

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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November 2024 Newsletter

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Why would it be God’s will for us to give thanks, and to pray all the time regardless of what we see around us? I think God is telling us to cultivate an attitude of gratitude for everything in our lives, because that is the spirit in which God works best.

God has given us this example in the creation story found in Genesis 1:1-31. You may want to read the story of creation yourself to enjoy the rhythm of the story. Every day when the work of God was completed the Lord declared the work “good.” We see in the creation story, that God spoke everything into existence and after speaking it into existence that the Lord, declared everything “good.”

This is our model for life and the example of how to put this 1 Thessalonians passage into practice. What we say matters. What we say is a creative force released into the world that has power to shape reality and our lives. Whenever we speak after God’s example, calling forth something new, fresh, and good, God works through our words to give life to our dreams, hopes, and aspirations. Many years ago, I read a little book by Charles Capps, called, *“The Tongue: A Creative Force.”* This is a life changing book because it reminds us of how important what comes out of our mouths is. When we align ourselves with the spirit of Christ, which wishes only goodness, love, peace, joy, and prosperity to all humanity we become at one with Jesus. When we are at one with Jesus, we want what the scriptures tell us is God’s will.

Do we think that God wants us to speak cruelty, hatred, prejudice, bigotry, and vulgarity into the world? NO, No, No. We know from this 1 Thessalonians text and numerous other texts throughout the Bible, that God calls us to emulate our Heavenly Father and Jesus in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

We are told to praise God, pray continually in all circumstances because that puts us in an attitude that God can use and work through. God can work through us best when we are aligned with God's Spirit. We know that God has an optimistic Spirit because the Lord keeps trying to draw us closer even when we have rejected God many times. This reminds me of the story of two little boys that has been around and evolving for over 100 years. The parents of two boys, five and six, became concerned with their extreme personalities; one was optimistic, and one was pessimistic. The parents took the two boys to a psychiatrist. To try to get the pessimistic child to be more optimistic they took him to a room piled high with toys. He didn't touch anything. When the psychiatrist asked him why he wasn't playing with the toys, he said, "If I play with them, they will just get broken. Then they took the boy, who they considered too optimistic to a room full of horse manure. The optimistic boy went right in and started to shovel the horse manure. He was singing and obviously happy beyond words. The psychiatrist asked him how he could be so happy in a room full of horse manure. The little boy laughing said, "With this much manure there must be a pony in here somewhere." We all work out of our spirit, for the good or for the bad.

I do not pretend that there are not many things we dislike and are concerned about in our world. But I can't say I've ever seen a time when anyone's ugliness, name calling, cruelty, prejudice, bigotry, or hatred has improved any situation. We are what we think, and when we think ugly hateful thoughts, it negatively affects our spirits. God doesn't work through anything ugly or hateful. God works through us only when we are aligned with the goodness of God.

So, this Thanksgiving season, let us focus on the things of God. **Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."** We do this, we try to train our thinking, speaking, and actions to conform to this text because God tells us to and because then God can work in us and through us. Happy Thanksgiving, you wonderful people. *-Pastor Vicki Downing*

In Our Community:

November Fellowship Hour

Sunday, November 10th, will be the next **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.

Walk To Emmaus



On November 14-17 there will be a Women's Walk to Emmaus at High Street UMC. Pastor Vicki and Pastor Mary Beth Cheeseman are the Spiritual Directors. We are blessed to have from the Grace Family Stacey Eckler as an assistant table leader and her daughter, Kendra Eckler as a pilgrim (attendee). Other pilgrims from our Grace family are Betty Prosser, Mary Olmstead, and Marilyn Martin. Rick Near's friend, Deanna Fenton will also be attending. Agape can be given to Mary Ahlborn or Kim Stehle.

Homemade Creamy Chicken over Biscuits Dinner

On Thursday, November 7th, the United Women will be hosting a fundraising dinner. Lunch will be served from 11:00am—1:30pm and supper will be served from 4:30pm—6:30pm, with carry-out available. The star of the show will be creamy chicken over biscuits, made with our traditional recipe. Please check out the sign-up sheet in the Wesley Room for volunteer and food needs. See you there!



Save the Date!

Grace Church Silent Auction Fundraiser—Saturday, December 7 @ 6pm

Please bring donations to the church by Sunday, November 17th so information can be compiled for the auction tickets. Proceeds will go to the Grace Church General Fund. Keep tuned for more information to come!



