

**GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**128 East Baltimore Street**  
**Greencastle, PA 17225**  
**(717) 597-2983**



Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka  
Choir Director: Patty Stepler  
Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson  
Ministers: All Those Present

In the Name of Jesus...  
Service Prayers for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 27, 2020

*Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32*

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**WELCOME**

**VIDEO**

**Fall Worship Intro**  
**-Freebridge Media**

Welcome to Grace Church where we are God's people.

**United through Jesus Christ on a journey to grow, to share our faith  
and serve others in the Greencastle area and the world.**

### **PRELUDE MUSIC**

**Praise Him with Trumpets  
-Livingston**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Watch and listen for the wonders of our God.  
**Our God is among us.**

Watch and listen for the goodness of our God.  
**Our God moves among us.**

Watch and listen, for God is here.  
**Our God dwells among us. Let us worship God!**

### **\*PRAISE SONG**

**All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!  
# 263**



# 263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

*Descant*

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,  
 3 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball  
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!  
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!  
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!  
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!  
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!  
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!  
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

## **INVOCATION**

**God, the encourager, God, the compassionate,  
God, the merciful, holy, blessed:**

**Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep.  
Lift us into consciousness of Your presence.  
Change us, move us, mold us for the better;  
so that, at the sound of Your voice  
at the call of our name  
we will never be the same.**

**We ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Called to follow Christ, we are called to a life of humility.

But what does that even mean?

Do we seek to exalt ourselves – to be lifted above others?  
Does our sense of success depend on someone else's failure?  
Does our love of God entirely guide our relationships?

## ***SILENCE***

Let us pray:

**Disturb the habits of our sin, O God.  
Rouse us from the foggy sleep of our sin.**

**In the name of Jesus, we pray –  
Show us Your ways  
Highlight what we can change  
And change what we cannot.**

## ***SILENCE***

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Good friends:  
God is at work in you!  
God is alive in us!

God lives – but sin is dead.  
And our sins are forgiven, through Christ, our Savior.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## **WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS**

### **SCRIPTURES**

#### **Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded.

They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me?  
Why do you test the Lord?"

But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people?  
They are almost ready to stone me."

The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb.

Strike the rock, and water will come out of it,  
o that the people may drink."

Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled  
and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

### **Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love,  
any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,  
make my joy complete:

be of the same mind, having the same love,  
being in full accord and of one mind.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,  
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

Let each of you look not to your own interests,  
but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with  
God as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human  
likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient  
to the point of death -- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above  
every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should  
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **There Is a Redeemer # 443**

**1<sup>ST</sup> verse Solo by Patty Stepler**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> verses Congregation**



## There Is a Redeemer

443

1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son;  
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,  
 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;

pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
 pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.  
 there I'll serve my King for - ev - er in that ho - ly place.

Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son, and  
 leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Although the refrain of this piece names all three Persons of the Trinity, the stanzas emphasize references to Jesus Christ under various titles. There is also a shift in tone between the stanzas and the refrain: the former speak about God and the latter speaks to God.



## **WE ASK GOD TO OPEN THE BIBLE TO US**

### **WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER**

#### **Matthew 21:23-32**

When he [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said,

"By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?"

And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'

But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet."

So they answered Jesus, "We do not know."

And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'

He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went.

The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go.

Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

This is the Word of God for the People of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **SERMON**

## **SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

## **WE GIVE BACK TO GOD**

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

God promises to hear the prayers asked in the name of Jesus.  
And God's people have asked.  
God's people have asked for support and resources, for direct aid,  
for money and food. They have asked in the name of Jesus.  
And in the name of Jesus, we respond.

Through this offering, we pool together the resources of  
every person gathered here,  
in the name and service of Jesus.

**\*WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**These gifts represent the best of ourselves, O God.  
Receive them with our prayers and intention to  
give of ourselves as well.  
Take and use them for Your goodness.  
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE**

