

# AMAZING GRACE

February Newsletter



## IN THIS ISSUE

What's Happening, Grace.....Pg 2	Beginning of Lent.....Pg 13
From the Pastors Desk.....Pg 3-4	Looking Towards Easter.....pg 14
Grace Missions...Pg 5-6	The War Room.....pg 15
The Deacons page.....pg 7-8	Coming Soon.....pg 16
Building Committee....Pg. 9	
Legacy Giving.....Pg. 10-11	
Events and Activities at Grace.....Pg 12	

Lord,

**As we begin this month, may  
our hearts be open to the  
Holy Spirit and the  
beginning of the Lenten  
season. May this month and  
those that follow be a time  
to refresh and renew our  
souls as children of God.**

**Amen,**

*Written by Ms. Karen Bureau*

# Whats Happening Grace:

## WEEKLY GRACE CHURCH SCHEDULE



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6:30PM Defenders Bible Study	9:30 AM Greater Grace Bible Study	12:00 PM Al Anon	10:00 AM Grace LIFE Group	10:00 AM Disciple Bible Study I
	10:00 AM Hands on Prayer	4:00 PM Mosaic Prayer Squares	11:30AM Knit Purl Pray Group	1:00PM Chosen
	11:00 AM ACTS 2 Believers Bible Study	6:00 PM Disciple Bible Study I	5:30PM Endless Grace Dinner and Practice	
		7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehersal		

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE



7:45 A.M.	Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
8:00 A.M.	Donut and Coffee Hour in Multipurpose Room
9:00 A.M.	Anchorage Service-Modern worship Service lead by Endless Grace Worship Team
9:40 A.M.	Music ministry for the Cherub Choir and Teen Praise Band
10:00 A.M.	Sunday School
10:30 A.M.	Upper Room Class
11:00 A.M.	Traditional Service with Chancel Choir Anthem

February 7-730am-Mens Fellowship

February 7-10am-Membership Class-3

February 9-630 pm-Hope Has Risen:  
Easter fun and Egg Hunt Planning Meeting

February 10-6 pm-Forged

February 14-8 am-Blood Drive

February 14-10am-Membership Class 4

February 16-10am-Sunshine Stitchers

February 17-530pm-Shrove Tuesday

February 17-630pm-Ad Council

February 8-8am-1130am-Imposition of Ashes

February 18-7 pm-Ash Wednesday Service

February 20-630pm-Serving Soles Meeting

February 21-10am-Membership Class5

February 21-10am-Women of Grace Study: Jesus Asking

February 24-6 pm-Forged

February 28-10am-Membership Class-Final

February 28-10am-Women of Grace Lenten Study-Jesus  
Asking

# From the Pastors Desk:

## *The Season of Lent and the Posture of Consecration*



Each year, as Lent approaches, I find myself drawn back to these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount. This sermon—perhaps the most widely recognized teaching of Jesus—was delivered on the hills surrounding the Sea of Galilee. Standing there, it becomes immediately clear why Jesus chose this place. The hillside forms a natural amphitheater. The wind is gentle, the water calm. Creation itself seems oriented toward listening. I can imagine the people gathering to listen. People with expectations, with questions, with suspicion about what kind of message this could be. The anticipation among people who were struggling—fearful and anxiety-ridden about their future—ultimately pressing the question: “Where is God in all of this?” Jesus would soon reveal that God is among them already. Our tour guide emphatically made one thing very clear, and that was that we did not know exactly where Jesus stood to give this message, but we are certain it was on this hill and beside this water. You are standing in the footsteps of Messiah.

In 1936, construction began on the Church of the Beatitudes, completed two years later on that very hillside—a physical formation of Jesus’ words. Built in an octagonal design symbolizing the eight Beatitudes, the church overlooks the sea near Tabgha, resting atop the ruins of an earlier Byzantine structure. Formed from dark basalt and light limestone, the building carries both weight and contrast. Inside, the sanctuary follows the shape of the structure, with the altar placed at the center—constantly reminding worshippers that Christ is not on the margins, but at the center of all things.

That design teaches us something essential about the spiritual life. Before transformation comes **orientation**. Before action comes **posture**.

The Beatitudes are not merely ethical instructions; they are words of spiritual reorientation. When Jesus says, “Blessed are those who mourn,” He is not commanding despair, but inviting honesty. Blessed are those who grieve the brokenness of their relationship with God. Blessed are those who recognize their need. This kind of mourning is not self-condemnation—it is the doorway to comfort.

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted”*

MATTHEW 5:4

# From the Pastor's Desk (Continued):

## WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER

I am no longer my own,  
but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt,  
rank me with whom thou  
wilt.

