



A Place of Grace

A Newsletter for and about Grace Church

May 20, 2026

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This coming Sunday is Pentecost. Let's spend the week preparing...

Pentecost is like a birth, an awakening. A birth is always a bit of a shock. I suppose it shouldn't be! You know what, or rather, *who* is growing in there. Yet, when you finally meet her, you see a brand-new face you've never seen before...one you didn't know moments ago, that you would happily die for.

You watch her inhale her first breath, and then you hear her first exhale in the form of a cry...the cry of a voice you'll know for the rest of your life!

So, it is with the Church on Pentecost Sunday.



We can see the Church forming throughout the Old Testament. You see her in her fragile and small state, on a boat in stormy weather on the Sea of Galilee. You watch her almost disappear on Good Friday.

And then, all of a sudden, on Pentecost Sunday she is born! The *life* in our midst is undeniable.

Jesus "breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the holy Spirit'" (John 20:22).

The Church inhaled that first breath on Pentecost, like a newborn baby. Then she exhaled a cry that the world will never stop hearing: the joy of the Gospel.

BIRTH!

Cowering apostles became the world's boldest men. People of every nation and tongue joined in fellowship. The Gospel spread. Charities exploded in a way that, within a few hundred years, transformed the Roman empire. And while it all grew over time into the Church we know today...that birth was, as Acts 2:2 tells us, "Suddenly."

How do you need rebirth in your life?

Is someone you love far from God? Does your marriage need renewal? Are you living under fear? Stuck in a sin? Whatever rut you're in, Pentecost is a reminder that you're not in it alone. And that God can transform anything in the blink of an eye.

Ask Him to.

Come, Holy Spirit, make me new.

Monthly Devotion

Prayer for Remembrance:



Dear God, we thank You for the freedom we enjoy and for the brave men and women who gave their lives to protect it. Comfort those who mourn, bless the families of the fallen, and guide those who serve today. May we honor their sacrifice by living lives of love, service, and faithfulness, remembering that true freedom comes through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Memorial Day is Monday, May 25, 2026

Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday in May, is a federal holiday in the United States dedicated to mourning and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the military. Originally known as Decoration Day, the holiday began after the American Civil War when communities decorated the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers and held ceremonies to pay tribute to their service. The first national observance was proclaimed by General John A. Logan on May 30, 1868, to honor Union soldiers, and it gradually expanded to include all U.S. military personnel who died in service.



The holiday is marked by visiting cemeteries and memorials, placing flags and flowers on graves, attending parades, and participating in ceremonies across the country. In 1971, Memorial Day was officially recognized as a federal holiday, and the National Moment of Remembrance was established, encouraging Americans to pause at 3:00 p.m. local time to reflect on the sacrifices of fallen soldiers. Memorial Day also serves as a symbolic start to summer, but its core purpose remains a solemn tribute to those who gave their lives in defense of the nation. By observing this day, Americans honor the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of military personnel, ensuring that their service is remembered and respected. The City of Howell's Memorial Day Parade begins at 10:00 a.m.

What's Happening at Grace?



Pastor Ken continues to worship weekly with those at Medi-Lodge and Village Manor.

The lawn mowers have been serviced and are ready for the mowing season!

Burners on the gas stove have been repaired and parts are on order for the oven.

Graceful Hands will continue working with a new charity mission called “The Luke Clinic” which is based out of Whitmore Lake and serves the Detroit area by making and providing baby quilts and blankets for their Baby Bundles which are given to the new mothers they are servicing.

Thirty-nine (39) Easter cards were delivered to Quality Care nursing home.

At the Congregational meeting last fall, the congregation designated \$5,000 from the Siefkes Memorial Fund to support those in need from our community. After considering several options, the Outreach Committee chose to designate the \$5,000 as benevolence to Love INC for use over the next year (\$2,500 every six months). Love INC carefully screens individual's or families' short-term assistance needs (e.g., rent, mortgage, utilities, etc.) and looks to build relationships through these opportunities. Love INC then sends the request to Grace and we pay the assistance directly to the creditor (or payee). The amount of each need is rarely more than \$500 as Love INC strives to be good stewards of the funds as well as make sure as many people as possible are helped.

The Safety Committee is working on a medical emergency response protocol and they are looking into purchasing film to cover the sanctuary glass doors. The film will keep the glass in place when broken, thus delaying entry.

So much going on at Grace. Thank you to all for your hard work and commitment to Grace!

Thinking Out Loud!

This Sunday, the Church—and each of us—celebrates Pentecost.

Traditionally, we wear red as a visible reminder of the Holy Spirit, who came upon the disciples like fire as they gathered in fear and uncertainty, waiting for what God would do next.

That holy fire does not destroy us; it purifies us. It burns away sin, softens what has grown hard within us, and brings healing where we have been wounded. In baptism, the Lord claimed us as his own, and by his Spirit he continues to refine and reshape us throughout our lives into people who can bear his love into the world.

For some, wearing red may feel bold. It is a color that draws the eye. Not everyone is comfortable being noticed. But the good news is this: you are already seen by the Lord. You are known, loved, forgiven, and being led toward heaven by his grace. Pentecost invites each of us into holy boldness—not confidence in ourselves, but confidence in the Spirit who dwells within us.

So, this Sunday—and in the days beyond—let whatever red you wear be a quiet witness to the new life God gives. Even in our weakness and sin, the Lord makes us alive through faith and grace. Let us come to worship with hearts set aflame by the Spirit, ready to rejoice in the saving power of Jesus Christ and to bear that hope into the world. He is risen!



The disciples did not want to be noticed either. Yet the Holy Spirit transformed fearful hearts into courageous witnesses. Those who once hid behind locked doors were sent out in power, and through them the Gospel spread to people of every nation and language.

How do you need rebirth in your life? Bring your burdens with you to worship this Sunday. Light a candle, offer your prayers to the Lord, and ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse, renew, and strengthen you.

On fire for Jesus and love for each of you...

Pastor Ken

THIS MONTH AT GRACE

Sundays

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

We are on Facebook Live and YouTube!

Mondays

AA Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

TOPS – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays

Service at MediLodge – 10 a.m.

Graceful Hands Workshop – 10 a.m.

2nd Wednesday, Lunch and Fellowship – 12:00 p.m.

Postponed to May 27, 2026

Service at Village Manor – 4:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursdays

New Creations – 4:30 p.m.

Council Meeting – 2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Fridays

AA Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Contact Us:

www.glchowell.org / office@glchowell.org / pastorken@glchowell.org

(517) 546-3350 (Church Office) Pastor Ken (616) 460-1122