GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1401 WEST MAIN ST

SPRINGFIELD, OH 45504

937-323-9078

EMAIL: graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net



2026



From the Pastor's Desk

November 1, 2026

Galatians 6:9 (NRSV)

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

Greetings Grace Church Family,

As we enter the month of November and begin looking toward Thanksgiving, I've been thinking about the many ways God continues to work in and through the life of Grace Church.

Sometimes, when we're caught up in the everyday responsibilities of church life, it's easy to overlook the good things happening around us. We become so focused on what needs to be done, what needs to be repaired, or what challenges lie ahead, that we can miss the blessings already in our midst.

And yet, there is much for which we can give thanks. As I write this in late October, it isn't long before Grace will have the privilege of hosting the Western Lakes District Special Service, welcoming brothers and sisters in Christ from across our district. What a wonderful reminder that we are part of something much larger than our own congregation! Our connection as United Methodists reminds us that we do not walk this journey of faith alone.

That very same day, our Trunk or Treat event offers another opportunity to open our doors and extend hospitality to our neighbors. I'm especially grateful for those who have volunteered their time to decorate their vehicles, donate candy, and help make this outreach possible.

And November promises more opportunities for fellowship and service. On November 5, our United Women in Faith will host their Chicken and Biscuit Community Dinner, inviting our neighbors to gather around the table for good food and warm fellowship. Then, on November 8, we'll celebrate Thanksgiving together during our Second Sunday Fellowship meal.

There's something wonderfully appropriate about these gatherings. After all, some of the most meaningful moments in Jesus' ministry happened around a table. He ate with friends and strangers, welcomed those whom others overlooked, and reminded us that the Kingdom of God is a place where everyone has a seat.

Perhaps that's something worth remembering as we approach Thanksgiving. The life of the Church isn't measured simply by the number of people sitting in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, the size of our budget, or even the number of activities on our calendar. Those things have their place, certainly. But the true measure of our faithfulness is found in how we love God and how we love one another. It's found in the quiet acts of kindness that nobody sees. In a phone call to someone who is lonely. In a meal shared with a neighbor. In a helping hand extended without expecting anything in return. In the willingness to welcome someone new and make them feel that they belong.

Of course, the journey of faith sometimes takes us through challenging seasons. There are times when the road seems a little more difficult than we anticipated, when our patience is tested, and when we find ourselves wondering what God might be teaching us along the way. But I've come to believe that it's often during those very seasons that God invites us to grow deeper in our faith, to extend a little more grace, and to remember that we are all still works in progress.

The Apostle Paul reminds us not to grow weary in doing what is right. I find those words particularly meaningful here because Paul doesn't suggest that faithful living will always be easy. He knows there will be seasons when we become tired, discouraged, or uncertain about what lies ahead. But he also reminds us that God is still at work, even in those seasons.

As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables this month, both at the church and at home with our families, I want to encourage each of us to take a moment to consider not only the blessings we've received, but also the ways we might become a blessing to someone else. What would happen if we approached each new day asking a simple question: *"Lord, how can I be an instrument of your grace today?"* I suspect we might discover that God has already placed opportunities all around us.

I'm grateful for the many faithful people who continue to give of themselves in service to Christ and this congregation. Your prayers, your generosity, your compassion, and your willingness to serve make a difference, often in ways you may never fully realize.

As we move toward the season of Advent, may we continue to seek God's guidance, extend Christ's love, and trust that the Holy Spirit is leading us forward. And may we never forget that the greatest reason for our thanksgiving is not found in our circumstances, but in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God.

PS – I almost forgot the picture. That's the statue of John Wesley at Asbury Theological Seminary, with the library beautifully illuminated in the background. It's one of my favorite places anywhere, where I've always sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit in a particularly meaningful way.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rob Stufflebeam
Grace United Methodist Church
(740) 304-2518
rob.stufflebeam@gmail.com

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first Fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be Filled to overflowing, and your vats will Brim over with new wine.
Proverbs 3:9-10



Fall brings us a multitude of colorful reflections! Often, we feel overwhelmed with the beauty God surrounds us with. As Thanksgiving approaches, we may begin counting our blessings. In the church family we are celebrating goals achieved as we mirror God's love in providing laundry soap for low income families, feeding the hungry at the Soup Kitchen, providing the needy essential food provisions through the Open Hands Pantry, connecting with the children of Snyder Park and LifeWise, and meeting the needs of our Haitian friends--just to name a few of the opportunities God offers us. As United Methodist we are also a part of a worldwide connectional global ministry through our apportionment offerings. Please accept our deepest thanks for your generosity. We look forward to continuing our journey together, guided by faith and united in our mission.

