



# GRACE HAPPENINGS

## **A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:**

Later this month we will celebrate Memorial Day, a day to remember those who gave their lives to grant us the freedoms we enjoy in the United States of America. I found a wonderful Memorial Day piece written by Beth Patch that speaks to this upcoming day and most of all to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A Day to Honor Life by Beth Patch  
Memorial Day – to some it's merely the beginning of summer and to others it's a solemn day to remember those who have passed from this life. However, to the war veteran and to the families of fallen soldiers, Memorial Day carries significance so deep that words cannot express their hearts.

When we look into the eyes of those who still mourn these once vibrant men and women, we often sense their loneliness and pain. We hear them choke back tears as they simply say the ranks and names of their military brothers and sisters at a Memorial Day service. White gloves, dress uniforms, rigid posture, and perfectly precisioned salutes represent the reverence and respect flowing from within. Those who have been personally affected by war understand and appreciate this day of remembrance.

What should we say to those who sincerely honor this day? "Happy Memorial Day" doesn't seem fitting. "I'm sorry for your loss" may be closer to appropriate. What would the fallen soldier want from their comrades and the rest of the country on this day?

In an often quoted Memorial Day speech given in 1884 by Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., the speaker ended his address with these words, "Our dead brothers still live for us, and bid us think of life, not death -- of life to which in their youth they lent the passion and joy of the spring. As I listen, the great chorus of life and joy begins again, and amid the awful orchestra of seen and unseen powers and destinies of good and evil our trumpets sound once more a note of daring, hope, and will."

The American soldier who gave his or her life for U.S. citizens to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness won't be telling us how to observe the holiday. But I believe that Holmes' proposition to "think of life, not death" would honor the fallen soldier. Their sacrifice follows the example of Jesus Christ laying down His life for our freedom. It's selfless love for others – not so they can mourn forever, but live!

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16

Notice that in scripture and in military service, the willingness to give up one's life is not dependent on the worthiness of the people who benefit from the honorable act. In a perfect world, all who receive freedom and grace would be worthy of such a sacrifice and full of gratitude. But that's not the way it is anywhere on earth.



"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Romans 5:8

We are blessed to be living in a free society. May we honor our American soldiers for the liberty we have in this country. May we also give thanks to Almighty God for the freedom we have to spend eternity with Him because of His gift of forgiveness through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **Building Together**

MAY 2019

"....then they said, 'Let us arise and build.' So they put their hands to the good work." Nehemiah 2:18

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the church directory

Wilma Davidson  
Julie Lindsey  
Gerry Gladfelter

Carol Sarver  
Russ Hearton  
Rita Brewer

## 68<sup>th</sup> Annual National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 2

**PRAY FOR AMERICA  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

“Love one another, just as I have loved you.” John 13:34

Join others at Human Life Services, 742 South George Street, York at 11:00 a.m. to pray together that God will use HLS to offer hope and help to families needing to make life-affirming choices for their unborn babies.

## LAST SANDWICH SALE TILL FALL

Enjoy a Sub or Pretzel Sandwich for only \$4.50 (a variety of meats and cheeses available) to support future mission trips/projects

Orders Due: Sunday, May 5

Pick Up: Wednesday, May 15

Order forms are in your Mailbox  
Extra Forms available at Downstairs  
Usher Stand and Upstairs Table in  
back of Sanctuary



A LADIES TEA FOR LADIES OF ALL AGES

**Celebrate  
the  
Sisterhood**

Saturday, May 4  
1:00pm

Dads & Daughters, Moms & Sons  
**ENJOY THE JOURNEY!**

**DATE DONE  
RIGHT NIGHT  
2019**

Saturday, May 18 4:00 - 8:00 pm  
\$25 per couple, \$10 each additional

Please make checks payable to GBC  
with DDRN noted on the memo line.

RSVP to Jayne Warner  
by Sunday, May 5  
717.495.5444  
jaynewarner37@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY CHOIR OFFERING A CONCERT AT GBC

New Song Community Choir will present a concert at GBC on Sunday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. New Song Community Choir includes approximately 40 singers representing 19 churches in the Southern York County area. The group sings Southern gospel music, as well as patriotic music. The concert is free to all. A love offering will be taken.

