

The Joint Journal

**October
2020**

Gordon Grace UMC & St. Matthew ELCA Partnership

Pastor
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Sunday Sermons

October 4	“Pressing on”	Philippians 3:4b-16 Matthew 21:33-46 Worldwide Communion Sunday
October 11	“Rejoice and Celebrate”	Philippians 4:1-11 Matthew 22:1-14
October 18	“What’s the Good News?”	I Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
October 25	“Sharing Yourself”	I Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46
November 1	“For All the Saints”	I Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12 All Saints Sunday -- Communion



Sunday Worship services:

Gordon Campus 8:45 AM and 10:30 AM

Trick or Treat

Remember Trick or Treating? As you know, I grew up on a farm. There was no trick or treating at our house. We had to go into the ‘city’ of Piqua to go trick or treating with our cousins.

It was a different case for my husband, Len. He grew up in South Toledo and he and his three brothers were master trick-or-treaters. It was so long ago (sorry, Len), that the city did not establish a set day and time for trick or treating. So they would start visiting various neighborhoods in costumes asking for candy on Len’s birthday, October 29. They would save their own neighborhood for the BIG event on October 31! It may be a bit of an exaggeration but he said on some Halloween night they were out until midnight! They didn’t take those little cute pumpkin baskets and bags with them – they used pillow cases! Of course they were filled to the top!!

Our grandchildren love to trick or treat. Of course there is not the same trust lever as there was when we were children. The children no longer receive homemade goodies – cookies, carmel apples or popcorn balls. Trick or treating is usually limited to their close neighbors and friends and the time is limited as well to two hours in the early evening.

I remember a year when our grandsons, Brady and Tate were small. They, with their friend John, arrived at a neighbor’s house about 7:55pm. The neighbor had just run out of candy but he didn’t want to disappoint the boys. So he asked them to wait until he could go into his pantry to find a treat to give them. He found them unexpected tricks! Brady got a can of kidney beans, Tate got a package of chili mix and John got a bottle of salad dressing! Was that a treat or a trick?

From one time to another, it seems like every one of us has run out of candy!! And what gives you and me is not what we expected. We can become disappointed and discouraged, especially when we struggle financially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Sometimes even good things seem like a trick rather than the treat they truly are.

Darryl Worley is an American country music singer and songwriter who often writes songs that reflects the realities of simply living life. In many of his songs,” he writes and sings about the ups and downs of life, He writes and sings about our ‘Awful, Beautiful Life:”

“I laid in bed that night and thought about the day and how my life is like a roller coaster ride. The ups and downs and crazy turns along the way it’ll throw you off if you don’t hold on tight...”

It made a big in our life determining on what we hold on to tightly! Here is a truth to which Jesus said you should tightly hold:

“Ask and it will be given you; search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knock, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him?” Matthew 7:7-11

God gives good gifts—no tricks only treat!

God wants to give you an awesome, beautiful life. God wants to bless us with all that we need to live fully. Sometimes we want to hold to things, activities and even relationships which we want but we do not truly need. Sometimes we look for love and fulfillment in all the wrong places; believing that the grass is greener on the other side. We think we are treating ourselves but we end up tricking ourselves. The desired things, activities and relationships leave us feeling empty. And we believe the answer to our emptiness is getting still getting and possessing more. The biggest trick of all is placing our security in earthly treasures.

Jesus said, *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal, For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21*

What do you treasure? Just look around at what God has given us: What can we see? What can we hear? What can we touch? What can we taste? What can we smell? And yet, the most precious things in life cannot be experienced through our five senses they must be felt through our heart! What treats! How much proof do we need that God loves us?

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down for the Father of light...” James 1:7

Hold open your big old pillow case and receive all that God wants to give to you! You will have plenty to share to others!

Be blessed abundantly,
Marla

Another year wraps up for Health and School Kits. Thank you for all who participated in this cause this year. We sent 40 School kits with the Lutherans, to be sent out in October.

We filled 16 Health kits to be sent to Festival of Sharing in Enon, Ohio. Thanks Marla for taking these kits to the UMC in Enon, They will be sent out in the Spring of 2021.

We had planned to send all the kits to Festival of Sharing via Faith UMC as we have done for years. Just 2 weeks before the September deadline, the Festival of Sharing was cancelled due to Covid-19. Rhonda Kress graciously offered to take the School kits with the Lutheran kits. Marla found Enon for us, so it all worked out well!

GOD IS GOOD!!

Charlotte Mitchell

Please add this date to your calendar:

The annual church conference is Monday, November 2nd, at 7 pm at Gordon.

All members of Gordon Grave have a say and vote but all are invited.



