

February 2022

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 2022



Nursery Open
Closed

Sunday Worship Service
10:00 AM

Sunday School
Children-Youth
Closed

Adult Sunday School
Closed

Fellowship Hour
11:00 AM

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

Grace UM Church Staff:

Rev. Kevin J. Austin, Pastor

Jean Tedrick, Organist

Anna Illig,
Administrative Assistant

Terry Oakden, Custodian

Kathy Scudder,
Treasure

February 2022

open hearts
open minds
open doors



Grace United Methodist Church

February 2022

Kevin J. Austin, Pastor

607-936-6145

gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

FROM THE PASTOR

Everyone has a passion, a life's work, a mission. We all have things that are important for us to accomplish, things that are worth our work, our toil, sweat and sacrifice. Often, these things, even though they are "ours", benefit others as well. They are lofty goals and worthy targets, both large and small that fuel our lives. When these life passions align with the gifts God has given you and the plans God has for your life, you are really onto something special. This is when Satan steps in. When you are climbing toward the pinnacle of your dreams, Satan will do all he can to force you off the path, or even push you off the edge. He wants nothing more than for you to fail, fail or turn back. No methods or tactics are off the table. Satan will use anything and everything against you. Ironically, his most powerful weapon is your own mind. He knows your fears and your weaknesses and will use these against you. The Bible refers to Satan as the deceiver and the liar. He will go to any lengths to capitalize on your fears and doubts. He will fill your mind with lies – "you're not good enough, you'll never reach your goals and nobody will care anyway. You are worthless, you are dirty, you deserve to fail. You're too far gone for God to care about you."

One of the most important duties of a pastor is to help people recognize their spiritual gifts and to help them find a way to utilize their gifts and their passions in the church. Believe in your goals, don't give up, keep climbing toward the pinnacle no matter what. Sometimes you'll make great strides, sometimes you will crawl, but keep moving ahead. Remember, you're not travelling alone. Lean on the people who love you, and trust in God. Cling to these words from Ephesians 6:10-17, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Kevin

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Derek Smith
- 3 - Christopher Patterson
- 5 - Nell Mortimer
Pamela Brown
- 10 - Karen Thatcher
- 11 - David Patterson
Leona Watson Reynolds
- 13 - Nancy Boyer
- 17 - Melissa Bronson Morrison
- 18 - Molly Fortier Hudgins
- 19 - Jan Stever
- 20- Phyllis Cook
- 21 - Nancy Johnson

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.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

February 1, 2022

There will not be an in-person meeting this month. Please refer to the following program and online links to learn more about the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

2022 Theme
Healing and Joy
On our Journey to God

PROGRAM
We Wailed
and You Did Not Mourn

Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners?’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Reflections on the story

In December we celebrated the extraordinary miracle of Christmas, and the incarnation of God into flesh in baby Jesus. That’s how most of us will think of him, too—as a baby who one day becomes a full-bearded and baptized teacher. We sometimes forget all that must have come in between. Jesus didn’t move from infant to savior overnight. He moved through all the same stages of life we do, with all the same risks and wonders. Most relevant for this scripture, once upon a time Jesus was a child.

Jesus was a child, who played with his friends and was made vulnerable by society. So when it came time to teach the Gospel, he often taught from the perspective of children and of their deep value. Here in Matthew his best description of those who reject his world-upending, power-reversing Gospel is that they are like those who reject the call of children to join them in their experience, who do not play with them in joy and cry with them in mourning.

This is not only a condemnation of his generation, but of ours. Our society has chosen punishment over play and made a world unsafe for children’s games, and unhearing of their wails, through the construction of the school-to-prison pipeline.

The school-to-prison pipeline is what we call the network of racist and uncaring systems that lead to high rates of punitive response, eventually leading to incarceration, towards Black, Native, and Brown children in the United States. You can learn more about it through reading one of 2021’s mission studies, *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique W. Morris, or through reading the *School-to-Prison Pipeline Bible Study*: unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/action-alert-school-to-prison-pipeline-bible-study.

What we all must know about it is its impact on the children seeking to grow and play and find community as Jesus once did. African American students are three times more likely than white students to be suspended and expelled. Twelve percent of African American girls are suspended, compared to 2 percent of white girls. Native American students are less than 1 percent of the student population, but comprise 3 percent of students experiencing expulsion and 31 percent of students experiencing school-based arrests are African American, though African American children and youth make up only 16 percent of total school enrollment.

Where children deserve time to play and flourish and make mistakes and grow in care, they instead receive a punitive and racist system that doesn't honor their humanity. Herod lies in wait for them, as he did for Jesus so long ago, but there is no escape in the night. We as community must instead provide the pathways out of this destructive system. The spirits of play and punishment live in all of us, and we must follow Jesus to the ground of play. You can do this by finding your local Dignity in Schools partner organization (visit dignityinschools.org/about-us/current-members), supporting local youth movements in your area, or taking the latest, most up-to-date-action steps you can find on the United Methodist Women website: unitedmethodistwomen.org/racial-justice/school-to-prison-pipeline.

