



GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

Psalm 63.1

A VIEW FROM THE PARSONAGE

Senior Pastor Frank Sawicki

Thank you for all your giving of time, talent, and money it is changing people's lives and hope and pray it will change you, too. This overview is not to make you feel guilty or we need more but this is to inspire you in Jesus to give to Jesus so His work goes on.

Weekly Events

- Sundays: Class 101
Join us at 10am on Sunday for our introductory Bible Study
- Tuesdays: Class 202
Join us as we deep dive into the book of Book of Isaiah every Tuesday at 6pm
- Thursdays: Small Groups
Men's and Women's Small Groups meet Thursdays at 6pm

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written, “He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” 10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to

God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

We need to change is the heart for sacrificial giving.

Here are seven items to consider.

1. *Learn why sacrificial giving is necessary for God's mission.* If what you are giving does not change your lifestyle, then it's not sacrificial. Not all giving is sacrificial, and that's not necessarily a bad thing. Leaving a great tip is generous, but the extra \$20 doesn't change

how you live. God's mission requires a body of believers to give in such a way that it changes them. Sacrificial giving must be taught in all areas of the church which is you: Weekend worship gatherings, in small groups, in membership classes, and even in your children and student ministries and in our daily worship for Jesus.

2. *Let's Celebrate the story of the (people's) church's giving.* Few people remember financial figures. Most people remember stories. Few in church could quote the weekly budget requirements from memory, but

most will remember a powerful story of sacrificial giving. Let people know every week about a ministry in the church. Thank the church for supporting this ministry through the offering. Not only do you communicate the importance of sacrificial giving, but it's also a time to promote ministries in the church.

3. *We should choose and establish multiple giving channels.* Your church should have multiple ways for people to give. Some prefer to give online. Others like the consistency and simplicity of automatic deductions. Given the prevalence of smartphones, many will want to give through a mobile app or texting. Other people prefer mailed envelopes because they have created a discipline of sacrificial giving through a regular Sunday morning routine. I doubt many pastors would say a Bible reading plan is only relevant at certain times or on certain days with a particular

October Events

- 10/13 **Monthly Board Meeting**
– 1pm Grace Community Hall
ALL ARE WELCOME
- 10/24 **The Chosen Potluck** –
Grace Community Hall at 6pm
Come watch Season 1 Episode 3
of The Chosen and bring a dish
to share
- 10/31 **Hot Dog Giveaway** –
Help us hand out candy, Hot
Dogs, and warm drinks to the
community

translation. The same goes for sacrificial giving. Let us know what we can change to help you.

4. *Create a personal connection with the mission.* You cannot expect a church to give without creating a compelling vision of why. (Love God, Love Others is our theme and goal) And people will never know why they should give unless you connect them with the local and global efforts of your church. Without a personal connection to the **outward movement of the gospel**, it's unlikely your church will

Upcoming Events

- 10/27 **Trunk or Treat** - 2pm-4pm
at Canaan Rec Park
- 11/11
Free Veterans Day Breakfast 6:30am-9:30am
Monadnock Congregational Church in Colebrook
- 11/24 **Community Thanksgiving Service** – 5pm
Trinity United Methodist Church in Colebrook; Dean is giving the sermon
- 11/28 **Community Thanksgiving Dinner**
– Hosted by Colebrook Food Pantry at Monadnock Congregational Church in Colebrook; See Dean to volunteer
- 12/7 **Food Pantry Christmas Craft Fair**
– 9am-2pm Colebrook School Cafeteria

see increases in sacrificial giving.

5. *Set meaningful goals.*

“We need to increase giving 5% next year” is not a meaningful goal because there is no reason to give other than a desire for more money.

Here is a better, more meaningful goal: “Our giving needs to increase by 5% because the church plans to send more on mission and invest more in local ministry.” We want our budget and time to mean people are hearing about Jesus more than ourselves.

