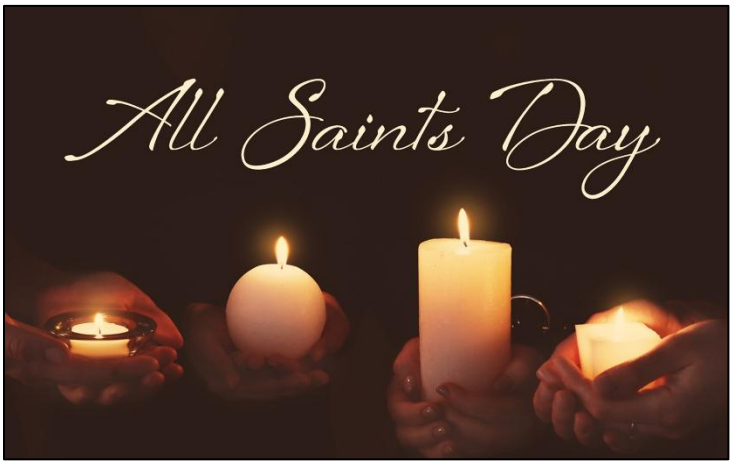
Grace Notes

November 2024

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



from
Grace Episcopal Church
41 Bowman Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44903
www.gracemansfield.org

Our Mission:
"To Nurture our Members and Feed our Neighbors"

Grace Church Ministry/Organizational Tree

Priest in Charge

Father Christopher Hofer
Email: fatherhofer@gmail.com Cell phone: 516.456.9420

Associate for Pastoral Care and Community Outreach

Father Daniel Orr
Email: danielorr@zoho.com; Mobile: 419.377.2733

Vestry

Tom Dornbusch, Sr. Warden	tom.dornbusch@gmail.com
Deb Landin, Jr. Warden	squawkamole@yahoo.com
Don Stump, Clerk	astump@zoominternet.net
Larry Von Blon, Treasurer	Vbx4@embarqmail.com
Jennifer Blue	jenniferpotterblue@gmail.com
Eleanor Dixon-Wade	edixonwade@gmail.com
Margaret Ransom	mransom65@gmail.com
Jason Whitehead	manwhitehead@aol.com
Terri Winnick	winnick3@osu.edu
Aaron Zhu	aaronzhu@citicx.com

Ministry Teams

Worship	Tom Dornbusch, Karen Davis
Christian Formation	Jennifer Blue, Tom Dornbusch
Communication	Pamela Henney
Outreach	Fr. Daniel Orr
Pastoral Care	Tom Dornbusch, Jennifer Blue
Hospitality	Deb Landin, Joanne Mudra
Building & Security	Deb Landin, Michael Blue
Administration	Larry Von Blon

Staff

Pam Armstrong Office Administrator
gracechurch41@yahoo.com
Lori Turner Director of Music
davidhcrane@bright.net
Michael Blue Sexton
mtblue1958@gmail.com
Aaron Zhu Social Media Coordinator
aaronzhu@citicx.com

From the Senior Warden's Desk

Lay ministry has many different forms. One form of lay ministry is serving as a chalice bearer. Another ministry comes in the form of altar guild. Yet another ministry is volunteering at the pantry. All of these are different ministries that we as lay people are able to be a part of. One thing remains the same. The purpose of these is to serve God, the church, and the people of God.

Lay people are just as important if not more important than the rector or even a bishop because lay people are life blood of the church. Lay people are called to serve out the mission of the church by going out into the community and doing God's work. This is why when we process in, the first people in are the lay leaders, followed by the priest and then, if present, the bishop. The lay ministry is just as important as the other ministries of the church and there is always a need in some capacity.

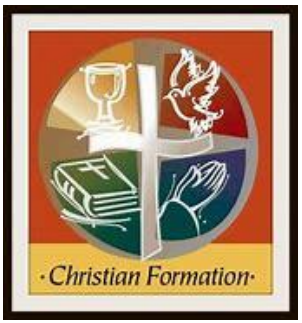
There is no limit to the capacities that you can serve in as a lay member. Interested in reading the scriptures? You can become a lay reader. Interested in being a part of distributing the sacraments? You can become a chalice bearer or lay Eucharistic minister. Maybe you want to help make decisions on where the church is going. Talk to someone about becoming a delegate for convention. Maybe you feel a capacity to lead the church. Maybe the Vestry is where your calling is.

