

Grace Notes

A QUICK LOOK AT THE MONTH AHEAD



A JOYOUS AND CARING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Vermilion Grace United Methodist Church

NOW IS TIME

PASTOR'S LETTER

Greetings Grace!

I had the opportunity to take a Thursday afternoon and take a walk through Sherod Park with my family. Courtney was picking Lea up from daycare so I just crossed the street to meet them there. I got there a little early so I walked past the playground we helped to build, I sat on the bench that overlooks the lake. In a few weeks time, we will be setting up out there as we begin another season of Worship by the Water. I felt genuinely excited about the season ahead. Courtney and I could feel the spirit moving even sitting in the back rows of the sanctuary. As I sit back in the office, I am excited to jump into all of the things happening from Wonderfully Made to our Community Garden to our Diversity Pride event to our Worship by the Water to our Vacation Bible School to our Christian Ed opportunities coming in a few months time. I could keep going on but if there was ever a time to get involved with what God is up to here at Grace, now is the time! Come and see that Grace is the Place!

Grace and Peace - Pastor Preston

THANK YOU, GRACE!

I'D LIKE TO TAKE TIME TO PERSONALLY EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO FORMER STAFF-PARISH CHAIR CAROLYN HILL, AND PASTOR PRESTON WATKINS FOR TRUSTING ME WITH INTERIM PASTOR COVERAGE OF PASTOR'S FAMILY LEAVE.

THESE PAST THREE MONTHS HAVE BEEN SPIRITUALLY GROWING TIMES FOR ME. FROM CALLING OFF CHURCH FOR JANUARY SNOW AND ICE EMERGENCY, ALL THE WAY TO RELEASING BUTTERFLIES AND EASTER RESURRECTION CELEBRATION.

A MAJOR BONUS WAS JOAN'S OFFER TO LEAD BIBLE STUDY/SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUPS. THEY WERE WELL ATTENDED; MADE REAL DIFFERENCES IN MEMBERS COMING CLOSER TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER.

JOAN AND I DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD WORSHIP TOGETHER AND ESPECIALLY SERVE HOLY COMMUNION. PRECIOUS MEMORIES.

I KNEW FROM A DISTANCE, BUT NOW HAVE EXPERIENCED UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL - OUR EXCEPTIONAL, CARING, SPIRITUAL, PROFESSIONAL LAITY AND STAFF. THROUGHOUT EVERY DETAIL THEY WERE ALONGSIDE WITH FAITHFUL ADVICE AND SUPPORT.

PATTI PIRC IN THE OFFICE; NICOLE BARRICK WITH MUSIC AND EDUCATION WERE THE "DREAM TEAM" IN EVERY WAY.

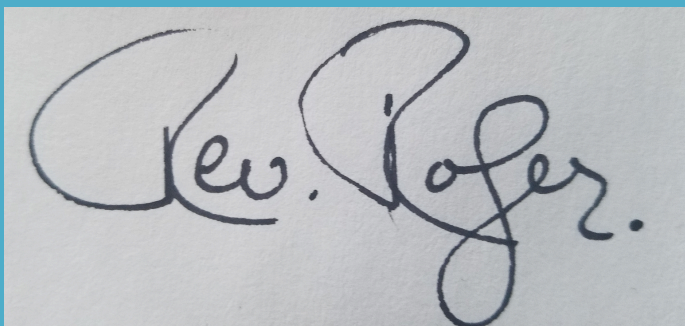
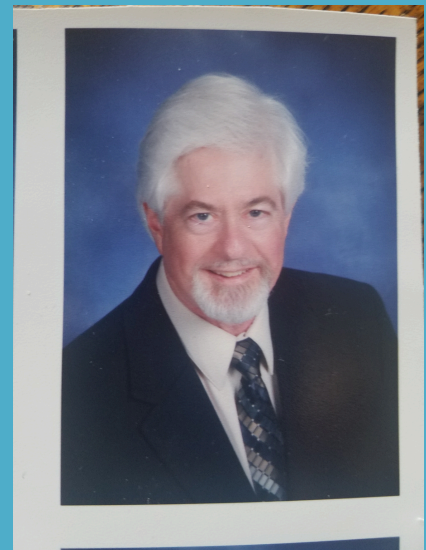
EVERYONE PARTNERED TO AFFIRM PASTORAL CARE AS TOP PRIORITY. I ESPECIALLY ENJOYED TIME WITH THE WONDERFULLY MADE GROUP.

