

Grace United Methodist Church Invites You to...

*Come Worship with us...*

Grace United Methodist Church  
13406 W. Lake Rd., Vermilion OH 44089

Phone: 440-967-5206 Email: [office@vermiliongrace.com](mailto:office@vermiliongrace.com)

GET SOCIAL WITH GRACE:



@VERMILIONGRACE

WEBSITE: [VERMILIONGRACE.COM](http://VERMILIONGRACE.COM)

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND—LABOR DAY WEEKEND:  
WORSHIP BY THE WATER AT SHEROD PARK—9:00AM

DUE TO THE CURRENT HEALTH CRISIS WE WILL BE LIVESTREAMING THE 9:00AM WORSHIP BY THE WATER SERVICE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT—[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VERMILIONGRACE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VERMILIONGRACE)

## May—June 2021 Grace Notes—Bi-Monthly

### Pastor's Place

#### Where have you seen God lately?

We at Grace have a long tradition of seeing God outside our church walls: every year we go outdoors to worship in God's created chapel. For many, the ground - our pews. The trees - our vaulted ceilings. The sun - our stained glass. The lake - our altar.

Worshipping outdoors is good for us and I'm not just talking about the fresh air and vitamin D. Worshipping outdoors is practice for seeing God outside the walls of churches. Too often we only connect the Divine to organ music, to neatly ironed paraments, to hymnals, and to pews. These things exist to point us to God and God knows that they have pointed me to God, sustained my faith, and brought me comfort. But they are not God: they are just tools to help us be aware of God's presence.

They are good tools. And we cannot rely solely on them. For, one, we know too well from this time of Covid that sometimes, those tools are not fully accessible to us. And two, they are always, pandemic or not, not fully accessible to all. That is, there are many among us who will never enter a church building, never willingly sit in a sanctuary, never look for God in our pews. Many have been hurt by the Church and only know the Church to be a place of judgement and shame - rather than the joyous and caring place we have experi-

enced and built together.

If we ever want to share what's inside our hearts about our loving God, then we have to start, not within any walls, but outdoors: that is, learning new tools and ways to open ourselves up to God and to communicate with others how God and God's love are present and active in our world.

We start with the lake.

And once we realize that God is out there as well as inside, we can open our eyes and hearts even more.

Where have you seen God this week?

In worship, sure. At the lake, of course. And in the pasta eaten at the dinner table. In the barista who chatted with me. In the sight of two strangers holding hands. In laughter. In sorrow. Even in TV shows, on the radio, and in novels.

God is at work all around us in this world! Through every medium we could possibly imagine.

So open your eyes, open your heart - look around: where is God speaking to you right now? Where is God at work in your life right now?

And do you think you know someone who could use a little bit of God's love in their life? Invite them to the lake.

*Pastor Allison*

## Wave Crashers (Youth Group) News

*Pastor Allison LeBrun*

*Dear Wave Crashers (Youth Group),*

*You are an amazing group of human beings. You have faced challenge after challenge and set-back after set-back in the past year and a half.*

*None of this is what you expected - but you had no choice and you have weathered it, growing as individuals.*

*I miss our time together watching theology videos, having discussions, sending water balloons flying, concocting something up in the church kitchen.*

*And at the same time, I have treasured our Zoom meetings of the past year: still having discussions about faith, racing around your houses as you complete a scavenger hunt, lip syncing to your favorite songs.*

*I just want to affirm that whatever our little group looks like: You have a pastor here who is YOUR pastor. And not just the pastor - a whole church that is YOUR church. A church who cares about you, prays for you, celebrates you! A God too who cares about you, hears your prayers, and celebrates you! May you know you're never alone!*

*As the summer starts, we will strive to have outdoor youth group gatherings and outings, as weather and safety measures allow. Stay tuned for more information as we figure out what this next season together will look like.*



## Ladies of Grace

*Joette McDonald*—Ladies of Grace Coordinator

Ladies of Grace Bible Study is currently discussing The Beatitudes. Since there are eight beatitudes, this is an eight week study. We will probably wind up the second week of June. This very interactive group meets by Zoom at 1 p.m. each Wednesday.

