

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

191 Bridge Street

Corning, NY 14830-1997

607-936-6145

www.gumccorning.org

email: gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

Grace Notes August 2020



Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

***Nursery Temporarily
Closed***

Sunday School for Children

Hopefully resumes in the Fall

Adult Sunday School

Hopefully resumes in the Fall

Fellowship Hour

Temporarily on hiatus

Office Hours

Currently Mondays & Thursdays

8:00-11:00 AM

Hopefully resumes in the Fall

Grace UM Church Staff:

Rev. Mike Kelly, Pastor

Anna Illig,
Administrative Assistant

Evelyn Einfeldt,
Financial Secretary

Terry Oakden, Custodian

Kathy Scudder,
Treasurer

Jean Tedrick,
Organist



Grace United Methodist Church

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FROM THE PASTOR

The New Normal

All of the talk seems to be centered around “the New Normal,” and it’s true, there is a new normal. I see us wearing masks for the foreseeable future, I foresee us social distancing for a very long time. It seems apparent that Corona will be with us for a while. Oh, how that has changed things within the church and within the country. No more hugs or even handshakes. You are met at the door and give a splash of hand sanitizer, a mask if you need one, and your name is recorded for tracing if and when it is needed. Yes friends, a “New Normal,” is with us.

Yet, as a church so many things are the same. We still love and worship God. We still provide the hands and feet for His ministry. We love each other just the same. We pray just the same. We look for ways to make a difference just the same. Whether it be like we did recently, providing blankets, or just yesterday, seeing a little girl smile, because we delivered food to her house, and the boxes included a bag of French fries.

And **“for such a time as this,” (Esther 4:13-14)** the church must remain strong, perhaps even stronger, and we must learn and rely on the Scripture from **Hebrews 13: 21 HE will: Equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen**

Let us continue to do the WORKS!

Blessings of Peace and Love,

Pastor Mike

Welcome to Anna Illig, Grace Church’s new Administrative Assistant. Anna will be working two days a week (Monday and Thursday, 10-12) until the church opens up to outside groups.

Although Kathy Scudder, after 27 years as the Administrative Assistant, will no longer be in that position, she will still be on staff as the Treasurer. Kathy looks forward to “semi-retirement” (she will still be working at First UMC), but is glad to still be part of the Grace Church family.

COMMITTEE NEWS

FINANCE REPORT June 2020

	<u>June</u>
Operations Income:	10,801
Operations Expense:	<u>8,731</u>
Net Gain / (Loss)	2,070

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

There is no meeting in August.

The following article is from the 2019-2020 UMW Program Book.

How the Light Gets In

Scripture:

The God who said, “Out of darkness the light shall shine!” is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts, to bring us the knowledge of God’s glory shining in the face of Christ.

Yet we who have this spiritual treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

The letters to the church in Corinth seek to heal a community that is fractured and divided—splintered by competing voices and deepening divisions. Paul reminds the community that there may be people with what looks like official authorization commissioning them to be missionaries, but it is apparent from their work and witness that they have not been commissioned by Jesus Christ—there is a contradiction between their teachings and the teachings of Jesus. Paul emphasizes that the success of ministry does not depend on human skill, discipline or power, but on God’s power and spirit. Joseph Pathrapankal, theologian and seminary professor in India, writing for the new Global Bible Commentary, notes, “Indeed, we need to rediscover the power of

These texts to bring new vision within our communities, and help us see our communities in a new light.” 1

“This extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” Leonard Cohen’s song “Anthem” includes the words, “There is a crack in everything / That’s how the light gets in.” 2 Those words are an echo of Paul’s words, “We have this treasure in clay jars.”

In *The Message*, a paraphrase of the Bible, Eugene Peterson writes: “It started when God said, ‘Light up the darkness!’ and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

During the reign of apartheid in South Africa, congregations began using the Amnesty International symbol of barbed wire wrapped around a candle. South Africans living in brutal poverty created candles surrounded by barbed wire on pieces of wood, and placed them in sanctuaries and homes, in windows and on altars, as reminders of the power of God already at work to undo the power of apartheid. During worship, the names of those who had been banned or exiled, arrested or executed by the apartheid government were called out, an illegal act at the time, and the candle was lit as the congregation prayed: “For the light has come into the world and the darkness has never overcome it.” The prayer countered the narrative of the apartheid government, which declared that apartheid reflected the will of God and would remain in force despite protests and nonviolent justice movements. Echoing Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the South African bishop, human rights activist, writer and nonviolent warrior, the candle reminded people that God had taken sides. Apartheid could not stand and was already becoming undone.

UMW Continued

The candles and this prayer practice became so threatening to the apartheid government that soldiers were ordered to seize the candles from sanctuaries, to break through windows in homes where the candles were on display. The apartheid government recognized the power of this candle prayer to redefine the narrative and embolden a people willing to openly defy, engage and transform the powers of death, empire and colonization in the name of the God of life and liberation.

