

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

191 Bridge Street

Corning, NY 14830-1997

607-936-6145

www.gumccorning.org

email: gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

Grace Notes May 2020



Nursery Open

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Sunday Worship Service

9:00 AM

Sunday School

Children-Youth

every Sunday
10:45-11:30 AM

Adult Sunday School

10:30 AM

Fellowship Hour

Follows the worship service

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
7:45-12:45 PM
Closed Fridays

Grace UM Church Staff:

Rev. Mike Kelly, Pastor

Jean Tedrick, Organist

Kathy Scudder,
Administrative Assistant/
Treasurer

Evelyn Einfeldt,
Financial Secretary

Terry Oakden, Custodian



Grace United Methodist Church

May 2020

Michael Kelly, Pastor

607-936-6145

gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I have been disturbed lately when every time you turn the television or radio on one of the first things that you hear is the talk of uncertain times. I am challenged by that. We as Christians know that our times aren't uncertain at all. Certainly, this Corona virus has created life in a different way, but we know many things and things that we should never forget.

He loves you unconditionally. No matter who you are or what you have done, good or bad, He loves you. And that love is never-ending. *No one* will ever love you more than He does! **John 3:16**

He died for you. I know that most Christians know this, but to really *know* it is to understand the sacrifices that went into this amazing act. God sacrificing His son. Jesus sacrificing Himself. Not to mention the pain that He felt. All to carry the burdens of your sins. **1 Cor. 15:3-4**

He wants the best for you. God has good intentions when He creates each and every one of us. He plans for our welfare and our righteousness. It is usually our free will that takes us in a different direction. **Jeremiah 29:11**

He wants to be a part of your life. He wants you to take Him with you on your journey through life. Not just when things are good, but also when they are bad. He wants you to take Him with you through prayer, praise, and glorification, in everything that you say and do. **Hebrews 13:5**

He has high expectations of you. Jesus often referred to keeping His and His Father's commandments. So, He does expect that you behave a certain way. What is right and what is wrong have been laid out in scripture, and we do have a responsibility to follow those commandments! But it's not easy. Jesus knows it's not easy...*without* Him. Jesus wants you to rely on Him to help you keep those commandments. He needs to be a part of your life always. **2 Peter 1:4**

Life is easier with Him in it. Life is not going to be easy. But scripture tells us over and over that with God in it, we are stronger. **Isaiah 41:10**

Life's certainties!

Hope to see you soon,
blessings to you all,
Pastor Mike



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

There will be no Daughters Dinner in May and no District UMW Spring Dinner at Watson Homestead.

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

HOLY, BOLD WOMEN LEAD

How did the presence of women in the Easter story illuminate God's desire for bold, holy and women-centered leadership?

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Forget all the Easter sermons you've ever heard, if only for a moment, and sink into this text, imagining you are the women in the story. Women who accompanied Jesus in his ministry, providing financial support and partnership, reaching out to him for healing and hope, challenging Jesus in profound ways, and disrupting an all-male gathering to anoint his head and affirm his identity as Messiah.

The women were there for the crucifixion, even after all the male disciples had deserted Jesus, and they were there when Joseph laid Jesus' body in a tomb. They probably heard about the sealing of the tomb and Pilate's deployment of soldiers to secure the body and stand guard over the tomb. And now, just as darkness faded into the first signs of morning light, they stood at the tomb. Soldiers must have questioned their arrival, increasing their fear.

And then an earthquake erupts; an angel arrives and rolls back the stone. The guards are incredibly frightened and shaken, becoming "like dead men," while the women listen to an other-worldly being whose appearance is "like lightning." The women are then commissioned to share the good news of resurrection, of Jesus who is waiting for them in the streets of Galilee,

where they and the other disciples will see him. They run, caught up in "fear and great joy," and suddenly Jesus is there, with them.

It is a stunning story—and quite funny. The male disciples have deserted in fear and the male soldiers are paralyzed by their terror. But the women persist, surviving the attempt of guards to keep them away, the rumbles and shock of a great earthquake, a whooshing of angel wings, and then an embodied angel rolling away the sealed stone and telling them not to be afraid. On top of it all, an in-the-flesh, crucified-but-raised Jesus quite suddenly appears.

The guards know what many of us still do not recognize: **Easter is scary stuff!** Not just because of the earthquake and the angel, but because Easter shouts God's yes in a world of no's. God's affirmation is that love is infinitely more powerful than all the forms of death. The resurrection of Jesus, Easter, is a radical redefining of power and the world around us. Women as the first resurrection witnesses, the first Easter preachers, are still a shock to some people in the church. In Jesus' time it would have been even more of a shock: Women were not accepted as valid witnesses in a court of law. Yet, all four Gospels insist women were the ones who showed up at the empty tomb, "the first witnesses of the resurrection, the first missionaries of the church."

There's another radical shift: They are to meet Jesus in Galilee, not Jerusalem. Galilee of the Gentiles, a place inhabited by immigrants, Jews, Greeks, Romans, Egyptians and others. "Galilee, where the Jesus movement erupted, a poor people's movement rising up in defiance of all that justified and perpetuated suffering. It is in Galilee where Jesus delivers his first sermon, calls disciples, creates community, confronts and destroys death-dealing powers, exposes religious lies and illusions, condemns religious leaders and the practices that rob people of life. And it is in

Galilee, where Jesus provokes the anger of every group that holds power and privilege, where he teaches with authority in synagogues and the streets, identifies with and liberates those who are impoverished and oppressed, touches, cleanses, heals, affirms, commissions, ordains, embraces, forgives, includes, and loves fiercely those the world has labeled unclean, unwanted, unworthy, unlovable.”

