

September 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  
September 2021



**Nursery Open**  
Temporarily Closed

**Sunday Worship Service**  
10:00 AM

**Sunday School Children-Youth**  
10:00 AM

**Youth Group**  
TBA

**Adult Sunday School**  
TBA

**Fellowship Hour**  
11:00 AM

**Office Hours**  
Monday through Thursday  
8:00 AM- 1:00 PM

*Grace UM Church Staff:*

Rev. Kevin Austin,  
Pastor

Kathy Scudder,  
Treasurer

Anna Illig  
Administrative Assistant

Evelyn Einfeldt,  
Financial Secretary

Jean Tedrick,  
Organist

Terry Oakden,  
Custodian

September 2021

*open hearts  
open minds  
open doors*



# Grace United Methodist Church

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Rev. Kevin Austin, Pastor 607-936-6145

gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

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

A legend tells about the return of Jesus to heaven after his time on earth. The angel Gabriel approached him, so the legend goes, and said, "Master, you must have suffered terribly for men down there." "I did," Jesus replied. Gabriel continued, "Do they know how you loved them and what you did for them?" "Oh, no," said Jesus, "not yet. Right now only a few people in Galilee know." Gabriel was perplexed. "Then what have you done," he asked, "to let everyone know about your love for them?" Jesus said, "I've asked Peter, James, John, and a few others to tell other people about me. Those who are told will in turn tell other people and my story will be spread to the furthest reaches of the globe. Ultimately, all of mankind will have heard about my life and what I have done for them." Gabriel frowned and looked rather skeptical. He knew how unreliable people can be. "Yes," he said, "but what if Peter and James and John grow weary? What if the people who come after them forget? What if way down in the twenty-first century, people just don't bother to tell others about you? What then? Haven't you made any other plans? And Jesus answered, "No, Gabriel, I've made no other plans. I'm counting on them."

We all need to do our part to spread the Gospel. Some will choose to feel the call of Matthew 10:27, "What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight. What is whispered in your ear, shout from the rooftops." That's me. I feel called to preach, to write, to make people think and consider God in their lives. Others may feel called to other roles – to be a quiet leader, to be an example to others by the way you conduct yourself, to pray for others, to give financially. Together, those who choose to shout and those who choose to support can make a difference. In 1 Corinthians 3:6, Paul is talking about the different evangelistic roles taken by himself and Apollos and the positive outcome. "I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow." We need to support each other and to celebrate all of the ministries in our church. Together we'll plant seeds, water them and trust God to make them grow.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Kevin

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

September 7, 2021

10:00 AM in the Lounge

Current policy: masks are to be worn in the church.

2021 Theme  
Knitted Together  
for God's Good Work

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.

Opening Prayer  
Giver of All Grace, as we turn our hearts and minds to this study, grant us your Spirit so that we may be inspired to find new ways of sharing our gratitude with others. May our time apart be a light on our path in the world, where we work alongside others so that all may know the abundant life you offer. Amen.

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

Samaritans and Jews did not mix with each other. They did not consider each other "neighbors." This happened a long time before Jesus met the unnamed Samaritan woman at the well. Several hundred years prior, Samaria was the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel, after the fall of the northern kingdom to the Assyrians in the seventh century BCE. During the time they were occupied by the Persians, the Samaritans built a shrine on Mount Gerizim so that they could worship God despite not being able to travel to the temple in Jerusalem. Eventually, the disagreement over the location of worship led to strict rules dictating no contact between Jews and Samaritans.

Jewish men were not to begin conversations with a woman they did not know. Jewish teachers did not have public conversations with any women. And yet, Jesus speaks to this unnamed woman at the well. She is surprised and asks why he would speak to her. Jesus doesn't answer her question about the violation of social norms. Instead, he reveals himself to her as the source of living water. The man who asked her for a drink of water now offers her fresh running water, and so she asks about that water, not realizing Jesus is offering something else.

The unnamed woman has the courage and tenacity to continue engaging Jesus in conversation. She knows it is a violation of customs, but that does not deter her. Her mind is full of her own situation, and the needs that drive her to come for water in the middle of the day. Jesus does not offer judgment on her marriages. Could it be that she is caught in a cycle of Levirate marriage, in which a woman is passed from brother to brother after her husband dies? Jesus does not assume that she is sinful, just that she has had five marriages.

Jesus offered her living water, which she did not grasp. But when he offers her life, grounded in the reality of her own life, she acknowledges who Jesus truly is and abandons her water jar to return to town and tell people to "come and see" Jesus. She extends an invitation to them to come and see for themselves, in spite of her own lingering questions. Her words to the townspeople: "he cannot be the Messiah, can he?" reveal that while she still has doubts, she invites others to come and see.

In her gratitude to Jesus for truly seeing her, speaking to her, recognizing her as a child of God who deserved to be spoken to with compassion, she is moved to invite other to come and encounter Jesus. She does not keep this good news to herself. Her joy and

September 2021

curiosity motivate her to invite others to come and see. She runs back to town to share the word of abundant life and grace.

Questions to ponder:

Sharing our stories and being known is important on our faith journey. Who shared their faith with you and helped you to understand Jesus' grace?

