

Glimpses

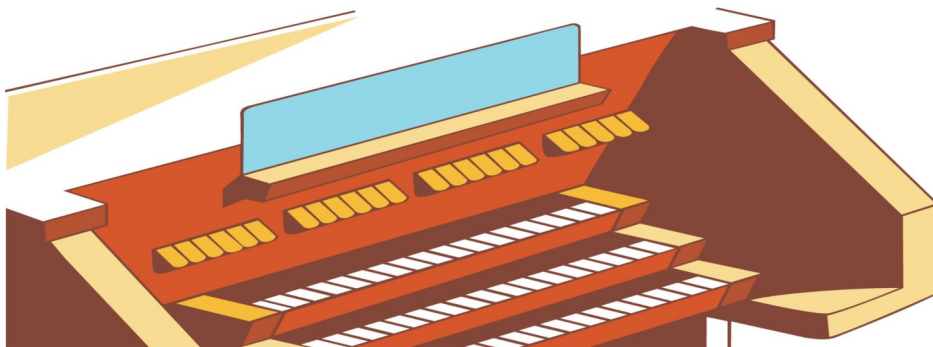
of

Grace



Loving Boldly ~ Serving Joyously ~ Leading Courageously
August 2025

ORGANIST



We have been blessed to again have Bekah Davenport as our organist for the summer.

She is doing a great job and it is so nice to hear the organ.

August 10 will be her last Sunday with us as she will be returning to Ohio University for her Junior year, until her return the 2nd Sunday in December.

On August 10, Bekah and Patty will do an organ/piano duet for the prelude.

Please remain seated to enjoy Bekah's postlude at the end of the service.

There will be a reception of cookies and punch to wish her well after the service.

Mark the date on your calendar, August 10, a service you won't want to miss.



FROM THE PASTOR

A GOSPEL OF SECOND CHANCES

Sheldon Thomas was released from prison two months ago after spending nineteen years there for a crime he didn't commit.

In 2004, he was 16 years old when police crashed into his home in Brooklyn, New York, dragged him out, and arrested him for the murder of a 14-year-old boy.

CBS carried the story about how his conviction was brought about by provable lies throughout the arrest, arraignment, trial and sentencing. Police, prosecutors, witnesses, all knew they were lying. One detective even admitted to lying during the trial but no one cared. Sheldon was convicted anyway and sentenced to life in prison.

His conviction was vacated last month after a prosecutorial review found that he was “denied due process at every stage.”

While he was in prison, Sheldon Thomas stumbled over a little paperback book called *Man's Search for Meaning*, by a psychiatrist, Dr. Viktor E. Frankl. The book is about how Frankl managed to survive three years in the Auschwitz concentration camp and come out still able to find hope, love, and meaning in human existence.

Thomas says that after reading Frankl's book several times he realized that “if he could get through that then I can get through this.”

When he was interviewed by reporter Lilia Luciano for CBS, however, he said that he didn't want to be remembered as the guy from whom 19 years was stolen by an unjust system. He said that he had already forgiven the judge who said he “deserved to live the rest of his life in prison.”

“I want to be known for love,” he said.

You can read more about the “concentric circles of absurdity” that led to Thomas's conviction by Googling his name. You can also read *Man's Search for Meaning* any time you want by visiting your local library or buying it on Amazon. I highly recommend it. In 1960 it was named one of the most important books of the century, possibly ever.

And it didn't just change Sheldon Thomas's life.

It changed mine.

See ya in church –

Dean

CHURCHES AND POLITICS

"I believe in the separation of church and state, absolutely. But I don't believe in the separation of public life from our values, our basic values, and for many of us, our religious values." Jim Wallis

"Every time we fail to separate church and state, someone gets burned at the stake." Anon.

In a July 7, 2025 court filing, The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) declared that Churches and other houses of worship can endorse political candidates without risking the loss of their tax-exempt status, despite a decades-old Congressional statute that bans political candidate endorsements.

This IRS political candidate endorsement filing is at odds with the Johnson Amendment a law Congress passed more than 70 years ago that applies to all charitable nonprofits, whether they are secular or religious.

As United Methodists we affirm the independence and integrity of both religious communities and, governments and we advocate for a relationship of mutual respect in which neither institution seeks to dominate or unduly influence the other.

Here's what our United Methodist Social Principles has to say on the subject:

"While we do not believe churches should affiliate with particular political parties, we do encourage churches to speak out boldly on social issues from a gospel perspective. We further believe churches have a right and responsibility to educate and equip their members to be effective advocates for justice in the wider world."

