

Grace Notes

April 2024

"Come Home to Grace"

Message from Interim Pastor Steve Cramer

I am writing this just before we enter the mystery and wonder of Holy Week. I am looking forward to celebrating those wonderful events with you as we remember the great victory on the cross won by Jesus.

We will celebrate two special dates in May. On May 19 we celebrate the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given to the church and it appeared to believers as if

tongues of fire. The great miracle of Pentecost is that all could speak to one another, despite the fact that people gathered that day came from all over the known world. Each one could speak, and each one was understood. The gift of the Holy Spirit brought about total communication and understanding.



The next week, on May 26, Pastor Charles Sagay will be preaching at Grace Church and sharing the great good news of what has happened in his community. Please notice the separate article by Kim Evans on this great event. One of the best achievements of Grace Church in the recent past was when we built this life giving well in Cameroon. Please mark your calendars for these two great celebrations of the work of God's Spirit.

Christian Education Possibility

As your interim pastor I am wondering if there is any interest in a mid-week adult Christian Education event. I would be open to leading a class on a variety of subjects. Here are a few of them:

1. Deepening our prayer life.
2. A class on a particular book of the Bible. (My favorite is Romans, but I am open to many others.)
3. A book study on a Christian devotional. I mentioned in a recent sermon that Help! Thanks! Wow! Is a great book. Graham Standish has written a number of books worth studying.
4. Perhaps there might be some part of church history that you would like to study.
5. Is there another topic that you would like to study?



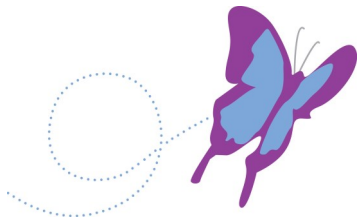
Calling All Women!

The Mother/Daughter Banquet is Sunday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. All the women of the church are invited to attend. Please see Connie after the worship service, to secure your reservation. She will be accepting reservations on Sunday the 14th, the 21st and 28th. Or you can call Marcy in the church office. Adults are \$11.00 each, and children under 10 are \$7.00 each.

The dinner is Stuffed Chicken Breast and sides include a “Surprize Dessert”, special favors made by our President, Evelyn Johnston, and you will hear from two interesting speakers on Butterflies and Bees. Wear your butterfly or bee jewelry!

We are looking forward to a fun time in celebrating our mothers, daughters and friends; as well as gaining fellowship and socialization; and gaining knowledge on bees and butterflies.

Hope you will “BEE” there!



GRO News:

—The next Drive Thru Rigatoni Dinner will be Tuesday, April 16 from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. We’ll need people to help with preparation work in the morning, servers in the afternoon and cake bakers too! Thanks for your support!

GRO will meet on Tuesday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m. Join us!

CHOIR News:

Thanks to all who purchased flowers for our Easter service. They were a beautiful and fragrant addition to the service!

Congratulations are in order!!!

Congratulations to our choir director, Ray Wagner and his new bride, Patricia, who were married on March 26. Best Wishes to the both of you!

Sadly, Ray will be moving to the Pittsburgh area and resigning as our director. His last Sunday will be May 12. We will miss his friendship, enthusiasm and his awesome voice. Best of luck, Ray and Patricia. Come back and visit us often!



Consistory Meeting of March 2024

Members Present: Matt Bell, Gary Scullion, Ann Gustafson, Bill Greenawalt, Diane Greenawalt, Mark Frost, Sharon Frost, Jim Brinker, Debbie Rohm, Cheryl Bell, and Steve Cramer.

