



GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

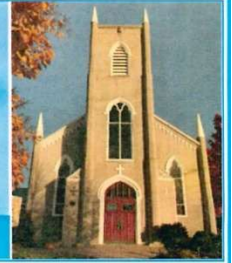
Mount Clemens, Michigan

Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church

September 2025



Christian Outrage



I never re-post anything on Facebook or social media, but my wife sent me this Facebook post from a Christian pastor named Benjamin Cremer, who is a member of the Nazarene Church. I thought it was an interesting perspective on Christian outrage, so consider this article as my first (and maybe last) re-post! These are his words, not mine:

Our outrage as Christians is a window into who we are and where our priorities stand.

I grew up as a conservative Christian. I have pastored for much of my adult life in conservative churches. I have always heard staunch advocacy for the lives of the unborn, yet such advocacy seems to stop with the unborn alone.

In my many years in ministry, I have watched with great embarrassment and shame as many Christians made their outrage go viral over such trivial things. Things like Starbucks red cups, Easter eggs, green M&M's, people saying "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas", and so on. Today, it's over things like Cracker Barrel's logo change and male cheerleaders.

As a pastor, I just can't believe that this is the kind of thing we wanted to be known for in the world. It appears we want the reputation of making everything all about ourselves and our demands. It appears we want the reputation of being outraged over symbolism and consumerism rather than actual injustice and hate against the poor, the sick, the marginalized, the immigrant, and the oppressed. The very people Jesus talked about when he said, "Whatever you do for these, my brothers and sisters, you do for me." (Matthew 25).

The world has watched as many Christians became so easily beguiled by politicians who simply paid performative lip service to God and the Bible, yet lived lives and treated others in such demonizing ways that couldn't be more opposite from the Jesus I learned about growing up. The world has watched many Christians become more offended by the Ten Commandments and the Bible not being in public schools than they did about how kids were going to school hungry and had to go to school wondering if they might be the next victims of mass shootings.

Worship Opportunities

Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30 AM

**TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE ONLINE
VIA ZOOM, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND
FOLLOW THE LINKS**

www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

**TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE BY
PHONE VIA ZOOM:**

8:30 Service: Call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300

Password: 246040

10:30 Service: See YouTube link
on Website

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9:30 AM in Guild Room

Worship resources are available
on our Website 24/7/365.



The world has watched as many Christians got more outraged over Black athletes kneeling during the national anthem at football games than they did about the reasons why those athletes were kneeling in peaceful protest in the first place.

The world has watched as many Christians became more offended by the idea of abortion than they were over poverty, the lack of education, the lack of paid family leave, affordable childcare, domestic abuse, maternal and infant mortality rates, lack of living wages, misogyny, and the erosion of women's rights, all of which cause abortion rates to increase. Tragically, abortion rates have only increased since my faith tradition finally got what it wanted, the overturning of Roe. Now women are dying due to harsh and vague laws, but there's little outrage over that. It will never make sense to me how we can claim to be "Pro Life" yet seem so ambivalent about the lives and rights of women, let alone so resistant to consider the unjust use of the death penalty or war or guns.

The world has watched as many Christians got more outraged over how our society defined gender roles than they did over how women and children were being abused in our own churches. The world has watched as many Christians got outraged at the idea of children being trafficked by powerful elites in our country only to see many of them now justify not releasing files of such things because they may implicate powerful elites they like.

The world has watched as many Christians get more outraged over the idea of a poor person misusing the welfare system than they did about how billionaires might be using their wealth to sway policies over our entire nation in their favor. The world has watched as many Christians get outraged over how rainbows were being used than they were about how the people who were waving rainbow flags were being treated.

The world has watched as many Christians become more offended by ideas about illegal immigrants they have come to believe than over why someone would risk their lives and the lives of their children to come here. The world has watched as many Christians got more outraged over messages that called for opposing climate change than they did about policies and economic practices that are literally destroying God's creation and causing great suffering.

