

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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August



2024



August 2024 Newsletter

Looking for Hope and a Vision

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

God wants us to have a greater vision of God’s nature and God’s plans for us. We can tap into God’s nature and plans for us by meditating on Holy Scripture that focuses on God’s promises. The world encourages us to look at the facts, to look at the numbers, and then to plan the future based on what we can see. God invites us to consider those things that we cannot prove or see, such as the power of God.

When we spend time in prayer and worship, and thinking about scripture, God will show us dreams and visions far greater than we can imagine. First, share this prayer with me and then I will share some scriptures of promise with you.

Ephesians 1:1, “Lord, we praise you for inviting us into your eternal purpose. We thank you for working out everything in conformity with the purpose of your will.” We pray in Jesus’ strong name. Amen.

John 10:10, “I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.” I believe that God wants to continue to bless us. It has been spirit lifting and affirming of God’s power to see how God brought Grace Church through the failure of our truss system and roof disaster. Initially, we faced a need for \$200,000 to replace the trusses and roof. Many people did not see how we could raise that money, given our numbers and financial resources. But God knew and saw what we could not know or see. I think the tricky part of a faith journey is moving forward even when you don’t know how it can work. Not only did God bless us with generous people inside and outside Grace Church, but God blessed us with people across the country, who opened their checkbooks and sent us money. Before the story was over, we didn’t need \$200,000 but \$450,000. When the trusses came out, the ceiling shifted, and then collapsed. That meant new insulation, walls, ceiling, wiring for sound, sound board, seating, and flooring. God’s plans are always much bigger and better than our wildest dreams. When we moved back into the sanctuary after five years worshipping in the Wesley Room, we had zero debt related to the sanctuary remodel. God is so good, God is amazing, God wants us to thrive, to grow, and to prosper so that we can help in the building of God’s Kingdom.

Since we moved back into the sanctuary we have lost many Saints of God to death. They have gone on to glory as the saying goes. Currently Grace Church is not receiving enough money through our offerings to expand our ministry or pay our bills without dipping into the money we have saved for emergencies. I share this so you will know all that I know about the current financial situation of Grace Church. I do not share this to make you feel dismay. I share it to encourage you to pray. In this situation the best thing we can do is to pray for God's guidance and direction. When we diligently seek God's direction, God will speak to us and help us to know what we can do individually and collectively to be the blessing God wants us to be as Grace Church.

I am not discouraged because, although I cannot see how God will bring Grace Church through this situation, I know that if we pray and seek God's direction, that Grace Church will continue to be a light on this corner drawing people to God. I cannot believe that God brought us through the building crisis and is going to let us sink now.

God may already be working this out. There is a forty-unit, two- and three-bedroom apartment complex being constructed behind the church. Every day when I see the frames going up, I smile and wonder if the development, named "Rose Commons" will eventually house the families that will refill Grace Church. God has already given us rooms for adult Sunday School classes, children's classrooms, a great youth room, a nice nursery, and beautiful chapel. And we must not forget our sanctuary, signed, sealed and delivered, by our Lord, Jesus.

Let me close with this scripture, may it serve as our closing prayer. **Acts 18:9-10, "One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack or harm you, because I have many people in the city." Come Lord, Jesus, and fill us with your power, peace, and hope that we may bring you honor and glory in all that we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen and amen.**

Paster Vicki Downing

In Our Community:

Souper Supper August 29th, 2024

All proceeds to benefit Clark-Shawnee LifeWise Academy

Grace Church is pleased to open the church for a Lifewise fundraiser. Several area churches, Emery Chapel, Legacy Community church, along with Grace church members will hold a Souper Supper on August 29. Serving times will be 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Donations accepted. All meals include:

Soups:

- Vegetable Beef and Vegetable Vegetarian
- Chili (mild) with Hot Sauce available to spice it up.
- Ham and Bean Soup
- Chicken Noodle

Served with fresh baked cornbread and oyster crackers.