Letting God turn our mess into His message

Wednesday in-person Bible Study 6:30pm at Gordon campus
and available later each week on our Facebook page,
YouTube Channel and Website.

- Oct. 7 Rahab—Changing your *messy* story
- Oct. 14 Prodigal Son—Restoring *messy* relationships
- Oct. 21 Elder Son—Pushing through the *mess* of resentment
- Oct. 28 Josiah—Breaking *messy* family cycles



THIRSTY THURSDAY
PRAYER MEETING
October 8th and 22nd
9:00am at Gordon Campus

We are only a few days into fall at this writing, but I am loving it! We have had some absolutely gorgeous days in September! I am thankful for the cooler, less humid weather. The leaves are just starting to turn and some of the farmers have begun their fall harvesting. Pumpkins and fall flowers adorn many porches and the squirrels are gathering nuts and acorns for the winter. Like the squirrels busy feeding their families, we will be hard at work this month providing meals for folks in our area.

September News

On September 2, 2020 our church served lunch at Grace Resurrection Community Center's Soup Kitchen. 86 lunches were served to our guests. The menu was hot chicken sandwiches, Italian pasta salad, assorted fresh vegetables w/ ranch dressing, and strawberry applesauce. The guests also received bottled water donated from local businesses. Servers were Larry and Charlotte Mitchell, Pam Yeomans, and Mark Mills. Rick and Cindy Emrick cooked. Food was taken to several people to show our church cares! Everyone's willingness to volunteer and their hard work is deeply appreciated. THANK YOU!!!

A huge THANK YOU to all those who volunteered at Grace Resurrection Center's Food Pantry on Monday September 21st. Volunteers were Team Leaders Charlotte and Larry Mitchell, Pastor Marla Brown, Dick Kinninger, Jane Brown, Rhonda Kress, Chris Stump, Ron Myers, Ron Fasick, Josie McCullough, Dominic Rhodehamel, Dylan Rhodehamel, Rick and Cindy Emrick. Also THANKS to the Boy Scouts for carrying food to waiting cars. We served 61 Darke County families! Our "normal" number of families served on Gordon Grace/St. Matthew nights has been 26-32 families. Various factors are undoubtedly affecting local families' disposable incomes – decreased work hours available, layoffs, rising food costs, back-to-school expenses, cost of medications..... Also some stores are still limiting amounts of canned goods or other foods customers can purchase, making it difficult for larger families to buy adequate food supplies. Thanks to local stores who donate food, Shared Harvest who sells food at reduced cost, business, church and individual donors, and government supplies GRCC is able to provide much-needed food to feed local families. The willingness of our congregation to serve our neighbors has been overwhelming. In a "ME" world, you are demonstrating God's LOVE to folks in need. It is my hope and prayer that someday they will remember your example and "pass it on" to someone else in need.

October Missions in Action Opportunities

We will be collecting an offering for our "2 Cents A Meal" offering on Sunday October 4th. The money collected is used to purchase food and paper products (styrofoam 3-compartment boxes, disposable silverware, napkins, etc.) for our monthly Soup Kitchen meal at Grace Resurrection Community Center. Thank you to all who have donated for this mission in our community! You may mail your offering to Grace UMC at P.O. Box 6; Arcanum, OH 45304; ATTN: GRACE FINANCE. Your gifts are tax deductible and you will receive a year-end Tax Statement. Please mark your check "2 Cents a Meal".

Our church will be taking a special combined offering on Sunday October 18th. This offering will be used for relief for U.S. Wildfires and Covid-19. Please help support families with these critical needs.

October will be a very busy month! In October our church will provide meals at 2 Soup Kitchens at GRCC. The first is on Wednesday, October 7th. Jane Brown and Diane Richard have graciously volunteered to cook that day. At this time we also have enough volunteers to serve food on Oct. 7th. The 2nd Soup Kitchen will be on Wednesday October 21st. Donna Miller and Neva Birt are planning to cook that day. A HUGE THANK YOU to these amazing ladies who will cook and also to our other volunteers. Without willing servants we would be unable to provide this essential service to the Darke County community.

I am planning to cook for the November Soup Kitchen, but am in need of 1 person to help cook.

We will also have 2 Food Pantries at GRCC in October. The first will be on Monday October 19th and the second will be on Thursday October 29th. We will need people to help pack and carry food to waiting cars on both nights. If you have never helped at the Food Pantry, please consider it. It is hard work, but T-E-A-M work! We have fun and fellowship while we work! If you can help, please arrive at 5:30 pm. As per the Governor's order, we will be wearing masks and practicing social distancing. THANK YOU to all those who have helped this year!