**\*BENEDICTION**

The sweet Spirit of God has blessed us! Let us give thanks.  
**Thank you!**

The great Spirit of God will guide us! Let us give thanks.  
**Thank you!**

The humble Spirit of God is with us. Let us give thanks.  
**Thank you!**

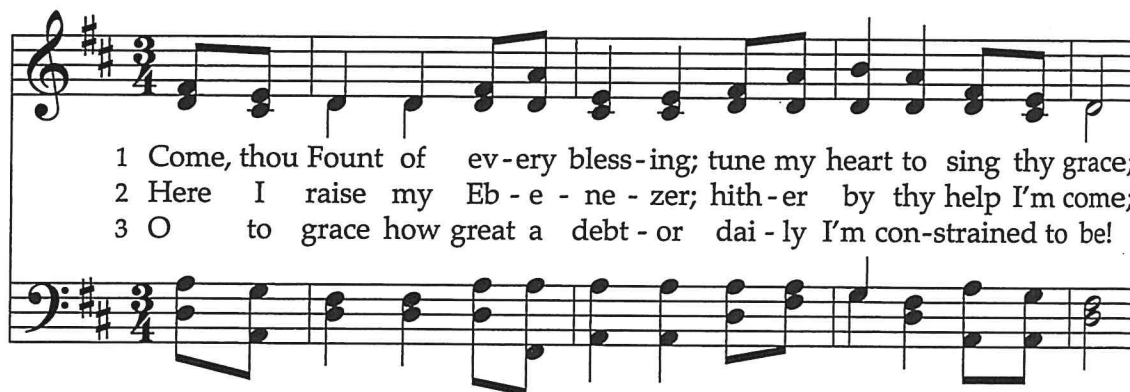
And may the blessed, eternal Trinity +  
grant you the peace that the world cannot give, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

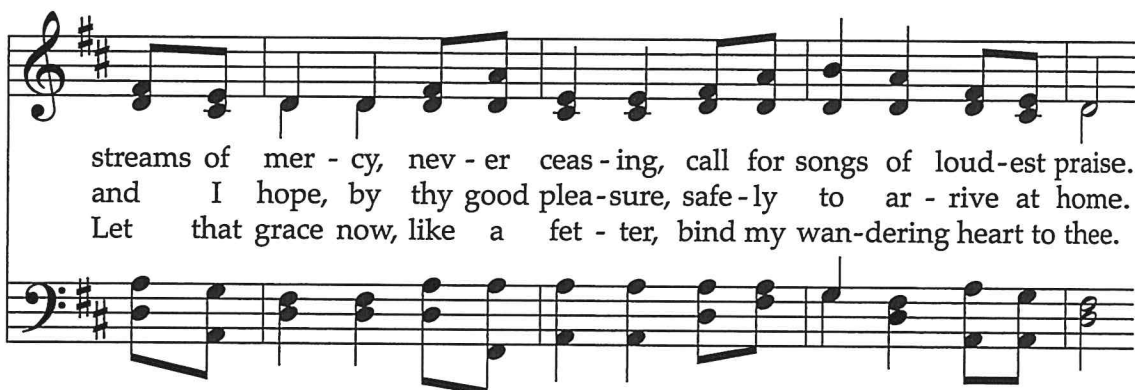
**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
# 475**



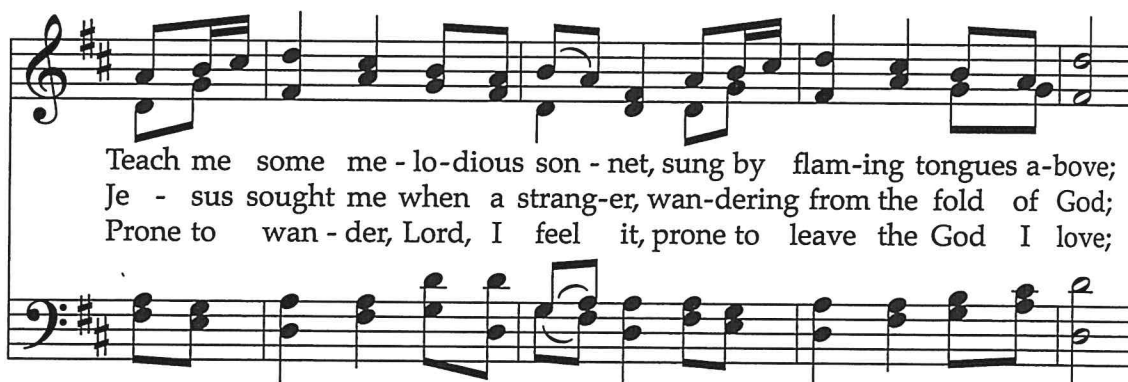
## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