HOW NICE IT WAS THAT PASTOR PRESTON, COURTNEY AND LEANETTE WORSHIPPED AND PARTICIPATED IN GROUP SESSIONS, UNITING US ALL AS FAMILY OF FAITH.

I WAS CALLED INTO CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVICE AS A 17 YEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR. SO THIS YEAR MARKS MY 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOLLOWING JESUS.

JOAN AND I MET IN SEMINARY OVER 50 YEARS AGO. THIS INTERIM PASTOR OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN THE CHERRY ATOP OUR DELICIOUS SUNDAE OF SERVICE.

THANK YOU,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Rev. Roger" in a cursive, flowing script.

REV. DR. J. ROGER SKELLEY-WATTS

A Note from the Trustees

"THE TRUSTEES ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES OF GETTING A NEW SIGN FOR THE FRONT OF OUR CHURCH. WHILE WE WELCOME YOUR DONATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT, WE ALSO WELCOME YOUR IDEAS ON WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT. PLEASE SHARE YOUR VISION WITH CRAIG BENNETT OR JOHN HEIDEMAN AS WE PLAN TO FINALIZE PROJECT DESIGN BY THE END OF MAY" THANK YOU!

ALSO AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT OUR SPRING CLEAN UP DAY WILL BE SATURDAY, MAY 23RD. WE WILL MEET AT GRACE AT 9AM. LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

Stewardship Update: Supporting the Foundation of our Mission

GREETINGS GRACE CHURCH,

WHILE CHURCH FINANCES MAY NOT ALWAYS FEEL AS EXCITING AS NEWS OF OUR MISSIONS OR WORSHIP TEAMS SHARE, THEY ARE THE VITAL FOUNDATION THAT ALLOWS EVERYTHING ELSE AT GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO HAPPEN. TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY THRIVING, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SHARE WHERE WE STAND FINANCIALLY AND HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO MOVE FORWARD.

A LOOK AT THE FIRST QUARTER

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS REVIEWED OUR FIRST-QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND WE ARE CURRENTLY FACING A SHORTFALL (\$9,176.83). WHILE WE ENDED 2025 IN A POSITIVE POSITION THANKS TO YOUR INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY, 2026 HAS PRESENTED SOME EARLY HURDLES. WE'VE MANAGED SEVERAL UNEXPECTED EXPENSES RECENTLY, INCLUDING FURNACE REPAIRS, WATER DAMAGE, IT CHALLENGES, AND THE NEED TO REPLACE OUR CHURCH SIGN AFTER RECENT WIND DAMAGE.

OUR GREATEST INVESTMENT: OUR PEOPLE

IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE LARGEST COMPONENT OF OUR BUDGET IS OUR EXCEPTIONAL STAFF. THEY ARE THE CLEAR CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR RESOURCES AND OUR IMPACT; THEY LEAD THE MINISTRIES, MUSIC, AND OUTREACH THAT CHANGE LIVES EVERY DAY.

Finance Continued.

CHECKING IN ON YOUR GIVING

BY NOW, YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT OF GIVING THROUGH MARCH 2026.

- **IF YOU MADE A PLEDGE LAST FALL:** THIS STATEMENT IS A TOOL TO HELP YOU STAY ON TRACK WITH YOUR INTENTIONS.

- **IF YOU DID NOT MAKE A FORMAL PLEDGE:** WE HOPE THIS SUMMARY HELPS YOU AS YOU PLAN YOUR GIVING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR.

