at Colonial Baptist Church in Medway. They will celebrate their 34th wedding anniversary in November. Barbara and David have always been active in serving their Lord, Jesus Christ. Now, due to the results of illnesses they are home bound. However, Barbara is always the perfect hostess. After a visit, you won't leave without a sample of her awesome cooking.

Barbara has a son, Howard, and a daughter, Debbie; seven grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. They picked up a stray dog years ago and gave him a home and named him Skipper.

She worked in an insurance office for several years before joining David in running their farm market operated by David's Mom and David. Barbara is well known as the best cook in Clark County and shared her canned goods at the farm market. Barbara loves growing and cooking fresh vegetables and fruits. She said, "I was hungry one time in my life," and "I cannot stand food waste." She lives by her words and can make any fresh food dish taste like the King's cuisine.

Favorite Scripture: *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 8:38-39

Favorite Hymn: *Victory in Jesus*

Favorite Color: Blue/green, any outside color.

Favorite Ice Cream: Butter Pecan

Favorite Sport: Spectator football and "at the game baseball."

Interest: Cooking and gardening.

Advice: Love the Lord with all your heart. Nobody loves you like Jesus.

Testimony: I have always felt that God was with me, knew He loved me and that nothing can separate me from Him even when I fail Him, He still loves me.



October Scriptures

Oct. 1	1 Kings 8:23
Oct. 2	Ephesians 2:4-5
Oct. 3	Deuteronomy 8:18
Oct. 4	Romans 5:1
Oct. 5	1 Corinthians 2:5
Oct. 6	Deuteronomy 6:7
Oct. 7	Philippians 1:6
Oct. 8	Psalms 29:2
Oct. 9	1 Peter 3:3-4
Oct. 10	Ezekiel 34:27
Oct. 11	Galatians 5:1
Oct. 12	Psalms 80:14
Oct. 13	Zechariah 8:12
Oct. 14	Psalms 68:20
Oct. 15	2 Timothy 4:7
Oct. 16	Jeremiah 20:13
Oct. 17	John 10:10
Oct. 18	Psalms 138:7
Oct. 19	Acts 17:27
Oct. 20	2 Samuel 22:31
Oct. 21	Matthew 25:23
Oct. 22	Matthew 19:26
Oct. 23	James 1:5
Oct. 24	1 Corinthians 9:23
Oct. 25	Hebrews 12:14
Oct. 26	John 13:8
Oct. 27	Psalms 145:19
Oct. 28	Psalms 5:2
Oct. 29	Psalms 70:4
Oct. 30	Nahum 1:7
Oct. 31	Proverbs 19:21

Prayers Needed:

Phyllis & Larry Garber

John Shough

Janet Blazer

Jeann Powell



Shower of Blessings

Recipient for October:

Ruby Williams

1500 Villa Rd.

Oakwood Village

Springfield OH, 45503



News from Grace:

Happy Halloween



October Fellowship Hour

The monthly Fellowship Hour will be Sunday, October 12, after service. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share and to enjoy the company of the Grace Community.



Date: October 25

Time: 3:00pm—5:00pm

Place: Grace Church

Decorate your car trunk and join us for spooky fun!

**TRUNK
OR
TREAT!**



Super Soup Supper

Lunch: 11 am—1pm

Dinner: 4pm—7pm

Everyone is welcome to our Super Soup Supper! Enjoy the excellent food and company. Check out the sign-up sheet to see what you can bring to the table.





OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10am Bible Study 11:45am Choir Practice	2 6pm Trustee Mt	3	4
5 7pm NA Meeting	6 Office open 9-11am 7pm Men's Bible Study	7 11am Soap Making 7pm NA Meeting	8 10am Bible Study 11:45am Choir Practice	9 6pm All-Church Mt	10	11
12 Fellowship Hour 7pm NA Meeting	13 Office open 9-11am 7pm Men's Bible Study	14 7pm NA Meeting	15 10am Bible Study 11:45am Choir Practice	16	17	18
19 7pm NA Meeting	20 7pm Men's Bible Study	21 12pm Women of Faith 7pm NA Meeting	22 10am Bible Study 11:45am Choir Practice	23 Super Soup Supper 11-1, 4-7pm	24	25 3-5pm Trunk-Or-Treat
26 7pm NA Meeting	27 4:45 Soup Kitchen 7pm Men's Bible Study	28 7pm NA Meeting	29 10am Bible Study 11:45am Choir Practice 12 pm Candy Donations Due	30	31 Synder Park School Halloween	





<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
Acolyte	October	Larry Campbell
Communion Set-up	Oct. 5	Pastor Rob Stufflebeam
Communion Servers	Oct. 5	Pat & Gene Hart
Communion Clean-up	Oct. 5	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	Oct. 5-12 Oct. 19-26	Deb Cooke & Pam Smith Fonda Setters & Mary Olmstead
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	Oct. 5-12 Oct. 19-26	Marilyn & Tom Martin Kim Stehle & Becky Frantz
Liturgist	Oct. 5 Oct. 12, 19 Oct. 26	Mary Ahlborn Pattie Mumma Barb McCoy
Ushers	Oct. 5-12 Oct. 19-26	Larry Campbell & Greg Hosier Dave Speas & Bruce Eckler

<u>Counters</u>	<u>Special Music</u>
Oct. 6 Kim Stehle & Deb Cooke	Oct. 5 Choir
Oct. 13 Connie Mitchell & Pam Smith	Oct. 12 Jim Mayhugh
Oct. 20 Marilyn Martin & Ramona Keeton	Oct. 19 Choir
Oct. 27 Aileen Wasser & Mary Ahlborn	Oct. 26 Choir