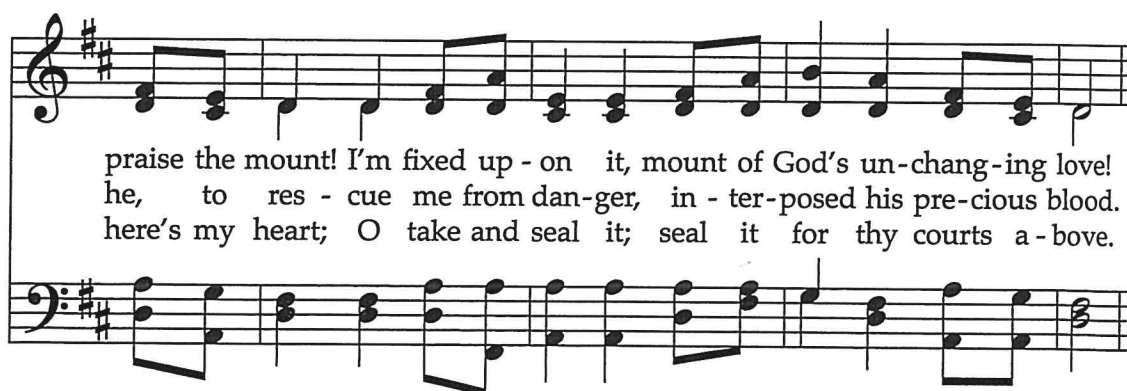
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!  
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.  
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

**POSTLUDE MUSIC**  
**Courante**  
**-Frescobaldi/Blake**



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Liturgy written by the Rev. Kaji S. Douša, Senior Minister of Park Avenue Christian Church (DOC), New York City.  
Adapted for online use by Susan A Blain and Mark Ruzicka.



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**Contributions received week of 9/20/2020**

Regular Offering: \$706  
Loose Change Offering: \$1



*Pastor Emeritus*  
*The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, 1967-1995*





**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 27, 2020**

***Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka      Cell Phone: 717-504-2923***  
**GUCC Office Phone: 717-597-2983**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Ed & Gladys Doyle  
**Reader:** Lu Miller

**Welcome to Sunday Worship!** Kindly wear your masks entering and leaving worship and while moving around. Masks may be taken off once you are seated. Please choose a seat at a pew marked with a blue ribbon. Wearing masks during singing will be at the discretion of the congregation. Offerings can be placed in the collection plates which are located at the back doors of the sanctuary and by the side doors leading to the elevator area. Our greeters & ushers are keeping track of attendance. If you have any questions, please see anyone on the consistory board or ask our greeters and ushers for guidance.

**Church Events/Fundraisers:** We ask all our volunteers to kindly wear your masks during all church events and fundraisers. We are following guidelines to help keep everyone safe and healthy.

**Facebook:** The live streaming of our worship service can be viewed on our Facebook page, Grace United Church of Christ. Please join our Facebook page to keep updated on activities and connect with others in the community. Our weekly worship program with announcements can be downloaded from our website if you are viewing from home.

**Congregational Group Email** – Don't miss any church updates! Contact church office if you are not currently on our email list so we can add you today!

**Weeding Volunteers** - Jim Thomas is scheduled to help us weed and clean out our flower beds this week. If anyone else is able to help out this week, please see the sign-up sheet located on the table in the front vestibule.

**Grace's Free Closet** is open Monday & Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. The Closet is now stocked with Fall and Winter items. There are a few new rules in place for everyone's safety till the virus is gone. Masks are required and we are limiting the number of shoppers in each room. We appreciate your donations, but currently we are not accepting donations as our rooms are full! Please 'like' our Facebook page 'Grace's Closet Green-castle' or contact Nancy Myers to keep updated on any changes.

**GUCC Website:** Please look us up on the web! We added information about our staff and committees under the Home tab! If you are viewing our live stream of Sunday worship from the comfort of your home, you can download our weekly service program and announcements from our website at: <https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com>

**Heirloom Mirrors** – Long-time member, Jeff Stouffer, has been making high quality custom hardwood mirrors for over 35 years. Jeff has a long background creating custom wood projects. Jeff is donating his talent, time and materials by selling his custom heirloom mirrors to benefit GUCC. Please visit our website for more details about Jeff's talents and ordering information about these beautiful custom mirrors. You will find this information on the Groups & Activities page, under Jeff Stouffer Heirloom Mirrors. Feel free to call Jeff or the church office with any further questions, or to place your order. We thank everyone who has ordered mirrors and plaques to help support GUCC!

