

Our Purpose?  
*Bless the World: be God's Grace!*



## Ministry Announcements for the week of January 24, 2021

AND JESUS SAID TO THEM,  
"FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISH FOR PEOPLE".  
~Mark 1:17

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### Souper Bowl!!

Save the date! February 7 the youth of Grace will be serving soup to go. Choices are chicken noodle, vegetable or chili. The charge is \$10 per container and will also include brownies or cookies! There are two servings per container.

Just drive up to the doors at Brenner Hall between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm, place your order and they will bring the food to your car. The soup will be cold so that you can heat it up when ready to eat.

The money raised will go toward the youth mission trip and the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization.

Please join us for this wonderful cause and warm up with some delicious soup!!



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### Did You Ever Notice?

Bob Haaf

Did you ever notice something curious about Genesis 1:1? There are 53 versions of the Bible available on the website Bible Gateway. The most frequent rendering of Genesis 1:1 is "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...." However, 9 versions, including the New Revised Standard Version, insert the word *when*: "In the beginning *when* God created the heavens and the earth....[italics added]"

Does "In the beginning God...." have the same meaning as "In the beginning when God...."? Does "In the beginning God...." emphasize God-the-creator, but "In the beginning when God...." emphasizes all that God created?



Creator versus created?

Hmmm—I don't know. Guess I'll add this to the long list of things that I don't understand.

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The white flowers on the Altar Sunday January 17  
were in memory of Carrie Fisher, Naomi Signs and Terry Hanf.

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### Kindness...

Extending kindness to ourselves means we see ourselves as beings who are wonderfully made by God and valued. Yet we are also imperfect and make mistakes (Kim Fredrickson)

Kindness is, like a boomerang, always returns. (Unknown)

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle (Plato)

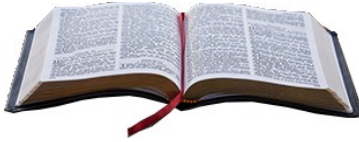
Grace Office hours are  
9:00am to Noon - Monday through Friday

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**ZOOM Bible Study  
Saturdays @3:00pm**

Began on Saturday January 9 we started the book of 1 Corinthians.  
For information send your request to haaf.vgs@gmail.com .



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*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

~Romans 8:38-39

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**Food for Toledo Update**  
by Mary Schneider

For the week of January 7 – January 11, 26 pounds of food was donated for our outreach program. But with the 196 pounds collected the week previously, 222 pounds of food was delivered to Aldersgate United Methodist Church for their food pantry. And I have been warned (only kidding) that a community member made two drop offs of food since January 11, so expect to hear a large amount in next week's update. Again, thanks to everyone that is donating food to this program. I am now available on Mondays from 9 a.m. – noon to take in food, but food can also be dropped off in the church lobby. I will gladly accept items for our Personal Needs Ministry and will make sure the donation gets placed in the proper box. Stay tuned for next week's update...

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**Blood Drives! (submitted by the Parish Nurse)**

There is always a need for blood! Many large companies in Toledo and surrounding areas that have hosted blood drives in the past have not been able to with Covid guidelines. This has made it difficult for the Red Cross. Grace has now hosted 2 drives since March of 2020. The Red Cross has very strict guidelines related to Covid and general safety for conducting blood drives.

The Red Cross is testing all whole blood, platelets and plasma donations for Covid -19 antibodies at no cost to you. If you had a verified Covid -19 diagnosis and are fully recovered your convalescent plasma donation may help up to 4 Covid -19 patients.

Grace offers a great site for donors and we would appreciate you saving April 23 to donate.

Registration is easy with an online program called Rapid Pass. You can also register the day of your donation.

Watch this spot for more information regarding donation times on April 23!  
And do not forget the spinach!

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**Cane fu! ??? what is this -watch for more information!!**

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## A Teeny, Tiny Taste

The other evening, going home from the church, I got a teeny, tiny taste of what it means Not To Matter.

I was on Monroe Street, going at (for me) a pretty good clip, when a driver on a side street ignored the stop sign, and was suddenly in front of me. I had just enough time to clamp on the brakes and decide that trying to swerve around the car to the left would be a bad idea, since there was traffic in the left lane, before I was lying on the street with one leg through the bike frame. When I looked up and around, the car was gone.

