

November 2021

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

191 Bridge Street

Corning, NY 14830-1997

607-936-6145

website: www.gumccorning.org

email: gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

Grace Notes November 2021



Nursery Open

Temporally Closed

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Children-Youth

Temporally Closed

Adult Sunday School

Temporally Closed

Fellowship Hour

11:00 AM

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

8:00-1:00 PM

Closed Fridays

Grace UM Church Staff:

Rev. Kevin Austin, Pastor

Anna Illig,
Administrative Assistant

Kathy Scudder,
Treasurer

Terry Oakden, Custodian

Jean Tedrick,
Organist



Grace United Methodist Church

November 2021 Kevin Austin, Pastor

607-936-6145

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FROM THE PASTOR

As I wrote last month, autumn is a time when we get down to business. As I write this, I am preparing for tomorrow's Charge Conference, many of our annual reports have been already submitted and most of the rest are underway. Once that process is under control, our attention can be turned toward upcoming worship events. On Sunday, November 7 we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, a very special day in the life of our church.

All Saints Sunday is a day set aside in the church year to remember the saints. But not just the famous ones since it is technically All Saints Sunday and not just Some Saints Sunday. What we celebrate when we celebrate All Saints is not the superhuman faith and power of a select few but is God's ability to use flawed people to do divine things. We celebrate all on whom God has acted in baptism, sealing them, as Ephesians says, with the mark of the promised Holy Spirit. We celebrate the fact that God creates faith in His people, and those people through ordinary acts of love, bring the Kingdom of Heaven closer to Earth. We celebrate that we have, in all who've gone before us, what Paul calls such a great cloud of witnesses and that the faithful departed are as much the body of Christ as we are.

Ruth Bell Graham once said, "A saint is one who makes it easy to believe in Jesus." I like that. As I understand it, saints are just ordinary people loving God and following Jesus. God takes ordinary people and uses them for a holy purpose. Sometimes God calls them to speak a word or to perform some deed. But saints are just ordinary people who have listened to God's call and said, "Yes."

It is a good thing to recognize the saints. On November 7, we will celebrate not only the saints of old, but especially the lives of those saints who have passed away in the past year. These people have helped us to become what we are today. It was Isaac Newton who said, "If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants." Look back and be thankful. But, let's not forget to look ahead. Our sanctuary on any given Sunday is filled with future saints. Whether it is working at a church dinner, leading worship, praying for someone who is sick, teaching children, serving on a committee or just living your life in such a way as to demonstrate hope, compassion and love ... you have made or will someday make a difference to someone. You are a saint in the making!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Kevin

COMMITTEE NEWS



COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS COMING -- NOVEMBER 21, 2021

Our Stewardship Campaign will begin the 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 2021. We ask that you mail in your donations this year to the church. As we wrap up our Stewardship Campaign on Commitment Sunday, November 21, 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.



November 2021

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

November 2, 2021
10:00 AM in the Lounge
Current policy: masks are to be worn in the church until seated.

2021 Theme
Knitted Together
for God's Good Work

PROGRAM

World Thank Offering: The Give and Take of Gratitude

Objective: To understand how our gratitude to God can knit us together in community to share grace in the world through our World Thank Offering.

Scripture
John 4:1-42 – The Woman at the Well

World Thank Offering

For more than 135 years Methodist women have given to the World Thank Offering through United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations. The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundant grace. When we share our gifts and they are combined with the gifts of others, our contributions make possible the support of National Mission Institutions and international projects and partners to meet the physical and social needs of women, children and youth.

You may read about the World Thank Offering at:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/worldthank

Checks should be made out to Grace UMW with World Thank Offering in the memo line and
may be mailed to our treasurer: Jackie Grinnell
23 Morningside Drive
Painted Post, NY 14870

[illegible]

TURKEYS

United Methodist Women will be taking donations to provide the Corning Food Pantry with funds to purchase turkeys for their clients for the holiday season.

Envelopes will be available on Sundays, October 31 and November 7 for your contribution. Checks should be made payable to Grace UMW and placed in an envelope marked TURKEYS. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to:

Jackie Grinnell
23 Morningside Drive
Painted Post, NY 14870

Persistence in Mission

Opening Prayer

God of Mystery and Awe, as a hiker steps onto a path and is drawn into the journey, so now we step out of the world and into your presence. Guide us on your paths of faith and prayer, draw us into your holiness; teach us how to love. Grant that our time apart with you may be a blessing to us and on our work in mission. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28

An unnamed woman is motivated by her worry for her daughter to seek out Jesus and ask for mercy. Although she is not Jewish and does not reside in Israel, she knows about Jesus' ministry and has faith in his ability to heal. She does not give up in spite of the many barriers put in her way.

The unnamed woman in this scripture passage is a double outsider. She is a woman, without power or privilege in the ancient world. She is a Gentile, without privilege in the Jewish culture. She is outside the power structure by two counts, so she must be twice as persistent in seeking out Jesus for help.

Her faith is made evident because when she finally reaches Jesus, she kneels before him. The words she speaks became a Christian confession in the early church, "Lord, help me." Despite not being Jewish, she verbally acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah by calling him Lord and kneeling before him. This demonstrates her faith. This acknowledges his authority.