LOOKING AHEAD: WORSHIP BY THE WATER

WE ARE JUST WEEKS AWAY FROM OUR EXCITING “WORSHIP BY THE WATER” SERVICES! WHILE WE LOVE SPENDING OUR SUMMER SUNDAYS IN GOD’S CREATION, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS—MAINTAINING OUR BUILDING AND SUPPORTING OUR ONGOING PROGRAMS—CONTINUE YEAR-ROUND. THE POSITIVE ENERGY AT GRACE UMC IS GROWING, AND WE HAVE SO MANY WONDERFUL EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE COMING MONTHS. WE DEPEND ON YOUR CONTINUED, FAITHFUL GIVING TO KEEP THIS MOMENTUM GOING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINDFULNESS AND FOR BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST IN OUR COMMUNITY.

BLESSINGS,

THE GRACE UMC FINANCE COMMITTEE

A Note From John Hill and CHOAIDS

"IT WAS A DELIGHT TO HOST CHOAIDS' ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 27-29, AT GRACE!

OUR CHOAIDS' CONSISTS OF LAURA, MARIE, AND RITA FROM THE PANHANDLE OF FLORIDA, LAURA FROM ELYRIA, AND YOURS TRULY. WHILE OUR GOOD FRIEND, ROGER, ROTATED OFF THE BOARD, HIS PRESENCE WAS STILL FELT, AS HE WAS PREPARING FOR PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE.

OF SPECIAL NOTE WERE THE WONDERFUL AND SCRUMPTIOUS MEALS PROVIDED BY TERESA STOUT AND LADIES OF GRACE, WHICH INCLUDED OUR SATURDAY EVENING "MEET & GREET" ACTIVITY. THOSE PRESENT LEARNED ABOUT OUR FAMILY IN CAP-HAITIEN, HAITI.

THE BOARD DELIBERATIONS WERE MOST COLLABORATIVE AND EFFECTIVE, STRIVING FOR AN EVEN BETTER FUTURE FOR THE 27 CHILDREN (AGES 2 TO 20), AND 8 STAFF IN THEIR CARE.

THE BOARD FOCUSED ON THREE AREAS FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:

- (1) CHILD WELFARE: STAFFING AND SAFETY STRUCTURES
- (2) FINANCIAL CONTROLS: POLICIES TO BUILD DONOR CONFIDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- (3) COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS: CLEAR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

OUR BYLAWS WERE REVIEWED AND OVERHAULED, WHICH INCLUDED A NEW VISION STATEMENT ("ALL ORPHANED CHILDREN WITH HIV IN HAITI HAVE ADEQUATE LOVE AND SUPPORT TO THRIVE"); AND OUR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE RE-DEFINED ("THE BOARD WILL SET HIGH-LEVEL POLICY AND BUDGET CONSTRAINTS, WITH CLEAR FINANCIAL THRESHOLDS TO DELEGATE OPERATION DECISIONS AND ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY".)

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AND LASTLY, AND ALSO VERY IMPORTANT, A PROGRAM ASSESSMENT WAS CONDUCTED TO IDENTIFY CRITICAL GAPS IN CHILD WELFARE, IMPROVING WRITTEN SAFETY POLICIES, CHILD AND STAFF ASSESSMENTS, AND REDEFINING OUR TRANSITION PROGRAM (FROM THE HOME TO THE WORKING WORLD).

IN THE 12 YEARS THAT I HAVE BEEN PART OF CHOIDS, THIS GATHERING OF COMMITTED CHRISTIANS WAS BY FAR THE MOST COHESIVE, COLLEGIAL, AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING THAT I HAVE BEEN WITNESS TO. YOUR PRAYERFUL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF CHOIDS IS BEARING BOUNTIFUL "FRUIT", AS WE CONTINUE TO SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE, FAMILY, HOPE, AND A FUTURE THAT IS BOUNDLESS FOR OUR CHILDREN IN HAITI!

