

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As we look at the future, we need to ask difficult questions and reflect on our life as a church. I want to do that partially by asking you questions for reflection and encourage you to give me answers and feedback. Every newsletter for the next few I will ask you a question. You can pray about it, discuss it, and tell me or other leaders your answer and thoughts.

Pastor Rob's Question for October and November:

How have I felt disconnected from Grace?

Call, E-mail, Text, or Just Tell Me Your Answer! I would love to chat with you!



Thank You to everyone who helped organize and donate to the Sunday School Kick-off on September 9 and of course, THANK YOU to all of our Sunday School teachers!!

Thank You to the workers and contributors for assisting with the coordinating council meeting!

A BIG THANK YOU to Bill Werling and John Current for assisting with interior cleaning of Grace while Tim Bauman was temporarily off work in

GRACE NEWS

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Church\

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One year ago, you read the first newsletter article I would write as your pastor. I wrote about the present, getting settled, getting to know each other, finding out footing and getting ready to work together.

I should have written about sprinting. I told Pastor Ann that I wanted to hit the ground running when I agreed to host Studio in Bloom before I had even arrived, and it seems like we have not stopped running since I started. A brief look at what we have done together in the past year:

Hosted Studio in Bloom

Found a great administrative assistant

Honored multiple saints with funeral services

Cancelled our first Christmas Eve service together

Collected 700 combined pounds of soup...

...and shaved my beard...

Celebrated Nora's birthday by reminding everyone they would die.

Hosted Presbytery again.

Lost a great administrative assistant.

Found a second great administrative assistant.

Started a great partnership with Foundations First.

We have also had toilets stop and toilets spray water from the bowl, had the elevator create more headaches than we could possibly consider reasonable, updated computers to Windows 10 (a much bigger headache than it sounds), and done all the rest of the things that keep the boat afloat.

We have done a lot of reacting and dealing with the present. We have not talked a lot about the future, or about the vision of Grace.

I want Grace to focus its vision and define its future. I want Grace to look at its place in the community, in the city, and in God's creation, and to see where God has called Grace given its people, location, and resources. I want Grace to effectively and joyfully evangelize love, welcome, compassion, fellowship, and the message of Jesus Christ.

I cannot and will not do those things; only Grace—the people who make up this loving body—can do those things. We sit in the midst of great opportunity, both to love and stand up against evil. Let us figure out how we respond to that opportunity.

Let us learn how to be Grace.

Peace,
Pastor Rob



Sarah Circle

Will meet October 11th and November 8th at 1:00pm in the church Fellowship Hall

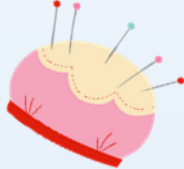


Cancer Pad Sewing

Come and help with this great Mission

No special sewing skills are needed. Just a simple basting stitch.

**** October 17th and November 14th (one week early) at 9:00am ****
in the Gold Room



**LUNCH
BUNCH**

Lunch Bunch will be

October 25 and November 29

at

12 noon at Glenbrook Mall Food Court near JC Penny's.

All women are invited!



December 8th



**Come join the
FUN!**



November 8th

Gently used seasonal items are accepted.



October

October 03 Bob Bausser
October 05 Deb Zimmerman
October 06 Gail Bellis
October 06 Colbie Geist
October 09 Cherie Jacobs
October 14 Pamela Callahan
October 23 Matt Seitz
October 24 Ken Mahoney
October 28 Darren Polk
October 28 Sue Creager
October 30 Alex Monnier

November

November 04 Nancy Gilbert
November 07 Dee Caitlin
November 07 Carl Geist
November 09 Nancy Current
November 11 Dee Weigel
November 11 Gabby Monnier
November 16 Gene Allen
November 16 Glenda Bragalone
November 18 Grace German
November 21 Beth Boggess
November 29 Jim Wolfe

October

October 09 Dave & Deb Zimmerman
October 11 Tom & Stacey Monnier
October 11 Bill & Jill Werling
October 21 Carl & Bonnie Geist