Jesus was not arrested, tried, and executed for being gentle, meek, and mild but for speaking out against and offending the political powers of his time.

As an individual person, I of course hold political views and opinions, and I often give voice to those views and opinions in social media and private conversations. However, I consider the church sanctuary and especially the pulpit to be sacred places reserved for worshipping God through prayer, liturgy, and the reading and exposition of scripture which often deals with issues of justice.

Sometimes people believe that speaking on issues of justice is "too political." But, be that as it may, I promise you that regardless of what stickers I put on my bumper and signs I put in my yard, I will never endorse any political candidate for any office from the pulpit. That is a line I just won't cross.

Dean Feldmeyer, Pastor

Exciting Church Happenings



The Lively Lydias will have a pool party/potluck lunch on
Saturday, August 23 from 12:00 p.m
until the food is gone and we're all worn out from
the pool.

The next community dinner here at Grace will be **Thursday, August 28** from **4:30-6:00 p.m.** The 4th grill out of the season.

Please volunteer to help, it gives one a warm feeling.

Thank you,

Bryanne, Carole, Ruth

Free Dinner
GRILLIN' OUT!



There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for volunteers to be in the **Children's Room** during worship. There is a need for at least 2 adults, to be there. In order to grow our church, we need this to make young families with children feel welcome here at Grace.

You may also watch the service on your cell-phone while in the Children's Room. There is Wi-Fi, just as Patty for the password.

Please pray about this and sign up to help.

Thank you.

Our Church Family



3 Katie Coleman
 4 Martha Joyce
 4 Jane Perkins
 4 Barbara Hameister
 8 Pastor Dean Feldmeyer
 13 Kellen James Stead
 14 Kallie Chittenden Johnson
 15 Lara Netherton
 18 Karen Pope
 20 Zach West
 22 Erin Curry
 23 Emily Harris
 31 Harold McLaughlin



Ethan Brookshear, Jim Bailey,
 Dori Hanke, Ed Wong, Bruce
 Meyer, Marti McNutt, Anne
 Lane, Carole Haines, Quinn
 Freeman, Beverly Cravens, Syl-
 via Freeman, Martha Joyce, Mary Beth McCullough,
 David St. Clair, Chris Keating, Morris Hale, Shannon
 Scott, Stephen Hearn, Johnny McDonald, Isaac
 Halker, Brandon Peery, Jim Hammons, health care
 professionals, those in hospitals, the jobless and
 homeless, our church, our village, our state, our na-
 tion and our world. Lt. Col. Adam Putman, Senior
 Chief Electrician Kyle Hoggatt, Major Morgan Ben-
 nett, 1st Sgt. James Beckelhymer, 1st Sgt. Josh Fox

***Please let us know when to remove someone
 from the prayer list.***



4 Ed & Peggy Huffman
 5 Bob & Carole Haines
 9 Fred & Janet Freeman
 12 Kent & Jenny Chittenden
 14 Jim & Ruth Johnson
 14 Jeff & Michelle Ballinger

I CHOOSE JOY

Hi! My name is Becky. I was born with Spina Bifida and that is why I need my power wheelchair to help me get around. I also have difficulty eating and I have pain a lot of the time. But that doesn't keep me from being grateful for what I can do. And that's why I smile.

I choose joy because I know that God created me for a purpose. I was made so that the acts of God might be displayed in me:

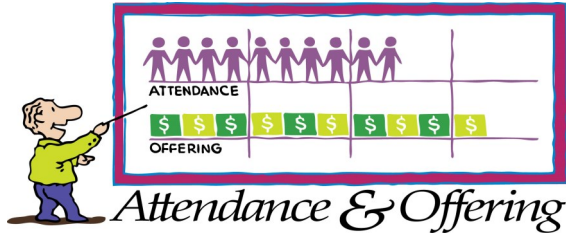
- To give people hope that miracles happen every day.
- That life itself IS a miracle.

To remind everyone that they have a purpose. And to encourage others to cling Jesus and not to earthly things.

(copied from Parade Magazine)

*If you or someone you know would like to be included
 on our birthday and anniversary list, please contact
 the church office.*

Bits and Pieces



Average attendance in July: 40

Average Online viewing in July: 176

Needed in July: \$9,931.00

Giving last Sunday of June & 1st 3

Sundays in July: \$8,178.20



Communion
Sunday, August 3

Food Pantry Sunday
August 3

Lively Lydias Pool Party/Potluck
Saturday, August 23
12:00 p.m.—?????
@ Kassner's

Sept. Newsletter Deadline
Monday, August 25 @ 1 p.m.

