



Pastoral Reflection

Abounding Store of Grace

"Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ⁽¹⁰⁾ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.) And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance in (Strengths). 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (ESV)

Friends, once we have experienced the abounding Grace of God amidst our weakness, our faith in Christ becomes meaningful, and the supplies of abounding Grace generates daily strength. "Abounding Grace" is the emphasis; "strength" is the product of your faith in a Faithful God. Why? Because God's grace abounds at His discretion and at the point of your need. It is His ability, not ours. Note that this **abounding grace** is always available and, again, is sufficient for all our needs. Because of God's grace, it is possible for us to abound in every good work—ability to serve God and the Church. In my faith journey with God, both in the ministry and ordinary life, there is no need too great, no burden too heavy, no trial too severe to exhaust God's grace or deplete His sufficiency.

God's abounding grace for the present produces enrichment, bountifulness and thanksgiving in the lives of believers. I believe, abounding grace overflows to bless our lives and meet the needs of His children, mostly in cross-road moments. It provides a living testimony to others outside the folds that our God is good and has done exceeding work of grace in our own hearts and lives.

This **abounding grace** leads to continual thanksgiving to God for His unspeakable gifts of strengths. The Holy Spirit, which I mention very often, dwells in you and generates that energy. Apostle Paul explains yet in another application of God's abounding grace in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (*read it for yourself*). Paul had a thorn in the flesh and it is understandable that he wanted it removed. God gave him a surprising, but very significant answer - **"My grace is sufficient: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."** Contrary to false notions of many concerning miraculous healing of physical ailments (at instant command of God), it may not always be God's will to heal; sometimes the Lord has what I call **"process of healings"**. For the blind man: **faith and obedience in Christ, and process were needed.** Christ said to him, **"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So, he went and washed and came back seeing (John 9:7).**

God's ability to heal anyone, anytime is certain; but often, as in the case of Paul, the abounding grace to bear the thorn in the flesh accomplishes God's will in the life of His own. You may not like this, but there is truth about how God deals with us on a personal basis.

Let us not forget that abounding grace of God for the present includes access to the Throne of Grace (prayer and meditations on His love letter, the Bible) where every believer is invited to come boldly (confidently) with the assurance that we can always expect mercy and **"find grace to help in time of need"** (Heb. 4:14-16). We should continually grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). May God's abounding grace be available to you, today and always. ~~Pastor Dominic Tommy




TRUSTEE ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP



Wear your working clothes to church! Please join with the Board of Trustees and other volunteers to help with our Spring Clean-up of the church properties. Bring your gloves, rakes, brooms, shovels, and other outdoor tools needed to tidy up the yards and lots. (There isn't anything major planned at this time.) Questions? See Del Kostanko.

Sunday, May 6, 2018
AFTER FELLOWSHIP TIME (Weather Permitting)



**NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!
IT'S EASY, REALLY!**

SOUND TECH NEEDED!!!

Our Worship Committee is seeking another volunteer to run the sound board on Sunday mornings—especially to cover summer vacations! You would alternate schedules with Chuck Rayner and Tony Barcroft. Training provided; no experience required. Please contact Chuck Rayner or Kay Barcroft.



It's a Photo Shoot! July 26, 27, 28

Please check your schedules and choose a day. Fellowship & Care will be contacting you in the near future to sign up for Your Photo Shoot! More details soon!

Celebrations

Birthdays	05/21 Alan Goodemoot
05/04 Brandon Spagnuolo	05/25 Sharlene Goodemoot
05/04 Jackie Spagnuolo	05/25 Leona Rayner
05/04 Joanne McDaniels	05/27 Jean Faulkner
05/06 Brenda Steele	05/31 Dale Brock
05/08 Cadance Jackson	Anniversaries
05/13 Helen Good	Randy & Judy Freidhoff 05/06/2000
05/13 Mark Corston	Bob & Marian Durkee 05/07/1968
05/21 Helen Miller	Karl & Julie Klynstra 05/16/1992

Upcoming Events

- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION**
Tuesday, May 1—2:00 pm (Volunteers are asked to arrive at 1:30.)
- ADULT RESPITE**
Thursdays, May 3, 10, 17, 31—1:30 to 4:30 pm
- SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER**
Thursdays, May 3, 10, 17, 31— 4:30 to 6 pm
- TRUSTEE & CHURCH FAMILY SPRING CLEAN-UP**
Sunday, May 6—after coffee hour (weather permitting)
- A.A. OPEN MEETINGS**
Mondays, May 7, 14, 21, 28 – 7:00 pm

- COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED:**
- Fellowship & Care Committee**—Tues., May 8, 6 pm
 - Board of Trustees**—Tues., May 8, 7 pm
 - Friendship Group**—Wed., May 9, 9 am
 - Finance**—Mon., May 21, 6 pm
 - Education Committee**—Tues. May 22, 7 pm
 - Friendship Group**—Wed., May 23, 9 am


Memorial Day—Monday May 28
Church Office will be Closed

Graduation & Teacher Appreciation Sunday—May 20th

On Sunday, May 20, 2018, we will be honoring our teachers and recognizing high school and college graduates. If you have a child or grandchild graduating from high school or college that would like to attend the service and be recognized, please contact Pastor Dominic no later than Sunday, May 13. A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow worship.

Let's Go Camping—Scholarships are Available!

Worried about the cost of camp? Over \$200 was raised for the Camping Fund from our February Soup Luncheon. Central Church's Education Committee will pay up to half of the cost for members and up to \$100 to non-members as funds are available. No young person should miss out on the life-changing experience of summer camp just because of cost. Have questions? Please contact Jane Kostanko at Jkostanko@plainwellschools.org or see one of our other Education Committee members: Julie Klynstra, Judy Freidhoff, Andrea Gentner, or Mary Dykhouse.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS!!

This Month: Spring Breakfast
Saturday, May 12, 9 am
Fellowship Hall

Program will be by Christy Erickson on her trip to Wyoming. Tickets are \$6. Friends are welcome!

Next Event: Annual Outing—Meijer Gardens
Monday, June 11
More details forthcoming.

If you are not a member but have questions or would like to become a member, please see one of the officers for more information.

Recent Prayer Concerns

Family of Maureen Stalter	Ellen Davis
Family of Dale Rice	Bob Durkee
Terri Catt	Shelly Rasmussen
Robert Kole	Paul Easterbronk
Lloyd and Bev Corston	Brian Harper
Dan Denman	Gladys Versluis
Dawn Deardorff	Dennis Chase
Henry and Betty Kluisza	Lathan Logan
Virginia Decker	



CELEBRATING SOUPER THURSDAY'S MISSION

The Souper Thursday mission program at Central Church has a lot to celebrate! This month, we celebrate 8 years doing "Souper Thursday" meals and respite, now known as "Central's Thursday Recess Gang." Our weekly meal numbers have increased from 55 to 260+ over the years. We have also been distributing free (Feeding America) surplus food from Aldi's for the last 2 years.

In mid-April we celebrated 5 years with our Feeding America-Cargill's Food Truck and our 6th year helping with the community Easter Egg Hunt. (Last year and this year we provided 6 bikes for prizes).

None of this could have happened without our many loyal volunteers. Rita has been invaluable transporting participants who have no transportation so they can attend. Thanks to Betty, Helen, Virginia, Jane L., and Thelma who have been involved since the beginning. Special thanks to Rolando and Heather (Brooke & Britny) who have worked so hard on Thursday to get meals completed. We have opened our program to those doing community service which has been very positive for us and has grown special relationships. Comfort and Shar now help on most Thursdays, and many others have over the years. Special thanks to the guys—Rolando, Mike, Von, Al, George, and John. The Food Truck couldn't happen without you.

I would also like to thank those who have financially supported us which keeps our program going! ~Leona



March 25 Palm Sunday with Children's Processional

State of the Church Report

Stats for March 2018

Average Attendance: 64

Operating Fund:

Receipts	\$12,790.41
Expenses	(\$18,187.02)

Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget: \$16,580.00

Other Designated Giving:

Building Fund	\$ 852
General Missions	\$ 152
Missionary Paul Webster	\$ 10
Christmas Baskets	\$ 160
Easter Offering	\$ 535
UMCOR One Great Hour	\$ 683
Souper Thursday	\$ 649




Sunday, May 6 is Designated as Golden Cross Sunday. Your gifts support camperships for summer camp, children who have been abused or neglected, or seniors who have outlived their savings.

The organizations represented are Michigan Area UM Camping, Methodist Children's Home Society, UM Retirement Communities Foundation.

Summer Worship

Beginning Memorial Day Weekend (5/27) thru Labor Day Weekend (9/2)



SUMMER WORSHIP

Worship Time will change to 9:30 AM and there will be no Sunday School classes until fall.