

FOCUS



ON

FAITH

Volume 46, Number 9
2017



Sunday School—9:00 am
Worship—10:15 am

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST: Dennis J. Duda

Faith United Church of Christ

5992 Route 378

Center Valley, PA 18034

610-282-3939

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Thank you to the newsletter crew for their help in mailing the newsletters each month -

Arlene Beck, LaVerna Diehl, Joan Hassler, Evelyn Hovis, and Sue Walter

2017-18 Consistory

President: Wes Koser

Vice President: Deb Orach

Secretary: Michele Keeler

Elders:

Mim Allison

Deb Orach

Wes Koser

Jane Van Horn

Deacons:

Michele Keeler

Qiyi Zhu Stoffey

John Barone

Kevin Long

Colleen Kandt

Barb Scattergood

Tom Berghold

Mary Ellen Long

Church Treasurer: Joe Orach

Liaisons:

Will be included next month.

*We are a people
who have come together
through a common faith,
a common love,
and a common covenant
with the triune God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
and together we endeavor
to be a community of
worship,
education,
mission,
fellowship,
and stewardship.*



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I'm sure you've heard the old expression "Everything Happens for a Reason." I've never really liked that expression. To me it seems to suggest that there are perfectly good reasons behind the bad things that happen in life. If there are reasons behind the bad things that happen in life I would like to think they are *bad* reasons! I'm starting to rethink how I feel about this expression. Perhaps, depending on how you look at it, there is some truth to it after all. There was an incident after church, Harvest Home Sunday that got me thinking.

You've seen people standing on street corners, traffic lights, and any place where traffic slows down. People with their signs that say something like: "Homeless. Will Work for Food." As I was busy greeting people at the door following worship I saw a family of four with a similar sign standing by the corner of the church building by the office suite.

I had just preached my Harvest Home sermon which I based on Leviticus 23:22 which reads as follows: "*When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God.*" One of my main points was that we are called to share our portion of God's bounty with the poor and Leviticus goes one step further directing us to include the "foreigners" residing among us.

The family just stood outside our church building, foreigners, poor, hungry, scared, and forced to beg and rely upon the goodness of strangers. As I saw them standing outside and saw their

sign several things came to my mind. First, my mind went back to what I had just said in my sermon. Was this some kind of test? Was God saying, “Okay Stevenson, you and Faith Church talk a good story. Let’s put you to a real test!” Second, I thought, “Is **this** what “Everything happens for a reason” looks like?!” Third, I have to admit that I was angry in two ways. First, my righteous anger. I was angry that in this land of plenty here was a family of four who had to beg for food. Second, my “not so righteous anger.” As people were leaving the sanctuary to get to their cars they were being confronted. I didn’t like that. I felt it was unfair. However hours later as I reflected upon this incident I thought to myself that maybe there are times when we have to be confronted by hunger, poverty, and homelessness face to face. Sometimes we make it too easy to deal with injustice. Make a donation, feed a family, pat ourselves on the back, all is well in the world. The reality is that it is not. Injustice continues.

I was proud of our church and our sister churches that Sunday. Due to the Samaritan’s Fund and Betty Lou’s Pantry we were able to meet the immediate needs of these strangers in our midst. Perhaps they were “Angels Unaware?” After we had ascertained what they most needed we let them go on their journey. Their English was so poor it was difficult to understand where they were trying to go. In gratitude the father of this family kissed my hand repeatedly. I can’t say that I’ve ever had that done to me before!

Sometimes there are people who are just down on their luck. It is easy to sit back and judge but as Christians we are called to act in the midst of injustice. First, we “bandage the wound” and ask questions later and sometimes there isn’t time to ask questions. There is only time to address the hurt. Such was the case that day.

