

Grace Notes

May 2018

“Come Home to Grace”

From the minister:

20 Ways to Welcome People to Church

May through September is “visitor season” in the church. Churches will have *many* more visitors in that time period than in all the rest of the year. Some will stay. Stay may come a few times then go somewhere else. Some will only visit once, never to return. There are many factors that determine if a person returns to a church they visited. But the most important, and the one factor we can directly control is: How genuinely welcoming was the congregation?

I found most of what follows in an article by Marty Troyer, who got most of it out of a book, *Now Go Forward* by J. David Eschelmann. To their stuff, I add some of my own. So all this is a compilation! In any case it is about “20 Ways to Welcome People to Church.”

Eschelmann says “Loving unbelievers the way Jesus did is the most overlooked key to growing a church . . . The command to love is the most repeated command in the New Testament, appearing at least 55 times.” That, my friends, is *a lot*. We’d best attend to it!

How do we welcome others and make them feel at home? Or do we welcome only “certain kinds” of people and not others? Do we welcome others more enthusiastically if they are more like us, than we do others not so like us, revealing a not-so-subtle type of prejudice?

We should welcome them not by grabbing them or “shhhhing” them, of course! We don’t criticize or stare at the short length of the girl’s dresses, or the tattoos or piercings anyone has (no matter where they are), or the color or style of their hair (traditional, or not). There are any number of folks on a Sunday with tinted hair and diverse styles! Accept it and accept them! Jesus had a great way of welcoming and accepting people *as they are*. The church should do no less.

Here are the “20 Ways” from Eschelmann:

1. *Every church member is a host and not a guest. Making visitors feel welcome is primarily the responsibility of members, not the nebulous “church.”*
2. The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church experience is *you!* It is *not* the pastor, or the greeter, but a regular attender in the pew. Eschelmann says, “One of the most impressive gestures we can extend to first time visitors is for people *with no official position* to take the initiative and welcome them.”
3. Treat first time visitors as *guests of God, not strangers*.
4. Smile at everyone and offer your hand.
5. Look at people in the eye and *smile*. It’s OK. You can do it! I know you can!
6. Take the initiative, *don’t wait* for visitors to initiate conversation with you.
7. Learn people’s names and remember them, yourself. You should not have to ask the pastor. Then you tell the pastor. The pastor is probably busy doing other things anyway.



Continued from page one,

8. Use *only* appropriate touch such as a handshake or a gentle pat on the back. Some are sensitive to hugging as being “a bit much.” Be aware of that.
9. Ask questions and learn about your guests. *Express interest in them* rather than try to “sell the church.”
10. *Listening* is a very effective way to show love and concern and interest.
11. Greet children at their level.
12. Let children *be* children. Yes, families love children’s church or child care during the service. Parents also love it when you allow them to decide if their children should remain with them in worship, or leave. *Love kids as kids*. Don’t expect them to be grownups. They will cry, play, sing, laugh during worship, just like many adults.
13. Invite visitors to join you at something, *anything!* Invite them to sit with you at coffee hour (so you can talk), or even during worship. Invite them to Sunday School, or to a restaurant after worship. You know you were going anyway!
14. Never let new people sit alone. You don’t have to sit right next to them, but at least be nearby. Explain how the worship happens, what we do and when! Most people want to know.
15. Help visitors find seating that suits their family’s needs. For example: Grandpa might need to be near an exit (to get to the restroom). Or it could be a family with multiple members, who need considerable pew space. Help them find it. Some new folks come in at the last minute. Make sure there is a place for them right near the entrance.
16. Be the tour guide for first time visitors. Help them find worship resources. A lot of folks don’t know to use the hymnal as they either have not experienced church at all, or only projection of hymns where they last attended. It’s OK to show them. It could be like a cross-cultural experience for those who have visited a number of churches.
17. Invite folks, if they wish, to fill out the visitor registration, or at least show them what those strange white sheets are for!
18. Tell people you’re glad they are here. Mean it.
19. Pray for them during the week. Really. (One of the reasons you learned their names!)
20. Be yourself! You have a tremendous capacity to love people. Eschelmann says, “Practice making people feel special, and what you give others will be returned to you.”

Let us practice hospitality. It’s in our instruction book!

Grace and peace, *Pastor Rob*



May 6, 2018

6:00 p.m.

The program is “Bloom Where You’re Planted”
by Shirley Griffin.

