

# **THE GRACE VINE**

## **GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



*" I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit" John 15:5*

**MAY 2018**

**Rev. Timothy Spence, Pastor**

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*Called by God's grace, we commit to a life of worship, service, and discipleship in the name of Jesus Chris*

### **FROM THE PASTOR**

We've come a long way, baby!

That may make you think of the fact that it is less than 100 years since women were allowed to vote. Now a record number of women are running for political office in various upcoming primary elections across the country.

During the past 100 years there have been many, many changes. In 1918 my grandparents hadn't started dating yet. In fact, my grandfather was just graduating from the 8th grade - no small accomplishment for a rural farm boy in those days, where girls were not always educated past third or fourth grade and boys were often pulled out of school around 5th grade to work on the farm full time.

Henry Ford was making cars and you could have any color you wanted - as long as you wanted black. The Great World War was raging in Europe and Americans were going over to "make the world safe for democracy". The Americans arrived in France with the words, "Lafayette, nous sommes ici!" - (Lafayette, we are here!)

The 1920 census would show that for the first time in history more people lived in cities than on farms, and the flappers were born with long strands of beads, short skirts, and (scandalous!) women with SHORT HAIR!!! Roller coasters were all the rage. Women and men went swimming in the ocean AT THE SAME TIME in scanty costumes that allowed the knees and elbows to show, and the electric toaster made its debut. The navy would begin to experiment with a new kind of ship that would allow planes to take off and land on a ship's deck. Mail was being carried by airplanes, and economic prosperity was in everyone's bank book.

How things have changed.

Grace is now completing its third program year, and my how things have changed.

An annual rhythm has begun to stabilize. Most folks who regularly attend worship now know who everyone else is (a LONG way from the days where Kim Kochy and the Pastor were the only people who knew everyone!).

We have had two years of a moderately successful Sunday School. People who are responsible for various aspects of our congregational life are finding a cycle of responsibilities and beginning to live into that new cycle of events and programs. More than half of our committees are functioning smoothly, and ALL committees are functioning to some degree, although getting folks to meet regularly to plan ahead is still a problem.

One place we are lagging, however, is inviting people to join in the community that is Grace. There is a LOT going on at Grace - this is a busy place - and many hands make light work. But too often the work becomes the main focus in a congregation. People forget that our primary role is to point to the living, breathing, RISEN Lord, to bring folks into God's kingdom, and to grow in Christian maturity as disciples of Christ.. One way we do that is through our work, but the primary tasks of the church remain worship and discipleship (Christian growth). Our witness and service develops from our worship and understanding of who we are as God's people called together for worship, witness, service, and learning,

We've come a long way since 2015. Grace is stronger, more vibrant, more cohesive, and developing more of a rhythm than three years ago. It's time to share that with others. **Think** about someone you know who might like what Grace is becoming. **Invite** them out. **Ask** them to help with a project to meet other Grace members. Help them **see** how God has been at work bringing us together and building a community of faith. **Invite** them to join us in worship and at work.

Because we've come a long way, baby, and God is doing great things at Grace.

## ***PENTECOST***

Pentecost comes early this year! Pentecost is fifty days after Easter, so with an early Easter comes an early Pentecost.

The festival will be celebrated on May 20 with special hymns, red candles symbolizing the flames of the seven gifts of the Spirit, special readings, and streamers.

Red geraniums will be available to decorate the church. Geraniums can be ordered on April 29 or May 3 in 4" pots for \$3.50 each. As is the case with Easter flowers and poinsettias, you may purchase a flower in honor or memory of someone. Afterwards you may take yours home to plant or leave them at the church for a new flower bed that is being planned.

Mark your calendar to celebrate the "birthday of the church" and wear your red on May 20 to celebrate the Festival of Pentecost.

## ***SUMMER MUSIC***

With the arrival of Pentecost our choirs will be taking a break. Thanks to all the singers, ringers, fiddlers and fluters who provided music to enrich our worship over the past 9 months.

Volunteers are being recruited to provide special offertory or prelude music one Sunday during the summer months. If you would be willing to share your talents, please speak to Laurie Spence.