What the United Methodist Women and church show us about who Jesus is isn't meant to be a static thing, only spoken of here, but a dynamic breathing gift that inspires us in the rest of our lives. Here are some suggestions for how you can live out what we experience in our everyday life.

- Write a letter to a legislator
- Work with your worship team to have a worship service dedicated to the issue
- Find out what the local school policies are for reducing punishments targeted at children
- Listen to a Faith Talk Podcast on Mass Incarceration or Education Inequality
- Pray every day for people and projects serving in the world supported by your giving using the Prayer Guide

THANK YOU, LETTER,

The Corning Community Food Pantry appreciates your concern for our neighbors who are struggling daily with the issue of food insecurity. Financial donations are especially helpful because they give us the flexibility to purchase the optimal combination of healthy, nutritious foods that our clients so desperately need. Every \$5 contributed allows us to leverage nearly \$28 in food purchases, including perishables such as milk, eggs and yogurt. Over 90% of all donated money goes directly to the purchase of food for our clients.

Because of the kindness and compassion of people like you, we have continued to keep our shelves stocked throughout this pandemic. Thank you so much for your generosity! Members of Grace Church gave \$297.

Online Streaming of Sunday Service

<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#. You can also find the information on our website under the announcement tab.

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).

Don't have a will, or need to update your will?

You're not alone! Now is a great time to start planning, and please consider including a charitable bequest to Grace United Methodist Church in your estate plans. Contact the Church Office for the Grace Church tax ID for you to share with your attorney

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.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet on Monday, February 7, at 6:00 PM in the dining room. All men of the church are invited to participate in the monthly meetings. There is always good food to share while they celebrate birthdays! Come and check it out!

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.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The church newsletter isn't just for committee news - it's for news about you!! If you would like to share information with the rest of the Grace Church family - be it a special birthday, anniversary, a promotion or retirement, a birth or a wedding, a homerun or being in the school play - let Anna in the church office know. Deadlines for articles is the Monday before the last Sunday of the month. We want to share in your joy!!

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.

Community Resources

Mobility Management is designed to help manage coordinated transportation services to those in rural mobility areas by providing one place to contact for transportation needs through the 211 helpline. For more information, contact Tina Walden, Mobility Manager, at 607.776.9467 ext. 230.

Care First provides hospice, palliative care and grief support services to Steuben, Chemung, and Schuyler counties. For more information on services or ways to volunteer you may call 607.962.3100 or check out their website at <https://carefirstny.org/>

The New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) is a federally funded program designed to help homeowners facing foreclosure, displacement or at risk of default as result of the financial hardship created by COVID 19 pandemic. For more information, please visit <https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org/> or by calling 1-844-77-NYHAF.

The Southern Tier CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Program has been taken over by Arbor housing and development to continue to provide assistance finding help with taxes. Please visit <https://arbordevelopment.org/stcash/> for more information on tax programs they offer. Or you may call the 211 helpline at 1-800-346-2211 to find tax helps services in Steuben, Chemung, Allegany, Schuyler and Yates counties.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help provide funds to cover heating bills, replacement or repair of heating systems and heat related emergencies. For more information on services and income guidelines please contact Steuben County Department of Social Services: (607) 664-2500 Steuben County Office for the Aging: (607) 664-2298, or Steuben County Pro Action: (607) 776-2125.

Child Care Aware program of Steuben and Schuyler helps to provide referrals and information for child care programs and fee assistance programs. Please contact 607-776-2126 or visit <https://proactioninc.org/cca/> for more information.

Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) allows those on Medicaid to help manage care at home. This program is an alternative to other home health programs. This program serves Allegany, Livingston, Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung and Tioga counties. If you're interested in using the CDPAP or working as a personal assistant, contact Eric Krause, Director of CDPAP, at (607) 962-8225, ext. 128.

Just Shelter was created by Matthew Desmond the author of Evicted to help raise awareness of the lack of affordable housing and the community organizations available to help save affordable housing, prevent evictions and homelessness. Please check out <https://justshelter.org/> to find services in your community and state. This site offers list of agencies in any state.

Pathways Inc. provides a wide range of services including child care, care coordination services, residential services, and community and habilitation services. For more information check out <https://www.pathwaysforyou.org/> or call (607) 937-3200.

Faith in Action Steuben County is a group of community, faith groups, and civic organizations that was formed to help keep seniors in their homes longer. Services include volunteers taking you shopping, taking your list and shopping for you, friendly home visits, lawn work with the expectation of weekly mowing, light housekeeping, respite care for caregivers and minor home repairs. For more information on services or how you can volunteer please visit <https://www.nyconnects.ny.gov/providers/faith-in-action-steuben-county-sofa-ag-376851> or call (607) 324-1138

February 2022

Alzheimer's Association Elmira Southern Tier Office helps people with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia and their caregivers. For more information check out <https://www.nyconnects.ny.gov/services/alzheimers-association-elmira-southern-tier-office-sofa2762> or call (607) 378-6605.