"THANKS BE TO GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!"
JOHN"



(PHOTO - FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)
JOHN, ROGER, MARIE DENIS-LUQUE, LAURA REEVES, AMBER FISHER, AND RITA SMITH

Vermilion Grace

BIBLE STUDY

Join us as we being a 13 week
study through:

THE BOOK OF GENESIS

July 11th - Creation
(Gen. 1-3)

July 25th - Cain and Abel
(Gen. 4-5)

August 1st - The Flood
(Gen. 6-8)

August 8th - Noah and his
Descendents (Gen. 9-11)

**Let us know if you need
a copy of the book!**

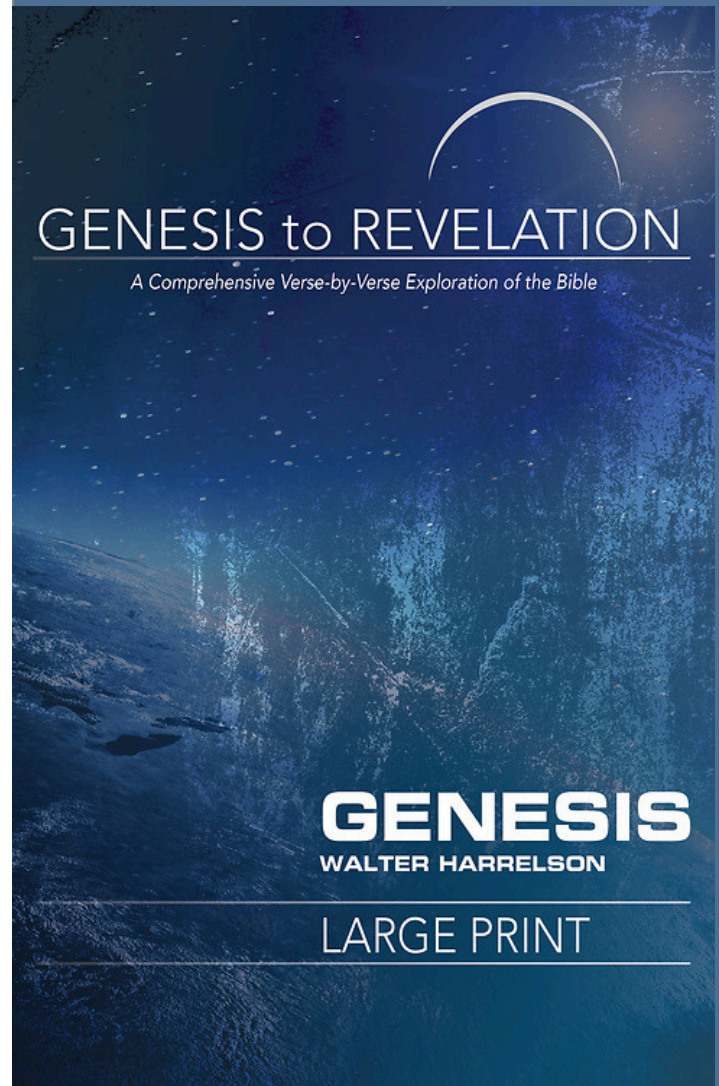
Coffee and donuts provided.



Contact Us
440-967-5206



More Information
www.vermiliongrace.com



SATURDAYS @

**10
AM**

**KRONOWALT
ROOM**

13406 W LAKE ROAD,
VERMILION OH 44089



ICE CREAM

with Wonderfully Made

Tuesday, May 12

ROMP'S DAIRY DOCK

5055 Liberty Ave | Vermilion

JOIN US AT ROMP'S AT 6:00PM FOR ICE CREAM, FRIENDSHIP AND A FEW GAMES. IN CASE OF RAIN, WE WILL MEET AT VERMILION GRACE UMC FOR ICE CREAM INSIDE. RSVP TO NICOLE AT 440-829-2828 TO KEEP UPDATED ON WEATHER ALERTS AND CHANGES!





May 26, 2026

5:30pm

Wonderfully Made Ministry

at

Vermilion Grace UMC
13406 W Lake Road/Vermilion

**JOIN US FOR A SHORT
WORSHIP SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY DINNER &
FELLOWSHIP! ALL AGES ARE
INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!**

TEXT OR CALL NICOLE AT 440-829-2828
TO RSVP OR ASK QUESTIONS
CAREGIVERS ARE WELCOME TO MEET
TOGETHER, STAY WITH YOUR FAMILY
MEMBER, OR LEAVE AND PICK UP AT
7:00PM.
OUR SENSORY ROOM WILL ALSO BE
OPEN.