Being faithful stewards of Christ is quite a remarkable feat at Grace UMC. We are at the stage of life in the church where volunteering to provide services that we can no longer pay for is an essential gift. Generosity of time and skills plus financial giving fulfils God's call for us to continue our journey together—guided by faith and united in our mission.

When you give tithes and offerings, be prepared for your generosity to come back to you in equal or greater measure. `None of us ever do anything great on our own. It is God who gives us what we need to thrive. Without His support, we would have nothing.

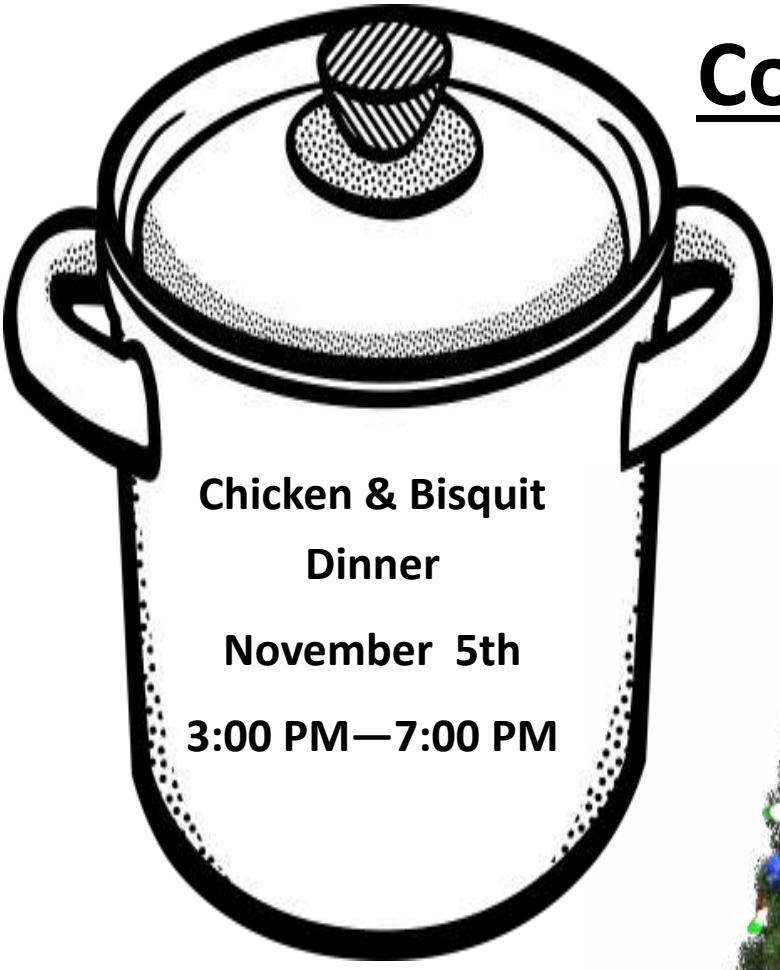
Remember and **THANK HIM!**

Your Financial Team

A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.

Proverbs 18:16

Coming up at Grace:



Chicken & Bisquit Dinner

November 5th

3:00 PM—7:00 PM



Tentative date for

Silent Auction

December 12

6pm

More info to follow

“Decorate the Halls” at Grace

Monday Nov 30

10 am



Scriptures November 2023

Nov 1	Ephesians 1:5
Nov 2	Ephesians 2:6
Nov 3	Joshua 23:14
Nov 4	Psalm 145:13
Nov 5	Deuteronomy 30:20
Nov 6	Psalm 63:3
Nov 7	Exodus 6:7
Nov 8	Romans 15:5
Nov 9	Psalm 27:4
Nov 10	Revelation 21:3
Nov 11	Psalm 27:8
Nov 12	Psalm 69:13
Nov 13	Exodus 15:26
Nov 14	John 8:47
Nov 15	Isaiah 46:4
Nov 16	Jeremiah 10:10
Nov 17	Luke 12:21
Nov 18	Isaiah 26:3
Nov 19	Jeremiah 31:9
Nov 20	Ruth 4:15
Nov 21	John 8:28
Nov 22	Psalm 119:94
Nov 23	Psalm 23:4
Nov 24	Proverbs 3:5-6
Nov 25	Jeremiah 16:21
Nov 26	Ephesians 2:4-5
Nov 27	1 Corinthians 2:5
Nov 28	Philippians 1:6
Nov 29	1 Peter 3:3-4
Nov 30	Galatians 5:1

Prayers Needed:

Phyllis & Larry Garber

Jeanne & Shelley Powell

Sam Brewer

Shower of Blessings

Recipient for July:

Claudia Clark

4675 New Carlisle Pike

Springfield, Ohio 45504

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ***All Saints Day*** ***Daylight savings ends*** ***7 pm NA***	2 *7 pm MENS BS*	3 ***7 pm NA***	4 *10 A Bible Study* *11:45 Choir*	5 *3p-7p Creamed Chicken Dinner* *6 pm Trustee mt*	6 *OFFICE CLOSED*	7
8 *Fellowship Lunch after service* ***7 pm NA***	9 *7 pm MENS BS*	10 ***7 pm NA***	11 *10 A Bible Study* *11:45 Choir*	12 *6 PM Administrative Council*	13 *OFFICE CLOSED*	14
15 *2 pm Regional Charge Conference* ***7 pm NA***	16 *7 pm MENS BS*	17 *12 noon Women of Faith* ***7 pm NA***	18 *10 A Bible Study* *11:45 Choir*	19	20 *OFFICE CLOSED*	21
22 *Bring Christmas bins down*	23 *10 am DECORATE CHURCH* *4 pm Soup Kitchen* *7 pm MENS BS*	24 ***7 pm NA***	25 *10 A Bible Study* *11:45 Choir*	26 *THANKSGIVING*	27 *OFFICE CLOSED*	28
29 *Bring down Christmas décor after service* ***7 pm NA***	30 *7 pm MENS BS*					*Pastor Rob on vacation* *Nov 23-27*

Worship Participants

Position	Date	Name
Acolyte	**November**	Larry Campbell
Communion Set-up	**Nov. 1**	Pastor Rob
Communion Servers	**Nov. 1**	Betty Prosser & Marilyn Martin Kim Stehle & Connie Mitchell
Communion Clean-up	**Nov. 1**	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	**Nov. 1 & 8** **Nov. 15 & 22** **Nov 29**	Ken & Deb Cooke Mary Olmstead
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	**Nov. 1 & 8** **Nov. 15 & 22** **Nov 29**	Kim Stehle Karen & Dave Speas Donna Myers
Liturgist	**Nov. 1 & 8** **Nov. 15 & 22** **Nov 29**	Bruce Eckler Dave Speas Pattie Mumma
Ushers	**Nov. 1 & 8** **Nov. 15 & 22** **Nov 29**	Larry Campbell & Greg Hosier Larry & Donna Layne Greg & Donna

Counters

Nov 2 Marilyn Martin & Pam Smith

Nov 9 Connie Mitchell & Gail Eckler

Nov 16 Kim Stehle & Deb Cooke

Nov 23 Mary Ahlborn & Ramona Keeton

Nov 30 Mary Ahlborn & Pam Smith

Special Music

Nov 1	**Choir**
Nov 8	**Jim Mayhugh & Larry**
Nov 15	**video**
Nov 22	**Choir**
Nov 29	**Choir**



REMINDER…….

Pastor Rob and family will be on vacation Nov 23-27.

Pastor Ben Webster will be available if needed during this time.

937-206-3793

Thanksgiving

Unscramble and find all the words

P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	E	S	K	E	V	Y	T	L	C	K	U	N
Y	P	X	O	Q	G	L	M	T	I	W	S	L	P	V	X	C	O	R	N
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B	U	N	I	Q	P	W	L	K	C	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	C	F
D	V	L	J	D	I	V	U	G	R	K	I	X	F	D	V	K	G	Q	U
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