



Grace Notes ✦

NEWS AND MORE!

May 2026

WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE A PART OF GRACE UNITED CHURCH

Radical Hospitality

Each month, the book *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* gives a characteristic of the Kingdom of God for readers to emphasize in their lives that month. For the month of May, the emphasis is on hospitality. Jesus was dependent upon hospitality his entire earthly life, from his birth in a borrowed manger to his burial in a borrowed tomb. The Early Church practiced radical hospitality; none of the individuals claimed property as their own; they shared everything that they had and even sold property and possessions to provide for those in need (see Acts 2:44-45).

In her book *Making Room*, my late seminary professor, Dr. Christine Pohl wrote: “In the Church, the household of God, hospitality is a fitting, requisite, and meaning-filled practice . . . Hospitality is not optional for Christians, nor is it limited to those who are specially gifted for it. It is, instead, a necessary practice in the community of faith.”

Hospitality is Justice in action. It is taking actions that affirm the dignity of each human being as being made in the *Imago Dei* (Image of God). We do not give people dignity - people have dignity already by virtue of being created in the *Imago Dei*; it is our job to recognize and affirm that dignity in each person and treat them accordingly. But in our contemporary world, the greatest social, political, and ethical tensions we face center around recognizing and treating people as equal. Hospitality is any action that affirms the dignity of those whose dignity others have refused to affirm. It is providing food for the hungry, acceptance to the marginalized, fair-treatment for the oppressed, safety for those in danger, respite for the weary, love to the despised, medical care for the sick and injured, and a whole host of other things.

Think of it this way: Anything you would do for Jesus you should do for anyone else who has a need. As Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!” and “I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me” (Matthew 25:40, 45). May the Lord grant us the power to live a life of hospitality, to share our love with those who bear the image of God.

Pastor Alex

Women's Spirit – May

Thursday, May 14 at 5:00 p.m. — Join us for a relaxed evening of fellowship as we make fun, fancy hats together. Feel free to bring any craft supplies you'd like to use, though plenty of materials will be provided. Pizza will be served.



Getting to Know You

Have you noticed the Gracefull Arts photo walls of our Grace United family. If you are missing, let Kim Toot know. These pictures will also be used in our church directory. This will be a great way for us all to put names with faces, and for visitors to the building to see who is involved in our church community. Smile!



May Birthdays

- 6 - Renee Johnson
- 7 - Gracie Hirt
- 9 - Paula Greene
- 14 - Linda Sweeney
- 17 - Diane Hall
- 17 - Maegen Beckhorn
- 31 - Linda Elliott



- 10 - Ed & Sharon Czarnecki
- 26 - Pastor Alex & Rachel Wright

Sunday, May 31 at 12:30 p.m. —Women's Spirit will host a "High Tea" at the church. Please bring your own teacup and saucer and wear your fancy hat. We ask everyone to bring a dish to share (e.g., finger sandwiches, scones, macarons, petit fours). A selection of teas will be provided. Also, please bring one swap item of your choice—new or gently used (for example, a puzzle, jewelry, or a handcrafted piece)—to exchange with one another.

We hope you can join us—feel free to invite a friend, and please see Sally Dougherty with any questions.

The Wednesday morning Book Club meets at 10:30 in Classroom 2. We are looking at *The Chosen*, season 4. Please see Sheila Smith or Diane Hall for details.



Does the church have your current contact information??

Please email or call the church office or let Jeremy know on a Sunday.



APRIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TUESDAY MAY 12TH @ 10:00 - MINISTRY
THURSDAY MAY 14TH @ 2:30 - PRAISE
WEDNESDAY MAY 13TH @ 5:30 - STEWARDSHIP
MONDAY MAY 18TH @ 6:00 - GENERAL BOARD



Tuesdays with Grace

Lynne Roeske, owner of LeaDeR Organizing will be presenting the program for May. Are you doing spring cleaning, or trying to sort through a lifetime of “stuff” so your family doesn’t have to do it later? Now’s a good time to get organized! Lynne will give us helpful hints to calm the chaos. Join us at our next Tuesdays with Grace on May 19th. Lynne’s program is titled “Organizing – Calming the Chaos Room by Room. Join us for a great lunch at 12:30 and a fascinating talk at 1 pm. Bring a friend!

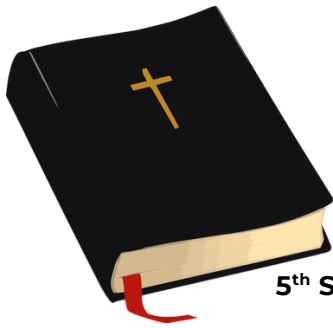
I am grateful and excited to welcome Victoria (Tory) Bonners into a new role here at Grace United Church as a Pastor’s Assistant. Tory brings both deep theological training and meaningful pastoral experience to this position. She graduated from Denver Seminary in May 2021 with a Master of Divinity and began serving with Sojourners Mennonite Fellowship in January 2022. Since then, she has faithfully grown in ministry and was ordained as a pastor in October 2024. She will continue to serve in that role even as she joins our ministry team at Grace United.

In her role with us, Tory will focus on congregational care, walking alongside members of our church family in times of joy, struggle, transition, and need. This includes connecting with those who are homebound or hospitalized, offering prayer and presence, and helping ensure that no one in our community feels unseen or alone. Congregational care is at the heart of who we are as a church. It is one of the most tangible ways we live out our calling to love one another, and I am so thankful that Tory will be leading this vital ministry. Her compassion, training, and pastoral heart will be a tremendous blessing to our congregation.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Tory to this role. When you see her, take a moment to introduce yourself, share your story, and extend the same spirit of care that she will be offering to all of us. I am extremely grateful for the ways God continues to provide for our church through gifted leaders like Tory.

Pastor Alex





May Liturgical Titles, Scriptures & Sermons

5th Sunday of Easter

May 3rd, 2026

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

New Testament Reading: John 14:1-14

Sermon: "Don't Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"

6th Sunday of Easter

May 10th, 2026

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 36:25-27

New Testament Reading: John 14:15-21

Sermon: "Never Left Alone"

7th Sunday of Easter

May 17th, 2026

Old Testament Reading: Daniel 7:13-24, 27

New Testament Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Sermon: "Lifted Up but Still With Us"

Pentecost Sunday

May 24th, 2026

Guest Speaker

1st Sunday after Pentecost

May 31st, 2026

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:26-31

New Testament Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Sermon: "In the Name of the Creator, Christ, and the Holy Spirit"

GRACE UNITED CHURCH	585.593.5015 graceunitedch@gmail.com
www.Grace-United.Church	289 North Main St. Wellsville, NY 14895