

APRIL 2020

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# Amazing Grace

Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive

Unprecedented times. This term certainly seems appropriate. It is absurd to think that no one in our church family, from the oldest to the youngest, has experienced something like this current pandemic. Unprecedented times demand unprecedented changes to address them. This creates a lot of difficulties, as we humans, often struggle with change. Suddenly, we people who are disturbed when we have to sit in a different seat at Sunday worship, are being compelled to change far greater things. This is a reality that we need to work to accept. However, I believe that it is also a reality than can improve and refine our church, if we allow it.

First of all, we can allow this moment to grant us perspective. We have a habit, as human beings, of allowing ourselves to worry and get angry about minor things. This can happen often in the church as well. We often find ourselves arguing, fighting, and bothering about issues which have very little effect on the ministries of our church. If you allow yourself to be introspective, and look back a couple months ago, I think we can all think of something we got worked up about that seems silly in the moment we are living in now. Times like these can help give us perspective about what really matters, and therefore refocus us on the mission at hand. In this time of change, let us as disciples move past the small arguments and disagreements that derailed us in the past, and move on with a new and concerted purpose.

Also, this struggle will force us as a church to reexamine our own systems. It has already made plain several ways that we are not doing the best job possible. We are working to change these elements, so that we can be an even more vibrant church community moving forward.

Lastly, while this moment is unprecedented in our modern history, times of crisis have certainly happened before. Whenever our country, and particular the people of faith within it, have been confronted by a crisis we have risen together to face it. The same will happen today. In the face of this crisis, the church will band together to face the storm and defeat the darkness it brings. Through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, we will continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As the old song goes, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine." Keep your lights shining, my friends, and we will come through this unprecedented season stronger and ready to pursue our mission as disciples of Jesus Christ. My prayers are with you.

Pastor Steve

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## Defenders Of The Faith

### "21 Questions"

The Autumn 2019 GUMC PATH Youth "Defenders Of The Faith" class consisted, in part, a question and discussion segment called "15 Questions." These questions started out as ice-breaking puzzlers and led to deeper ones regarding their faith. All followers of Jesus Christ are told to defend what they believe and why (1 Peter 3:15). Our youth today are being bombarded with a potpourri of worldviews and a secular culture that is apathetic, ignorant and even antagonistic to the Christian faith. 70-75% of Christian youth leave the church after they leave home. Why are they leaving? Some may think church is irrelevant. Others are attracted by all the things society has to offer and put God on the sidelines. Many leave because they've come to intellectually doubt Christianity as being true. They are not being taught to examine and discern the skeptical and non-Christian worldviews they encounter in college and the world. Are you ready to give answers to others, including your children and grandchildren, "for the hope that you have" with "gentleness and respect?" The questions below contain the youth class questions among others. Read each question carefully, then go over in your mind and even write down your responses. Remember to pray for discernment and wisdom for truth, light and grace, not emotion and heat. Clarity and charity. Trust in the Holy Spirit to lead the way. What would your answers be? What would your children's or grandchildren's answers be?

1-How many of each animal did Moses take on the ark?

2-Is it possible to end a sentence with the word "the?" Yes or No

3-It is noon. You look at the clock. The big hand is on three. The little hand is on five. What time is it?

4-You are the driver of a train. There are 30 people on board. At the first stop ten people get off. At the next stop five people get on. At the final stop 11 people get off. Now for the question: what is the name of the driver?

5-A blind man got on a bus and a man stood up and gave him his seat. Was that a good thing to do?

6-It is greater than God and more evil than the devil? The poor have it, the rich need it and if you eat it you'll die. What is it?

7-Have you read the Bible in its entirety? If not, why not?

8-How often do you read the Bible?

9-If someone said, "Well, that's your truth, not necessarily true for others," what would you say?

10-If someone asks your child or grandchild, "The Bible contains contradictions" how should they respond?

11-If someone said, "How do you know the Bible is true?" how would you respond?

12-If someone asked you or your loved one "Why are you a Christian?" what would the answer be?

13-If someone said, "I don't need religion, I believe in science" what would you say?

14-If someone asks your child or grandchild, "Am I going to hell if I'm not a Christian?" what should be their reply?

15-If someone asked, "If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is evil so common?" what would you say?

16-What is your stance on homosexuality and same-sex marriage?

17-What is your stance on abortion?

18-What do you think happens to you when you die? Why?

19-Why do you go to church? What is the primary purpose why you (and your family) attend church?

20-What do you believe about Jesus Christ? Why do you believe it? Why does it matter?