Put me to doing,  
put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by  
thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought  
low for thee.

Let me be full,  
let me be empty.

Let me have all things,  
let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield  
all things to thy pleasure  
and disposal.

And now,

O glorious and blessed  
God, Father, Son, and Holy  
Spirit,  
thou art mine,  
and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I  
have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Lent calls us into that posture. It asks us to stop managing appearances and instead face Christ at the center. To mourn what is disordered, fractured, or distracted in us. This humility does not weaken us; it prepares us. Consecration is not something we achieve through effort; it is what happens when our lives are rightly oriented toward Jesus and willingly placed before Him in surrender. To quote John Wesley: "I am no longer my own, but Thine.

" As Lent begins, the question before us is simple, but searching:  
**What are we facing—and how are we standing before God?**

Blessings,



# GRACE

MISSIONS

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with Ruth's Harvest and PAL.

We welcome anyone who would like to help. In case you are not familiar with these two programs, Ruth's Harvest is the backing of bags with food for the school children to take home to have food over the weekend. Provide a Lunch (PAL) is a meal served every day at the Council of Churches to anyone who wants to walk in and get a meal.



## Ruth's Harvest Dates:

March 19

May 14

## Provide A Lunch (PAL):

### Fridays:      Saturdays:

February 27	May 30
April 3	August 29
May 8	October 31
June 12	
July 17	
August 21	
September 25	
October 30	
December 5	



If you are interested in helping, please call Mae Woodard at 717-632-0124.

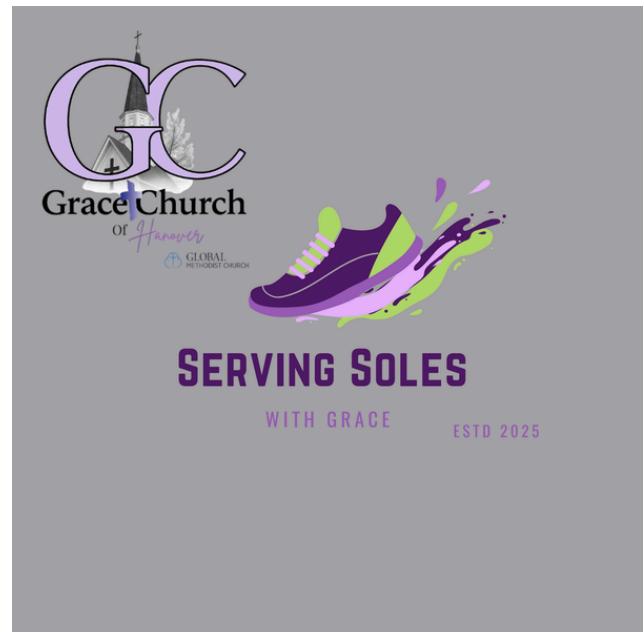
# GRACE

## MISSIONS

Serving Soles with Grace has had 2 successful shoe distribution days, with well over 100 pairs of shoes given to school-aged kids. The support from Grace church has been amazing, and we thank you so much for that support.

Our next distribution event will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>. We are preparing now to hand out up to 100 new pairs of sneakers. If you are looking to support this mission, donations of new sneakers can be brought in and placed in the green Serving Soles container. Also, monetary support can be given through the way you tithe, just adding a memo or note that it is for Serving Soles Shoe ministry.

We are always looking for more people to be a part of the team. Our next meeting is Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 630pm. Everyone is welcome!!



# The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

## Theology Matters: Salvation is for Everyone

February has arrived, and the groundhog saw his shadow, which tells us that we will have 6 more weeks of winter. It's a funny tradition, but did you know that it is based in the Christian calendar? February 2 is the Christian feast of Candlemas, and it is the remembrance of the day that Mary and Joseph presented baby Jesus at the Temple according to the Law of Moses. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-38. It includes the Holy Family's interaction with the prophets Simeon and Anna. I encourage you to read it! But Pastor Matt, what does that have to do with the groundhog?

In ancient Germanic and Anglo-Saxon tradition, if the weather on Candlemas was bright and sunny, that meant that winter wasn't quite finished, well, wintering! However, if it was grey and cloudy, then it meant an early spring. In the Germanic countries, they would watch for the badger to emerge from his hole and see if he ran back again, realizing that winter was not yet through. When these Germans came to Pennsylvania, where no badgers dwell, they transferred the tradition to the groundhog, and thus, we have it to this day.