In January we will have three members of our Vestry stepping down. We need at least two people to fill these positions but we would like to have three. If you are interested, speak to me or another Vestry member for more information. Leading the church is never easy but it is also very rewarding to see the work you have done. So talk to a Vestry member if you are interested in joining. We are happy to have you and the gifts God has given you can be used to take our church into tomorrow.

Peace,
Tom Dornbusch

November Liturgy Schedule

Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 -- Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
with Fr. Christopher Hofer
Christian Formation 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall



Sundays at 9:15 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall

Begins Nov. 10
Topic for November:
Faith in Action

Meet Father Christopher Hofer

"I cannot emphasize how humbled, honored, and privileged I am to get a chance to be in community with Grace and St. Mathew's to see where God is leading us." Fr. Hofer explained. "I believe fully there are some great things in store."

With this mindset, Fr. Christopher Hofer is joining Grace & St. Mathews as priest-in-charge beginning this month. He brings with him decades of experience within the priesthood but also from social service oversight.

An Ohioan since college, Fr. Hofer accompanied his family to Canton when his father, a Lutheran pastor was called to a church there. He had started college at Augustana in South Dakota, but transferred to Walsh. Until then, his family mostly moved around the upper Midwest. He attended elementary in Wisconsin, and junior high/high school in Iowa. He graduated Walsh Summa Cum Laude in Communication Studies, then finished – or nearly – graduate work at Kent State University. He is ABT (All But Thesis) for an MA in Communication Studies.

Initially, he was not called to the priesthood, although there were signs – like switching his college major 9 times at Augustana. Instead, he used his expertise in public relations for the United Way of Central Stark County before moving to Marketing Communication Director for the United Way of Summit County (Akron).

Fr. Christopher Hofer

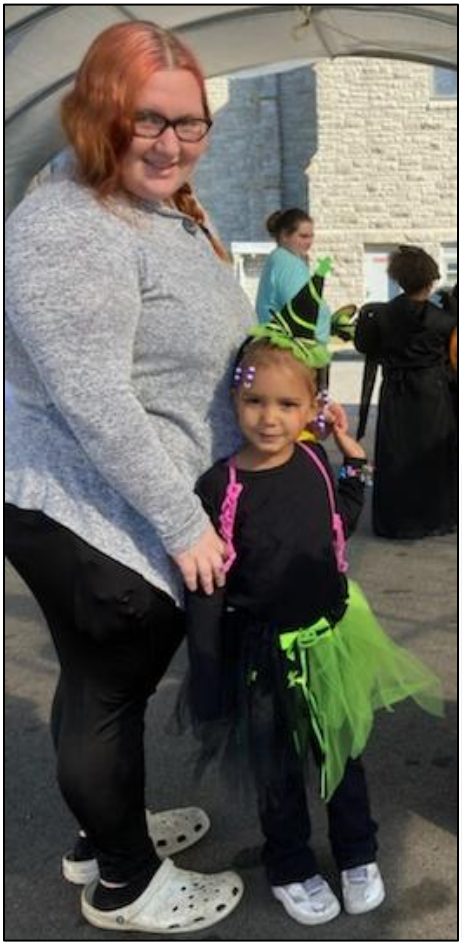
"Growing up, I did not want to do what my father did for a career," Fr. Hofer acknowledged. "I had to find the Episcopal Church first (in 1989) and rediscover my calling."

He was raised on morning prayer with Holy Eucharist once a month with his family in the Lutheran tradition, but as he discovered the Episcopal traditions, and grew as an Episcopalian so did the music, common prayer, solemnity, and joy that comes from the our traditions.

Eventually, he was called to help successfully revitalize a church in NY's Long Island. However, he emphasized "there is no secret to building a church. What's needed is a combination of joyful liturgy, relevant preaching, welcoming attitude, meaningful outreach and Christ-centered interactions."