Should this ever happen again and you find yourself con-

fronted by someone in the parking lot please direct these people to me. As tempting as it may be to offer a few dollars especially when we see young children, it is far more appropriate to direct people in need to me. While a request for help is acceptable, the way in which that request is made could be inappropriate. Through the Samaritan's Fund and Betty Lou's Pantry your church is well equipped to deal with many needs. We do not hand out cash. We pay merchants directly. And so, if there is a next time, come and get me. I will be happy to deal with the person (s) in need appropriately. I may have to end a conversation that I am having at the door but I'll catch up with you next week 😊

Peace,



YARD SALE A SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone that helped out at our September 9th Yard Sale and gave their time freely for the good of our church! It was a great day!!



YARD SALE PROFIT

Yard Sale	\$ 1,578.25
Food Sales	<u>\$ 480.50</u>
Total Profit	- \$ 2,058.75



Children & Communion

Once again we are again offering the Children and Communion Program to children in grades 2 and above.

Recognizing that appropriate training and education is vital to the grasping an understanding of the sacrament, a course of instruction will be offered on the following dates; **November 5th, 12th, and 19th**. Each class will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be one hour.

The following are required:

- Children must be in the second grade or older to participate in the preparation program.
- At least one parent, preferably both, must participate with their child.
- Children must attend all 3 preparations sessions.

Whether a child participates or not is a parental decision, not a church policy, and the preparation program is not to be confused with the Rite of Confirmation.

Please complete a registration form available in the Narthex or from your child's Sunday school teacher and return it to Pastor Stevenson following worship before November 5th or call the church office (610-282-3939) with the information and bring this form along to the first class.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please contact Pastor Bruce or the church office. Please do not assume that the hospital will call, they do not. Pastor Bruce can be reached at 610.866.7425.



*Long time Faith member **Russ Cressman** passed away on September 7, 2017 at the age of 86. Please keep wife, Ruth, and the entire family in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with difficult days ahead.*

Rally Sunday ***September 10, 2017***





Please Join Us For
Faith Church's
Bag & Basket
Bingo
and
Basket Raffle

\$20 for 20 Regular Games • \$10 for 5 Special Games

When: Sunday, November 5, 2017
Doors Open: Noon
Bingo Begins: 1:00 PM
Where: Faith UCC
Route 378, Center Valley
Benefits: Mission and Church
Ticket Sales Begin: October 1, 2017
Contact: Karen Talboo @ 610-282-1552
6472 Walnut Drive
Coopersburg, PA 18036
Email: cktalboo@gmail.com

Make Checks Payable to “Faith UCC Mission”

More Information Can Be Found on next page

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR BETTY LOU'S PANTRY

We will be collecting personal hygiene items and much needed food items for Betty Lou's Pantry. BLP is our local food pantry that serves our neighbors in need by providing food on a monthly basis. It is facilitated by 12 Southern Lehigh Area Churches.

Each month 80-100 families are served.

For every item you donate you will receive a ticket to be placed in a special raffle for a Longaberger product. The requested items are:

Toothpaste	Shampoo	Antiperspirant
Toothbrush	Soap	Hand or Body Lotion

If you would prefer to bring a food item, the most needed items are:

Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helpers	Chicken Noodle Soup
Canned Ravioli	Chili & Chunky Soups

The following items may be given away at the fundraiser:

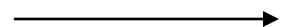
Regular Games

Longaberger:

Cake Basket (2016)
2- Jingle Bell Basket Sets (1994)
Founders Day Set (2000)
Fellowship Basket (1997)
Harvest Basket Set (1997)
October Fields Set (2000)
Glad Tidings Set (1998)
Homestead Set (1999)
Bread Basket + Prot + Div (1998)
Bee Basket + Div Prot (1992)

Thirty One Bags:

Fresh Market Thermal
Perfect Party Set
Deluxe Utility Tote
Zip Top Organizing Utility
Tall Organizing Tote
Going Places Thermal
Essential Storage
Large Utility Tote
Picnic Thermal
Collection of Travel Bags



Special Games

Longaberger Specials:

Twelve Days of Christmas Set (2000)
Hospitality Basket Set (1998)

Thirty One Specials:

Rolling Cooler
All Packed Duffle
Style Setter Leather Tote

**All prizes are subject to change due to availability.
All tie breakers will be a *Thirty One* Thermal Bag.**

How Can You Help with Bag & Basket Bingo?