Christmas might seem like a long way off, but it is only a few short months away. If you are like me, you like to start Christmas shopping early. Gordon Grace UMC/St. Matthew Lutheran will again be participating in the "Shoebbox Ministry", a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian aid organization founded in 1970 by Bob Pierce. He wrote these impassioned now-famous words after visiting children on the Korean island of Koje-do: "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." The story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37 gives us a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. A little over a year after Bob's death from leukemia in 1978, Franklin Graham, son of Reverend Billy Graham, became President and Chairman of the Board of Samaritan's Purse. (information taken from samaritanaspurse.org.)

"Operation Christmas Child" is a ministry in which Christians participate to send gifts to children overseas. Many of these children are desperately poor and have never received any kind of gift – ever. Imagine their delight to receive a doll to hug, a truck to roll, a ball to bounce or crayons and a coloring book to create works of art for the very first time. Some of these children have never seen such things and these items are treasured in their households. Along with gifts, Gospel booklets titled "The Greatest Gift" are handed out. Shoebbox recipients learn about God's love and His greatest gift, the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Are you willing to help spread joy and faith to these little ones?

Shoebboxes will be provided that you can fill with toys, personal hygiene items, and school supplies.

Please no toothpaste, liquids or lotions. You might wish to start collecting items now to fill 1 or more shoeboxes. The dollar stores are great places to purchase items inexpensively like toothbrushes, washcloths, soap, small toys, coloring books and crayons, and other drawing/craft items. Please select age-appropriate items for your choice of age range. You may choose gifts for a boy OR a girl from these age groups: age 2-4; age 5-9; age 10-14. Please select a “wow” item such as a doll, a truck, or a ball and fill each box with other items on the gift suggestions list found in this newsletter. For additional gift ideas you may visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Shoebboxes along with a “How to Pack a Shoebox” brochure will be available at church on Sunday October 11th. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE inside your filled shoebox include \$9 to cover the cost of shipping and other project costs. Make checks to GRACE UMC and write “Operation Christmas Child” on the check memo line. If paying by cash please place money in a sealed envelope marked “Operation Christmas Child” with your name on the envelope. If you are not able to attend church but would like to participate in this ministry, boxes will be available during Grace UMC’s office hours. Please call the church at

(937) 678-9062 to be sure Jamie Wilson, Administrative Assistant, is in the office (office hours may vary). Boxes will be available in the Grace UMC church’s narthex. DEADLINE FOR FILLED SHOEBBOXES IS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1st.

Please continue to collect your aluminum pop and soup tabs, plastics for the 4-H youth, and egg cartons (12 egg count) for GRCC Food Pantry. These are all ongoing collections.

Have a blessed fall!

Cindy Emrick, Missions Committee Chairperson
(937) 459-9291

OCTOBER MISSIONS CALENDAR

Sun. Oct. 4th – “2 Cents a Meal” Offering

Wed. Oct 7th – Soup Kitchen at Grace Resurrection Center in Greenville

Sun. Oct. 18th – Special Offering for Covid-19 and U.S. Wildfires Relief

Mon. Oct. 19th – Food Pantry at Grace Resurrection Center in Greenville. Arrive at 5:30 pm



We need volunteers to help with worship: greeters, ushers, worship leaders and scripture readers, helpers for children's church, and cleaners. If you can do any of these please contact Jamie at the church best way is by e-mail at grace.um.ithaca@outlook.com



10/05 Earlene Morris
10/05 Ronald Small
10/07 Cameron Kimmel
10/12 Ron Fasick
10/12 Susan Jones
10/13 Larry Mitchell
10/17 Kelly Fourman
10/18 Willy Bruckner
10/19 Carol Bryson
10/20 Shannon McCullough
10/20 Julia McCullough
10/21 Michael Brehm
10/21 Dick Kinninger
10/21 Ralph Stutz
10/21 Ron Myers
10/22 Amanda Baker
10/22 James Medve
10/24 Betty Dietrich
10/27 Jane Brown
10/29 Len Brown

10/01 Gene & Sandy Thompson
10/04 Rolland & Ruth Mahaffy
10/12 Clarence & Diane Richard
10/19 Dick & Linda Kinninger
10/23 Jason & Brandy Rhodehamel
10/24 Larry & Charlotte Mitchell
10/27 Rick & Cindy Emrick



Please call (937)678-9062 or email grace.um.ithaca@outlook.com before coming to the church as our office hours currently vary.

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Dated Material

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Facebook:
Gordon Grace UMC
St Matthew Lutheran ELCA

Sunday Worship services:
Gordon Campus
8:45 AM and 10:30 AM