Christian Formation helps too. In fact, we have a lifelong requirement of fulfillment of our baptismal covenant. Some people think we graduate at confirmation, but that merely opens up so many more opportunities for spiritual growth. Christian Formation provides us with whatever we may need to be Christians and share that calling with others.

We will learn more about Father Hofer, his cat Assumpta, his parents in Lincoln, IL, sister in Tokyo, and brother in Dallas in future newsletters.



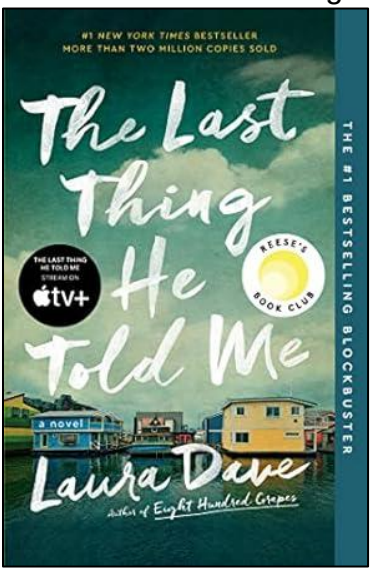
TRUNK
OR
TREAT
CANDY 1

Book Club

November 5, 6 p.m. - The Last Thing He Told Me
By Laura Dave

PLOT: Before Owen Michaels disappears, he smuggles a note to his beloved wife of one year: Protect her. Despite her confusion and fear, Hannah Hall knows exactly to whom the note refers—Owen's sixteen-year-old daughter, Bailey. Bailey, who lost her mother tragically as a child. Bailey, who wants absolutely nothing to do with her new stepmother.

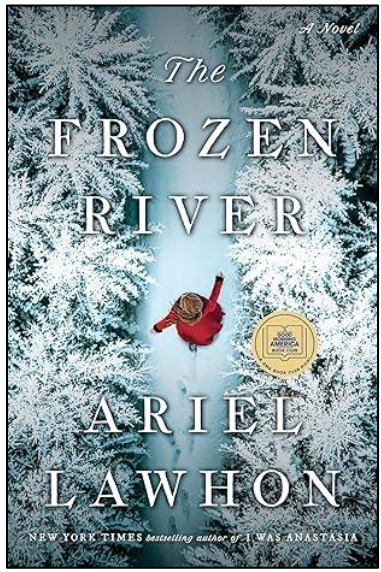
As Hannah's increasingly desperate calls to Owen go unanswered, as the FBI arrests Owen's boss, as a US marshal and federal agents arrive at her Sausalito home unannounced, Hannah quickly realizes her husband isn't who he said he was. And that Bailey just may hold the key to figuring out Owen's true identity—and why he really disappeared.



Hannah and Bailey set out to discover the truth. But as they start putting together the pieces of Owen's past, they soon realize they're also building a new future—one neither of them could have anticipated.

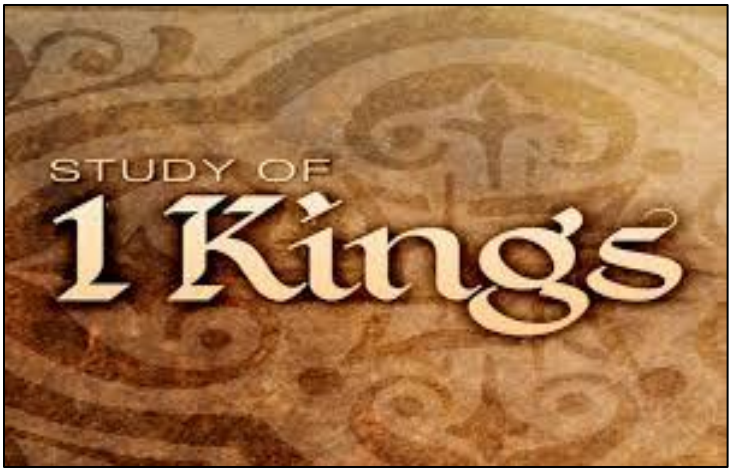
No December meeting

January 7, 2025, 6 p.m. – Frozen River By Ariel Lawhun
PLOT: Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.



Over the course of one winter, as the trial nears, and whispers and prejudices mount, Martha doggedly pursues the truth. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie.

Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. *The Frozen River* is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.



Friday Noon Bible Study

In the Fellowship Hall on November 8, 15, 20
Bring a Bible … and a brown bag lunch

Explore King Solomon's rise and the majestic Temple he built, only to witness the kingdom's dramatic division. Experience the powerful call of the prophet Elijah as he urges the people to return to faith. Uncover timeless lessons and discover how these ancient stories resonate in our lives today.

Contact: Jenny Blue
jenniferpotterblue@gmail.com

No gatherings in November or December

November Birthdays

1 The Rev. David Sipes
5 Deborah Landin
Doris Williams
6 Betty Diemer
11 Emily Stump
Ray Prater
Delaney Bender
12 Dennis Ransom
18 Kenneth Heaberlin
24 Philip Crane
26 Larry Von Blon
29 Gabriel Diemer
30 Amy Hubbard

November Anniversaries

11 Robert & Darlene Windsor
24 Scott & JoAnn Taylor
Scott & Julie Baker

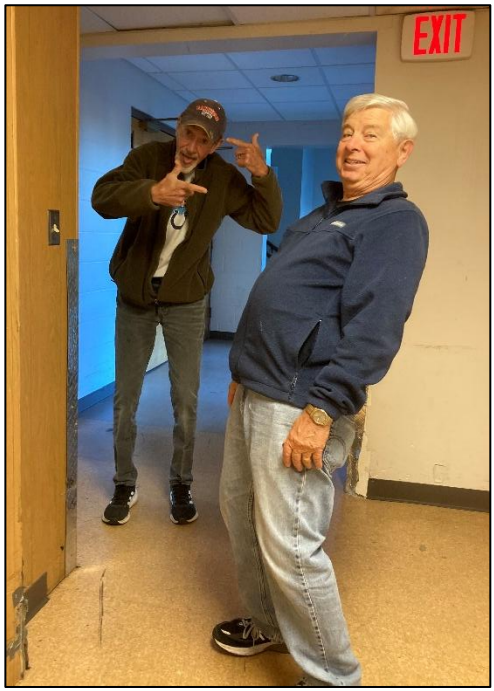
FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to this crew and more!

Thank You Grace, very much, for the support to take the third month of sabbatical! Thank You also for the first two months of sabbatical. They convinced me of our GREAT need for this kind of partnership.

Thank You also to Grace Altar Guild who is sending me with many things that will be much treasured in their new homes in the Anglican Diocese of Tanga.

Thank You also to Betty Guenther. I am honored to be carrying Dr. Tim Guenther's entire Diaconal wardrobe – the full set, with matching thread and needles to be used for many decades to come.



Not *ALL* work at the Food Pantry

I pray that a Grace member[s] will be able to go to Tanzania in the near future and visit a high altar adorned by Grace church. Or I hope that we might host Tanzanian student(s).

Welcome back Betty and Greg. Betty and Mike were such an integral part of the Pantry for years. We are fortunate that Betty is still well known and skilled at the food ordering. Greg's gift of a coaching voice, and skill relating to Sherman, will be valuable while I am away. Additionally, Deb Landin will help with food ordering. I can't welcome her back since she never left, and helps with many things (not preaching yet! ... mmm).

Upon my return (11/21), we will begin packing Thanksgiving bags - Saturday Nov 23, 9-noon, 1-3 and Sunday, Nov 24, 11:30-1. Distribution will be Monday 25th 4-6 and Tuesday 26th 9-11. A sign up is on the hall bulletin board.

Also on the bulletin board, see our ytd stats, remarkably similar to last year.

Peace, Daniel

THANK YOU
invaluable
gratitude
purpose
dedication
uniting
helping
caring
service
teamwork
friendship
community
sharing
appreciation
THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Welcome to GRACE CHURCH

BOILER ROOM
Grace
Pantry

CLE

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
41 BOWMAN STREET
MANSFIELD, OH 44903-1650

Weekly Services

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Christian Formation 9:15 a.m.

OffiCE HOURS:

MONDAY THROUGH FRIEDAY

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

and by appointment

419-524-2661

gracechurch41@yahoo.com