

March 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  
March 2021



**Nursery Open**  
Currently not open

**Sunday Worship Service**  
10:00 AM

**Sunday School**  
**Children-Youth**  
Currently not meeting

**Adult Sunday School**  
Currently Not Meeting

**Fellowship Hour**  
Currently not meeting

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

*Grace UM Church Staff:*

Rev. Mike Kelly, Pastor

Jean Tedrick, Organist

Anna Illig,  
Administrative Assistant

Donna Kuhner  
Treasurer

Evelyn Einfeldt,  
Financial Secretary

Terry Oakden, Custodian



## ***FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK***

We are rapidly steering down the road to Easter. Easter is a time that we can identify ourselves as Easter people or better yet, resurrection people. But why is it that tend to only celebrate the resurrection one time a year and what does it mean to be resurrection people?

Wikipedia tells us that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Christian belief that Jesus Christ came back to life on the third day after his crucifixion in approximately AD 30/33. As recounted in the New Testament, after the Romans executed him, Jesus was buried in a tomb, but God raised him from the dead, after which he appeared to many people over a span of forty days before he ascended to Heaven. In Christian theology, the death and resurrection of Jesus are the most important events, a foundation of the Christian faith and commemorated by Easter. For Christians, his bodily resurrection is the guarantee that all the Christian dead will be resurrected at Christ's second coming. It was the restoration to life of a transformed body powered by spirit, as described by Paul and the gospel authors, that led to the establishment of Christianity. We all understand this meaning, but there is so much more.

To see it Biblically I take you to Mark, chapter 16, vs. 1-7 16 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. 7 But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

We must remember, why Jesus was sent to live among us, and why He died for us. The Father lovingly sent his only begotten eternal Son to redeem us from sin and death (John 3:16-17). And the Passion and Death of his Son Jesus Christ served as a fitting way to show us God's great love for us as well as the ugliness of sin. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, our lives will never be the same. This gift that we have been given can never be taken away from us, it will never lose its power, and it will never cease to exist. New life in Christ is the best gift we can ever receive!

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To be an Easter people or resurrected people is to continue living in communion with God, even in the face of suffering, death, and despair. The world might crush you, imprison you, disillusion you, even kill you. But the Spirit of God will carry us forward into every dark corner, where we proclaim the overwhelming love of the Lord of life.

The resurrection of Christ is not just a guarantee of life after death, it's a guarantee of life before death too: full abundant life with God. We are called to live in communion with this ever-present, all-permeating Breath of God, and let it inspire us to continue the mission of Jesus the Christ in the world: the redemption and salvation of all things.

## **LET US CELEBRATE YEARROUND**

Pastor Mike



## ***COMMITTEE NEWS***

### **The Steuben County office of the Aging**

has a program called Easy Rider Senior Group Transportation option. Our driver will come and pick you up, take you to Aldi, Painted Post Walmart and Wegman's every Thursday until the end of April. To qualify you must be age 60 or older and able to shop without assistance. Riders are first come, first served, and you must call 607-664-2296 to reserve your seat. We'll work with you to match you with a route. Due to limited space, we are unable to accommodate wheelchairs or large walkers, however we will work with you to find alternative transportation options.

The office of the Aging asked they I also pass on that they can help get you connected with many other services like rides to medical appointments or health insurance needs. Please call their office to find out more information.

### **Membership Care News**

#### **UNDIES FOR JESUS**

Thank you to the members who donated so generously to provide socks and underwear for students at Gregg Elementary School, located here in our Grace UM Church Community. In addition to the physical donations, \$100 was collected for our shoppers to purchase these needed items for the Nurse's Office at the school.

#### **LENTEN BAGS DISTRIBUTED**

During the first week of Lent, 25 Lenten Bags were delivered to the shut-in members of our congregation. Included in the bags, generously sewn by Pam Kelly and her mother, Alice Donahue, were devotional and prayer materials intended to provide opportunities for study and reflection, crosses of nails made by Pastor Mike's cousin Mike Finch and donated by Betty Lou and Rick Bostwick, cookies and Easter candies made by master-maker Pam, bookmarks, magnets and cleverly put-together dish cloths from Alice. Administrative Assistant Anna Illig made inserts for the bags, so it would be clear who was providing them. For those of us who delivered these bags, it was a joy to see many of our dear members, if in a socially distanced way wearing masks, after these many months of the pandemic. Thanks to Vida Johnson and Betty Lou Bostwick for bravely helping with the deliveries in some of our snowy weather! We hope that our homebound members were reminded that they are loved and appreciated by our Grace family especially in this Lenten season.



**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](http://gumccorning.org)). Please be aware that when using Pay Pal, 2.9% of the donation and \$.30 per transaction is taken from the contribution.

**IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT  
EASTER LILIES  
ENDOWMENT FUND**

It is that time of year when we remember our loved ones by sharing the beauty of lilies on the altar or giving a gift to the Living Faith Endowment Fund. If you wish to place a lily on the Chancel for Easter (April 4), please call Northside Floral (962-3103) or florist of your choice to order. If giving to the Endowment Fund, please mail your check to the church office. Names of givers and those honored or memorialized will be printed in the newsletter. The deadline for inclusion in the newsletter is March 26. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office.

