



9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Strength and Weakness

Paul asked God three times to remove a thorn from his side. God’s answer, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” How many of us have been praying for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic and yet here we are with a shelter in place order with thousands of new cases nationwide every day. Eventually we have to ask why is this happening?

Let me state first that I do not believe God caused the pandemic or that the pandemic is some sort of punishment from God. God as we understand him through Jesus Christ is a God of love, mercy and grace. However, even though God did not cause the pandemic I do see him working through our weakness in order to show his power.

I read yesterday that prior to the pandemic between 8 and 10 percent of the churches in the United States were growing. During the pandemic, when most churches are not having in person worship, that number has jumped to 50 percent. Grace UMC has seen a spike in the number of people worshipping with us each week. Just before I started writing this article on the Tuesday morning following Easter, I saw that over 340 people had watched some or all of our Easter worship service. That is about 300 percent of what we run in person. Last I checked over 400 people had watched some or all of our Palm Sunday worship. The good news through all of this is that the Gospel is being proclaimed to a much larger audience and God is being glorified, not just at Grace but around the country.

Please continue to check on each other and to provide care for one another and your neighbors as much as possible. I really appreciate everyone who has been sending in their tithes and offerings or giving electronically! Please keep it up we are still having a budgetary short fall each month.

Remember God is good all the time! Stay strong through Christ and we will beat this virus!

In Christ,

Pastor Jared

CHURCH SIGN PROCEDURES

I’m sure everyone has noticed our new sign. Thank you to Lorrie Harbert for getting it up and running. The sign will be a great tool to let people in our community know what is happening at Grace Church. We encourage you to use the sign for church sponsored events. Please give information to Lorrie in writing a least 2 weeks before the event. Please put information in Lorrie’s box in the work room or email it to her. If you have questions, please respect Lorrie’s worship experience and contact her during working hours. Looking forward to seeing your next event on the sign.

Diane Spencer, Church Council Chairperson

May 2 Eva Foltz
May 2 Tiffany DeBois
May 3 Mia Bragg
May 3 Bill Lundin
May 3 John Winkler
May 3 Matthew Price
May 4 Tammy Richards
May 4 Xavier Allshouse
May 5 Ken Atkinson
May 5 Kromer Weekley, Jr.
May 5 Rowan DeBois
May 6 Cynthia Bowman
May 6 Braden Monteith
May 7 Levi Patton
May 7 Deborah Soule
May 8 Scott Takacs
May 8 Michael French, Jr.
May 8 Riley Finnicum
May 8 Rachel Slutz
May 8 Chris Davis
May 9 Cindy Polosky
May 9 Christopher Allshouse
May 10 Patty Takacs
May 10 Lauren Rothermel
May 11 Ashley Takacs
May 13 Robin Mayhew

May 13 Bob Barth
May 13 Paula Kovach
May 15 Thelma Carson
May 15 Nolan Martin
May 16 Adam Barnhart
May 16 Denise Newbauer
May 16 Bryce Winkler
May 17 Meghan (Davis) Havens
May 18 Cathy Turner
May 21 Eric Dunkle
May 21 Mark Bull
May 22 Scott Sarah
May 23 Pamela Cupari
May 24 Lauren Fox
May 26 Will Kalkoff
May 27 Cheri Braucher
May 28 Terri Thompson
May 28 Joseph Hennis
May 28 Sherry Braucher
May 28 Clare Aitken
May 29 Teresa Chance
May 30 Jackie Kienzle
May 30 Mavis Franks
May 30 Eva Boszor
May 31 Kathy Peters

PASTOR
Rev. Dr. Jared Williams

CHOIR DIRECTOR & ORGANIST
Matt Brown

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
Kelli Law

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Lorrie Harbert

MAILING COORDINATOR
Judy Carl

CUSTODIAN
Paula Blaine

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER
Alex Evanoff

CHURCH COUNCIL
Diane Spencer

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS
Doug Lane

TRUSTEES
Lee Spencer

FINANCE
Bill Lacy

Mission Opportunities

Canton Calvary Mission Dinner May 9th (UPDATED)

Grace UMC has committed to serving dinner at Calvary mission on Saturday, May 9. There is a way to do this and still comply with our state's safe distancing guidelines, "grab and go sack dinners". Here's how you and your family can help: We need 12 families to pack 10 dinners and bring them to our church by 5:30 pm on May 9.

The dinners should consist of:

- 1) Sandwich - hot or cold
- 2) Vegetable - potato or pasta salad
- 3) Fruit
- 4) Dessert - cookies, pie, or cake
- 5) Snack - chips, pretzels, etc

PLEASE LABEL YOUR BAG LISTING THE CONTENTS - THERE WILL BE A LOT OF VARIETY!!!

We would also like a donation of water bottles to go with our dinners.

We will collect the dinners at Grace and transfer them to Calvary. They are asking that we only send 2 people to hand out the packed dinners from the front doors at the mission.

Please call Lorrie at the church (330)499-2330 by May 2 and get you name on the list of volunteers. If you have any questions, please call Jane Crist at (330)497-9078.

Sermon Series: "To the Resurrection and Beyond"
4/26/2020 "Empowered Witnesses *Acts 1:8*
Upcoming May Sermon Series: "Leading Like Jesus"

All sermons are broadcast live on our Facebook Page at : North Canton Ohio Grace United Methodist Church or the next day on our webpage at: northcantongrace.org/Sermons

Pastor Jared is having

Online Live Bible Study on Wednesdays at 1:00pm.