A man named Mr. Williams was there. To him, I mattered. He asked whether I was hurt, and helped me move out of the street and onto the sidewalk, and he called 911, and he stayed until some EMTs from the Fire Department arrived. It felt good to matter.

I mattered to them, too. They did a quick check of my condition – Did you know that slamming yourself against a car can raise your blood pressure pretty far above your normal range? – and agreed with me, after a few minutes, that I didn't need to be taken to an Emergency Room. If I'd asked to be taken, though, they would have taken me. I mattered to them. It felt good to matter to them. One of them even used his own phone to call Sarah and let her know I'd be a little late getting home.

To the driver who ran the stop sign, though, I did not matter. Thinking about that makes me feel a little bit empty inside.

And I think, it was an isolated incident. I don't live my life not mattering to people who can do me harm.

And I think, my injuries are minor, and I'm almost certain to recover from them.

And I think, I've lost the use of the bike, while it's being repaired, and I'm having to use other bikes. (Repairs were completed by January 8.) This strikes me as not very tragic. How many people in the world – in Latin America, say, or parts of Africa or Asia – would be able to live far better than they do if they could afford just one bicycle, never mind my seven or eight or however many I've got?

And I think, the driver didn't intend to do me harm. He or she certainly had no intention to drive legally, or safely, or carefully, but I'm sure that the driver didn't pull out in front of me deliberately, out of ill will specifically directed at me.

What would it be like for me if similar things happened to me often, if they were a normal part of my life? And what would it be like for me to suffer serious physical and financial and psychological harm, frequently, and regularly, and constantly? What would it do to me to know that a majority of the people around me, seeing me, thought that it was fine for me to be mistreated, or even that the mistreatment was my own fault?

I can only imagine.

Actually, I think I can do more than that. I think I can work for the day when all people – young people, old people, disabled people, female people, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, poor people, LGBTQ+ people, Black and Brown and Indigenous people – matter as much as I nearly always matter.

What do you think?

What do you think God thinks?

~Submitted by Pastor Howard

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**Behind the scenes at Grace...**

1. We hosted a Blood Drive this last Wednesday. A total of 23 units was collected and 2 of our members participated. Thanks to those members!!
2. Please hold April 23 open to donate blood as we will be hosting another donor day. We need volunteers to help greet and register for that day. A signup sheet will be located on the Grace Community Board or email or call Gretchen.
3. If you are a blood donor more information will be posted in the Newsletter. So, eat that spinach!!!
4. The men from Buckeye Cable were here all day Thursday and we have moved into the 21st century. Yahoo! This will dramatically improve our computer access and to be able to do more with WiFi in the Sanctuary (for VBS), the chapel and fellowship.
5. We have been the fortunate recipient of food for the Food for Toledo program by a woman and her husband in the community. Carla has said that she and her husband have no children and feel that it is important to donate to the food pantry. Talk about following God's ministry to others -WOW! She and her husband have made at least 4 trips to Grace with all sorts of food. We have even been able to provide some apples and potatoes to the Personal Needs group on Tuesdays. Thanks to that crew for providing to their clients.
6. We need a couple of people to learn how to work the transmitter to broadcast services to the parking lot. We have continued to do on Sundays and have also been able to transmit funeral services. This provides the opportunity for people not feeling comfortable with in person worship to still listen to the services. It is **not difficult**, and David Charvat and Rick Sharp are the "professors" and the Parish Nurse can attest to their great teaching. Please contact Church Office if you are interested in becoming a "transmitter guru".
7. This last Saturday and Sunday there was a faint glimmer of Spring! At least 50 Robins were sighted between the front of the church and by the office. They were devouring the leftover dried up crab apples on the trees out by the chapel doors.
8. **Remember: Grace is not the building but the people of Grace! Right now we all need to step up and not back as we want to move forward (not backwards) and have the Grace family thrive.**

**GRACE CHURCH COUNCIL**

David Charvat	Council President
Elise Lohmann	Treasurer
Cindy Wood	Secretary
Dan Holzscheiter	VP of Admin
David O'Brien	VP of Ministries
Kim Kondalski	
Fritz Gooch	
Mary Schneider	
Katie Sattler	
Greg Schafer	
Rick Sharp	

*Choose  
Joy*

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE  
LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!  
PSALM 118:24