When I [Janet Wolf] first saw apartheid in South Africa, the brutal apartheid system appeared over-whelmingly powerful and immovable. I remember hoping that my children would see the day when freedom came, never imagining that I would one day dance in the streets of a free South Africa. My hope was so small. Each time I light the candle, I remember the outrageous hope and creative courage, the holy boldness and relentless truth-telling of the South African freedom movement, their kin-dom* living and loving, and hope grows larger. 3

*kin-dom: This term was first coined by Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz. It emphasizes relationality, community and equity as the basis of God's reign.

Thoughts to ponder:
When have your hopes been too small?
What communal practices might you identify to remind you that the dark-ness has never overcome the Light?

MEN'S GROUP

As of this writing, the Men's Group will meet August 3, 6:00 PM at Rusty Dye's home. If you plan on attending, please give Rusty a call at 973-2346 or 438-7081.

Closing Prayer

O Holy God, open unto me light for my darkness, courage for my fear, hope for my despair.

O Loving God, open unto me wisdom for my confusion, forgiveness for my sins, love for my hate.

O God of peace, open unto me peace from my turmoil, joy for my sorrow, strength for my weakness.

O generous God, open my heart to receive all your gifts. Amen.

Endnotes

1. Joseph Pathrapankal, "1 Corinthians," in *Global Bible Commentary*, edited by Daniel Patte (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004), 445
2. Leonard Cohen, "Anthem," AZ Lyrics, accessed February 26, 2019, azlyrics.com/lyrics/leonardcohen/anthem.html.
3. A version of this story was published earlier: Janet Wolf, *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* (New York: United Methodist Women, 2019), 45

PAY PAL

The church is set up to accept secure donations through Pay Pal. You can access Pay Pal by going to the church's website (gumccorning.org). Please be aware that when using Pay Pal, 2.9% of the donation and \$.30 per transaction is taken from the contribution.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Gail McIntyre
Bonnie Teemley
Ted Tubbs
- 3 - Shirley Smith
- 4 - Ann Russell
Devon Tubbs
- 5 - Jack Westbrook
- 10 - Gary Hallenbeck
- 11 - Sydney Kolpien
- 14 - Joseph Patterson
Gordon Smith
- 15 - Nicole O'Connell Avery
- 18 - Vicky Watson
- 23 - Winnie Peer
Daniel Richards
- 25 - Sara Schroeder
- 26 - Betty Breuilly
- 29 - Vida Johnson
- 30 - Ron Earley
- 31 - Dennis O'Connell
Rob Marley
Hannah Lewek



Grace Youth Birthdays

- 8 - Jonathan Sorber
- 18 - Carter Kashmer
- 24 - Noelle Harpster

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - Zachary & Molly Fortier Hudgins
- 5 - Clif & Priscilla Smith
- 9 - Gary & Helen Fisher
- 10 - John & Yvette LeBaron
Matthew & Rebecca Stevens
- 12 - Carl & Susan Peer Scheu
- 14 - Gil & Joyce Mitchell
- 25 - Mike & Pam Kelly
Alfredo & Jessica Richards Balarin
- 28 - Rob & Stacy Marley
- 30 - Chris & Lindsay Hostrander Callas

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Jean Burnside who passed away on July 20, 2020

IN THE HOSPITAL?

Due to the HIPAA privacy rules, the church doesn't always receive notification from the local hospitals when someone is admitted. Please call the church office, or have a family member call, if you are in the hospital and would like to receive a visit. Also, if you are at home recuperating and would like a visit, just give the office a call (936-6145).

Congratulations to Teresa Mullooly on her recent graduation from Corning Painted Post High School. We wish her well on her future endeavors.

Thank You Notes:

- Thank you to all of you for thoughts and prayers and cards during this passing of our sister Sally. Special thanks to Pastor Mike. (Mary M. & Betty D.)
- From the Painted Post Food Bank thank you for the donation of 197 pounds of canned goods

FAITH IN ACTION

LIVING FAITH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Living Faith Endowment Fund offers an important alternative form of giving to Grace United Methodist Church. Money given to that fund is invested and the interest, when favorable, makes a significant contribution to the church. As such, it is a fund that works for us and keeps on giving. A gift in memory or in honor of a loved one is a gift that will continue to give and support the mission and ministry of Grace Church. Those giving during the month of July are: John O'Connell in memory of Bud and Elouise O'Connell

TRANSPORTATION

Want to attend Sunday worship, but don't have the transportation? Grace Church's Membership Care Committee offers a transportation service. Contact the church by Thursday morning and we will arrange to have Vet Taxi service pick you up and take you back home. Contact the church office (936-6145) for more information.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE AUGUST 2020

Greeters at the Narthex and Handicap Doors:

August 2	Barb Coles, Patty O'Connell
August 9	Linda Sutton, Mary Molewski, Dennis O'Connell, Vida Johnson
August 16	Patty O'Connell, Danny O'Connell
August 23	Vida Johnson, Patty O'Connell
August 30	Vida Johnson