~**Sell Tickets** to your friends, relatives, and neighbors

~Price is \$20 for 20 regular games

~**Donations** are needed for these items:

~Door Prizes \$5-\$15 Value

~Basket Raffle Items \$20 and up

(Or make a donation and we will make a basket for you)

~Baked Goods

~Soda and Water

~Hot Dog & Hamburger Rolls

~**Help** is needed for **Setting Up** the hall and kitchen:

~Set up tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall on Sat, Nov 4 at 3:30

~Work in the kitchen on Sunday

~Work the floor during bingo

~Assist with Betty Lou's Pantry Special Raffle

~Clean up after bingo starting at 3:30 PM

If you need tickets, have questions or would like to help make this fundraiser another huge success please contact Karen Talboo at cktalboo@gmail.com or 610-282-1552.

We invite everyone to join in the fun and bring your friends, relatives, and neighbors. This fall's bingo proceeds will benefit the **General Fund and Missions.**

Dear Pastor Bruce and Faith UCC,
Thank you so much for your willingness to host our youth on our way back from West Virginia. We really appreciate your hospitality!



In Christ,
The Wyckoff Reformed Church Youth Group

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We wish to thank the many members of the Faith Church Family for their condolences after the death of Russ Cressman.

Your prayers and caring concerns were a great comfort to our family.

*God's Blessings,*  
Ruth Cressman and Family

OCTOBER 1, 2017  
WORLD  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

# THOSE WHO WILL SERVE IN OCTOBER

Head Usher: To be determined

Nursery: Diane Talaber

|                            | October 1                                                      | October 8                                      | October 15                  | October 22                                   | October 29                                             |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Greeter</b>             | Sherry Meluskey                                                | Deb Herstine                                   | LaVerna Diehl               | Dennis & Caroline Frantz                     | Rod & Lisa Koch                                        |
| <b>Ushers</b>              | Steve & Sandy Sosnowsky<br>Jane Van Horn<br>Donna Schoenberger | Joe & Deb Orach<br>Cindy Talaber<br>Ruth Smith |                             | Kraig & Ken Koehnlein<br>Wes & Heather Koser | Donna Schoenberger<br>Faye Tirpak<br>Don & Tootie Koch |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>          | John Barone                                                    | Joan Hassler                                   | Ron Demkee                  | Ken Koehnlein                                | Karen Talboo                                           |
| <b>Acolytes</b>            | Weiland Hite<br>Noah Ritter                                    | Weiland Hite<br>Noah Jellison                  | Avery Koser<br>Weiland Hite | Noah Ritter<br>Avery Koser                   | Noah Jellison<br>Noah Ritter                           |
| <b>Flowers</b>             | Sosnowsky                                                      | <i>Available</i>                               | Erney                       | Stevenson                                    | <i>Available</i>                                       |
| <b>Financial Secretary</b> | Bob Shelly                                                     | Bob Shelly                                     | Bob Shelly                  | Bob Shelly                                   | Bob Shelly                                             |



*The Church Office will be closed on  
Monday, October 9, 2017  
in observance of  
Columbus Day*



## FROM THE TREASURER— AUGUST FINANCIALS

| AUGUST 2017   | INCOME      | EXPENSE      | Last Year |           |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Receipts      | \$16,877.21 | \$144,503.37 | \$15,743  | \$145,789 |
| Disbursements | \$17,476.80 | \$152,796.02 | \$16,984  | \$154,515 |
|               | (\$599.59)  | (\$8,292.65) | (\$1,242) | (\$8,726) |

|              | Weekly Attend. | Weekly Offering | over/under \$3500 goal |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>8/6</b>   | 34             | \$ 1,491        | (\$2,009)              |
| <b>8/13</b>  | 58             | \$ 2,384        | (\$1,116)              |
| <b>8/20</b>  | 64             | \$ 2,568        | (\$932)                |
| <b>8/28</b>  | 56             | \$ 1,851        | (\$1,649)              |
| <b>Total</b> | 212            | \$ 8,295        | (\$5,705)              |



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

### How Can You Help the Hurricane Victims?

**You can make Hygiene Kits and Clean Up Buckets!**

*(Instructions and items needed are found on **Page 15**)*

Monetary donations are also being accepted.