If anyone would care to join us for a lovely, in-depth look at this section of The Sermon on the Mount, please contact Dianne Urdzik. She will give you the needed info to connect.

We will take the rest of the summer off, but anticipate our gatherings this Fall, where we can hopefully meet in person.



VERMILION GRACE UMC INVITES ALL TO

# Summer Worship

May 2 - May 23

9AM - Parking Lot Worship  
(bring a mask and chair)

10:15AM - Livestream and dial-in  
worship

Starting May 30

9AM - Worship by the Water at Sherod  
Park (bring a mask and chair!)

This service will be livestreamed at 9AM  
on our Facebook page and have a dial-  
in option

## 7:50 Prayer

*Pastor Allison LeBrun*

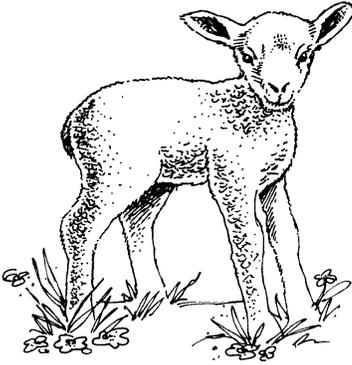
God of our Lives,  
as we enter into summer and our Worship by the Water season,  
open our eyes and hearts to your goodness.  
May your loving care radiate out from us, warming all we meet.  
May we be messengers of your light, your love, and your joy.  
Through the gift of each day, may we, your Church,  
and all in our community be invited in to experience revival, renewal,  
and abundant life.  
In Jesus's name, Amen.

## Shepherds

*Cathy Bennett*—Shepherd Chair

**As pastor Allison so aptly put in her sermon on April 25th, Jesus is the Good Shepherd!**

Our shepherding program tries to emulate Jesus as he cares for his flock. Each person in our congregation has been assigned a person to be their “earthly” shepherd.



Your shepherd is your tie to the church's support. They can be your link to the prayer chain, the comfort of a caring congregation, and the sharing of joys within the church community.

Let me introduce this year's Shepherds: Sharon Herzer, Jane Decker, Carolyn Hill, John Hill, Dianna Sprague, Ellen O'Hara, Penny Kishman, Beth Gonzales, Judy Doll, Joette McDonald, Lyn Blackman, and Lois Babson.

**Blest be the Tie That Binds!**

## Council Chair's Chat

*Dawn Grogier*—Council Chairperson

### Happy Springtime!



I am looking out my backdoor at the remnants of 20/21's winter season, a touch of melting white on last Autumn's leaves, glistening through the light green of new buds on the maple trees, and recalling that life goes on through all of God's seasons. This past year has emphasized that the Earth's beauty and seasons continue without any relation to humans struggles – I don't recall ever seeing a prettier Spring nor taking the time to thank God for its beauty.

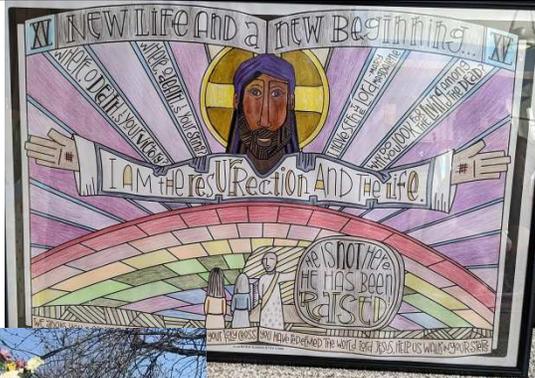
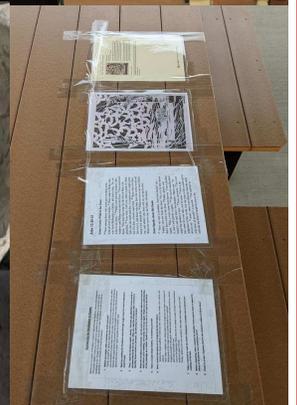
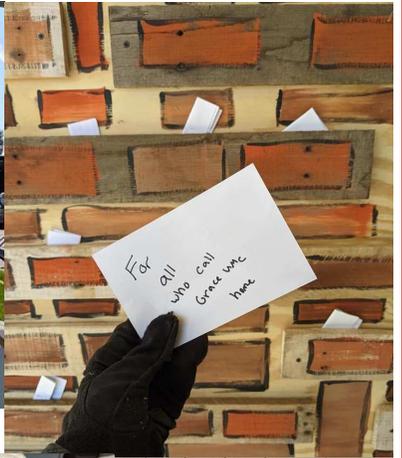
Listening to members of our congregation singing hymns that were important to them as part of our Lenten Video services, led me to also think of hymns that have been important to me during different times of my life. If you ask me what my favorite hymn is, I am sure it would change day to day, perhaps even moment by moment as one memory supplants another in my mind. Today looking at the spring flowers and birds in my yard I think of “This is My Father's World.” The last verse enforces my original thought of this note:

*This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong  
God is the ruler yet.*

*This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad  
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let the earth be glad.*

May each of you see the beauty of God's world and of God's people at all times.

Your sister-in-Christ



2021 Lent & Easter Season

## Finance News

*Brice Blackman*—Finance Chair

### PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

As Finance Chair, some people ask me periodically how are we doing, meaning how are our finances at the church. Normally I just say we are doing OK, not wanting to go into too many details. As you should know, all of our finances are available to anyone, so there are no secrets. And basically we are doing OK, in that we have some money. The problem is that much of it is designated for specific items and is not available for the general operation and overhead of the church.

Our church budget for operations (called Unified) will be short between ten and twelve THOUSAND dollars this year, if we pay all of our obligations. We have not paid ALL of our obligations for the past several years and are currently operating under budget. The truth is, there have been very little to no raises for our staff who work above and beyond. Sueellen donates many hours to the church to get the job done. Pastor Allison still works for the minimum salary for any first year pastor, even though she has been here for four years, and doing, in my opinion, an exceptional job by any measure.



We are a small church with dedicated employees and our own FULL TIME pastor. That gives us SO much. I hope we can keep that going.

Now, for Pennies from Heaven...A lot of us got something of a windfall in our checking accounts the past few weeks. Not from Heaven, but from the US Treasury. Don't we think of the government sometimes in heavenly terms (well maybe not, but bear with me). Let's just say we got pennies (no, hundreds and hundreds of dollars) from somewhere unknown, for no particular reason, not as a result of anything we did. So pennies from Heaven.

Maybe you need these funds to live on. Maybe you are already stimulating the economy in some way. But maybe they are just "extra."

What I am saying is that if you do not need this money, and want to do some good with it, you might consider donating to missions, or to the church, or both. It might go a long way to helping our church maintain the things we so enjoy about our congregation, our beautiful little church.

**Thank you for your generosity, again.**

### Worship by the Water - Here We Come for Our Sixteenth Season!

That's right Worship by the Water is a GO for this summer and we couldn't be more excited!

After a season off due to community health concerns and permit issues, we are more eager than ever to worship with each other at Sherod Park, on the shores of our beautiful Lake Erie!

What do you need to know? Not much! Bring your chair or a blanket to sit on, as always - and this year, bring your mask too! As long as the governor's mask mandate is in place, we will be asking all worshippers above 5 years old to wear a mask.

On Communion Sundays (first Sunday of the month), we will ask you to bring your own communion elements too...(but we'll have some extra in case you forget and for visitors).

Lastly, as people are sitting we ask that you respect the distance of your neighbor and leave space between households. At this point, you all know the deal!

We will be livestreaming Worship by the Water to our Facebook page too!

**May our worship this summer be filled with joy and love! See you at the lake!**

# Endowment Update

*Brice Blackman*—Finance & Endowment Chair



Ever wonder what the Endowment Fund is for?

Why was it formed?

What is the money used for??

Well, it was established about a decade ago for the purpose of paying for things/items/projects that lay outside of the normal budget. It cannot be used for regular expenses like salaries or utilities, but can be used for most anything else. Over the years, some people have made significant donations to the Endowment fund. Those donations are invested, and the proceeds are then used for purchases for the church.

So, where did the church get the money to buy the monitors in the sanctuary that we use all the time? Or the automatic doors, or the parts of the sound system for the Worship by the Water, or most recently, most of the system used for the live streaming, that has carried us for the past year.