Salads:

- Cole Slaw and fresh garden salad

Desserts:

- Cookies, Cakes, and Pies.

Beverages:

- Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade and Water

Carry out available

Please tell your friends and family to come and enjoy this delicious meal! Sign up sheets will be available for helpers and to donate soups, salad making and deserts. Come and participate, meet fellow Christians from other churches! Many hands make light the work!

Springfield Area Emmaus Picnic and Gathering

Held at Emery Chapel United Methodist Church

Date: Sunday 8-11-2024

Picnic begins at 6:00 PM

Gathering begins at 7:00 PM.

Please bring a covered dish to share and enjoy the fellowship and meal. Bring guests, they do not have to have attended a Walk to Emmaus to attend a gathering.

August 1	Luke 12:21
August 2	Isaiah 26:3
August 3	Jeremiah 31:9
August 4	Ruth 4:15
August 5	John 8:28
August 6	Psalms 119:94
August 7	Psalms 23:4
August 8	Proverbs 3:5-6
August 9	Deuteronomy 8:2
August 10	Psalms 3:3
August 11	Deuteronomy 1:21
August 12	Jeremiah 16:21
August 13	1 Kings 8:23
August 14	Ephesians 2:4-5
August 15	Deuteronomy 8:18
August 16	Romans 5:1
August 17	Deuteronomy 6:7
August 18	Philippians 1:6
August 19	Psalms 29:2
August 20	1 Peter 3:3-4
August 21	Ezekiel 34:27
August 22	Galatians 5:1
August 23	Psalms 80:14
August 24	Zechariah 8:12
August 25	Psalms 68:20
August 26	2 Timothy 4:7
August 27	Jeremiah 20:13
August 28	John 10:10
August 29	Psalms 138:7
August 30	Acts 17:27
August 31	Matthew 25:23

Prayers Needed:

Jack Yeager
 Phyllis & Larry Garber
 Jane Shough's Grandson, John
 Janet Blazer
 Ron Stevens



Shower of Blessings

Recipient for July:

**Phyllis & Larry Garber
 706 Village Rd
 Springfield OH, 45504**



hello,
august

Worship Participants

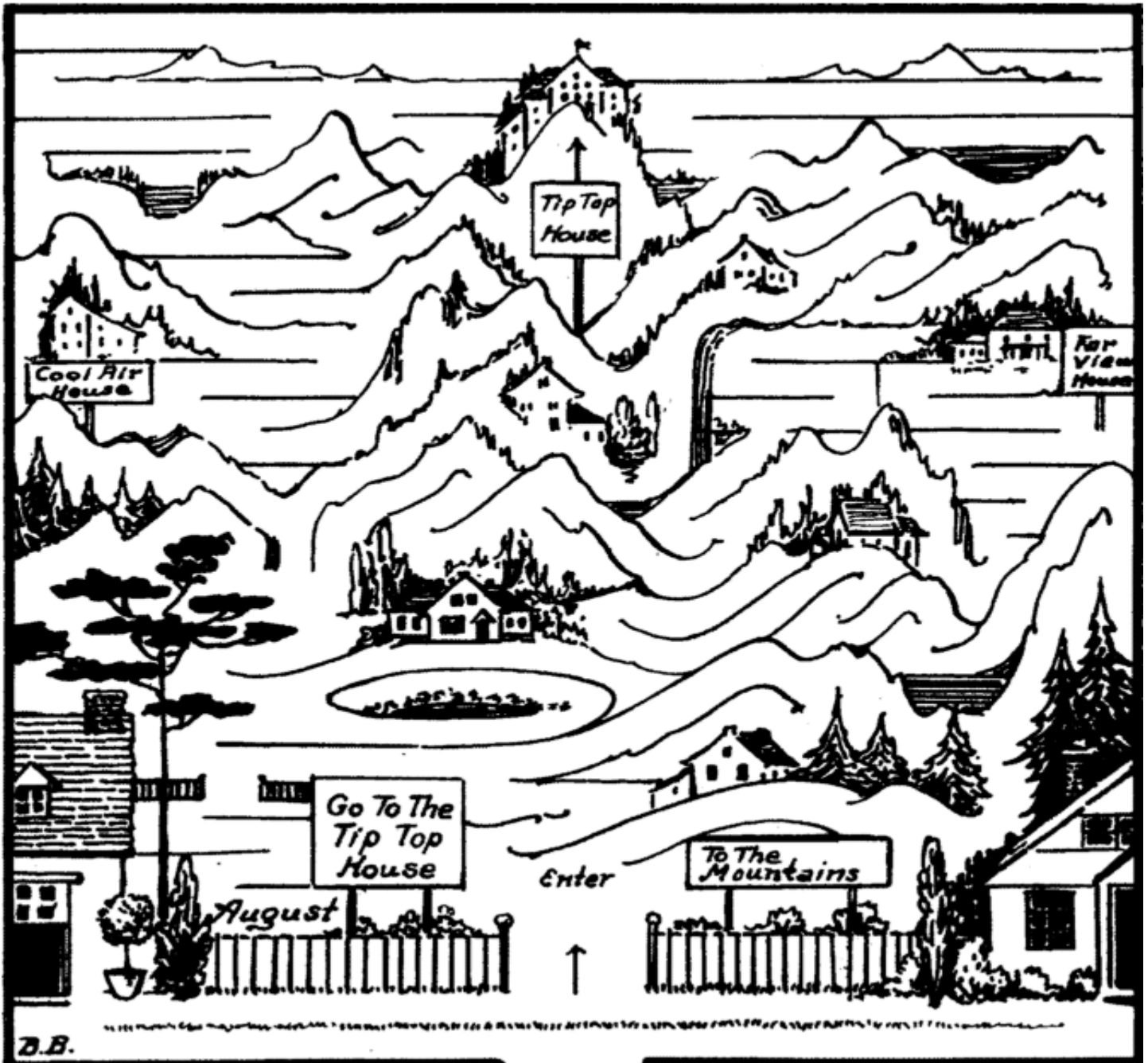
<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
Acolyte	August	Dave Speas
Communion Set-up	Aug 4	Pastor Vicki
Communion Servers	Aug 4	Marilyn & Tom Martin Connie Mitchell & Cindy Yeager
Communion Clean-up	Aug 4	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	Aug 4, 11 Aug 18, 25	Pattie Mumma & Mary Olmstead Donna Layne & Greg Hosier
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	Aug 4, 11 Aug 18, 25	Ken & Deb Cooke Marilyn & Tom Martin
Liturgist	Aug 4, 11 Aug 18, 25	Bruce Eckler Becky Frantz
Ushers	August	Larry Campbell

<u>Counters</u>		<u>Special Music</u>	
Aug 5	Mary Ahlborn & Pam Smith	Aug 4	Hymn Sing
Aug 12	Marilyn Martin & Jackie Gregory	Aug 11	Jim Mayhugh
Aug 19	Kim Stehle & Connie Mitchell	Aug 18	Jayne Tatro
Aug 26	Mary Ahlborn & Deb Cooke	Aug 25	Hymn Sing



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7pm NA	Soup Kitchen 4:30pm Men's Bible Study	11am Soap Making 7pm NA				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7pm NA	Men's Bible Study	7pm NA		6:30PM Stained Glass class		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
7pm NA	Men's Bible Study	7pm NA				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
7pm NA	Men's Bible Study	7pm NA		Super Soup Supper 11-1pm & 4:30-7pm		

AUGUST - MONTHLY MAZE



The Turning

Nature stirred far underground,
And in the chattering roadside brook,
In the Secret woodland places,
And in every leafy, hidden nook.
"August! August!" Nature whispers.
Then a mighty change began.
It was the turning of the season,
And felt alike by bird and man.

By Lenore Hetrick