Kits and Buckets must be returned to church no later than  
**October 15th.** Linda Lenhart will be delivering our donations  
to affected areas.

ANSWER FOR PUZZLE: "For the law was given through Moses:  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17, NIV



**From the Secretary:**

The **deadline** for **October Newsletter** articles and information is **October 10th**. Please email to [faithchurchcv@gmail.com](mailto:faithchurchcv@gmail.com) or place them in the Secretary's mailbox in the conference room.

**ALTAR FLOWER** dates available! **October 8, 29, November 12, 19**. The cost is \$34.



Many thanks for your generosity and your continuing support of Betty Lou's Pantry!



For the last two Sundays of August and the first two Sundays of September, our regular donations included 175 items and \$200. Currently, over 100 families are being assisted. All of the recipients are very grateful for your generosity.

**MOST NEEDED ITEMS:**

**LIQUID LAUNDREY DETERGENT • CANNED PASTA • TUNA/MEAT HELPERS • BAKED BEANS • BOXED POTATOES  
BOXED PASTA (NO SPAGHETTI) •**

**Items stocked at the Pantry include:**

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pork & Beans                | Chili                          |
| Canned Fish (salmon) & Meat | Canned Pasta                   |
| Peanut Butter               | Canned Tomatoes & Canned Sauce |
| Kidney & Black Beans        | Chunky Soups                   |
| Canned fruit                | Macaroni & Cheese              |
| Canned Tuna                 | Canned Vegetables              |
| Beef Stew                   | Dry Pasta & Spaghetti          |
| Spaghetti Sauce             | Canned Tuna                    |

Monetary Donations are a particularly effective way to help the Pantry. A donation of \$10 will buy over 60 lbs of food through Second Harvest. If you are in need or know of someone in the area who is, please call **610-282-2838** and leave a message, or email [bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com](mailto:bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com)

—Mike Ford

## **CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets**

**(all items must be new)**

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs non surgical latex gloves
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

### **Hygiene Kit Assembly Instructions:**

Place all items in a **one-gallon Ziplock bag**. (NO Toothpaste)

- One hand towel measuring about 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper-remove packaging
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Ten standard size Band-Aids®

**If you wish to donate \$10 we will assemble a kit with your donation.**

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## **Operation Christmas Child!**



Mark your calendars for this wonderful mission.  
**OCC Kick-Off** will be held **Sunday, October 15th.**  
**Shoe Boxes will be available on that day.**

Directions can be found inside each box.

**Packed boxes** must be returned to church no later than **Sunday, November 12th.**

**Our Packing Party** with lunch provided will begin immediately after worship on **Sunday, November 12th.**

### **Operation Christmas Child Help Needed!**

Help is needed to prepare items to be packed in the shoe boxes for OCC. If you wish to join us again this year please look over the dates below and help us out on any or all of these dates:

**Date & Time:** Thursday, October 12 at 9 am

**Where:** Memorial Room

**To:** Assemble the Shoe Boxes

All other meetings will be:

