

## GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

191 Bridge Street

Corning, NY 14830-1997

607-936-6145

website: [www.gumccorning.org](http://www.gumccorning.org)

email: [gracemethodist@stny.rr.com](mailto:gracemethodist@stny.rr.com)

### Grace Notes November 2020



#### **Nursery Open**

Temporally Closed

#### **Sunday Worship Service**

10:00 AM

#### **Sunday School Children-Youth**

Temporally Closed

#### **Adult Sunday School**

Temporally Closed

#### **Fellowship Hour**

Temporally Closed

#### **Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday

8:00-1:00 PM

Closed Fridays

#### *Grace UM Church Staff:*

Rev. Mike Kelly, Pastor

Anna Illig,  
Administrative Assistant/  
Treasurer

Evelyn Einfeldt,  
Financial Secretary

Terry Oakden, Custodian

Jean Tedrick,  
Organist



# Grace United Methodist Church

November 2020 Mike Kelly, Pastor

607-936-6145

gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

## ***FROM THE PASTOR***

A short message from Pastor Mike

Friends I know how difficult things have been, with the church being closed and little sign of COVID going away very soon, as I study Scripture the overwhelming message that continues to come to me is that of thankfulness. Even in the toughest of times Scripture tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

So, during this season of thanksgiving I urge you all to find a reason to be thankful every day until Thanksgiving.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26				

Be Blessed and Love the Lord,  
Pastor Mike

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### FINANCE REPORT – September 2020

	<u>September</u>
Operations Income:	6,374.00
Operations Expense:	<u>8,457.00</u>
Net Gain / (Loss)	(2,083.00)

### 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](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.



### COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS COMING -- NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Our Stewardship Campaign will begin the last week in October / first week in November with a mailing of a letter explaining our stewardship program and asking that you prayerfully consider your financial contribution to our church for 2020. We ask that you mail in your donations this year to the church. As we wrap up our Stewardship Campaign on Commitment Sunday, November 15, we ask that you move. After worship there will be a special time of fellowship that everyone is invited to attend to celebrate the completion of the Campaign. The Finance Committee appreciates everyone's willingness to help support and grow Grace United Methodist Church.



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**  
**There is no meeting in November.**

A Light for the World to See

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. NRSV

“You are the light of the world.” Present tense. Not when you figure it out, get your life cleaned up or pull the pieces together. You are already salt and light—gifts for the life of the world. You may choose to hide your light but you are in this world to shine.

The “you” in this text is plural. It is a reminder that we cannot be disciples all by ourselves, we require community, a clump of disciples, in order to shine, to become visible signs of God’s grace and glory. We are concrete reminders of God’s power and presence, signposts of the kin-dom here, now, among us. Be who you are—light for a world sitting in darkness!

The words that come just before these verses are the Beatitudes, “Blessed are the peace-makers.” And immediately after these verses about being salt and light, Jesus offers a series of statements that begin with “You have heard that it was said ... but I say to you ...”

These are strong counters to the prevailing culture and religious practices and include some hard-to-live-out truths: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy’ (Matthew 5:43 CEB). But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44 NRSV). Jesus is challenging the way things are for the sake of what God’s already bringing about. He is urging disciples to become contrast communities, clear alternatives to the systems and theologies of domination, or as I overheard one writer comment, God’s sign language in a world gone deaf. Jesus invites disciples to create visible alternatives to the structures and systems, theologies and practices that perpetuate a culture of death. Be light. Shine!

The following inspirational story is taken from the Leader’s Guide to the 2020 UMW mission study, *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* Leader’s Guide by Janet Wolf.

Bernice Johnson Reagan tells a story about her work as a young member of the Freedom Singers, a group that shared leadership in community gather-ings during the civil rights movement in the United States. They were in a church one night, getting ready to go out into the streets, knowing they would be met by angry policemen with heavy batons, by dogs and water hoses, by stone-throwing mobs. They decided to sing one more song to gather up their courage. One person suggested they sing “This Little Light of Mine.” Another commented that perhaps they should sing, “This Little Light of Ours,” noting the importance of collective witness. But then an older black woman in the back of the church interrupted, saying, “No. I want us to sing ‘This Little Light of Mine,’ because I need to know that you and you and you—that everyone here is committed to letting their light shine. Then,” she said, “we’ll shine so bright, they’ll have to put their shades on just to walk by!”