Now, on to deeper theological matters. Last month, I introduced you to five hallmarks of what it means to be a Methodist Christian. I suggested that our tradition had certain distinctives that were beneficial. The first was:

- The gospel is for everyone; everyone can be saved; everyone can know they are saved.

This also called the Methodist "Four Alls"

- All need to be saved
- All can be saved
- All can know they are saved
- All can be saved to the uttermost

This distinctive is unique to those churches that came from the work of the Wesleys (think Methodists, Pentecostals, Nazarenes). It stands over and against the tradition of the Calvinist/Reformed churches (think Presbyterian, German Reformed, United Church of Christ, or Baptist), and John Wesley spent much time in deep theological debate with Calvinist Christians. The historic title for the Methodist viewpoint is Arminian, named after the Dutch theologian, Jacob Arminius (1560-1609). The title tends to get hyphenated with Wesley's name to become Wesleyan-Arminian when people refer to it.

OK, so enough with the complicated names. What does all this mean?

The Wesleyan-Arminian perspective says that though human beings are, on their own, completely unable to save themselves, due to their sin nature, that God has granted grace enough to every human being so that he or she can hear the gospel and choose (or not) to repent. John Wesley called this Preventing or Prevenient Grace, and that grace is for "whosoever will," and that means anyone. Along with John 3:16, Wesley would point to John 1:9, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." All people can receive the gospel and be saved. Everyone has a free choice to accept or reject Jesus thanks to God's free grace.

# The Deacons Page-A Time with Pastor Matt

## Theology Matters: Salvation is for Everyone continued

In contrast, the Reformed churches, who followed the ideas of John Calvin (1509-1564), teach that human beings are, on their own, completely unable to save themselves, due to their sin nature. However, God has foreknown and chosen those who would be saved “before the foundation of the world.” Those whom God elected are those to be saved. God then draws those from their sin with his irresistible grace. This perspective is based on Ephesians 1:4, 11-12, and 2 Timothy 2:10. Only God knows who the elect are, and in this, you might never be completely sure of your own salvation. Those who were not among the elect are not saved. This perspective is generally taught very strongly today in conservative Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

Turning back to our Methodism, Wesley would point to the assurance that Christ has saved us. In this, you can know with full confidence that Jesus has redeemed you and has begun a new life within you. We would point to Romans 8:15-17 for this truth:

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

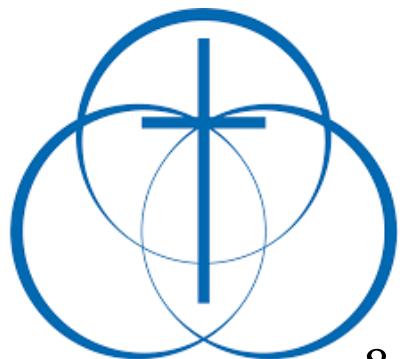
As you learn to live in Christ day by day, Christ’s work becomes deeper and stronger within your own character. We understand that through his continued work of grace, which Wesley would call Sanctifying Grace, we grow more each day into the image of God. For Methodists, salvation is not simply a change in eternal destination. Instead, it is a lifelong pursuit of Jesus Christ that builds a more holy character in each person. For us, eternity begins now, and our walk toward perfect love is our new journey. “The one who began a good work in you will continue to perfect/complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” – Philippians 1:6.

It is my hope and prayer that as we remember that salvation is for everyone, that we will go out into the world excited to share Jesus with everyone. As we grow together in Christ, we will learn how much he loves us and be assured of that love through our whole lives.

Love to you all in his Name,



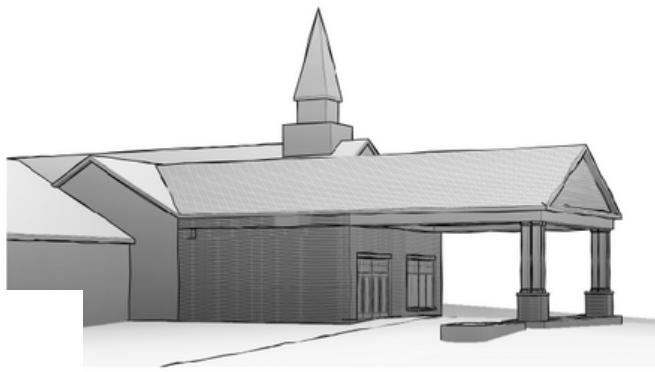
-Rev. Matt



# BUILDING COMMITTEE



The images show the proposed renovation and addition work for Grace Church. The darkened gray area is our new lobby with a covered opening for drop off and pick up. This will also include the repair and recoating of our parking lot.