Tune into our Facebook page at: North Canton Grace United Methodist Church
If you are not available during that time, you can watch the Bible Study the next day on our church website at: [Northcantongrace.org/Bible Study](http://Northcantongrace.org/Bible%20Study)

The facilities at North Canton Grace United Methodist Church are closed through April for all non-essential personnel. This decision will be reevaluated as additional information is released from Governor DeWine and East Ohio Conference.

During this difficult time it is more important than ever to keep in communication with each other. The Church Building is closed but the **office is still open remotely**. Our phone will be forwarded **9:00 to 1:00 Monday through Friday**. **Please call us with any needs or prayer concerns you or others may have.** If you have an emergency after hours, please call Pastor Jared on his cell phone or leave a message on our voicemail. We have people that will **help you**.
We want to pray for and help those in need.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Received Week of March 1st - Ted Pasco - John Draper - Marcus Power - Marion Fread - Linda Chamberlain - JJ Brack - Sherry Cini-Putnam - Joan Kocher - Ray - World Peace - Youth - Jim Joseph

Received Week of March 8th - Jessi - Ted - John - Joan - Ray - Derwood Miller - Henry Leszczynski - Emily Burns - Reaves Family - Fraulein Lacy & Family - Ley Family - Eckelberry Family

For the Week of April 5th - Ted Pasco - Joan Kocher - Doctors, Nurses, Caretakers and all front line people - Lee & Diane Spencer - Joann Steer's granddaughter, Jamie and family

For the Week of April 12th - Ted Pasco - The Family of Joan Kocher - Doctors, Nurses, Caretakers and all front line people - Kyle Kocher - Kelly - Jim Blaine - Alea

For the Week of April 19th - Ted Pasco - The Family of Joan Kocher - Kyle Kocher - Doctors, Nurses, Caretakers and all front line people - Lee & Diane Spencer

North Canton Grace United Methodist Church
Treasurers Report-March 2020
April 22, 2020

My prayer is that this update finds you healthy and safe! This pandemic is no different than any other difficulty you may have faced during your life, it does create opportunities!

Ohio's 'stay at home' order went into effect on March 24th; by now I am sure that some have experienced some financial hardship as a result. If you have experienced financial hardship, please be aware there are resources to help. If you are not sure where to go for help feel free to call the church office and we will help to connect you to the proper resources. Your spiritual and physical wellbeing are our top priority.

Guidance from Bishop Tracy S. Malone and the Cabinet has encouraged the local church to make every effort to keep paying church staff; recognizing local church's having different capacity.

The Finance Committee at North Canton Grace United Methodist Church has been taking reasonable steps to mitigate the financial impact of the COVID-19 health crisis. We have lost our building usage revenue and have also seen a decline in giving. Given our current level of fixed expenses this is not a sustainable model. With God's grace we will continue to be in ministry and be stronger in the end.

The Finance Committee is taking the following steps to help insure our solvency during this period:

1. We will continue to pay 10% of our offering toward our Apportionments.
2. We have applied for an SBA Paycheck Protection Program loan in the amount of \$29,896.00, this is a loan backed by the US Small Business Administration that has a forgiveness amount equal to 8 weeks payroll costs and some other operating cost. We should qualify for 100% forgiveness; however, if all or a portion is not forgiven it is at a cost of 1% repayable over an 18-month period. These funds are not guaranteed to be received and the resources are going fast.
3. We could, should the need occur; look to hold a special meeting of the NETS Legacy Endowment Fund to reallocate remaining 2020 funds for emergency use, if needed.
4. We do have contingency funds for unforeseen repairs and for upcoming capital projects that could be reallocated as needed; however, this would create an issue should unforeseen repairs occur.
5. We could approach the United Methodist Development Fund that is the holder of our mortgage and ask for a principal deferral for up to 6 months, this would be a monthly savings of approximately \$4,481.00 a month; however, this would work against our desire to retire our debt and would extend the months until we are debt free.
6. We could look to apply for a United Methodist Financial Credit Union 'ministry relief loan' that has a 90 day deferral and favorable rate; however, this works against our desire to be debt free.

I. March Income and Expense Recap

- a. March total receipts were \$22,030.00 on a budget of \$33,388.17, 65.98% of budget. The main reason was identified giving of \$17,764.00 on a budget of \$28,241.09 or 62.90%. Our monthly giving was off (\$11,358.17) and is not sustainable for long term solvency.
- b. March expenses totaled \$26,922.31.
- c. March income less expense was short (\$4,892.31) for the month.

II. YTD Income and Expense Recap

- a. Receipts of \$72,240.80 on a budget of \$82,326.89, a shortage of (\$10,086.09).
- b. Expenses of \$85,729.46 on a budget of \$94,467.61.
- c. YTD income less expense was short (\$13,488.66)

Respectfully submitted: Greg Harbert, Treasurer

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United Methodist Church

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OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

MISSION:

*The mission of Grace UMC is
to take the love of Jesus Christ
to all people.*

VISION:

*The vision of Grace UMC
is to love God, love our
neighbors, and love ourselves.*

SERVICE TIMES:

8:00 Traditional Service in the
Chapel

9:15 Contemporary Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:45 Traditional Service in the
Sanctuary