The world has watched as many Christians got caught up in a political movement that is solely based on outrage, political grievance, and vengeance, advocating the politics of "hate your enemies" rather than the theology of "love your neighbor." The world has watched as many Christians become more outraged over people "deconstructing" Christianity and possibly even leaving the church than it did over the reasons that caused such a crisis of faith in the first place, like all the reasons mentioned above.

The world has watched as many Christians got outraged at fellow Christians and even pastors like me for speaking about these things, even moving to push us out rather than faithfully addressing the actual injustices and hypocrisy itself. The world has witnessed all these things and so has God.

I could go on and on here, but my heart has been broken time and time again over this dynamic for almost a decade now. I just wish Christians were known for getting outraged over the right things. I just wish LOVE was our reputation.

As Jesus says: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

Blessings,

Pastor Steve



Choir Practice Is Back!



Grace family & friends,

We would love to see you for our first choir rehearsal to prepare for the upcoming season and visit by our Bishop Bonnie on All Saints Day! Join us on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary starting **September 10**. All are welcome! Come raise your voice with others as we sing God's praises and give thanks in song. See you there!

Josh Dulin
Music Minister

Quarters For a Cause at Grace!

Helping the
community with
GRACE!



Saturday, September 20, 2025

Grace Church

115 S. Main St., Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Doors open at 5:00 pm

Bidding starts at 6:00 pm

\$5.00 per person (3 paddles)

Bring an item for the food pantry and get an **extra paddle!**

Items needed: Peanut Butter and cereal!

Food will be available for purchase at the event: Hot Dogs, Chips, Beverages and dessert!

Raffles! Raffles! Raffles! Raffles!

We will also be raffling off many wonderful Baskets, baked items and there will be a 50/50 the night of the event!

Bring your quarters and Cash and have fun while raising money for our wonderful community!

Please contact Christa Carpenter 586.663.6246 with donations or any questions.

September Birthdays

Grace Villamor	9/17
Marilee Racine	9/23
Nelson Rumpel	9/24
Judith Ciccoritti	9/24
Nicki Urban	9/27
Christopher Murphy	9/28



Book Club at Grace

The next meeting of the book club will be on **Thursday, September 11 at 6 PM** in the Guild Room. We'll be discussing *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom, an excellent book by an excellent author. A good discussion is anticipated! Please call Ann Strevel with any questions.

Remembering Hildegard of Bingen, whose feast day is September 17:

Hildegard of Bingen, born in 1098 in the Rhineland Valley, was a mystic, poet, composer, dramatist, doctor, and scientist. Her highly original writings, inspired by a life of dazzling spiritual visions and illustrated by unusual and wondrous illuminations, abound with feminine imagery for God and God's creative activity. She carried out four preaching missions in northern Europe; practiced medicine, focusing on women's needs; published treatises on natural science and philosophy; and wrote a liturgical drama. Her unusual liturgical compositions were described by her contemporaries as "chants of surpassing sweet melody" and "strange and unheard-of music."

Despite living in a world accustomed to male governance, she exercised a commanding spiritual authority based on confidence in her visions and considerable political astuteness. She left behind a rich legacy which speaks eloquently across the ages.



Join us in the Guild Room for Bible study, every Sunday at 9:30 AM.



"F" Dollars for Fueling Kids' Futures

If your wallet has any dollar bills with **F** on them, please pass them along to help us fill backpacks with weekend food for hungry Mt. Clemens students.



COMMUNITY SUPPERS

Wednesdays at 4 PM

Sundays (Nov.-Mar.) at 4 PM

GRACE FOOD PANTRY

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10 AM to 12 PM

Curbside distribution



Recommended Food Pantry Donations

Canned soups, canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna/chicken, SpaghettiOs, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereal, canned applesauce

Grace Episcopal Church Staff

Pastor Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Cell: 203-641-2068

Email: pastor@gracechurchmtclemens.org

Music Director: Josh Dulin

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan

2025 Vestry

Martha Houser	Ernie Simon	Dash Heath
Mike Oakley	Lucy Smith	Mike Zubas
Don Siefkes	Bill Siewert	Sharon Potter