Senior Dinner Club offers lunch Monday through Friday at 12 PM at the Corning Senior Center. They can provide a monthly menu and ask that reservations be made a day ahead of time. This program is offered through ProAction's Nutrition Program. For more information check out <https://www.nyconnects.ny.gov/services/nutrition-sites-sofa32133> or call (607)962-8000

A note from the Memorial Committee.

What's happening?

What is happening to the courtyard adjacent to the Sanctuary and the Education Building? Have you seen the work that has taken place? The bushes are gone. The grass has been removed and the weeds are gone as well. In its place you see pavers and a poured concrete pad. It is not yet finished, but this area is becoming our GUMC Memorial Garden.

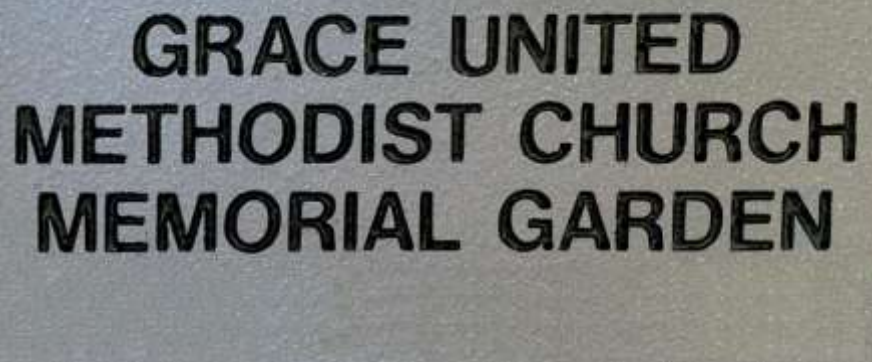
For four years, the Memorial Committee has been reaching out to local contractors to bring the GUMC Memorial Garden to fruition. No local contractors came forward. The committee offered the project of preparing the space to our resident Scout Troop. We had heard that they were looking for projects worthy enough to earn the Eagle Badge. Aiden Spoors, from our own Troop #0061, accepted the project and was instrumental in getting the Memorial Garden ground prepared.

The GUMC Memorial Garden will be a place where Grace members can be memorialized. In the spring, a Hornell mason, Brian Coddington, will complete the concrete table that will sit upon the pad. The table will hold engraved "tiles." The surface of the table will hold the tiles at an angle that will make it easier to see the tiles and the members who are being memorialized. The tiles are 4" X 8" and 1/2" thick. The tiles are an attractive granite that can be easily engraved by laser. Soon, there will be more details about how to order a tile. The tiles will be available to purchase for \$50 each. The donor will decide what information to be engraved on the tile. Please see the photo below as an example.

This is an example to get you thinking about how you want to list your loved ones on a memorial tile.

Please watch for ordering details in the next newsletter. The Memorial Committee is thrilled to be so close to completing the Memorial Garden.

Nancy B. Van Etten
Memorial Committee Chairperson



GRACE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Jewish Center and Federation in Elmira

Is hosting a monthly food festival showcasing different Jewish Specialties. A Portion of the profits will be donated to the Elmira Community Kitchen and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. They ask that you preorder the following items by calling 607-734-8122 or online at <http://jcf-01.square.site>

March- Hamantaschen- \$10

Homemade Mixed Berry Jam- \$6 order by February 18 for pick up on March 13

April- Challah- \$10

Macaroons- \$10 order by March 18th for pick up on April 10

May- Chocolate Babka- \$10 order by April 15th for pick up May 18

June- Blintzes- \$8 order by May 13th for pick up June 12

July- Boureka- Israeli Pastry -\$8 order by June 17 for pick up July 10

August- Deli Sandwich- \$15 order by July 15 for pick up August 14

September- Kugel \$10 order by August 19 for pick up September 11

October- Knishes- \$10 order by September 16th for pick up by October 9th

November- Rugelach pastry rolled with pecans and chocolate- \$10 order by October 14th for pick up November 13

All year- Cookbook: Simply Delicious- \$6



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

February 2022



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2022

*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	Liturgist	Greeters - 3
2/6	1. David Patterson	1. 2. 3.
2/13	1. Peter Kuhner	1. 2. 3.
2/20	1. Patty O'Connell	1. 2. 3.
2/27	1. Betsy Austin	1. 2. 3.

February 2022

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 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	3 6:00- 7:30 Girl Scouts	4	5
6 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship	7 Office Closed 6:00 Men's Group DR 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	8	9 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	10 6:00- 7:30 Girl Scouts	11	12
13 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Trustees Scouting Ministries Sunday	14 Valentine's Day 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	15 9:30 Membership Cares	16 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	17 6:00- 7:30 Girl Scouts	18	19
20 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship	21 Presidents Day Office Closed 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	22	23 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	24 6:00- 7:30 Girl Scouts	25	26
27 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship	28 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance					



February 2022

