

From Pastor Mark

November means many things -- cool days and cold nights, and leaves that need to be raked. It also means following our favorite sports teams, whether it's the Cleveland Guardians in their postseason run, or college football fans looking ahead to the big end-of-the-month showdown between Ohio State and Michigan. If plans for where we're going to be on Thanksgiving Day have not yet been settled, it's time to make those decisions.



For us at Grace, the primary focus in November will be on our Stewardship Program under the theme “**Live Simply.**” This program will call us to hear God’s voice speak amid and above the clutter, distractions, and complexity of life in the world in which we live. Our program will challenge us to:

- **Follow Jesus**
What does it mean for us to live in relationship with Him?
- **Face the Truth**
During the storms of life, do we focus on the wind and waves, or on what God provides?
- **Act Together**
Are we able to begin to see that God provides us with more than enough?
- **Share Enough**
If we focus on scarcity, we never have enough. When we focus on God’s blessings, there is more than we can imagine. Are we able to see the blessings rather than the scarcity?

On **Sunday, November 13, we will gather as a congregation at 9:15 am in the Dining Room** for a time of simple morning refreshments, and a time to talk with one another about what Grace means to us. We will distribute a Live Simply packet which will include information about ministry at Grace, and will challenge us to follow Jesus, face the truth, act together and share enough. Those unable to attend the November 13 event will receive their packets via US Mail.

This packet will also include an “Intent Card” which will let congregation leaders know your financial commitment to the ministry at Grace for 2023, which we would like you to **bring with you to worship on November 19-20.**

I can’t emphasize enough the importance of your response to this campaign. As Grace Congregation President Jerry Moses informed us during worship on October 15-16, Grace’s expenses continue to exceed offerings, but this year without the significant boost in income from federal pandemic relief programs that we received in 2020 and 2021.

I plan to increase my giving to Grace in 2023, and I encourage you to join me, and “take hold of the life that really is life.” (1 Timothy 6:19) **We have a God of abundance**, not scarcity. God will continue to work through us at Grace using our hands, our feet, and yes, our giving.