Excused:

I. Devotions – March:	Debbie Rohn	April: Diane Greenawalt
II. Duties – March	Usher: Gary Scullion	Elevator: Ann Gustafson
April	Usher: Matt Bell	Elevator: Gary Scullion

Communion: 3/28/24: Diane Barnes
 3/31/24: Cheryl Bell
 5/19/24: Diane Greenawalt
 7/7/24: Bill Greenawalt
 10/6/24: Gary Scullion
 10/27/24: Diane Barnes
 11/24/24: Debbie Rohm
 12/24/24: OPEN

Consistory Terms

2022 – 2024: Diane Barnes, Matt Bell, Jim Brinker, Sharon Frost
 2023 – 2025: Debbie Rohm, Ann Gustafson, Tim Reeser, Gary Scullion
 2024 – 2026: Mark Frost, Bill Greenawalt, Diane Greenawalt

III. Informal Discussion/Goal Setting:

Pastor Steve Cramer spoke on his goals for visitation and gave a pastoral report. He asked if the church is open to having PowerPoint presentations for the sermons. He felt that visitation is important and is needed, he mentioned the hours at the church may be lower due to planned visitations. Steve asked about the church's stance on offering communion, during visitations, without an Elder to be present.

Goal: Mark brought up that the notepads have fallen into disuse. We spoke about reviving this.

Goal: Mark also asked about reviving Sunday School for our youth and adults.

Goal: Jim spoke about the dinner for our local Police, EMS, and Fire Fighters.

Mark asked for Diane Barnes to be the Chair of the Elders. She accepted.

IV. Communications:

Mark read a letter from the NACCC acknowledging our giving and donations for 2024.

Mark spoke of a letter of resignation from Ray Wagner from the Choir Director position. Diane Barnes (regrettably) made a motion to accept Ray Wagner's resignation, May 18th, seconded by Ann Gustafson. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Minutes: Mark Frost noticed that a dollar amount for Steve Cramer's compensation was not entered in the previous month's minutes. Description of compensation was noted. February minutes reviewed, 1st by Debbie Rohm to approve the minutes with these corrections, 2nd by Sharon Frost, motion carried.

Gary Scullion made a motion to approve the Annual meeting minutes, seconded by Diane Barnes. Motion carries.

VI. Financial Secretary Report (M. Bell):

February Current Fund income: \$10,403.36. Budget monthly income \$7,525.00, \$2,878.36 over budget. Annual 22% received, \$5,250.56 over budget. The Current Fund is in the black \$22,145.66.

February Current Fund expense: \$8,164.00. Budget monthly expense \$7,525.00, \$637.00 over budget. Annual 16% expensed, \$757.93 under budget.

Motion to accept the report. 1st Gary Scullion, 2nd Cheryl Bell, motion carries.

VII. Financial Committee Report (M. Bell): Matt asked the consistory for the opinion on re-joining the CCMA. Matt will speak with Steve Cramer.

There was a donation from the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley (request of David A. and Janet L. Flynn Family Foundation). Discussion on having this deposited into the trust and creating a fund. Matt will speak with Laurie about this.

VIII. Lay Leaders report: Lisa Bircher**Interim Lay Leader Report: Lisa Bircher****Consistory March 4, 2024**

Sermons: 25 (since October)

Communion with John Bradley: 4 (Oct. 1, Nov. 19, Dec. 24 (PM), 1/7/24, 2/18).

Coffee Hours at Generations (Tuesdays 10am): 16 meetings

Efforts to reach others: I continued to reach out to those on our prayer request list. This includes Donna Brinker, Kathy Reash (Don), Diane Barnes, Linda Surace, Hoskinson family (Terri), Diane Greenawalt (Bill), Evelyn Johnston (Jack).

I have made recent effort to update our Church Directory. Marcy will make copies for everyone to be distributed at the congregational meeting at the end of the month. Many of the phone numbers have changed or are no longer available.

Ash Wednesday Service was February 14 at 7:00pm in the chapel. The service was well attended and received 170 views on Facebook.

Visitations: Helen Delucia on February 9.

Newsflashes: 19 (since October).

The Congregationalist: I submitted an article to the magazine for publication in June. I wrote about our partnership with The Mission School of Hope including the Bell Well, Dignity for Every Girl and the electric grid project.

