



Church Spotlight

Grace UMC, Greenville District

Reverend Robert Cox, Pastor

“Reaching Members and the Community!”

Ms. Charlie Bailey, FAN Coordinator at Grace UMC, believes in the important connection between spiritual and physical health. She heard about FAN from her pastor, Reverend Robert Cox. Rev. Cox learned about FAN at a UMC district meeting and approached Ms. Bailey about serving as the lead person for the program in their church. After learning about the goals of the program and seeing her pastor’s excitement for FAN, Ms. Bailey was eager to be involved.

Due to lower church attendance during the summer months, the FAN committee chose to delay their kickoff event until September. Even though it has only been a few weeks, there are exciting changes for healthy living taking place at Grace UMC! For example, the church has a new professional chef who prepares supper every Wednesday evening before Bible study. The menu is shared in the church bulletin on Sundays and includes FAN friendly foods such as baked chicken, steamed vegetables, and butternut squash. Also, Rev. Cox leads an exercise group for older adults, encourages church members to walk more, and track their steps. He sets an example for church members by using a Fitbit to track his steps.



Pictured (left to right): Charlie Bailey, Leslie Melcher, Kristen Holmes, Pastor Robert Cox, Michelle Hemple, Ed Van Splinter



FAN not only benefits members of Grace UMC. Ms. Bailey believes the program is also making an impact on families living in her community. Through a partnership with a local school, the church organized a FAN friendly back to school event. During the event, they had a FAN tri-fold board on display and provided information to the parents about helping their kids be active and eat healthy. They shared school supplies and backpacks to support the students for the upcoming school year.

Others are noticing Ms. Bailey’s passion and energy for FAN! A church member recently shared with Ms. Bailey, “I think what you’re doing is great. And I’m all for it.” These words continue to encourage Ms. Bailey and remind her that living healthy is not something she does to meet her own needs. She encourages others to remember living healthy helps you care for the body God has given you, and it also helps you to meet the needs of your family, church family, and broader community.

Congratulations to Grace UMC for your success and commitment to the health and well-being of your members and community!