The Committee has been hard at work over the last few months. First, the steeple repair project was a complete success! We removed the steeple, did some necessary repair and restoration work, which included the opening of the louvers once again. Then the steeple was returned to the roof and reattached in a way that will stop the leaks above the sound booth. All of this dangerous crane work happened without incident. Praise God!

Secondly, the plans for the new lobby and port-cochere have been nearly completed. We are now working with the contractor to secure solid bid numbers for the construction work. This new area will be a large, welcoming space for our church family, where we can mingle between services and greet one another well on Sunday morning. We will have a new location for the Welcome Desk and for an expanded coffee bar. The port-cochere will enable people to be dropped off at the door, under cover, and we will have new ADA compliant parking spaces to the left of the entrance, right in front of the building.

In the drawing here, you can see what the outside of the new building will look like, and we are all very excited to see this project move forward to construction in the coming months. To all of you who have been faithful to support the Capital Campaign, THANK YOU! Your financial contributions have enabled us to get this project to where we are today, and we look forward to what will come next.

Blessings to all,

Grace Church Building Committee

# A GIFT THAT REACHES BEYOND OUR LIFETIME



## An Invitation to Consider Legacy Giving at Grace Church of Hanover

Grace Church of Hanover is here today because faithful men and women before us believed deeply enough in the mission of Christ to think beyond their own lifetime. Their prayers, sacrifices, and generosity made it possible for the Gospel to be proclaimed, families to be formed in faith, and leaders to be raised up from among God's people. We are living in the fruit of their legacy.

Scripture reminds us that faith is always meant to be passed on:

“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4).

Legacy Giving is one way the Church continues this sacred rhythm. It is an intentional decision to include the ministry of Grace Church of Hanover in one's will or final plans, ensuring that Christ's work here continues to shape lives long after we are gone. This kind of giving is not about wealth or estate size. It is about witness. It is a declaration that the Gospel matters enough to be carried forward—to children who will learn to pray here, to families who will be strengthened here, and to future leaders who will one day rise from these pews.

The Apostle Paul speaks often of sowing with the future in mind:

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

Legacy Giving allows us to sow into a harvest we may never see—but one we trust God to bring forth.

Jesus himself taught that our treasures reveal our deepest commitments:

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

Including the church in your final plans is a way of placing your heart—your faith, hope, and love—into the hands of the next generation. It is a quiet but powerful testimony that the mission of Christ is larger than any one season of life.

# A GIFT THAT REACHES OUR LIFETIME

# BEYOND CONTINUED

Legacy gifts help ensure that Grace Church of Hanover remains:

- Present for emerging generations, proclaiming Christ clearly and faithfully
- A place where families grow in Christ, supported by vibrant ministry
- A training ground for future leaders, called and formed for God's service

Scripture calls us stewards of what God entrusts to us:

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Legacy Giving is one way to live out that faithfulness—to pass on what has been entrusted to us so that the Church remains strong, faithful, and mission-focused for years to come.

We invite you to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to make a legacy gift through your will or final plans. This is not a request made in pressure, but an invitation offered in hope—hope that the Gospel will continue to be preached, lives will continue to be transformed, and Christ will continue to be known through the ministry of Grace Church of Hanover. If you would like to learn more or have a confidential conversation, we welcome you to reach out. Together, we can ensure that the story God is telling through this church continues—faithfully, fruitfully, and for generations to come.



# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

We still need help to staff the Blood Drive. Please consider volunteering.

A sign-up sheet is on the events board. Questions, please see Linda Mixter or Helen Weaver.

Women Of Grace Lenten Study

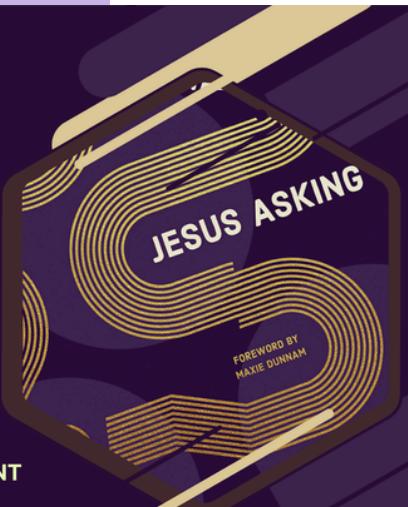
## JESUS ASKING

The world we live in places a premium on answers. Jesus takes a different approach. He's all about the questions. What if we pressed pause for a minute on our need for more answers? And what if we upped our game on our quest to find better questions? And isn't this interesting — the connection between quest and questions?