Lily \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Member News

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Tory LeBaron
- 2 - Sandy Kuhner
- 3 - Jessica Richards Balarin
- 7 - Cathy Fortier
- 11 - Jim Johnson  
Jolinda Mattison
- 13 - Alex Bardo  
Gerry Bruielly
- 14 - Amy Schoonover Sillings
- 15 - Jackie Grinnell
- 16 - Melissa Schoonover Dunham  
Jessica Monastra
- 18 - Doris Bempkins
- 21 - Sue Sears
- 22 - Doug Goforth  
Dave Johnson  
Mary Molewski
- 25 - Faith Schroeder
- 26 - Joe Monastra  
Heather (White) Holmes
- 27 - Francis Toby
- 29 - Michael Sutton
- 30 - Cynthia Dickerman
- 31 - Hobert Davis  
Reed Walrath



## GRACE YOUTH

- 19 - Zachary Tubbs
- 22 - Elena Ehrhart

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 - John & Ann Russell
- 19 - Jeff & Mary Ann Smith
- 29 - Jan & Kathleen Stever
- 31 - Doug & Pam Goforth

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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2021 Theme  
Knitted Together  
for God's Good Work

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Righteousness Flows Like a Stream

Objective:

To help women explore how climate change affects women and children through the story of Reuel's daughters' work at the well and explore ways to work for climate justice.

Opening Prayer

Holy God, wellspring of love, gather us into your presence as we come to learn and grow. Help us to close out the world for a while and sit at the feet of Jesus, focused only on your grace and your call. Refresh us and renew our spirits in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 2:15b-22

Working Women

In much of the world today, it is the work of women and girls to collect water on a daily basis; they spend on average five hours a day walking to collect water for drinking, cooking and cleaning. In the ancient Middle East, it was also women's work to draw water and care for livestock. So it is in this story, where we read about Reuel's seven daughters going to fill water troughs for their father's flocks. Aside from the youngest daughter, Zipporah, these women are unnamed in scripture. Their daily labor and tasks are not critical elements in the story, and can be skimmed over as we rush to read about Moses's marriage and the birth of his son.

These unnamed women are like millions of women around the world today who, thousands of years later, still must walk to collect water for their families and livestock.

Moses was raised by a variety of women: an Egyptian princess; her maids; his mother, who was a leader among midwives; and his sister, who learned early how to negotiate for the best outcome for her people. Each of these women had to work hard in their own roles. It should come as no surprise that Moses would come to the defense of the working women at the well.

Women and Water

Water rights in this region have long been contested. The names of the wells give an indication of the struggles between people for their rights to the water. Beersheba is the well of the oath (Genesis 21:25-31); it was the site of a dispute between Abraham and Abimelech over rights to control the water, so they made a covenant between them that ensured Abraham's access to the well. Esek and Sitnah are the wells of enmity and hostility, and were the sites of conflicts between Isaac and other herders. He had to abandon both wells and dig another, which was named Rehoboth or "broad places" (Genesis 26:20-22). Massah and Meribah were the names given to the place where Moses struck the rock to give water to the Israelites (Exodus 17:1-7). The place was known as "testing" and "quarrel" because the people were testing God and quarreling with Moses.

In the text the men are the main characters in the story as these wells and places were being named. Yet, women bore the responsibility of working at these sites. Even though they were the ones who used the wells, they are unnamed, invisible in the story.

Women were the primary people to collect water at the wells, and so they were vulnerable when men with flocks came to a well. The women's work was interrupted by the men, who pushed the women aside. Moses came to their defense so that they could continue their work and return home with the water they needed for the day. His

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actions made it possible for the women to maintain the dignity of their labor and exercise their rights to the well. This was a strategic partnership, which ensured that a large family with their flocks and workers could have what they needed to survive that day.

United Methodist Women is committed to the 13 Principles to Be Just Be Green. Principle 12 is Water Use, which helps us avoid or eliminate the use of individual bottles water. See

[Unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability](http://Unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability)  
for more information about the 13 Principles.

#### Thoughts to Ponder

How can you help reduce the use of bottled water in your home and at church gatherings?

How can you work with others to care for the planet?

#### Litany

(Based on the prayer of "Thanksgiving over the Water" in our service of baptismal covenant.)

One voice: Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

Many voices: In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan River to the land which you promised them.

ALL VOICES: Sing to the lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

One voice: In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.

Many voices: He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

ALL VOICES: Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

One voice: Send your Holy Spirit upon us. Bless the gift of water which you have given to us.

Many voices: Wash away our sin of neglect and misuse of creation, and renew in us a vision and commitment to be good stewards of water, soil, and air.

ALL VOICES: With joy and thanks-giving we are made new in Christ, witnesses to the good news of grace, stewards and caretakers of the earth. Amen.

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#### T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

There are 3 black T-shirts with the shield design and the words: "I stand for the flag. I kneel at the cross." on the back. They are 100% cotton. There are 2 in size large and 1 in extra-large. The cost is \$9.00. Please contact Vida Johnson (962-0788) if you are interested in purchasing one.

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### UMCOR SPECIAL OFFERING

On March 21, Grace Church will take a special offering for UMCOR (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing). Gifts to UMCOR lay the foundation of all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. A special envelope will be by the doors on March 21 for donations.

### 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.

### 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 to the Living Faith Endowment for the month of February are:

There will be a Charge Conference meeting after services on **March 14<sup>th</sup>** in regards to the sale of the church parsonage



## ***VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE MARCH 2020***

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

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

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!



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:00 Men's Group, L	2	3	4	5 World Day of Prayer	6
7 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent 10:00 Worship, S	8 5:30 Trustees, L	9	10	11	12	13
14 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 10:00 Worship, S Charge Conference following Service	15	16	17 	18	19	20
21 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 10:00 Worship, S	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25	26	27
28 Palm/ Passion Sunday 10:00 Worship, S	29 Monday of Holy Week	30 Tuesday of Holy Week	31 Wednesday of Holy Week			ABBREVIATIONS K = Kitchen L = Lounge S = Sanctuary BC = Bethany Chapel DR = Dining Room RH = Reed Hall