Grace Baptist Church  
3920 East Prospect Road  
York, PA 17406  
(717) 755-0091

gracebaptistyork@comcast.net  
www.gracebaptistyork.com

Sunday: 8:15 Contemporary Worship  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:45 Traditional Worship  
6:30 Against the Flow Youth  
6:30 Evening Worship Service  
Wednesday: 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer for Adults  
Pioneer Clubs / Against the  
Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jon Barrett  
Assistant Pastor

## **EVENING SERVICES / ACTIVITIES CANCELLED ENJOY THE DAY WITH YOUR FAMILY**

Mother's Day – May 12  
Memorial Day Weekend – May 26

### **ELECTION DAY**

Tuesday, May 21

“The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men, and take consistent ground in politics, or the Lord will curse them ... Christians have been exceedingly guilty in this matter ... God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the church will take right ground.”

Charles Finney, 1792-1875 (Evangelist and Author)

Voting will be held at GBC for Windsor Township, District 1



**EVERY  
BLOOD DONOR  
IS A HERO**

Donate at GBC on Tuesday, May 28  
2:00 – 7:30 p.m.

[Scheduling a blood donation appointment today](#) is a life-changing act of kindness.

Schedule online at [www.redcrossblood.org/account-login](http://www.redcrossblood.org/account-login) and enter: Grace Baptist Church York. Walk-ins also welcome. Gifts for all. Every first-time donor will be invited to a free pizza party at a later date.

### **MOTHER'S DAY BLESSINGS**

“Four years ago was the hardest Mother's Day and the most beautiful Mother's Day I had ever experienced. We had been homeless for almost 3 years. We had steadily been in the same hotel for months. I was 8 months pregnant with baby #6 and I had been put on bed rest. We were struggling. Robert was working 80 hours a week to keep us in the hotel, but now all of a sudden he had to make sure we were fed and taken care of on top of everything else. The hotel was right next door to a grocery store and I couldn't even walk there. It was proving to be impossible. So we called an old family friend that our church (at the time) supported. She was the director of a Christian-run women's shelter. We told them what was going on with my health. And they allowed my kids and me to stay there. They helped take care of me through my bed rest and then took care of me while I recovered from birth.

This was not a day shelter. Meaning, normally everyone had to leave during the day. So the fact that they would take us on at all was a huge blessing. The hardest part for us as a family was that we were only allowed to see Robert for a few hours

twice a week. Here I was getting ready to give birth, a time where Rob and I are usually the closest in our marriage and we were separated. Mother's Day was going to be extremely difficult. Those first few days were the hardest. I prayed a lot and asked God to give me a purpose there and He did quickly. I immediately became prayer partners with the staff and because I stayed on the floor I got firsthand experience to why these ladies were there.

Then we met J who had not told anyone she was pregnant and a few days before Mother's Day she told us she had an appointment to get an abortion. The staff told her they would pray that God would make a way for her to have this baby. J came to me that night and asked me if I would ever have an abortion. (An ironic question considering I was just a few weeks from birth and I too was homeless) I explained that I had 3 miscarriages and in those cases I didn't have a choice and I still grieve those babies. I could never make that choice. The very next day she came running into the shelter excitedly crying saying that her housing had gone through months ahead of time. When the staff member said, “Oh good, God answered our prayer, that was fast!”, J stopped. She hadn't thought about it being the handy work of God so that she could keep her baby. That night she came to me in tears. “Why would God do this for me?” “Because He loves you and your sweet precious baby” I answered. She said she had tried not to think about the baby she was growing in hopes that it would be easier to give up. We continued to talk and I had the amazing privilege of praying with her as she rededicated her life to Christ. The next day she came to me and told me she had canceled her abortion appointment. I wrapped my arms around her and both our babies danced within us. It was the first time she had ever felt her baby and we both just laughed with joy. Throughout my 2 month stay I watched woman after woman come to know the Lord. Before I left there were 28 women in the shelter and every single one were sisters in Christ. J was the only one I actually got to pray with but it was a pleasure to be a silent prayer partner for those who came onto our floor. It was the day before Mother's Day when J left to move into her new house. The whole experience shook me to the core and changed my life and my walk with God forever. On one hand I was heartbroken that my family was split up, but on the other hand God gave me a purpose in our struggle. Even though for some women being there meant hitting the bottom. God showed me that even there He could use me. He even used my sweet unborn baby to change lives. The most beautiful thing I've experienced is that you don't have to get your life together to meet God, He will meet you right where you are. He can also use you in a powerful way... even in your mess...if you ask Him too.

The Greater the Trial, the more Glorious the Triumph.”

