

February 2021

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

191 Bridge Street
Corning, NY 14830-1997
607-936-6145
www.gumccorning.org
email: gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

Grace Notes February 2021



Nursery Open
Closed

Sunday Worship Service
10:00 AM

Sunday School
Children-Youth
Closed

Adult Sunday School
Closed

Fellowship Hour
Closed

Office Hours
Monday – Thursday
8:00 AM to 1 PM
Closed Fridays

Grace UM Church Staff:

Rev. Mike Kelly, Pastor

Jean Tedrick, Organist

Anna Illig,
Administrative Assistant

Evelyn Einfeldt,
Financial Secretary

Terry Oakden, Custodian

Donna Kuhner,
Treasure

February 2021

*open hearts
open minds
open doors*



Grace United Methodist Church

February 2021

Mike Kelly, Pastor

607-936-6145

gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

FROM THE PASTOR

I have amazing news for you all. Beginning Sunday, February 7th, you will be able to catch our service via live stream from the church at 10 AM. We have purchased the equipment and were aided by Chuck Stefanini of South Corning UMC, also our IT guy, to bring that live service to you. Shortly we will have the link on our web page and our Facebook page but until then simply go to the following site: <https://meet.jit.si/GraceUMOnlineSundayService> , if you do not have a computer you can dial in from your phone to 512-647-1431 then enter the pin: 385 090 364#. We are blessed that this service will include our normal service, Call to Worship/ church announcements/ Hymns played on the organ by our Music Director Jean Tedrick / Prayers and of course the sermon. You may continue to watch the video or receive the transcript via Facebook, but for the full service try our new platform.

As we continue making progress, stay tuned for other exciting things that are happening in your church. Which may include broadcasted meetings, and even Bible study. My special thanks to Denny O'Connell for his hard work and willingness to see this through. This is not meant to encourage you not to come to the service at the church, but it does give us another option. Please spread the news, send the link to your family and friends. We are blessed to be able to take on this opportunity.

In further news we have received some new officers for this year. Our new Church Council Chair is Dan Towns, and he will remain as the Finance Chair, our Treasurer is Donna Kuhner and our not so new, but she has graciously agreed to serve another year as the Lay Member to Annual Conference is Vida Johnson. Many thanks to them and that serve.

Blessings of Peace and Love,
Pastor Mike



COMMITTEE NEWS

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday falls on February 17 this year.

MEMBERSHIP CARE PROJECT

The Membership Care Committee of Grace United Methodist has been committed to carrying out local missions, always with the generous support of the congregation. This winter, we are going to extend our Undies for Jesus campaign through February.

FINANCE REPORT – December 2020

Operations Income:	\$ 11,918.00
Operations Expense:	\$12,693.00
Net Gain / (Loss)	(775.00)

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 - Derek Smith
3 - Christopher Patterson
5 - Nell Mortimer
10 - Karen Thatcher
Rick Bostwick
11 - David Patterson
Leona Watson Reynolds
13 - Nancy Boyer
17 - Melissa Bronson Morrison
18 - Molly Fortier Hudgins
19 - Jan Stever
21 - Nancy Johnson
26 - Lindsay Hostrander Callas

ANNIVERSARIES

5 - Leland & Vicky Watson
14 - Dave & Darcy Sutton

HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU...

If you have changed your phone number or discontinued your landline, please contact the church office with your "new" contact number. Also, if you have a new email address, please share that with the church as well.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2021 Theme
Knitted Together
for God's Good Work

February 2021
Caring for Each Other in Community

Objective:

To encourage women to find ways to work across differences to build community and care for those on the margins, drawing inspiration from United Methodist Women's predecessors who worked together for unified studies and mission work.

Opening Prayer

God of Compassion, you anointed Jesus to bind up the brokenhearted and to proclaim liberty to the captives. Open our eyes to see the brokenhearted among us and to hear your call to action. As we gather together, send your Spirit among us. Help us to close out those things that may distract us and focus on learning to be your disciples. Amen.

Scripture
Acts 6:1-7

Sometime later, as the number of disciples kept growing, there was a quarrel between the Greek-speaking Jews and the native Jews. The Greek-speaking Jews claimed that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of funds. So, the twelve apostles called the whole group of believers together and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the preaching of God's word in order to handle finances.

So then, brothers, choose seven men among you who are known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and we will put them in charge of this matter. We ourselves, then, will give our full time to prayer and the work of preaching.

The whole group was pleased with the apostles' proposal, so they chose Stephen, a

man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a Gentile from Antioch who had earlier been converted to Judaism. The group presented them to the apostles, who prayed and placed their hands on them.