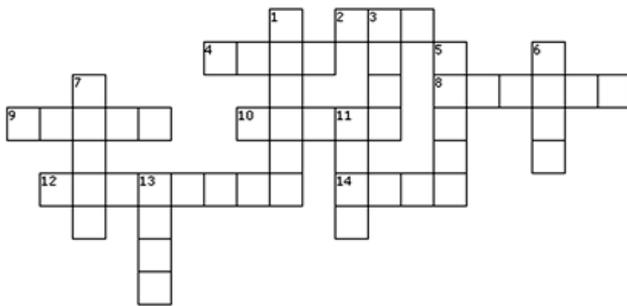
21-If you could ask Jesus one question that you don't understand, concerns or bothers you, or is confusing to you, what would it be?





*He is not here. He has risen!*

Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 2. To shed tears
- 4. The opposite of alive
- 8. A heavenly being
- 9. The thing that covered the entrance to Jesus'tomb
- 10. The color that is the opposite of black
- 12. A person who takes care of plants and flowers
- 14. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb

DOWN

- 1. The male parent
- 3. Return to an upright position after lying down; to return from the dead
- 5. The opposite of late
- 6. A period of seven days
- 7. An adult female person
- 11. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
- 13. The opposite of light

Words Used

early	angels	gardener	rise
week	white	Mary	dead
dark	woman	tomb	
stone	cry	father	

- 04-01 Abigail Sullivan
- 04-03 Cindy Clapsaddle  
Melia Garrett  
Kathleen Jones
- 04-08 Jacob Bankert
- 04-09 Ed Davis  
Kassidy Rebert
- 04-10 Matt Study  
Denise Warner
- 04-12 Jack Hardee
- 04-14 Lydia Salisbury
- 04-15 Breanne Cue
- 04-16 Kayla Dehoff
- 04-17 Sarah Adkins  
Frieda Miller
- 04-20 Katlyn Birgensmith
- 04-21 Scott Rabenstine
- 04-22 Ray Johns
- 04-24 Scott Martin  
Neil Myers  
Scott Wentz
- 04-25 Brian Link
- 04-26 Allison Sullivan  
Samantha Sullivan
- 04-27 Rhonda Clark
- 04-29 Aubrey Koch  
John Nickey

## RED BIRD MISSION UPDATE

Our March presentation of our last Red Bird mission trip had to be re-scheduled.

Please mark your calendar for our new date:  
April 26th at 6:30 pm



A big **Thank You** to everyone who generously donated towels & washcloths for Red Bird Mission which Beverly Hoffman initiated several weeks ago. People often donate clothes to the Mission's Community Store, but they rarely receive towels! As you can see in the photo, they added up to quite a "pile"! So far: 95 washcloths, 54 hand towels, 42 bath towels & 3 bathmats! We were planning to take them to Kentucky in mid-April, but with the current health situation we will have to delay our trip until May. We will continue to accept donations thru April.

### Scholarship Awards

High School Seniors who have been accepted into an Institution of Higher Education, and are a member of Grace United Methodist Church, are eligible to apply for a Scholarship Award.

Applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee on or before June 15, 2020. The announcement of Scholarships will be made so that funds can be distributed in time for the coming school year. Contact the Church Office for an application form.

Grace United Methodist Church's scholarship fund is supported by 5% of the proceeds from the grocery card sales.

**Little Dresses for Africa mission -We need your help**

This mission helps to turn pillowcases or a yard or two of fabric into dresses “to serve the most vulnerable of God’s children: little girls.” While most dresses are distributed to African countries, 37 other countries including the United States are served. Last year we shipped 200 items, thanks to our faithful home sewers. Donations of the following may be placed in the basket for Little Dresses for Africa in the hallway under the coat rack: 100% cotton pillowcases (new or gently used-no pills or sweat stains please) or 100% cotton fabric in bright colors (Hobby Lobby has a discount bin with yardage for \$2.00, \$3.00 or \$4.00), Extra wide double bias tape in various colors, 1/4 inch elastic or general purpose thread in various colors. You may also help defray costs of shipping the dresses or purchasing supplies with a monetary donation. Simply place your donation in an envelope in the collection plate with the note: Women of Grace, Little Dresses for Africa. If you are searching for a way to become involved in an outreach mission and would like more information, please contact Dot Johns at 717-637-6143. Thank you.



**Give Your Heart to God-  
Donate your life giving  
blood at Grace for the  
American Red Cross**

On Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> the American Red Cross collected 30 units of blood at the GUMC blood drive. The blood drive team would like to thank everyone for their support. Through our efforts 90 lives will be impacted.

We have two more drives scheduled for 2020. Our next blood drive will be Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> from 8am until 1pm. This will be followed October 24<sup>th</sup> with our last drive for the year.