**Date & Time:** Thursdays, Oct 19, 26, Nov 8

**Where:** Talboo's House  
6472 Walnut Drive, Coopersburg, PA

**To:** Bag Hygiene Items  
Prepare School Kits  
Pack Shoe Boxes for 2-4 Year Olds

Please let **Karen T** know if you are able to help. **610-282-1552.**





## ***OCTOBER BIBLE READINGS***

October 1

2 Kings 17:1–18  
Acts 9:36–43  
Luke 5:1–11

October 2

2 Kings 17:24–41  
1 Cor. 7:25–31  
Matt. 6:25–34

October 3

2 Chron. 29:1–3; 30:1  
(2–9) 10–27  
1 Cor. 7:32–40  
Matt. 7:1–12

October 4

2 Kings 18:9–25  
1 Cor. 8:1–13  
Matt. 7:13–21

October 5

2 Kings 18:28–37  
1 Cor. 9:1–15  
Matt. 7:22–29

October 6

2 Kings 19:1–20  
1 Cor. 9:16–27  
Matt. 8:1–17

October 7

2 Kings 19:21–36  
1 Cor. 10:1–13  
Matt. 8:18–27

October 8

2 Kings 20:1–21  
Acts 12:1–17  
Luke 7:11–17

October 9

2 Kings 21:1–18  
1 Cor. 10:14–11:1  
Matt. 8:28–34

October 10

2 Kings 22:1–13  
1 Cor. 11:2 (3–16) 17–22  
Matt. 9:1–8

October 11

2 Kings 22:14–23:3  
1 Cor. 11:23–34  
Matt. 9:9–17

October 12

2 Kings 23:4–25  
1 Cor. 12:1–11  
Matt. 9:18–26

October 13

2 Kings 23:36–24:17  
1 Cor. 12:12–26  
Matt. 9:27–34

October 14

Jer. 35:1–19  
1 Cor. 12:27–13:3  
Matt. 9:35–10:4

October 15

Jer. 36:1–10  
Acts 14:8–18  
Luke 7:36–50

October 16

Jer. 36:11–26  
1 Cor. 13:(1–3) 4–13  
Matt. 10:5–15

October 17

Jer. 36:27–37:2  
1 Cor. 14:1–12  
Matt. 10:16–23

October 18

Jer. 37:3–21  
1 Cor. 14:13–25  
Matt. 10:24–33

October 19

Jer. 38:1–13  
1 Cor. 14:26–33a  
(33b–36) 37–40  
Matt. 10:34–42

October 20

Jer. 38:14–28  
1 Cor. 15:1–11  
Matt. 11:1–6

October 21  
Jer. 52:1–34  
1 Cor. 15:12–29  
Matt. 11:7–15

October 22  
Jer. 29:1, 4–14  
*or* Jer. 39:11–40:6  
Acts 16:6–15  
Luke 10:1–12, 17–20

October 23  
Jer. 44:1–14  
*or* Jer. 29:1, 4–14  
1 Cor. 15:30–41  
Matt. 11:16–24

October 24  
Lam. 1:1–5 (6–9) 10–12  
*or* Jer. 40:7–41:3  
1 Cor. 15:41–50  
Matt. 11:25–30

October 25  
Lam. 2:8–15 *or*  
Jer. 41:4–18  
1 Cor. 15:51–58  
Matt. 12:1–14

October 26  
Ezra 1:1–11 *or*  
Jer. 42:1–22  
1 Cor. 16:1–9  
Matt. 12:15–21

October 27  
Ezra 3:1–13 *or*  
Jer. 43:1–13  
1 Cor. 16:10–24  
Matt. 12:22–32

October 28  
Ezra 4:7, 11–24  
*or* Jer. 44:1–14  
Philem. 1–25  
Matt. 12:33–42

October 29  
Hag. 1:1–2:9  
*or* Jer. 44:15–30  
Acts 18:24–19:7  
Luke 10:25–37

October 30  
Zech. 1:7–17 *or*  
Jer. 45:1–5  
Rev. 1:4–20  
Matt. 12:43–50

October 31  
Ezra 5:1–17 *or*  
Lam. 1:1–5  
(6–9) 10–12  
Rev. 4:1–11  
Matt. 13:1–9



# Sign of grace

Make this sign to hang on your wall as a daily reminder of God's amazing gift of grace.