**SATURDAY'S THROUGH LENT**  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**STARTING FEBRUARY 21**

**See Sheila Carter with questions**



A daily devotion for the season of Lent. This will be available starting Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

BLOOD DONORS ARE LIFE-SAVERS.

## DONATE NOW

Saturday, February 14th  
8:00am - 1:00pm



Grace Church of Hanover  
55 Albright Drive  
Hanover, PA 17331

Show some love to your fellow man on Valentine's Day. Give lifesaving blood. For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

A New short term bible study for the Women of Grace

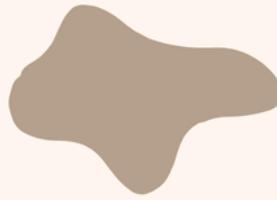


START TO LENT

# Shrove Tuesday ☀ 2/17 @ 530pm+◆

Shrove Tuesday would  
simply be incomplete without  
these fluffy stacks of deliciousness  
piled high and served with syrup,  
butter, and all of your sides.

Join us on February 17th from 5:30-7:00 in  
the fellowship hall for Shrove Tuesday  
dinner. Please R.S.V.P to the church  
office or stop by the hospitality board by  
Sunday, February 15th.



## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor Todd will be in the lobby  
of the church offering ashes on  
Wednesday February 18th, from  
8 AM until 11:30 AM with a brief  
take-home liturgy.



# ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18th @ 7pm

Grace Church of Hanover  
55 Albright Drive  
Hanover, PA 17331  
717-637-3100  
[mygracechurch.org](http://mygracechurch.org)

*Lent Begins*

# LOOKING TOWARD EASTER



## 2026 Easter Flowers



We will be ordering tulips and daffodils again from Cremer Florist. The cost is \$14.00 each.

Please fill out an order form, found at the hospitality desk, Please give your completed order form to the church office. Thank you for your support.

Orders and payments are due  
Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## CELEBRATE EASTER SUNDAY WITH US AT GRACE!

Come and rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ at one of our special Easter services!

### *Sunrise Service 6:30am*

Experience the beauty of Easter morning with an outdoor service at sunrise. Dress warmly as we gather in worship and reflection.

### *Anchorage Service 9:00am*

Join us for a vibrant, modern-style celebration of the Resurrection—uplifting worship, an inspiring message, and the joy of Easter!

### *Traditional Service 11:00am*

Raise your Hallelujahs in a classic, liturgical service filled with sacred hymns and timeless Easter traditions.

*Come as you are and celebrate the hope of Easter with us!*



## Prayer Point Focus (a message from Sheila & Ron Carter)

We were thrilled to participate in the recent March for Life held in Washington DC. We carried our banner with the words, Pray- Life is a Gift, with signatures from Grace Church friends. Thousands of marchers participated in this 2026 event to protect the living at all stages. "Life is a Gift", and precious in the eyes of God, Our Creator.

Grace Church, thank you for joining the fight!

A portion of our mission dollars are allocated to the Tender Care Center/Gettysburg & Hanover. These Centers support families facing unexpected pregnancies, including ultrasounds, education and supplies. They are, however, in constant need of your financial support and specific items for use at these centers.

**Let us offer a heartfelt prayer for our unborn children and their families:**

**Heavenly Father, We thank you and praise You for the great things You have done and continue to do. We are in awe at the miracle of life; a gift from You. Thank you, Amen**



### Donation list - NEW items only

Winter Baby Outfits - Newborn through 12 months

Fleece Sleepers

Newborn through 12 months

Fleece sleep sacks & Gowns -Newborn & Infant

Diapers

sizes 4, 5, 6 & 7

Baby Wash & Shampoo

Baby lotion

Diaper rash cream

Baby bath towel sets

Burp cloths,

Infant bibs

Swaddle blankets

Flannel Receiving blankets

Fleece blankets

Infant Caps,

hand mitts

Infant socks

Bottles (Avent / Dr. Brown)

Bottle Brush

Grooming kits

Brush & Comb set

Formula - Similac Advance,

Enfamil Diaper bag

back packs

"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him."

(Psalm 127:3) 15



# COMING Soon!!!



Holy Week			
<b>Palm Sunday</b>  March 29	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>  April 2	<b>Good Friday</b>  April 3	<b>Easter</b>  April 5
Services: 7:45 am: Traditional Service 9 am: Anchorage Service Youth Sunday 11 am: Chancel Choir Easter Cantata	Dinner & Service with Communion: 6:00 pm	Service: 7:00 pm	Services: 6:30 am: Sunrise Service Followed by Easter Breakfast 9 am: Anchorage Service 11 am: Traditional Service
Grace Church of Hanover			