6. *Put a system of accountability in place.*

Be transparent and intentional with your financial goals and systems. Let everyone know how this accountability takes place. And stick to it—no exceptions! You should also have consistent reporting mechanisms, such as regular financial statements given to the congregation. Never violate the confidentiality of individual giving and set clear guidelines for who can see what in the giving records. A violation of trust in this area will hit the mission of your church like a wrecking ball. Ask and we will let you know but we do have a lot of ways you can see what we spend our time, talent, and money on.

7. *We give not get things back, but it could be spiritual blessing more than anything.* Be mindful of why you give. We do not give because God gives back.

We give because we love Him and love others even if we do not get things back. God does not owe us. We bless others through our sacrificial giving because it is a part of worship throughout our daily routine. We bless others because God has blessed us to give from the heart not for the reward.

Kingdom work depends upon sacrificial giving rooted in a deep love for the gospel. Large or small, every church can be a resource giant for God's kingdom. Rich or poor, every Christian can give sacrificially.

P.S. Giving money, time, and talent are a heart issue not a wallet issue. If we love Jesus, we will give back not because of guilt but of sacrifice. Thank you for all your giving of time, talent, and money it is changing people's lives and hope and pray it will change you, too. He gave us all we should give all back to Him and His Kingdom.

CHURCH BOARD PROJECTS UPDATE

- NEW quiet fridge is at church building!
- Looking to fix small projects around church building and parsonage.
- Frankie is looking into snow removal for the winter.
- Frankie has reached out to people to be Elders they will be meeting soon.
- Frankie and Katie will be gone October 20th and 27th, John and Dean will be preaching those respective Sundays.
- NEXT Board Meeting is October 13th at 1pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FINACIAL UPDATE

Shellie Bresnahan

Thank you for your incredible support. It is because of individuals like you that we are able to pursue our mission and make a meaningful impact on the community.

August Income \$9,087.74	August Expense \$11,392.07
1. \$6,288.39 Offering	1. \$734.00 Ministry, Missions, Outreach and Benevolence
2. \$450.00 Rent	2. \$8,223.25 Facilities Maintenance and Mortgage (WIX Website Fees)
3. \$1976 Sugar on Snow Donations	3. \$615.64 Events and Youth
4. 373.35 Yard Sale.	4. \$1,819.18 Administrative Staff and Supplies

Checkbook Balance \$27,883.914

Savings Account Balance \$30,898.55

This month we paid off the balance on the Steele Painting Job which totaled over \$14,000 and also purchased a new video camera for the Facebook feed of our services.

MISSIONS

Grace continues to have a focused missions ministry, focusing on supporting, Local, Regional, and Global missions. Some of the local missions that Grace has supported over the last year are NEKCA, Area Churches Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen, as well as helping many individuals. Regionally, we support Berea Ministries (Camp Monadnock), and Globally supporting VIM and Samaritan's Purse. Grace works with Vision International Missions (VIM) sending local missionaries to serve God in different parts of the world. Vera will be going to Honduras in November and is still raising support for this trip. If you are able to help please talk to her! In April of 2025 Frankie will be leading a medical mission to Guatemala. If you are interested in going or just want to know more about it talk to him or Dean.

DINNER and THE CHOSEN

The Chosen is a tv show that is an artistic interpretation of the ministry of Jesus and his disciples. We will be meeting October 24th at 6pm to have dinner and watch season 1 episode 3 of The Chosen and discuss the episode afterward. This is a great opportunity to come and spend time with your church family without the "intimidation" of a bible study class. This is open to every age group.

BIBLE STUDY

We want to thank each of you that come to 101, 202, and/or small group! If you haven't checked out one of the groups, we encourage you to! Each group is full of brothers and sisters eager grow in our Gods word and talking together is a great way to grow. Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpens iron, as one man sharpens another". We want to make sure you know you are welcomed if you come to every group every week, one group sometimes, or whatever it looks like.

PRAYER LIST

If you have something on your heart you would like the leadership to pray about, please send us an email or let one of us know. We want to pray for you and requests sent to us will never be distributed to anyone outside leadership, unless clearly specified.

THANK YOU FOR BEING YOU

If you would like to include something for next month's newsletter, please email
Dean at dean_339@yahoo.com
or call (603) 331-1261