Free Community Dinner-Grillin' Out
Thursday, August 28
4:30-6:00 p.m.

FROM:
Judy & Harry Brumbaugh
Patti Loftin



Through your generous donations to the food pantry you helped to serve 300+ people in July. The only needs for this month are: canned fruit, canned soup, Jiffy Mix, spaghetti sauce and as always monetary donations are most welcome. Pantry hours are Monday & Thursdays 6-7 p.m. Volunteer help is also appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach to the community.

Food Pantry Sunday is the first Sunday of every month.

The students and staffs of our local area schools, will soon be returning for the 2025-

2026 school year. Let us keep the students and staffs in our prayers that they have a safe, productive and enjoyable year. Blessings to all.



More Bits & Pieces

Newsletter

AUGUST

25

Deadline

The deadline for items to be in to the office for the September newsletter is **Monday, August 25 @ 1 p.m. Thank You.**

Why Christian Community is Key

Jesus' followers aren't meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that's impossible!

A *family* and *the body* signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- experience our Savior's presence, living and incarnate;
- unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn — through other people's examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship; and lovingly serve together as Jesus' hands and feet.

Five Gifts from God

Love makes our friends a little dearer.

Joy makes our hearts a little lighter.

Faith makes our paths a little clearer.

Hope makes our lives a little brighter.

Peace brings us all a little nearer.

Author unknown

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Pastor Dean: dfeldmeyer@yahoo.com

Assoc. Pastor Anita: grath47696@zoomtown.com

Office hours: Mon. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tues.—Thurs. 9 a.m.-noon
Friday-Closed

Laughter is Good for the Soul



When was Joseph mentioned playing tennis?

When he served in Pharaoh's court.

I know, go ahead and boo, but just keep the racket down.

Odds and Ends

Beautiful Feet

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:15, NIV). Such beauty has nothing to do with the feet being clean, newly pedicured, elegantly clad. They may be the dusty feet of aid workers bringing food to drought-stricken areas, or the muddy shoes of those rushing disaster relief to flood zones. They may be the swollen feet of a dedicated nurse after a 12-hour hospital shift, or the tired feet of a parent pacing with a baby at 3 a.m.

In the upper room before Jesus’ arrest, he declared his disciples’ dirty feet beautiful by touching and washing them lovingly, preparing them to go out yet again with his good news for all. And on the cross, Jesus’ own feet — nail-pierced — were beautiful.

After Pope Francis died on Easter Monday 2025, many mourners who paid their respects noticed his shoes. Instead of new, well-polished “dress shoes,” the scuffed items clearly had walked countless steps. They were the sturdy boots of a worker, a pilgrim, a travel companion on the road of life, the journey of faith. They were the shoes — the feet — of a disciple of Christ willing to go wherever needed to bring the good news of God’s love. How beautiful!



—Heidi Hyland Mann

More Odds and Ends



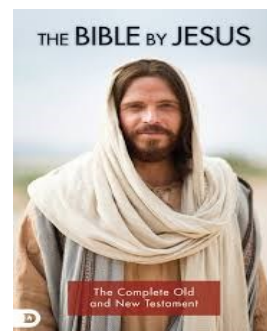
Summer is peak time for home renovations and remodeling projects. Those can be super stressful, starting with the selection of a contractor.

In a blog about her own family's construction plans, Laura Elliott explains the challenge: "It's not just any builder I want. I want one who has impeccable workmanship, is completely trustworthy and delivers our long-awaited [projects] early and under-budget." After sifting through bids and reviews, she discovered that most builders "look like they do pretty similar work for a pretty similar price."

For spiritual renovations, however, the choice is clear. "God is the builder of everything," says Hebrews 3:4

(NIV). Elliott writes, "Jesus is not only the *builder* of His Father's house, but He is the *buyer*, and the *heir* as well." And what he's building, she adds, is "a better Bride," his church.

Faith upgrades are an ongoing, lifelong process. "The renewal of our natures is a work of great importance," said 18th-century minister George Whitefield. "It is not to be done in a day. We have not only a new house to build up, but an old one to pull down." It's a good thing God oversees this project!



Personal Progress Wordsearch

Faith #1

Find the words in the puzzle below. These are words you find by working on Faith Experience #1! Be sure to find two conference talks on faith and write your thoughts on the included journal pages.