The ENDOWMENT FUND!!!

Please consider helping to support this fund with your donations, or with a bequest in your will. If you need help with any of that, please feel free to contact the church office.



## Mission Moment

*Debby Zaugler* — Mission Team Coordinator



**If you read on, YOU are entering a Mission Field!**

### Mission Moment/Noisy Bucket

UMCOR: May Noisy Bucket, May 16: Giving through UMCOR allows United Methodists to respond when disaster strikes



- ◆ When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- ◆ When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- ◆ When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- ◆ And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

Vermilion Salvation Army: Noisy Bucket, June 20: Giving provides a lifeline to Vermilion families and individuals in need through..

- ◆ The weekend Backpack program that provides food for young children to take home
- ◆ The Food Pantry, operating 2 days a week
- ◆ Access to emergency funds for utilities, transportation and rent

### Random Acts of Kindness

(RAK) - Did you know that Grace UMC gave 125 \$5 gift certificates to Brewed Awakening to workers at Giant Eagle, Farm Market, Salvation Army and Grace's Community Kitchen?

Why? This was a very small way of thanking these essential workers for being there throughout Covid - cashiers, shelf stockers, maintenance workers.

The Mission Committee challenges church members and friends to keep the movement rolling. Find ways to show your gratitude for the multitude of blessings that each of us enjoy by incorporating RAK into your life.

**Thank You!**

We are an amazing church...a joyous and caring Christian community!

### "Shingle Jingle" Roof Fund Update



As of Easter Sunday 2021 we are at \$24,026.25

During our matched giving campaign \$7,987.00 came in for the roof fund and \$5,000 was matched - bringing our total up to \$24,026.25. Wow! Thank you so much for your generosity. It was amazing to see the amount of people who supported this fund over the last couple months.

If you are interested in contributing to the roof fund all you need to do is mark "roof fund" on your check or envelope.

**Thanks for remembering the "Shingle Jingle!"**

## Random Acts of Kindness in Pictures



Vermilion Farm Market assistant store manager, Cara Campana, and her daughter, Olivia (5 - a BES student), graciously accept our "thanks!" for their Essential Workers' good works serving their customers during the pandemic. The store manager is Cullen Hanlon.



Cooks Dianne Terry and Dotty Lewis, along with G.K. coordinator Janet Pajk receiving their Brewed Awakening certificates for their kind/giving service to those in need in Vermilion.



Vermilion Giant Eagle - Sherri Allen (Mgr.), Bianca Hennessey, and Nancy Benson



Salvation Army - Shelley White, Director Sandi Manges, and Raydean Price



Bill Decker

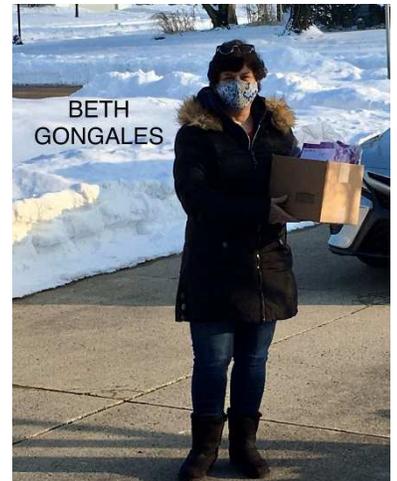


McMahan Family



MYRIAL KESSLER

2021 Lenten Package Delivery



BETH GONGALES

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for the multiple \$5.00 gift cards for the local coffee shop. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely, Grace's Community Kitchen



To Members of the Shepherds of Grace UMC and to the pastor and all in the congregation who kept me in their thoughts and prayers.

I thank you so much for this little lamb and all it represents. I remember well when this program started and never thought it would come back to me.

It has really touched my heart.

I am doing well!

With Love & Blessings,

Mary Krumins

(original artwork)

Thank you "all" for the lovely prayer stations, wall, etc. All the precious days remembered and reminding us of our Lord Jesus Christ and his crucifixion for our sins. May God Bless you all now & forever.

Geneva Rowland

Grace United Methodist Church, just a note to say thank you for the gift packages you have given me. I appreciate them very much. You are letting me know you care. Thank you very much.

Yours in Christ—Ann Gilbert

P.S. I love that little cross.