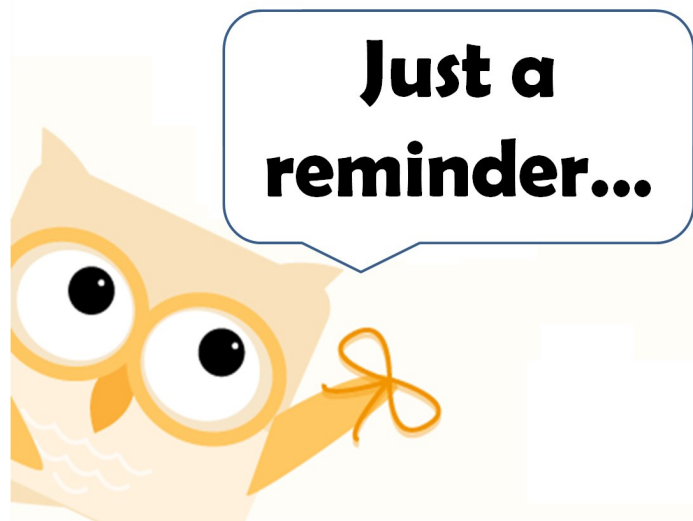
November

November 01 John & Nancy Current
November 10 Tom & Pamela Callahan



Church Attendance

August 05 - 43
August 12 - 45
August 19 - 46
August 26 - 55
September 9 - 49
September 16 - 56
September 23 - 53
September 30 - 48



46808 Work Day
will be Saturday, November 10th
from 9am-12pm
Meeting here at Grace!

An illustration of a tree with yellow and orange autumn leaves on the left, and a rake with a pile of similar leaves on the right.

Grace Wellness Check

The life of Grace depends on its' members and friends. Therefore, beginning September 24th, the Elders and Deacons of Grace will be conducting a 'Wellness' check. Each member of Grace will be contacted to see:

- How are they doing
- Update contact info
- Find out if there are any prayer requests

A heart shape composed of many small, multi-colored dots in shades of red, blue, green, and yellow.

These contacts will be made by telephone or personal contact at church. We will not show up at your house. The wellness check will take approximately 5 minutes. We look forward to speaking with each member!!

Pledge Sunday is November 11
Potluck will follow!

An illustration of several hands of different colors (blue, green, yellow, red, orange) raised together in a gesture of unity or pledge.

Come Celebrate Halloween with Grace!

When: Wednesday, October 31st
Where: 1811 Fairhill Road
Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

We will need lots of candy, prizes (small trinkets/glow sticks), and individually wrapped Cake Walk goodies. Also volunteers will be needed from 5pm-7pm. A bin and a sign-up sheet have been placed in the narthex.

An illustration of a jack-o'-lantern with a carved face on the left, and a purple trick-or-treat basket filled with candy on the right.

All Saints Sunday
is Sunday, November 4th

2019 Habitat and Compassion Trip planned!

Grace will again send a Mission Team to El Salvador in 2019. Dave and Brian Zimmerman are planning to make the journey, and several others are considering it. If any member of Grace would like to go, the Mission Team is working on help with the funding for the trip.

It is scheduled for Friday, March 29 through Sunday, April 7. The side-trip to Compassion would take place on Wednesday, April 3. The cost for the entire trip is approximately \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00 (depending on air fare), and that includes everything!

If you are interested in making the trip or would simply like more info, please see Todd German.

Here are pictures from the 2007 and 2008 trips:

An illustration of a white airplane with blue and red stripes flying over a stylized world map with red pushpins in North and South America.A photograph of a group of about ten people, including men, women, and children, standing in front of a building that is under construction with visible concrete blocks.A photograph of five people wearing orange and yellow hard hats, standing in front of a building under construction.A photograph of two hands clasped together, with one hand painted blue and the other orange.

MOTIVES FOR GIVING

Why do people give their money to churches and other causes? The Bible says quite a bit about motives for giving and it does not approve of every motive.