November Scriptures

Nov. 1	Galatians 3:27
Nov. 2	Psalms 13:6
Nov.3	Job 10:12
Nov. 4	1 Peter 4:8
Nov. 5	Romans 13:8
Nov. 6	Matthew 6:21
Nov. 7	Isaiah 43:18-19
Nov. 8	1 Corinthians 13:4
Nov. 9	Ephesians 5:2
Nov. 10	Matthew 11:28-30
Nov. 11	Psalms 121:8
Nov. 12	Romans 12:8
Nov. 13	1 Corinthians 13:4-5
Nov. 14	Matthew 16:19
Nov. 15	2 Timothy 3:4-5
Nov. 16	Isaiah 40:11
Nov. 17	Matthew 6:10
Nov. 18	Isaiah 30:21
Nov. 19	Isaiah 48:17
Nov. 20	Psalms 31:19
Nov. 21	Acts 2:42
Nov. 22	2 Corinthians 3:16
Nov. 23	Luke 12:27
Nov. 24	Matthew 12:34
Nov. 25	1 Corinthians 2:13
Nov. 26	Mark 12:44
Nov. 27	Corinthians 2:9-10
Nov.28	2 Corinthians 10:5
Nov. 29	Psalms 51:15
Nov. 30	Ephesians 5:1

Prayers Needed:

Cindy & Jack Yeager
Phyllis & Larry Garber
John Shough
Janet Blazer
Ron Stevens
Jeann Powell



Shower of Blessings

Recipient for November:

Mary Collins
7 Masonic Dr Apt 1F
Springfield OH, 45504





November

<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
Acolyte	November	Larry Campbell
Communion Set-up	Nov. 3	Pastor Vicki
Communion Servers	Nov. 3	Mary Olmstead & Donna Myers Gene & Pat Hart
Communion Clean-up	Nov. 3	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	Nov. 3-10 Nov. 17-24	Pam Smith & Deb Cooke Donna Layne & Greg Hosier
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	Nov. 3-10 Nov. 17-24	Bruce & Gail Eckler Dave Speas & Mary Ahlborn
Liturgist	Nov. 3 Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24	Mary Ahlborn Barb McCoy Becky Frantz Barb McCoy
Ushers	Nov. 3-10 Nov. 17-24	Bruce Eckler & Dave Speas Greg Hosier & Larry Campbell

Counters

Nov. 4	Marilyn Martin & Mary Ahlborn
Nov. 11	Connie Mitchell & Pam Smith
Nov. 18	Mary Ahlborn & Jackie Gregory
Nov. 25	Kim Stehle & Deb Cooke

Special Music

Nov. 3	Choir
Nov. 10	Jim Mayhugh
Nov. 17	Choir
Nov. 24	Jayme Tatro



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Church Charge Conference 7pm NA	5pm Open Hands Board 6pm Men's Bible Study	No Soap Making <u>Election Day</u> 7pm NA	10am Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice	UMW Chicken Dinner		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Fellowship Hour after Sunday Worship 7pm NA	6pm Men's Bible Study	7pm NA	10am Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice	6pm All-Church Meeting		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Deadline for Silent Auction Donations 7pm NA	6pm Men's Bible Study	12pm Women of Faith 7pm NA	10am Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
7pm NA	4:45 Soup Kitchen 6pm Men's Bible Study	7pm NA	6pm Choir Practice	Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed		

THANKSGIVING CROSSWORD

ACROSS

3. Bush or Ferraro? (In 1984)
5. Halloween leftover
8. Juicy fruits
10. Essential winter attire
11. Nurse's credentials
12. Atmosphere
14. Holiday birds
17. Every
20. Organization responsible for space program
21. Has sound
23. They started Thanksgiving tradition
25. Thus
26. Thing to do on Nov. 22
27. Winnie the Pooh's creator, A.A. M----
28. Residential unit (abbrev.)
29. Describes Thanksgiving meal
31. Noah had one
33. Soldier's nickname
34. Malt beverage
35. What's left of the bird on Nov. 23

DOWN

1. Turkey's destiny
2. Worry
4. ___ Man
5. Nov. 22, 1984
6. An opinionated composition
7. Turkey day (abbrev.)
8. Pumpkin or apple?
9. Horse's back yard
13. "A sandwich is a sandwich, but a Manwich..."
15. Make into one
16. Not late
17. Classified or display
18. Speech impediment
19. Valuables (colloq.)
22. We
23. German "oom-___" band
24. At home
28. Largest state (abbrev.)
30. Past
32. Referring to
34. If you want seconds, do this