The menu is: chicken cordon bleu, mashed red skin potatoes, tossed salad, California blend vegetables, sherbet for dessert

The cost is: \$10.00 for adults,
\$5.00 for children under 8,
children under 5 free.

Sundays in May

6th Graduate/Teacher/Recognition and Youth Sunday **10:45 a.m.**

There will be lots of music. A flute trio, bell choir, other musical pieces by youth. Most importantly, we will celebrate the graduation from high school of three of our youth: Staci Hanna, Nicole McMaster, Tanner Wessling!

If you know of someone, of any age, graduating from any diploma/degree/certification program, let Pastor Rob, or Marcy know, so we can at least announce their accomplishment!

Mother/Daughter Banquet **6:00 p.m.**

13th Mother's Day **10:45 a.m.**

The sermon will be about Hagar, the "Other Mother" Flowers will be distributed. It's time to thank mom for all she has done. Also, it's a good time to remember all those women who have been like a mom to you.

20th Pentecost Sunday **10:45 a.m.**

It's the birthday of the Christian Church! Wear red, symbolizing the fire of the Spirit. The sanctuary will have some special decorations.

27th Memorial Day Sunday **10:45 a.m.**

We'll have some patriotic music as we have a time of remembrance.

Special note:

Regular Sunday School will end for the summer on May 27th.

Worship time goes from 10:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on June 3rd. Worship will stay at 10:00 a.m. until September 2nd, then go back to 10:45 a.m. So, to keep it simple, worship is at 10 a.m. June-July-August, and 10:45 a.m. the rest of the year.

Those Recently Gone to be with the Lord

Edward Richardson

March 28, Las Vegas, NV

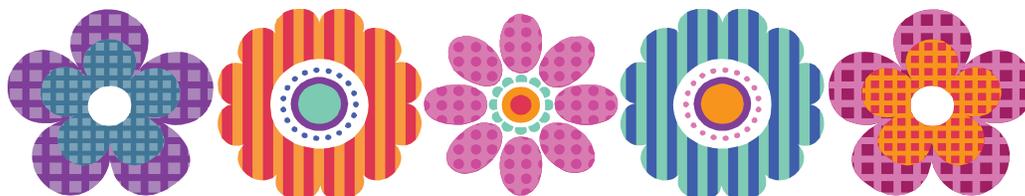
Vivian Reemer

April 18, Windsor House, Canfield, OH

Helen Winegord

April 24, Covington Skilled Nursing Center in East Palestine, OH

Please keep these families and friends in your prayers.



GRO Notes:

Thanks to all who donated pill bottles for **Matthew 25 Ministries**. We collected around 350 bottles! Thanks also to Harry for delivering them!

We are also grateful for your donations to **Family Care Ministries** for our 5th Sunday loose offering. We're excited to see the positive results in our community because of this faith-based organization.

Our "**That's My Pan**" sales will end in August. Plan ahead if you would like to order Christmas present items.

Our next **Rigatoni Drive-Thru Dinner** is May 16. We will need prep workers in the morning, servers in the afternoon & cake bakers. Money earned at these dinners allows us to donate to the many missions we support. We'd love to keep the dinners going in the fall but we will need your support. Please give us your feedback on the dinners and let us know if you can help in any way.

Youth Club—Tuesday, May 8

On Tuesday, May 8, we will meet at the Way Station at 4:30 to plant some vegetables in their Hope Community Garden. Parents are asked to stay for the short program by Greg Bowman who built the garden.

You're Invited!

The congregation is invited to attend the graduation party in honor of Staci Hanna, Saturday, May 19, here at Grace Church, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Peanut
Butter for

Making Kids Count!

Summer Food Program

Every other week in the Summer, families receive two big bags of groceries from Making Kids Count. We serve 50 families throughout the Summer, and they receive peanut butter a total of 3 times. We are hoping to collect a total of 150 jars by the end of May!

Let's make this happen for this wonderful program!

Please see Colleen Eisenbraun for more information.

Women's Guild Upcoming Events:

**Mark your calendar for the Father & Son Banquet, Sunday, June 3, 6:00 p.m.

**Women's Guild Salad Supper is Wednesday, June 6, 6:00 p.m.

Watch your bulletin for more information on these two events!