~Submitted by Meggan Moore

**You are as much serving God in looking after your own children, and training them up in God's fear, and minding the house, and making your household a church for God, as you would be if you had been called to lead an army to battle for the Lord of hosts.**

**Charles Spurgeon**

## VBS STAFF MEETING IN GYM

Sunday, May 19 / 9:30 a.m. (during Sunday School)  
70 Volunteers who love the Lord, willing to be godly examples and patient, enjoy working with kids and are dependable are encouraged to attend

Volunteers also needed to cut, color and decorate the church in the evenings before VBS

Join the big decorating party the weekend before VBS

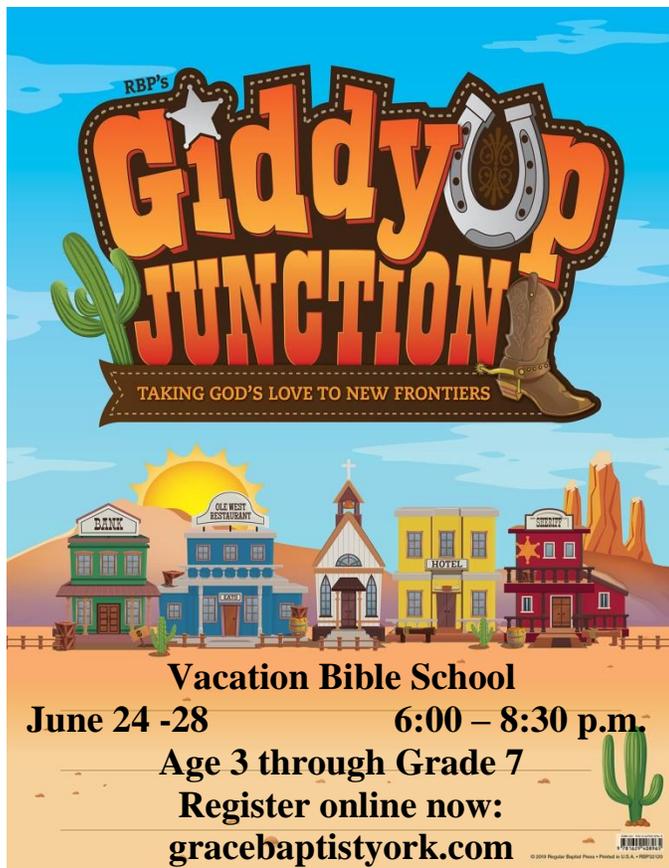
Staff sign-up sheet is on downstairs door

Background checks are needed to work directly with children

Contact Helen Etner

Jr. High through Adults Sunday School classes meet in the sanctuary

Kindergarten through grade 5 classes meet in youth room



**RBP's**  
**Giddyup Junction**  
TAKING GOD'S LOVE TO NEW FRONTIERS

**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 24 -28**                      **6:00 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Age 3 through Grade 7**  
**Register online now:**  
**gracebaptistyork.com**

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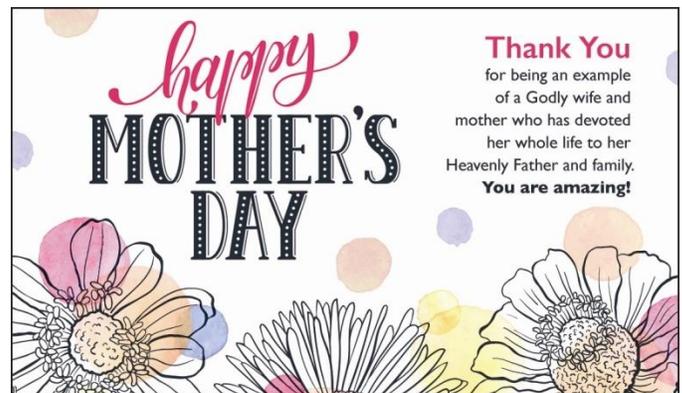
“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” John 15:13. *Giddyup Junction* is an evangelistic western-themed VBS with an Old West town, cactuses, and covered wagons. Kids will learn about the Good News of God’s love—the Gospel—going to new frontiers in the book of Acts. They will respond to God’s love and learn how they can take it to new frontiers today.



## VBS PRAYER CHECKLIST

### Use This List To Pray For VBS

- Pray for all the planning that is being done for this year's VBS
- Pray that we would have all the volunteers we need for a successful VBS
- Pray for health and safety for all volunteers, church staff, and children coming to VBS
- Pray that the signup process would be smooth and easy for parents and staff
- Pray that every day of VBS would run smoothly
- Pray that all of the children coming to VBS would leave knowing that Jesus loves them
- Pray that children will make a commitment to follow Jesus at VBS
- Pray that new families would join the church as a result of VBS



*Happy*  
**MOTHER'S DAY**

**Thank You**  
for being an example of a Godly wife and mother who has devoted her whole life to her Heavenly Father and family.  
**You are amazing!**