## ***CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY***

Sunday, May 3 is Church Music Sunday. ON this day we give thanks for the gift of music in the church and the use of music to praise God in every generation.

The day is appointed each year based on the Psalm text. This year the appointed Psalm is Psalm 98, "Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things."

Bring your best singing voice and come join in the celebration, and remember St. Augustine who said, "The one who sings prays twice."

## ***ANNUAL SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON***

Grace's Annual Spring Salad Luncheon will be held on SATURDAY MAY 5! The day will include tasty salads, special entertainment, door prizes, and a "basket" auction with various themes and goodies.

The first Salad Luncheon took place on May 17, 2008, with over 100 in attendance, making this the tenth anniversary Luncheon. Funds raised at that first event helped with costs for renovations and stained glass window repair.

Since then, funds have been used for many extra-budgetary projects in the church, including stage curtains, carpeting, a coat rack, chairs for the Fellowship Hall, computers, and most recently, furnishings for the Gathering Room and Luther Room.

For tickets or other questions contact Ruth Grob at 304-233-2990. Tickets will also be available on Sunday mornings after Easter. Tables can be reserved for groups of 8 or more.

## ***GRACE GUYS***

Grace Guys will meet on Saturday, May 12, with coffee and donuts at 8:30 AM followed by some construction projects to add storage capacity in the basement and for kitchen items.

Bring hammers, drills, screwdrivers, and a level and be ready to work on one of three storage projects that day.

## ***SUNDAY SCHOOL***

Sunday School will be winding down, with the last classes for this program year being held on May 20. Special studies are being planned for next year along with the regular Bible study curriculum for Sunday morning.

Plans are also being made for Vacation Bible School. Watch the June Vine for details about the VBS schedule.

A big THANK YOU to all the teachers who gave so generously of their time to make our 2017-18 Sunday School a success!

## ***STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL***

Grace's annual Strawberry Festival will be held on June 9, 2018. All proceeds from the event after expenses will be donated to local charities.

Volunteers will be needed in May to help cut up strawberries and get the first batch ready. Watch the bulletin for announcements and be ready to grab your favorite paring knife to help with this major charity event.

## ***KITCHEN CLEAN-UP***

Fellowship Committee has scheduled a "kitchen clean-up day" for Wednesday, May 16. Fellowship Committee has made this a priority as an annual event to help keep our property in good condition. Your hands will help make this important cleaning project a success!

Volunteers are needed in 2 shifts. Shift one (daytime) will work on taking dishes out of cupboards and wiping out cabinets around the perimeter of the room. This group will work from 11:00 AM for about one to two hours.

The second shift will begin at 4:00 PM with folks working on the island, parking lot entry shelves, and stove. This group will work from 4:00 PM until about 6:00PM.

Please come to help with as much as you can. You can come late or leave early if you need to, but keep in mind the 2 hour window for each "shift".

## ***THINGS TO REMEMBER/ONGOING ACTIVITIES***

### ***CANS FOR WATCH***

Grace members are collecting aluminum cans for WATCH. They will crush, recycle, and use the proceeds for client events. Please bring them at any time, and place them in the large box behind the kitchen door.

### ***RIESBECK GIFT CARDS***

Riesbeck Gift Cards to benefit Thrivent are available from either Judith Myers or Tami Tysk.

### ***GAME DAY***

A free Game Day is held on the last Thursday of every month, between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. You can play our games or bring your own. For more information, call 304-233-2990 or 304-242-2632.