**We Welcome your Offerings** - They can be placed in the collection plates at the door to the sanctuary or elevator area, mailed to GUCC, PO Box 448, Greencastle, PA 17225, dropped off at the church office, or you can donate online through our website: [www.graceuccgreencastle.com](http://www.graceuccgreencastle.com)

**The Upper Room** daily devotional brochures are available for September/October. Please pick up your free copy today from the table in the front vestibule or by the elevator area. This month the brochure is also available to download, please contact the church office if you would like us to send you the file. You are also welcome to stop by the office during the week to pick up a copy.

**Newsletters** can be downloaded from our website at any time. A few extra copies are available on the tables in the vestibule and elevator area.

**Online Donations:** You can make donations anytime through our website. Go to our website and click on any DONATE button. Once you click on a donate button you will come to a page where you can enter your donation amount, then use the drop down box to choose where you would like your donation to be used. You can choose to select GUCC Offering, Building Fund, Moller Organ Fund, German Reformed Cemetery or the outreach program of your choice. You will need your credit card. Once you submit any contribution, you will receive an email receipt. Please keep this receipt for your tax purposes. Any questions, please contact Kate Kennedy or the church office for assistance.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us put together our annual **Chicken Barbecue Fundraiser** to benefit our Relay for Life Team, the Graceful Walkers. We hope everyone enjoyed their chicken meals!

**Chancel Choir** - The next choir rehearsal is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, at 7:15pm in the sanctuary. We will be keeping social distancing during practice. They was a consistory board meeting prior to today's service, so please check with any board members or Patty to see if any changes have been made or call the church office.



**Activities & Fundraising Committee:** Our next meeting is scheduled for October 5, at 7pm in the social hall. We have several upcoming fundraisers and meals in the planning and need your help! Please come out and attend our next meeting or see Marg if you can help volunteer your time for any of our activities.

**First Saturday Community Lunch** will be held on October 3, from 11 to 1pm. Menu includes ravioli, salad, roll, dessert and water.

Save the date for our upcoming **Pork N' Sauerkraut dinner**. It will be a carry out dinner held on October 17, from 3-6pm, to benefit our Organ fund. History of our M.P. Moller Pipe Organ can be found on our website, under the tab for Our Rich History.

The **Neighbors in Need** offering is the UCC's annual offering which supports the ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries, justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. The Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need helps make a just world for all possible, and for this to occur, they need your support. Special offering envelopes are attached to the back of the bulletin. We will receive **NIN** offering next Sunday, October 4.



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**Worship Service with Communion, October 4, 10am:**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Tony & Deb Homer  
**Serving Communion:** Nancy Myers & Marg Stouffer  
**Reader:** Patty Stepler






**UNLEASHING POTENTIAL (formerly Neighborhood Houses)  
OF ST. LOUIS, MO**

***“Unleash[ing] the magnificent potential in  
children, families and neighborhoods that leads  
to a just community for all.”***

**D**enise Carter, early childhood education director, was well aware of a rather large need within the population served by Neighborhood Houses. Many of the families are low wage earners, 75% of them earn less than \$20,000 annually. Truthfully, some simply struggle to provide many of basic needs for their children.

To that end, she designed a program to meet the health and development needs of infants and toddlers. Thus, the “Baby Essentials” program was birthed. The main goal was to provide diapers and formula for all of the children enrolled at the early childhood education center for families who could not afford a consistent supply.

credit:  
UP – early childhood webpage.  
 Denise met with interim director of development, Christine Krueger, and shared her desire and need for funding. Christine went in search of those sources. She applied wherever she felt the need of the program matched the granters requirements. Fortunately, she filled out an application for a NIN direct service grant and was awarded \$3,000 in 2019.

In 2020, it was reported back to us that 100% of babies ages six weeks to 12 months received milk they needed while attending the Center. 50% of those babies also received one canister of formula per month for home consumption. Lastly, 100% of babies/toddlers ages six weeks to three years had diapers needed for Center and home use.

According to Christine, “thanks to the Neighbors in Need grant, our babies are dry and their tummies are full, and parents, who are already stressed financially, socially, and emotionally, have two less potential health issues with which to contend!”

Because of your generosity, direct service programs like that of Neighborhood Houses are grant funded, communities are strengthened, and neighbors experience love without judgment.

***all children have the right to simply be children...***

**Please join us in supporting the 2020 Neighbors In Need Special  
Mission Offering. Thank you!**