Y	Q	U	X	U	C	D	D	Z	A	G	Z	B	T	M	B	Q	J	M	D
M	M	W	C	R	L	O	J	L	J	S	C	U	E	C	I	W	X	S	M
B	O	I	I	U	O	O	P	Y	E	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	G
T	S	V	J	X	P	T	G	M	R	O	I	V	A	S	I	Q	L	N	P
V	E	C	W	Q	L	E	A	L	H	H	B	N	I	Y	U	E	L	Q	D
D	S	A	R	D	R	J	Z	C	F	F	S	Y	Z	X	J	A	V	X	K
G	J	L	A	I	R	T	I	H	H	C	M	L	K	O	L	B	M	E	Y
L	L	B	S	K	P	R	Z	I	A	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	V	V
Z	B	E	M	R	E	T	Z	L	B	F	R	E	H	M	N	A	E	T	D
X	D	S	A	J	O	Y	U	D	I	R	P	S	T	O	U	H	S	S	L
J	T	Y	M	X	K	N	G	R	T	H	B	H	I	I	B	A	T	R	C
C	E	F	L	V	Q	M	C	B	E	M	R	S	M	T	R	M	I	I	Y
R	P	Y	A	X	E	I	T	E	H	S	I	B	S	S	X	J	M	F	A
D	N	U	O	F	N	O	C	L	H	V	M	H	T	I	A	F	O	F	Q
G	F	K	L	O	V	B	B	R	Y	E	I	E	Q	G	F	V	N	K	O
E	Q	E	R	A	S	K	K	X	Q	G	U	D	X	W	J	E	Y	A	P
V	X	O	I	S	A	A	C	N	N	R	C	M	Q	R	N	H	V	U	S
J	M	B	E	I	S	K	H	W	T	A	B	K	K	O	O	O	A	G	J
D	W	I	S	D	O	M	B	Q	C	X	C	A	C	P	G	N	E	D	Z
T	D	R	Z	R	R	G	S	A	R	A	S	H	E	A	T	M	N	I	F

FAITH
HABIT
SMITH
SAVIOR
TRIAL
TESTIMONY
BELIEVE
FIRST
SCRIPTURES
ISAAC

MOSES
ABRAHAM
HOPE
JAMES
KNOWLEDGE
JERICHO
CHILD
VISION
ENOCH
MORONI

PRAYER
JOSEPH
TREASURE
SARA
WISDOM
TRUE
CONFOUND
DESIRE
ALMA

Kids' Korner

SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!

What you need:

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)



What you do:

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!

The Lord is my light
and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

— Psalm 27:1, NIV



PUZZLE



WHO AM I?

Did you know that some Old Testament books are named after prophets? Use the clues to figure out each prophet's name and write it on the lines. Then unscramble, use the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

1. I was called to preach to Nineveh, but I ran from God instead. My book is number 32 in the Bible.
I am _____.
○
2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. My book is number 37.
I am _____.
○
3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. My book is number 28.
I am _____.
○
4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises of comfort.
It is book 23.
I am _____.
○
5. I had dreams and visions. My book is number 27.
I am _____.
○
6. I was often in danger because of my prophecies. I angered officials.
My book is number 24.
I am _____.
○ ○
7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. My book is number 30.
I am _____.
○
8. My book contains descriptions of strange visions. My book is number 26.
I am _____.
○ ○

Prophets are _____.

Answers: Jonah; Haggai; Hosea; Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Amos; Ezekiel. Messengers.



Thanks to Judy & Harry Brumbaugh, and Robin Prewitt for the delicious yummys for *Coffee, Tea & Thee* in July. Well done.

Thanks to all who helped in anyway with the Free Community Dinner in July, including the grill master, Randy Radcliffe. You are all much appreciated.

Thanks to Clifford Prewitt for the behind the scenes things that he has done to keep our church in good working order. We appreciate you, Clifford!!

Thanks to all who recognized and honored our Trustees during July's Trustees Appreciation Month. They are a wonderful group of Christian workers.

Thanks to all who helped in any way with the Scioto River District Meet & Greet here at Grace on July 9. You were all great!

If you would like to give a "Hats Off" to someone, please contact the office.

Glimpses of Grace is a monthly newsletter of Grace United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 66, 201 E. Center St., Blanchester, OH 45107; (937) 783-3655. You are welcome to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Dean Feldmeyer is Pastor. Anita Rathbun is Associate Pastor and Patty Williams is Secretary & Newsletter Editor.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