And so the word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem grew larger and larger, and a great number of priests accepted the faith.

Community Marked by Unity

An unusual community, marked by generosity, unselfishness and care for everyone, grows beyond the leadership's expectations. The disciples try to keep up with all the responsibilities, they try to make sure that they put first things first, but it's all a bit too much. One of their principles is that the community holds all things in common, so that everyone is fed, but now it seems some are going hungry. The weakest members of the community who can't make it to the common meals or the distribution points are the ones missing out, and the leadership doesn't even know this is happening. The very essence of the community is at risk.

The early Christian community was marked by God's grace, as seen in the sign that there was not a needy person among them. But the rapid growth of the community resulted in some who were going without food—weren't their needs within the community of grace? Unthinkable! Devoted to the idea of community as a witness to grace, shown in how they made sure no one was needy, someone realized that they needed to speak up. The leaders listened and recognized that they needed to delegate, to share responsibility. They did not question their presumption of solidarity. They did not question the need to care for everyone. They chose new leaders to help continue this commitment.

When we first read this text, it may appear to be a conflict between the Hellenists (those who were of Greek heritage) and the Hebrews (those who were originally Jewish). But the reality is that “the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul” (Acts 4:32). This conflict is one of working out what it means to be actually knit together as the body of Christ and figuring out how the whole group of those who believe they belong to Christ can live together with one heart and soul.

Choosing to Build Trust

Even today, there are many times that we are pressured from all sides to choose. When there are fractures in society, conflicts between friends or families and distressingly in our church, we are told we have to choose a side, that we must be on one side or another, that we cannot allow ourselves to be knit together.

Yet, the Christians in this scripture did not permit differences to separate them. Rather, they acknowledged the differences and yet allowed themselves to be knit together in the body of Christ. They empowered others to be leaders. They continued their commitment to care for those on the margins.

Historian Dr. Dana Robert writes that the secret to success of the early women’s mission movement was “unity among married and single women, prominent and ordinary women, missionary and homeside women, and women of different Protestant traditions.” That unity took place over time, through friendships built on trust and on being knit together in the body of Christ despite differences in doctrine or worship style.

She points out that one of the important aspects of the early women’s mission society movement was the united study of mission. Robert notes that the woman’s meeting at the London Missionary Conference in 1888 resulted in the creation of “a committee for the united study of

missions” in 1900. Women organized for mission and asked for “reliable material about missions” and so “women created a committee composed of Congregationalist, Methodist, Presby-terian, Baptist and Episcopal representatives” to publish an annual textbook to be used by mission study groups in local churches. Soon, study books were written for children, and studies were written for summer schools of mission. Women organized for mission and mission study across denominational differences. At the time that this inter-denominational cooperative study began, the Methodists were not a united church; they were still living out the divisions wrought by disagreements over slavery and the Civil War. Yet, through the study of mission, women sought to be knitted together in Christ.

Questions to ponder

Who might have been the first to notice that the widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food?

Women’s friendships are important in helping people to see needs. What friendships do you have that help you to see needs in your community?

What roles would women have played in the community that are not written here?

What roles do women have in building the community of grace today that might go unnamed?

Closing Prayer

One voice: Let us ask the Lord to knit us together in one heart and soul.

Many voices: Lord, send your Spirit to make us one. Give us strength to reach out in compassion to those in need.

One Voice: Let us ask the Lord to show us how-to live-in community.

Many voices: Lord, teach us to overcome division for the sake of Christ. Teach us how to be one body through your grace, for the work which you have given us, so that all may see your grace through our united witness of love.

FAITH IN ACTION

Our mitten tree, again this year, was over-loaded with mittens, gloves and hats. We received:



12 pairs mittens/gloves
5 hats
4 Scarves
20 pairs of handmade mittens

Thank you to all who donated these items. The children at the Corning Painted Post Elementary Schools will be warm this winter.



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).

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.



February 2021



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2020

*Please note that there are many areas in need of volunteers, especially **Greeters**.
Let the church office know if you would like to help out in any of these areas.*



Thank you to all who volunteer their time for these ministries and to those who donate flowers or bulletins.
Your time and help are very much appreciated!

Date	Greeters - 3
2/7	1. 2. 3.
2/14	1. 2. 3.
2/21	1. 2. 3.
2/28	1. 2. 3.

February 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ABBREVIATIONS K = Kitchen L = Lounge S = Sanctuary BC = Bethany Chapel DR = Dining Room RH = Reed Hall	1	2 Office Closed	3	4	5	6
7 Souper Bowl 10:00 Worship, S	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10:00 Worship, S 	15 President's Day Office Closed	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21 10:00 Worship, S	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 Worship, S						



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