## Generosity Corner

*Pastor Allison LeBrun*

Our Church really lived out our value of Gratitude through Generosity this Lent and Easter. Out of thankfulness for each other, for the church, and for all that God has given us, individuals from our church went above and beyond to help us flourish during these Holy Days. From the construction of and help with prayer stations. To planting flowers. To the matched roof giving. To the Easter offering. To making two Easter services happen - everything from set-up to livestreaming to music to clean-up and a million other little things. The way our community showed up and showed out is amazing. It is a hundred little generosityes that makes our life together as a church happen. I am filled with gratitude for each of you and all you do and give. And because of you, I am filled with hope for the season ahead.



May	June	July
05/01 BRADEN Maki	06/01 John Stefan	07/02 HAROLD Schafer
05/01 KEN Bliss	06/02 LAUREN Maki	07/03 JOHN Herrington
05/02 BETH Gonzales	06/02 MANUEL Cantu	07/03 ALFRED Hubler
05/02 CLAIRE Kropf	06/05 MYRIAL Kessler	07/04 Mary Strama
05/04 DAVID Guthrie	06/06 PEGGY Shimer	07/04 Betty Oxley
05/06 DOUGLAS Kishman	06/06 JENNIFER Holmes	07/04 NANCY A. Guthrie
05/07 ELIZABETH Kishman	06/07 Skip Davis	07/05 NANCY Fulper
05/08 RICHARD Lynden	06/09 BARB Miller	07/06 MARIA Jones
05/08 REGAN Maki	06/09 Hudson Terry	07/07 CAROL Stefan
05/09 Carter Gonzales	06/11 PATRICIA Muldoon	07/10 DOLORES Stinson
05/09 Mary Border	06/17 Terry O'Hara	07/17 KAREN Clark
05/13 LUKE Herron	06/20 DIANNE Urdzik	07/20 RICHARD Arndt
05/14 KATE Repola	06/20 PAM Miller	07/21 SHARON Cyran
05/15 Wyatt Tansey	06/20 Gil Velasquez	07/26 BARBARA Gross
05/17 JENNIFER Albrethsen	06/22 KATHY Lantz	07/31 CATHY Bennett
05/18 PATTI Towner	06/23 DAVE Pauly	07/31 Kevin Miller
05/21 Lois Hubler	06/23 Burke Miller	
05/24 Owen Terry	06/24 JESSIE Schafer	
05/27 ANDREW Herron	06/26 DOUG Thatcher	
05/27 RENIE Massanova	06/26 Rev. Allison LeBrun	
05/30 LOUISE Scott	06/27 JOAN Skelley-Watts	

**Grace UMC's Mission Statement:**

To Invite All into a Joyous & Caring Christian Community

**Pastoral Care & Emergency Contact Information**



If you need to get in touch with Pastor Allison LeBrun please call the parsonage at 440-967-6474

You can also email to: [pastor@vermiliongrace.com](mailto:pastor@vermiliongrace.com)

**Please don't assume we know about your personal health issues, emergencies, etc..**  
**If you don't contact us or have a member of your family contact us, we probably won't be aware of your needs.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

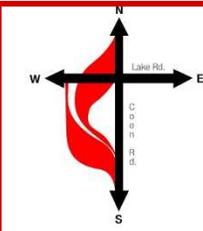
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR BOTH PASTOR ALLISON & SUEELLEN HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED—IF YOU NEED TO GET IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE PLEASE EITHER CALL & LEAVE A MESSAGE OR EMAIL US!**

**Notes on the Pastor's Schedule**

Pastor Allison's family day is Monday.

Pastor Allison prays for and misses all of you. And, it is an impossible task to "keep tabs" on everyone during this time of the building being closed. If you would desire a call, meeting, or visit, please don't hesitate to contact her. She would LOVE to get in touch with you.





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YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO ACCESS OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

YOU CAN DIAL IN BY CALLING – 1-646-558-8656 – ENTER 680 580 006 AND THE # SIGN – HIT # AGAIN  
– ENTER THE PASSWORD (CONTACT THE CHURCH FOR IT) THEN HIT # AND YOU WILL  
JOIN THE CALL.

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