1. *To gain recognition.* Some people give money to institutions or causes in order to make themselves look good to their peers. Jesus denounces this as hypocrisy (Matthew 6:2), but it is a very human tendency. We all want to look good.
2. *To attain power or influence.* Some people might be tempted to give money in order to increase their own stature or importance within the congregation or to allow them to exercise increased control over community affairs. The epistle of James explicitly warns against churches showing partiality toward wealthy persons (James 2:1–5).
3. *To appease God.* Sometimes people give to the church in an effort to curry special favor with God or to obtain forgiveness for their sins. These people are fooling themselves, for God's favor cannot be bought with money. The good news, of course, is that God's grace is available to all through faith (Ephesians 2:8).
4. *To earn rewards.* People might be motivated to give to the church in hope that God will reward them for their faithfulness. Giving, then, can seem more like an investment strategy than the act of sacrificial renunciation urged by Jesus. In particular, the hope that Christian giving will lead to material prosperity derives from a selfish materialism that Scripture regularly rebukes (see 1 Timothy 6:9–10 for one example).
5. *To fulfill an obligation.* People are often moved to give to the church out of a sense of responsibility. Perhaps they have been brought up to believe this is something they should do or maybe they just want to be obedient to the expectations of their religious leaders or to the teaching of the Bible. Such motivation is generally commendable—the Bible does present giving as something we *ought* to do (Romans 12:8, 13) and common sense dictates that people who belong to a congregation have some responsibility for supporting that body financially.
6. *To support a worthy cause.* Some people give to the church and, indeed, to other charitable organizations because they want to support programs and causes that they believe are worthwhile. It is good for people to think of their church's ministry as a cause that they want to support and it is also good for them to recognize that it may not be the *only* cause that merits their generosity.
7. *To divest themselves of unwanted mammon.* People sometimes give away their money because it has become a burden to them, or because they fear it might become a burden to them. There is good biblical precedent for this in the words of Jesus to the rich young man who, unfortunately, was unable to heed his advice (Mark 10:21–22).
8. *To give thanks.* People often give to the church out of gratitude for what God has done for them. Thanksgiving was a major impetus for offerings in ancient Israel and continues to provide a primary motivation for giving among Christians today.
9. *To express love for God.* People may also give to the church as an expression of a love for God that goes beyond gratitude. Giving can become an avenue for spiritual intimacy.
10. *To convey the Christ within.* Finally, the ultimate motivation for giving to the church may be the transformation that God works within us. The transforming work of God affects all of life, but the Bible specifically says that one virtuous fruit the Spirit produces in us is *generosity* (Galatians 5:22).

It's quite likely that many people are motivated by one of those listed above, or perhaps a blend of more than one. Which one(s) do you feel describe your reason(s) for giving?

Adapted from *Giving to God* (2006) by Mark Allen Powell

Thanksgiving Mission Project East Wayne Street Center

Grace mission committee is collecting donations of food and cash for East Wayne Street Center Thanksgiving dinners for their food bank clients beginning November 4th. This ministry has been serving the central city since 1965; they focus on strengthening families and individuals in order to help them become self-sufficient. The center has gratefully received our help for many years. The items needed are:

- Instant potatoes
- Stuffing mix
- Gravy
- Canned fruits and Vegetables
- Cranberry sauce
- Jell-O



Hello All! I am Ashley Washington, the Director and Co-owner of Foundations First Learning Center. My husband, Eric Washington Sr. (co-owner) and Mary McClung (Asst. Director) are very excited about the start of this new friendship with Grace. We have been serving the city of Fort Wayne since 2011 and want to thank you all for allowing us to serve a greater platform by sharing your beautiful space with us.

We service students six weeks to twelve years old. Foundations First accepts everyone, our ministry accepts the Brightpoint voucher as well as offers discounts for families that may not qualify for assistance. Each class age has a curriculum, monthly newsletter, and daily reports to allow the families to stay on the same page for field trips, update in policies, monthly themes and weekly lessons, and more. Foundations First has also partnered with other businesses in the community to expose the children to different extracurricular activities for example, dance, choir, art, and more! Foundations First is striving to expand the quality care in our community and because of you all being so open hearted we are preparing to do just that!

Our program is more than just child care. Our goal is to support growth, provide love, helpful tips, and encouragement to not just our students but the family as a whole! If you have not gotten a chance to see the classrooms, we encourage you to take a tour with us, even if you do not have students we would love to meet you all! Thank you again Grace!