What people were important along your faith journey?

Where have you gone to share faith?

What mission projects have you helped to support?

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](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/worldthank)

Checks should be made out to Grace UMW and may be mailed to our treasurer:

Jackie Grinnell

23 Morningside Drive

Painted Post, NY 14870

Closing Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us in our seeking. Come, Holy Spirit, be with us in our needing, walk with us in our searching.

Come, Holy Spirit, open our ears and our eyes to the One who is Living Water. Be with us in our wanting and our longing. Open our hearts to perceive the grace freely offered to us.

Stir up in us gratitude that makes us run to share good news. Give us courage to go out and proclaim, in word and deed, the good news of Jesus Christ. Give us hearts of compassion to be responsible messengers, committed to the suffering people of the world.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we are sent out on the journey. Walk with us so we can discover the path of faithfulness and invite others to know the grace of Christ. Amen.

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September 2021

### **MEN'S GROUP**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 13, at 6:00 pm. All men of the church is welcome to stop in and share in some wonderful fellowship and pizza.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

2021 Annual Reports are due to the office by November 4. All committee chairs are asked to put together a year-to-date report on their committee's accomplishments.

## **Community Organizations**

### **Solider On**

Provides support to veterans' and family members at risk of being homeless check out [Solider On](#) for more information.

### **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

Provides a book a month to children from birth to age 5 in Steuben and Chemung County for more information or to sign up check out [Dolly Parton Library](#) or go to United Way of the Southern Tier website to find a link.

### **The Jewish Center and Federation in Elmira**

Is hosting a monthly food festival show casing 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>.

October- Chocolate Babka- \$8 order by September 24 for pick up October 17

November- Rugelach pastry rolled with pecans and chocolate- \$8 order by October 22 for pick up November 21

### **Legal Assistance of Western New York Inc.**

Nonprofit providing legal services to 14 counties across New York State. Check out <https://www.lawny.org> for a more information and find the closest office serving your county.

### **Steuben County Dental Card Program**

Program designed to help save money on dental care expenses for employees of small businesses, retirees, unemployed, recent college grads and anyone else not covered by a dental plan. Please check out [www.steubencony.org](http://www.steubencony.org) or call Health Economics Group at 800-666-6690 ext. 505 for more information.

### **Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

The Committee continues to seek a replacement for Evelyn Einfeldt as Financial Secretary. Candidates need to have financial and/or accounting experience. This job is about 10 hours a week with flexible hours between 1:00 PM and 8:00 PM in the church office. Anyone who is interested in the position, or would like more information, should contact Vida Johnson (607-962-0788 or [mevidaloca@stny.rr.com](mailto:mevidaloca@stny.rr.com)) or Pastor Kevin (607-594-2893 or [kaustin@empireaccess.net](mailto:kaustin@empireaccess.net)).

## ***CHURCH FAMILY NEWS***

### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 - Floyd Marley
- 3 - Donald Mortimer  
Jax Fields
- 4 - Joyce Mitchell
- 6 - Isaac Kram
- 7 - Peter Johnson
- 13 - Gary Fisher
- 17 - Matthew Kuhner
- 29 - David Vine  
Trish Harriger



### **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10 - Charles & Jackie Grinnell
- 12 - Dennis & Marilyn O'Connell
- 21 - Michael & Ginny Smith
- 29 - Peter & Donna Kuhner

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed to help out on Sunday mornings for such ministries as ushering, liturgists, greeters. If you would like to help usher, please contact Rusty Dye. Individuals or families are encouraged for this ministry. If you would like to be a liturgist, contact Anna Illig in the church office. If greeting people at the beginning of worship is more to your liking, you can sign up on the sign-up sheet that can be found in the church.

### **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!!

### **Funeral Information**

Family and friends of Thomas Taylor are invited to call at Carpenter's Funeral Home, 14 East Pulteney Street, on Friday, September 10, 2021 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. A celebration of Tom's life will follow there at 7:00 pm. Burial and military honors will take place at Fairview Cemetery in Painted Post on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 11:00 am

# ***FAITH IN ACTION***

## **Lay Servant Classes**

Fall 2021 Lay Servant Classes are being offered starting in October and are open to all who are interested. Registration deadline is September 15, 2021. For anyone interested please either see the bulletin board outside of office for details, or reach out by email or phone and I can send you the brochure with more information.

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 UMC in your estate plans. Contact the Church Office for the Grace Church tax ID for you to share with your attorney.

## **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.

## **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.



September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance	2	3	4
5 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship, DR	6 <b>Labor Day</b> Office Closed 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	7 10:00 Women's Group	8 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	9	10	11
12 <b>Can &amp; Quarter</b> 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship, DR	13 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance 6:30 Boy Scout Leaders, 201 6:00 Men's Group	14	15 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scout	16	17	18
19 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship, DR	20 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	21 9:30 Membership Care, L 2:00 Finance, L Newsletter Deadline	22 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, DR/RH	23	24	25
26 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship, DR	27 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	28	29 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, DR/RH	30		ABBREVIATIONS K = Kitchen L = Lounge S = Sanctuary BC = Bethany Chapel DR = Dining Room RH = Reed Hall