Grace Notes

A QUICK LOOK AT THE MONTH AHEAD



GIVING THANKS

PASTOR'S LETTER

Greetings Grace!

Soon, Thanksgiving will come and we will gather around the table with our loved ones and celebrate a time to remind us of all the things we are grateful for in our lives. Even amidst all of the crazy things happening in our world today, the homes we will be gathered in will be safe spaces that will ground us and give us hope before we go back out into the world. This year, In addition to looking back into how much my daughter has grown, I, along with many others, will be giving thanks for all of the ways that Grace United Methodist Church has stepped up and provided a similar safe space for our wider community. So this fall, as we enter stewardship season, I want to invite you to continue your generosity that allows Grace UMC to continue to stand up and be an authentic witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Grace and Peace - Pastor Preston

COMING UP IN WORSHIP:



Matthew 25 is a chapter that speaks well into times of crisis. We name the crisis in different ways, but ultimately, it is an identity crisis. Who are we? What does it mean to be Christian? How do we stand against the misrepresentations of our faith by people of power and position in our society? Can we be citizens of a nation? Can we be patriots and also citizens of a kingdom and kin-dom of heaven? But for our purposes, what if we bring all these questions to the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew? While it is usually understood to be about eternity, a second reading might offer insight into living in this moment with integrity and hope, all the while longing for the world to come. The only way we can begin to do that is to claim a vision. So, we say to one another, as Jesus said to us, “It will be like this.” This vision will be what spurs on and lays the foundation for our stewardship campaign this coming year.

AN END OF YEAR FINANCIAL MESSAGE

Dear Grace Church Family,

Church finances are certainly not as exciting to communicate as our vibrant Mission and Worship news, but they are the critical foundation that allows all the wonderful things at Grace United Methodist Church to happen. It is important that our congregation knows exactly where we stand financially, as well as the necessary steps needed to protect our ministries moving into 2027.

The Finance Committee has completed its review of the September 2026 financial statements, and we are facing a year-to-date operating shortfall of -$18,484.17 through September. While our ministries remain deeply impactful, our year-to-date expenses ($177,070.98) are simply outpacing our total incoming receipts ($158,586.81).

Our staff and ministry leaders have done a beautiful job staying within their operational budgets. The shortfall we see is due to an initial deficit in our 2026 budget, compounded by a string of unavoidable building repairs and technology repairs and upgrades. Specifically, we faced unexpected costs for furnace and HVAC maintenance, necessary computer upgrades, some structural repairs, and the everyday increases in costs and goods.

The biggest and most vital component of our budget is our exceptional staff, who maintain the positive energy and direct outreach that transforms lives in Vermilion and beyond. To sustain this momentum, our 2027 goals include providing fair salary increases to appropriately compensate their hard work. Other staff-related expenses are also expected to increase in 2027, ie Health Insurance and pension. We depend heavily on steady, predictable giving to keep these employment commitments covered.

As we move into the final months of the year, we face a two-fold opportunity to balance our current budget and prepare for the next. We ask that you take a moment to review your 2026 giving statement through September. If your circumstances allow, please consider a special year-end gift or an increased contribution to help us close this financial gap.
Second, as we launch our stewardship campaign, we ask for your prayerful consideration for 2027. We stand at a pivotal moment, and your commitment for the year ahead will provide the baseline stability our team desperately needs to handle increased expenses without sacrificing our vital ministries.

If you made a pledge last fall, please consider how you might sustain or expand that commitment. If you do not currently pledge, formalizing your loose offerings into a regular giving schedule for 2027 will help ensure Grace UMC remains strong, secure, and ready for all God has in store for us.

The positive energy at Grace UMC continues to grow, and it is exciting to see so many vibrant programs thriving. While our hearts are always focused on these vital missions, we must prioritize keeping our church's financial foundation strong so that our outreach can be fully sustained. Thank you for your continued mindfulness, prayers, and deep generosity.

Sincerely,
Jill Herron and the Grace Finance Committee

Vermilion Grace

ADVENT STUDY

Join us for an 4 week journey as we read and discuss:

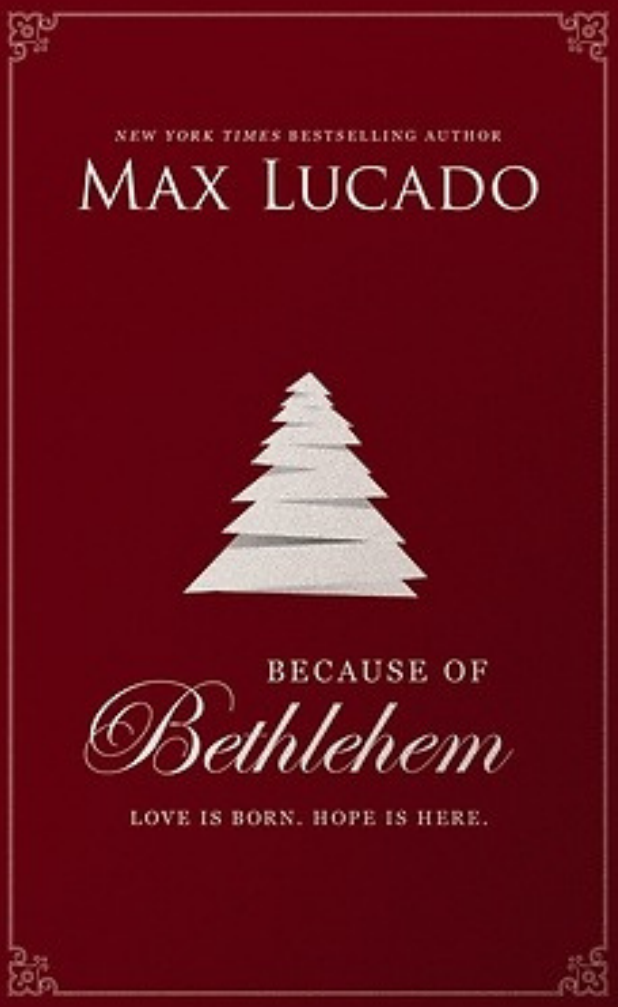
BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM BY MAX LUCADO

Dec. 2nd (Wednesday) @ 6pm - God Has a Face

Dec. 5th - Worship Works Wonders

Dec. 12th - God Guides the Wise

Dec. 19th - Every Heart a Manger



Books Available via Amazon or Cokesbury

Coffee and donuts provided.

Contact Us
440-967-5206

More Information
www.vermiliongrace.com

SATURDAYS @
10 AM

CRONOWALT ROOM
13406 W LAKE ROAD,
VERMILION OH 44089

WONDERFULLY MADE MINISTRY
at Vermilion Grace UMC

13406 W Lake Road, Vermilion

November 24, 2026 5:30-7:00pm

Join us for a short worship service followed by dinner and fellowship. All ages are invited to participate.

BRING YOUR FAVORITE FOOD FOR OUR FRIENDSGIVING CELEBRATION DINNER!

Text or call Nicole at 440-829-2828 with questions or to RSVP. Caregivers are welcome to meet together, stay with your family, or leave and pick up at 7:00pm.