Her persistence is demonstrated in how she keeps asking questions, shouting when necessary. This is perhaps the most memorable aspect of this passage. No matter how many times she is put off, the woman persists in seeking mercy and healing for her daughter. First, Jesus does not answer her. Next, the disciples tell Jesus to have her sent away so that they don't have to listen to her shouting. Then Jesus tells his disciples that his work does not extend to Gentiles. Despite these three ways that her request is indirectly dismissed, she persists and comes right up to Jesus and kneels in front of him. Her actions question the status quo, defying the power structure of the day through her continued requests for mercy.

The woman is not resentful or argumentative in her approach to Jesus, but she does use her lived wisdom in her response to Jesus. When he tells her, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs," she could have been offended or insulted. Instead, she perseveres and uses Jesus' own illustration to demonstrate that it is not taking something away from others to extend mercy to her. Crumbs that fall from a table feed the pets below even as the people at the table continue to eat.

The woman's faith is like the faith of the psalmist, who continually praises God while asking over and over again for mercy. Take a few minutes to read some or all of these Psalms: Psalm 6, Psalm 10, Psalm 13, Psalm 22:1-26, Psalm 27, Psalm 40:11-17, Psalm 102:1-17, Psalm 130.

Closing Prayer

Let us cry out to God, who created us for justice and joy. We are God's people, who must be about the work of mission in our day. Come, Lord Jesus!

November 2021

We thank you Lord, for prayer and study that challenge our assumptions. We thank you for our foremothers, who stepped out of their places for the sake of mission. We thank you for the company of the saints, who sing with you in glory.
Strengthen our resolve to persist in prayer and action. We are witnesses to your mercy and splendor. We will not keep silent. We will speak up! Amen.



GRACE NEWS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Cathy Patterson
- 3 - Nick Stead
- 4 - Leland Watson, Sr.
Katy Grinnell Kashmer
- 5 - Jonathan Sutton
- 11 - Sandy Tubbs
- 14 - Tim Kolpien
- 18 - Pam Bronson
- 22 - John Vine
- 24 - Carol Stevens
- 25 - John Russell
- 28 - Patricia Edger
- 29 - Diane Hilliard
- 30 - Richard Snyder

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1- Gordon & Lorraine Smith
- 16- Betty Lou & Rick Bostwick
- 18 - Terry & Hope Johnson
- 21 - Ted & Sandy Tubbs

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?

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.

Thank You Notes

Pat Edger would like to thank Doris Bempkins, Betty Lou Taynton Bostwick and Betsy Austin for their assistance with Fellowship Hour.

Dear Grace Church Family:

We sincerely thank you for your love and kindness with prayers, cards, flower arrangements and phone calls. We are very humbled at your thoughtfulness and appreciate it deeply. With our warmest thanks with grateful hearts, Marvin and Hyung

STRONG RESPONSE FOR FLOOD RELIEF!

Thank you to our congregation for the generous support for those who were victims of devastating flooding two months ago in Steuben County. A total of \$700 in money and gift cards was donated which allowed Grace to provide 14 gift cards valued at \$50 each to some of those impacted. These were sent to the Pastor at the Community Church of Woodhull for distribution in the areas which are still struggling with recovery efforts. We were blessed to be able to help our neighbors in this way.

FAITH IN ACTION

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.

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.

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

Community Resources

Chemung County Humane Society and SPCA

Pet food pantry helps those living at or below the poverty line by providing pet food. To find out more information about how to donate needed supplies to the pantry or more information about how to get assistance please check out <https://www.chemungspca.org/pet-food-pantry>. You may also call the shelter at 607-732-1827.

Corning Meals on Wheels

Provided a hot and cold meal delivered to the home of those 60 plus that live in the Corning Painted Post School District. To find out more about how to sign up for services or to be a volunteer please see <https://cmowheels.com/how-to-sign-up-for-meals/> or call 607-962-7985. To see if similar program is offered another area, please reach out to the 211 helpline to find the closest program to you or your loved one's area.

Hearts for the Homeless

Drop off used clothes, shoes, blankets to any of the 400 red bins around the state. Donations will be used to support feeding the poor and homeless. To find the closest red bin go to: <https://heartsforthehomeless.org/bin-finder/>

November 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 All Saints Day Office Closed 6:00 Men's Group, L 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	2 10:00 Women's Group	3 6:00 Boy Scouts, DR/L/2nd Floor 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance	4	5 World Community Day	6
7 All Saints Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	8 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	9	10 6:00 Boy Scouts, DR/L/2 nd Floor 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance	11 Veterans Day Boy Scouts Event	12 Boy Scouts Event	13 Boy Scouts Event
14 Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday 10:00 Worship, 11:00 Fellowship	15 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	16 9:30 AM Membership cares	17 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	18	19	20
21 Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Stewardship Sunday	22 6:30 Boy Scout Leaders, 201 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance Newsletter Deadline	23	24 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	25 Thanksgiving Office Closed	26	27
28 United Methodist Student Day 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship	29 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	30				