IX. Unfinished Business:

Mark discussed the purchase of a new projector and some concerns with the current sound system.

Diane said that she and Jolane met and discussed the rental contract. They are seeking opinions on timelines and pricing.

X. New Business:

-Jim Brinker asked if the newsflash email would continue. Diane will speak w/ Marcy.

-Lois asked if someone could take over scheduling the greeters for our Sunday services. Mark suggested that an announcement be read on Sunday and it to be put into the bulletin.

-Mark spoke on the. Diane Barnes made a motion to make a monthly stipend for Jolane Day of \$200 a month, seconded by Gary Barnes. Motion carried.

Gary Scullion made a motion to allow the organ repair company to come in to look at the organ, seconded by Diane Greenawalt, motion carried.

XI. Committee Reports:

- Search Committee (Sharon):** have had some applicants and we continue to meet.
- Street Fair (Diane B)** – Still seeking someone to lead the Street Fair Committee. Sharon shared the appreciation of Diane and Russ Barnes for their leadership of the Street Fair Committee.
- Team Grace - Evangelism (Diane G)** – N/A
- Worship Design and Music (Diane B)** – Steve has been meeting with Ray. Spoke about Ray's resignation and that he will try to schedule the summer schedule. The choir is selling flowers for Easter.
- GRO (Diane B)** – start our dinners this month, 3/19 is the first rigatoni dinner. Diane the GRO is going to start using the Keurig machine for members to use.
- Pastoral Relations (Debbie)** – N/A
- Endowment (Sharon/Matt)** – welcome Jim Brinker to the committee.
- Property (Gary)** – Jim Brinker said that he spoke with Jerry Hughes about the entry to the chapel. A question was raised about smoke detectors.
- Elders (Diane Barnes)** – Diane will Chair this committee.
- Women's Guild (Ann)** – May 5th is the Mother/Daughter banquet.

XII. Adjournment & The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting April 8th, 2024, at 6:30pm.

Mark Your Calendars!

Announcing exciting news! Pastor Sagay from the Mission School of Hope will visit us on May 25—27. He will share a presentation with us on Sunday, the 26, sharing all the happenings of the Mission in the last year.

It will be especially exciting to see how our continuing donations have impacted the lives of the children. In the last year our donation to the "Dignity for all Girls" provided four pairs of underwear for 100 girls. And the equipment to connect the mission to the village electrical grid.

Where will God lead us next?

—Kim Davis





Happy Birthday to:

- 4/1 Parker Cline
 4/3 Joel Keylor
 4/4 Wayne Bonsall
 Abbey Griffith
 4/16 Ben Joy
 4/17 Carolyn Roble
 4/18 Amanda Roble
 4/19 Rick Weber, Jr.
 4/25 Dinah Sitler
 4/26 Blanche Lanterman
 Robert Hoskinson

Happy Anniversary to:

- Connie & Gary Scullion
 April 4, 1970
 Alison & Hoss Hoskinson
 April 17, 2004

Thank You!

THANK YOU!

Thank You!

Thank you to our Grace family, for your prayers, love, cards and support during my mom, Terri's illness and passing. We truly appreciate each of you.

—Hoss, Alison & Paige

Thank you so much for the lovely remembrance for our mother/grandmother on March 17. Special thanks to Bobbi, Jolane and Marcy, for their organization of the program and to all who helped with the reception. The memorial plaque is beautiful.

Mom would have been surprised and touched by this program.
 —Jean Simon and the family of Beverly Richardson

Those Ministering This Month:

Liturgists:

- 4/7:
 4/14:
 4/21:
 4/28: Laurie Heintzelman

Usher: Matt Bell

Elevator Attendant: Gary Scullion

Candles: Lisa Bircher

Please sign up to be a liturgist—sign up sheets are in the dining room. Our new Greeter Leader, Kim Davis, has been very successful in finding Greeters through May. Thank you, Kim!



Grace Notes

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