### ***MAY BIRTHDAYS***

### ***MAY ANNIVERSARIES***

## ***PRAYER LIST***

**Ryan Deegan  
Henri Fontaine  
Faith Hartzell  
Stephanie Moore-Vetanze  
Zane Neuhardt  
Becky Holinghead  
Jodi Ennis (Hunt)  
Michael & Brittany Shank  
Carolyn Palverini**

**Hines Rotriga  
Amelia DaGrava  
George Myers  
Addison Lucas  
Howard Shackelford  
Barbara Knollinger  
Betty June Wymer  
Stacy Tysk  
Bob Condron**

**Betty Swartz  
David Ausdenmoore  
Thelma Moore  
Cindy Roshak  
Joan Shelek  
Keith McMannis  
Susan Falbo  
Bill Scholley**

### **\*\*\*On Military Duty\*\*\***

**Justin Mull**

**Brian Coughlan**

**Casey Young**

## ***HOMEBOUND***

**Lois Huffner  
Mound View Health Care  
2200 Floral St.,  
Moundsville, WV 26041**

**Mary Lou Keefer  
Valley Haven,  
  
Beach Bottom, WV 26030**

**Donald Carl  
Carriage Inn  
308 West Warren Street  
Room Shay 13  
Cadiz, OH 43907**

**Mabel Winesburg  
218 Elm Crest Drive  
Wheeling, WV 26003**

**Debbie Hawkins  
Peterson Rehabilitation Hosp.  
20 Homestead Ave.  
Wheeling, WV 26003**

**Rebecca Frazier  
55801 Canna-Mara Dr.  
Bellaire, OH 43906**

## ***GRACE COUCIL- 2018***

**Nancy Weeks  
Lutz Albrecht  
Brian Crawford  
Lynn Maguire  
Marjorie Wolf**

**Mike Carl  
Kathy Sheller  
Casey Young  
Dennis Niess  
Tami Gallaher**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>April - 2018</b>						
1 Easter Day Fellowship -10:00 AM Worship -10:30 AM	2 Easter Monday Dance Classes 5:00 PM—8:00 PM	3 Baton Twirling Classes -6:00 PM	4 Stitches With Love 10:00 AM—2:00 PM	5 Strands of Comfort 10:00 AM Bell Choir - 6:30 PM Heritage Dance Classes 6:00 PM—9:00 PM 4-H Leaders - 7:00 PM	6	7 Sediliko Baby Shower
8 2 Easter Sunday School - 9:30 AM Fellowship -10:00 AM Worship - 10:30 AM Birthday/Anniversary Celebration - 11:45 AM	9 Dance Classes 5:00 PM—8:00 PM Vocal Choir - 6:30 PM	10 Baton Twirling Classes - 6:00 PM Rummage Sale Set-up 7:00PM	11 Stitches With Love 10:00 AM—2:00 PM	12 Bell Choir - 6:30 PM	13	14 Rummage Sale 8:00— 1:00PM
15 3 Easter Sunday School - 9:30 AM Fellowship -10:00 AM Worship - 10:30 AM	16 Dance Classes 5:00 PM—8:00 PM Vocal Choir - 6:00 PM Council - 6:30 PM	17 Baton Twirling Classes - 6:00 PM Reformation Study 6:30 PM	18 Stitches With Love 10:00 AM—2:00 PM WELCA Bible Study 10:00 AM	19 Soup Kitchen 9:00 AM—1:00 PM Strands of Comfort 10:00 AM Bell Choir - 6:30 PM Heritage Dance Classes 6:00 PM—9:00 PM	20	21
22 4 Easter Sunday School - 9:30 AM Fellowship -10:00 AM Worship - 10:30 AM	23 Dance Classes 5:00 PM—8:00 PM Vocal Choir - 6:30 PM	24 Baton Twirling Classes - 6:00 PM Missions 6:30 PM	25 Stitches With Love 10:00 AM—2:00 PM Pastors Bible Study 10:00 AM	26 Game Day - 11:00 AM— 3:00 PM Bell Choir - 6:30 PM Heritage Dance Classes 6:00 PM—9:00 PM 4-H - 7:00 PM	27	28
29 5 Easter Sunday School - 9:30 AM Fellowship -10:00 AM Worship - 10:30 AM	30 Dance Classes 5:00 PM—8:00 PM Vocal Choir - 6:30 PM					

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16 RIDGECREST ROAD  
BETHLEHEM  
WHEELING, WV 26003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***SAVE THE DATE***

Strawberry Festival

SATURDAY, JUNE 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Starting at 3:00 PM