Their singing solidified their collective courage and shaped their individual and communal commitment, reorienting them from fear fueled by the powers of the white supremacists, to the faith fed by the Holy Spirit already moving among us—the ongoing powerful presence of the God of justice and grace, life and liberation. Their singing was an engagement with powers and principalities, a persistent prayer, a leaning into the kin-dom of God, so that they might shine bright.

Questions to ponder:

How might we collectively allow our lights to shine?

How has your engagement with and support for the work of United Methodist Women allowed God's light to shine bright in the world?

What sign of God's light do you see splintering the darkness?

#### Influence and Shine

Much of our work through United Methodist Women is rooted in shining a light on issues that are often overlooked or ignored. From human trafficking to domestic violence, United Methodist Women members have always served as torchbearers, illuminating the darkness that hides injustices like economic inequality, mass incarceration, threats to the climate, and maternal and child health issues.

Our individual callings toward justice are just as important as our collective one. Our lived experiences draw us toward the issue(s) that matter to us most—and it is in that spirit we call forth women who are willing not only to engage and learn about these social justice issues, but also engage in dismantling the systems that uphold them through our words, actions and giving.

The World Thank Offering is one of five channels of Mission Giving of UMW. This channel of mission giving allows for people to give out of God's abundance with spontaneous gifts of gratitude and thanks. These funds are used to fund mission and advocacy nationally and internationally.

This call to give is a call to remember in many ways. We remember the names and stories of the women who committed themselves to the work of United Methodist Women, despite social, political and even religious resistance. We remember the names of the women whose commitment to our national and international initiatives have propelled us forward to engage and mobilize for justice. We give thanks to them in both word and deed. Today we sow seeds on their behalf.

If you are moved to do so, please make a check payable to Grace UMW with World Thank Offering on the memo line.

If you have been saving for this offering in a jar, please consider sending your savings for this offering.

Send your check to:

Grace United Methodist Women  
191 Bridge Street  
Corning, NY 14830

#### Closing Prayer

O God of justice and love, move us to see not only the needs around us but also your people whom you love and care for. May we give out of the abundance of our hearts in gratitude for what you have so generously given to us. Through your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

## GRACE NEWS

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Colin Fortier  
Cathy Patterson
- 3 - John LeBaron  
Nick Stead
- 4 - Leland Watson, Sr.  
Katy Grinnell Kashmer
- 5 - Jonathan Sutton
- 7 - David Sutton, Jr.
- 11 - Sandy Tubbs
- 12 - Bob Harpster
- 14 - Tim Kolpien
- 15 - Dagmar Ceder
- 16 - Jean Burnside
- 18 - Pam Bronson
- 22 - John Vine
- 24 - Carol Stevens
- 25 - John Russell
- 28 - Patricia Edger
- 29 - Diane Hilliard
- 30 - Richard Snyder



### WITH OUR CHURCH SCHOOLERS

- 6 - Sarah Marley

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Gordon & Lorraine Smith
- 18 - Terry & Hope Johnson
- 21 - Ted & Sandy Tubbs

### IN THE HOSPITAL?

We care about our people and want to contact you, or your loved one, when you are at the hospital. With the HIPA laws, the church is not always contacted when someone is admitted. Please have the hospital or a family member let the church office know if you are in the hospital.

*Please let the church office know if you recently had a change of address or if your phone/cell number or email has changed.*

***Free Thanksgiving Dinner November 26, 2020***

***Christ Episcopal Church  
33 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Corning***

***Take out only***

***Please order ahead by November 24<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM  
(no one will be turned away)***

***Please call 607-937-5449 between 9 am and 12 pm  
Monday- Friday to place orders***

## ***FAITH IN ACTION***

### **THANK YOU**

Missions committee would like to thank Jean T. for her donation and wanted to let everyone know that they in return made a donation to Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

### **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.

#### ***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.

