

From the Pastor. . .

Late last year when Time-Warner ended free programming for churches, I was upset with them. After all, Ann Street UMC had been on Channel 10 for many years. I was also upset that they gave us only two weeks notice.

But then, the more I thought about it, the more I realized that my emotions were misplaced. After all, Time-Warner had no duty to carry our services for free. They had, in fact, given us grace. (Grace is a gift given to someone else without reference to whether such a gift is deserved and such a gift is unearned (else it would not be a gift!))

So perhaps the better attitude would be to be grateful for all the grace given to us in our lives. The grace given to us by friends and family who forgive our transgressions. The grace of a new day in which to live out our faith and our hopes and our dreams. The grace of God, which more often than not does not make us pay full price for the things we do wrong. The grace of God for eternity, in which we are loved and accepted into heaven, not on our merits, but through His gracious love made known in Jesus Christ.

So, thank you, Time-Warner, for your grace to Ann Street UMC.

And, by the way, by next week, we hope to be back on cable. Details are still being worked out, but it will probably be at 5:30 on Monday evenings. We'll let you know if that changes. (And thanks again to Doug Gilchrist for his negotiations with Time-Warner.)

Yes, there will now be a cost. . . but then again, mission and ministry most often cost something, don't they?

—Eric Lindblade