Story of Hope



Kinzie Frey | Blood and Platelet Recipient

After months of vague symptoms and emergency room visits, 6-year-old Kinzie Frey was diagnosed with stage 4, high-risk neuroblastoma, a type of cancer that can grow into tumors. Her tumor was collectively the size of a mini basketball, originating on her right adrenal gland and was tangled throughout her abdomen, wrapping around veins, arteries and organs from her heart to her pelvis. Kinzie’s doctor immediately began an aggressive treatment protocol to fight the cancer and prevent it from returning. After her second round of chemo, she had a procedure to remove some of her stem cells. The cells were preserved and given back to her during two stem cell transplants. Each transplant required a month in the hospital and strict precautions that prevented her from returning to school or going to public places. Kinzie developed a late complication from the stem cell transplant that caused her body to break down blood cells at an alarming rate and required numerous blood and platelet transfusions. Over 18 months, Kinzie received 46 red blood cell transfusions and 72 platelet transfusions. Her mother, Holly Bosse, says, “If weren’t for the generosity of blood donors, Kinzie wouldn’t be here with us today. Those blood donations aren’t only a gift to Kinzie but to our family, friends and supporters.

**Easter Family Fellowship**



**EVENT POSTPONED**  
**STAY TUNED FOR POSSIBLE**  
**RESCHEDULE DATE**



*Grace Children participating in Communion*



# RIVER VALLEY RANCH RETREAT

RVR 2020 was action packed and challenging as always. The band from Liberty University (Liberty Collective ) lead us into worship time with our speaker for the weekend Luke Casagrande. Luke took the old testament book of Hosea where God instructed Hosea to marry a prostitute named Gomer, while they were married she had children to another man and found her self as a slave to be sold. God then instructed Hosea to buy her back making her twice his, just as Christ has purchased us twice. Once as his creation and second with the blood of Jesus on the cross. As our way to salvation. Saturday afternoon's activities were no let down either, again! From zip line, horse back riding, paint ball, and archery tag everyone had a great time. We are already looking forward to next year's Winter Meltdown Retreat, but next up is Creation Festival 2020 in June. Thank you for your prayers and support. The Path Youth.

**PATH CALENDAR**

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATED CALENDAR





## The Bookworm

We have a new purchase for our Grace library. It is The Oracle by Jonathan Cahn: The Jubilean Mysteries Unveiled. As his other books this one will not be a disappointment. These prophecies telling of the return of our Lord, Jesus Christ, help us recognize and think of the world as it continues to decline and how we will be rescued. The Oracle will inspire you to live more intentionally as we look toward the eastern sky. It will also encourage you as you read his eye-opening book.

One of our Bible studies has just completed Billy Graham’s revised book on Angels. If you enjoyed his previous book with the same title you will find yourself amazed with his many insights, examples documented with scripture and real life experiences of so many people who have witnessed an angel’s appearance and/ or help. It is a great reminder that angels see everything we do. It will certainly help each of us keep on our Christian toes as we minister with our time and energy for the Lord.

Enjoy your spring reads!  
The Bookworm

## Graceful Reads

Our book list until June is as follows, as soon as we have dates we will have them posted.

**April** - The Masterpiece by Francine Rivers

**May** - The Ministry of Ordinary Places by Shannon Martin

**June** - He Speaks to Me: Preparing to Hear from God by Priscilla Shirer

I am looking forward to seeing what 2020 has in store for Graceful Reads and am looking forward to see where our book journey takes us!

Both men and women and all ages are welcome to join. If you need a ride please reach out, I am more than happy to pick you up! Let me know if you have any suggestions or questions!

Blessings,

Amanda Myers

[awmalw6808@gmail.com](mailto:awmalw6808@gmail.com), Cell: 717-858-2548 ,  
Home 717-630-9432

### APRIL CALENDAR EVENTS

AT THIS TIME ALL APRIL EVENTS ARE CANCELED. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR WEEKLY UPDATES.

Friends,

Join Pastor Steve & Pastor Jennifer at Grace United Methodist Church at 55 Albright Drive, Hanover, for the **Good News Drive Thru. WEDNESDAY March 25th from 4pm-6pm. We are offering drive thru Word & Prayer!**

You may drive thru at any time during the 2 hour block. **Remain in your car.** Pastors will proclaim the Good News and Pray for you from 6 feet.

It is important, especially in this time of uncertainty, that we **continue to proclaim the Word of God**, even at 6 feet away!

Blessings, and we look forward to seeing you,  
Reverend Steve Salisbury & Pastor Jennifer Zack