The glory of the resurrection is not simply life after death, but it is life now, life in the face of the powerful structures of death and evil. The Easter story empowers us to live life not shaped, limited or destroyed by the powers of death. In spite of all that appears to be true, in spite of all who say they are in control, in spite of all the powers that be and their attempts to define who we are and how we live, Jesus Christ risen means all other powers are reduced to nothing. They have no more power over our lives; we have been set free. The women embody a kind of holy boldness that only comes from a people who are no longer afraid of death and run to meet Jesus in the very street where he waits for them—and us.

What does holy boldness—a fierce faith no longer afraid of death—look like in your congregation and community?
In the nation and the world?

Closing Prayer (From UM Hymnal #360)

Gracious God,
Make me sensitive to all the
evidences of your goodness;
and may I, trusting in you,
free myself of the terror of death, and
feel free to live intensely and happily
the life you have given me.
Amen.

MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

Although we will not be worshiping together on Mother's Day, May 10, you may still give a gift to the Endowment Fund in memory or in honor of a mother (or mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, etc.). Those giving to the Endowment Fund will be listed in an upcoming newsletter.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____



As of this printing, the Governor's guideline is to shelter in place until May 15 and at this time we don't know if it will be lifted on May 15 or extended. Therefore, you will notice that the calendar and volunteer schedule are not included with this newsletter. If we are able to start worshipping sometime in May, I will reach out to those who are scheduled for Sunday morning services (liturgists, etc.). I will also let committee members know if there will be any meetings. Until such time that we see each other again, please stay safe and healthy. Kathy

FINANCE REPORT MARCH 2020

	<u>March</u>
Operations Income:	\$11,072.00
Operations Expense:	<u>9,800.00</u>
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 1,272.00

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.

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).

MISSING BOOK

The book *The White Umbrella* is missing from the UMW Reading Program shelves. If you have borrowed it, please return it as soon as possible. Someone wants to read it.

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 Endowment are: John O'Connell.

EASTER ENDOWMENT

Those giving to the Endowment Fund for Easter are:

Betty Lou Taynton, Kristen Brewer, Zachary Gehl in memory of Robert Taynton.

Marvin & Hyung Lee

Mary Molewski and Betty Darcangelo in memory of Ralph & Elizabeth McPherson; their siblings: Ralph, Donald, Peggy and Theresa

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.

BIRTHDAY BRUNCH

If we are lucky enough to be gathering at the end of the month, Grace Church wants to celebrate your birthday!! On the last Sunday of each month, during the fellowship hour, we hold a brunch and celebrate those having birthdays in that month. For May the date will be the 31st (hopefully!). Bring a dish to pass and your own table setting. All are welcome!



GRADUATES

If you have or know of a GRADUATE from either high school or college, please contact the Church Office with their information (name, where graduating from, awards, plans after graduation, etc). This information will be included in the July newsletter. Thank you!

UMW FOOD COLLECTION

The UMW has committed to aiding those in need by collecting items for the local food pantry. We encourage you to give canned goods and other non-perishable items each month. A great way to give items is to take advantage of the stores Buy One Get One Free sales. Your gifts may be placed in the cabinet located in the Narthex. We will highlight the following items:

Tuna Fish - January, **May**, September
Peanut Butter - February, June, October
Soups - March, July, November
Vegetables - April, August, December



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 - Patty O'Connell
 4 - Hyung Lee
 Jim Stead
 5 - Gary Vine
 6 - David Hostrander
 8 - Jeff O'Connell
 Russell Dye
 11 - Helen Fisher
 13 - Jennifer Bempkins Ring
 16 - Mason Bennett
 19 - Tom Petrick
 Meri Terwilliger
 20 - Irene Church
 21 - Pam Kelly
 22 - Marilyn O'Connell
 23 - Melissa Teemley Homin
 24 - Marisa Heininger
 27 - Bobby Bush
 Brett Terwilliger
 28 - Esther Davis
 Aaron Dickerman
 29 - Lori Kolpien
 Karen Monastra



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3 - Gary & Cynthia Dickerman
 20 - Tim & Lori Kolpien

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Betty Lou Taynton and Pam Kelly and her mother, Alice, for the much-needed face masks that they have been making. If there are any others out there also making masks, a big shout out to you also. It seems that so many people are going the extra mile to help out during this crisis. The caring that these people show is such a blessing to the rest of us.



FAITH IN ACTION

Grace United Methodist Church is now collecting donations for 20 birthing kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Below are the items that make up the kits. Please bring in individual items, all items to make a kit or monetary donations. *Items should be brought to the church during May if we are able to attend Church. We will also be collecting items through the month of June.*

20 Small Bar Soap - 1 oz. to 2 oz. size (Already donated.)

Do not remove from original packaging

Small bars such as those found in hotels are acceptable



20 Pairs Thin Gloves (Already donated by Everything Medical.)

latex, surgical or thin rubber gloves are acceptable

20 Square Yards of Clear Plastic Sheetting (Already donated.)

Must be 4 millimeters thick

Plastic trash bags and shower curtains are not acceptable

60 – 12 inch Long Pieces of Cotton String (bundle of 3 strings)

Must be clean

Secure the pieces of string by bundling and tying them together

No yarn please



20 Single Edge Razor Blade (9 left over from 2019)

Must be covered in paper or cardboard to keep it from causing injury

Regular shaving razors are not acceptable

40 Receiving Blankets (9 left over from 2019)

Sizes may range from 28" x 28" to 32" x 32"

No thermal or fleece blankets please



20 Plastic Bags

One gallon size sealable bags only

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more.
- DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Processing & Shipping Costs: \$30 (\$1.50 per kit)