**What you need:**

- White poster board
- Large wooden letters that spell GRACE
- Painter's tape
- Tempura paint
- Paper plates
- Paintbrushes
- Colored pens or markers

**What you do:**

1. Place the poster board on the ground (outside, if possible).
2. Put tape on the back of the letters and secure them to the board. No tape should be visible.
3. Paint and draw all over the poster board. Be creative with splatters, handprints and so on.
4. When paint is dry, remove the letters and hang up the poster.



# October Birthdays

04 Brittney Campbell

06 Bob Grammer

07 Amanda Gunkle

08 Karen Long

08 Ashley Arnold

12 Doris Horwath

14 Ian Long

16 Grace Uninsky

16 Kellan Maginn

16 Patience Stevenson

17 Dorothy Miller

17 Kraig Koehnlein

18 Larry Weidner

19 Ben Muth

20 Joyce Butz

21 Doug Jenny

21 Logan Koch

22 Irma Buchman

22 Richard Woodring Jr

22 Debby Herstine

23 Jean Rau

24 Wayne Biery

24 Brandon Davis

24 Addison Dill

25 Jane Lenner

25 Deb Biery

26 Hunter Steele

27 Ron Demkee

27 Charles Castetter

27 Anthony DiSanto Jr

28 Susanna Berghold

28 Tyshonn Barone

28 Trevor Campbell

30 Debra Miller

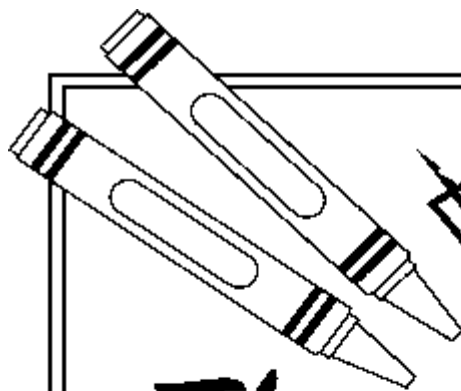
31 Eleanor Nolt

31 Mim Allison



Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.

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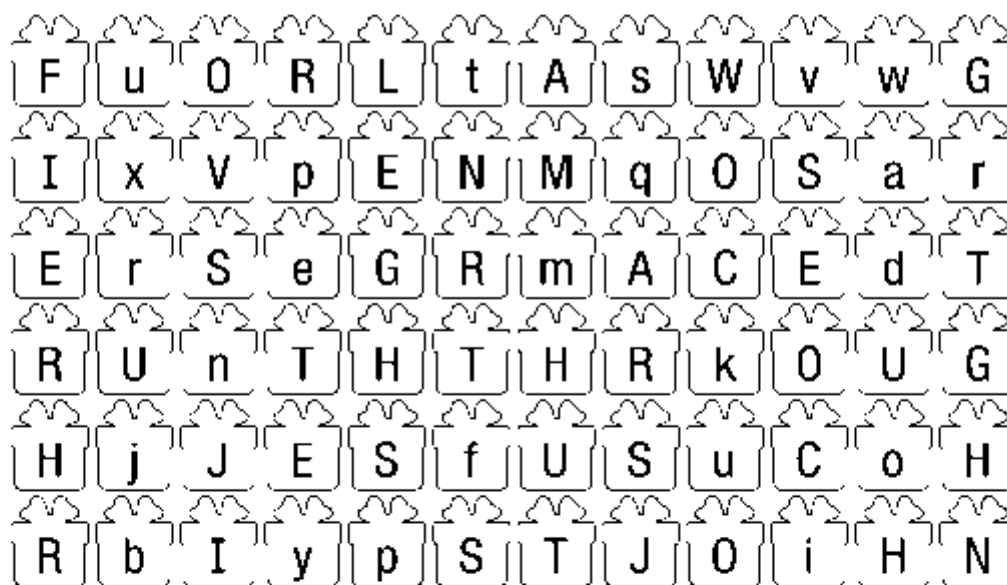


# PUZZLE

## The gift of grace

God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn on our own. How do we have this gift?

*Directions: Complete the Bible verse by placing the capital letters from the gifts on the blanks below.*



“ \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_  
through \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ”

\_\_\_\_\_ 1:17, NIV