Consistory Meeting of April 2018

Members Present: Steve Barnett , Matt Bell, Wayne Bonsall, Logan Cope, Chris Eisenbraun, Mark Frost, Bill Greenawalt, Alex Heintzelman, Patty Lanterman, Cindy Perorazio,
Members Excused: Ed Todd, Jack Sitler

I. Devotions – Chris Eisenbraun. Next Month: Jack Sitler

II. Duty Roster: April – Elevator: Wayne Bonsall, Usher: Alex Heintzelman
May – Elevator: Steve Barnett, Usher: Jack Sitler

III. Informal Discussion/Goal Setting: None.

IV. Communications: Thank you from United Way for donation from GRO. Thank you from Beth Palette. Thank you from NACCC for Fair Share \$2340. Received donation of \$500 from Doris Ogle's sister.

V. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from March reviewed. Minutes accepted as presented. 1st: Matt 2nd: Logan, motion carries.

VI. Financial Secretary Report (M. Bell): Financial report from March 2018 – Current Fund Revenue: \$12,807. Received 99% of budgeted (\$12,987). Current Fund Expense: \$14,478. Spent 112% of budgeted (\$12,962). At 27% expense of annual budget through the first quarter. Natural gas expense tends to be high through beginning of year. Motion to approve the financial secretary's report as submitted. 1st: Wayne, 2nd: Mark, motion carries.

VII. Financial Committee Report (M. Bell for Jack Sitler): Spoke with Jeff Brubaker about having an audit done this year, likely in summertime.

VIII. Pastors Report (R. Joy): Rob attending NACCC Midwest convocation. 4 Sunday services and Maundy Thursday in March. Average attendance down about 5 parishioners through the first quarter of the year compared to last year. Graduate / Children's recognition Sunday 5/6. Father / Son Banquet now on 6/3/18.

IX. Unfinished Business: Cindy continues to work on updating pictorial inventory for insurance purposes.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Committee Reports:

-Music – Choir to sing with brass quintet in late May.

-GRO – Rigatoni dinner April 18th. Easter breakfast went well.

-Pastoral Relations – Meeting to be held in April.

-Endowment – No Report. Meeting on 4/29/18.

-Property – Flooring plan and tuck-pointing plan coming together for church, eventually to be presented to the congregation.

-Elders – Motion to add communion date around All Saints' Day – 10/28. 1st: Mark, 2nd: Chris, motion carries.

-Women's Guild – Considering presentation options for M/D Banquet. F/S Banquet date 6/3/18.

XII. Adjournment & The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting May 7th, 2018 at 7PM



- 5/5 Tom Beckham
- 5/6 Shannon Flynn
- 5/9 Valerie Waselich
- 5/10 Leslie Eisenbraun
Pat Lanterman
- 5/13 Johanna Crecelius
Lauren Duffy
- 5/16 Morgan Wessling
- 5/21 Katey Barnett
- 5/23 Beverly Richardson
Betty Fennell
Bonnie Flynn
- 5/25 Hube Keylor
Greg Barnes
- 5/28 Diane Barnes



Herb & Carolyn Roble May 5, 1979
 Bill & Cathy Hoover May 24, 1980
 Mark & Heather Kollar May 16, 1998
 Alex & Laurie Heintzelman May 28, 2011

★ Thank You! ★
 ★ THANK YOU! ★

Thank You!

Dear Grace Church,

Thank you for your recent gift to the Shared Ministries of the NACCC. We are grateful for your commitment and your expression of fellowship represented by your gift.

—Blessings in Christ and in All the Work that you do,

Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum, Ex., Director, NACCC

Those Ministering This Month:

Greeters:

- 5/6: Greg, Ann & Keri Gustafson
 5/13: Teresa & Carle Greenawalt
 5/20:
 5/27:

Liturgists:

- 5/6: Laurie Heintzelman
 5/13: Diane Barnes
 5/20: Brenda Hanna
 5/27: Jack Johnston

Nursery:

- 5/6: Cathy Hoover
 5/13: Colleen Eisenbraun
 5/20: Alison Hoskinson
 5/27: Jenny Barnett

Usher: Jack Sitler

Elevator Attendant: Steve Barnett

Candles: Pat Lanterman



**Sunday,
 May 13, 2018**

Grace Notes — May 2018

*Grace Church of Columbiana
140 S. Main Street
Columbiana, OH 44408
330-482-4532*

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert Joy
Secretary: Marcy LaVogue
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Web: www.gracechurchcolumbiana.com

Office: 330-482-4532
Pastor's Home Phone: 330-892-0512
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.

