

Grace United Methodist Church

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2022

PASTOR'S NOTE

December 2022, newsletter

Psalm 96, "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, praise his name; tell of his salvation day to day. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise."

All 150 chapters of the Book of Psalms found in the Old Testament are poetry. The Hebrew title of Psalms means "songs of praise," while the Greek title is "Psalmoi," which means sacred songs sung to musical accompaniment. Many contemporary Christian worship songs come from the Psalms. That is especially true of Christmas and Advent Carols.

This year during Advent and Christmas I invite you to sing the songs with Jesus. Jesus keeps us on key and in rhythm. Jesus' presence helps us keep the busyness of the holidays in the proper perspective. When we sing with Jesus, his joy will fill us and overflow to those around us that we want to bless during this holy season. From the first singing of the Advent Carol, "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," to the singing of "Silent Night," Christmas Eve the music draws us together. The music unites us as people of faith and as disciples of our Lord Jesus, whose birth we celebrate each Christmas.

During the Christmas season we decorate the church and our homes, we put up trees and hang wreaths, buy gifts and wrap them. We send cards and receive them. We bake treats and get together for parties. All these activities are part of our Christmas celebrations but not the most important part. The most important part is our worship during Advent when we prepare our hearts to receive anew the gift of Jesus our Savior. Jesus is the most cherished Christmas gift- full of forgiveness and eternal love. It is our Heavenly Father who sent the gift of Jesus to save all of humanity from the wages of sin. God has given us a Gospel gift that shall last forever. **John 3:16 says it this way, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but will have everlasting life."**

It is because of God's Gospel gift of Jesus that all the other activities of Christmas make sense.

At Christmas we have a unique opportunity to be made new. As we sing, decorate, bake goodies, and worship together let us remind ourselves with each activity that Jesus is with us whenever we invite him. As we worship and sing our favorites, "O Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Away in a Manger," "Angel's We Have Heard on High," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Hark! The Herald Angel's Sing," and "Joy to the World," we open our hearts that God may bless us with a deeper appreciation of the real gift of Christmas, Jesus.

Advent books are available for you as a gift from Grace Church, so that we can read and sing together this year. Once every 6 years we have Christmas Eve on Saturday and Christmas Day on Sunday. Christmas Eve services are 7:00 PM and Christmas Day Sunday service is a 9:30 AM. We will be doing something special for Christmas morning (No sermon) as my gift to you.

Merry Christmas, with Christ's love,

Pastor Vicki Downing



SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Dec. 1 Isaiah 9:6
- Dec. 2 Luke 1:26-35
- Dec. 3 Luke 1:41-42
- Dec. 4 Colossians 3:16
- Dec. 5 1 Timothy 3:16
- Dec. 6 Luke 6:37
- Dec. 7 Isaiah 61:1
- Dec. 8 2 Corinthians 3:3
- Dec. 9 Matthew 1:18-23
- Dec. 10 Luke 2:7
- Dec. 11 Psalm 37:1
- Dec. 12 Ephesians 5:2
- Dec. 13 1 John 4:11
- Dec. 14 John 16:22
- Dec. 15 John 1:14
- Dec. 16 John 14:8-11
- Dec. 17 1 John 3:1
- Dec. 18 Galatians 4:4-5
- Dec. 19 Ephesians 4:4-6
- Dec. 20 Psalm 103:13
- Dec. 21 Hebrews 2:11
- Dec. 22 John 3:16
- Dec. 23 Luke 2:8-14
- Dec. 24 Matthew 5:9
- Dec. 25 2 Thessalonians 3:16
- Dec. 26 John 14:27
- Dec. 27 Romans 15:13
- Dec. 28 John 14:23
- Dec. 29 2 Corinthians 1:19-20
- Dec. 30 Psalm 36:5
- Dec. 31 Psalm 121



PRAYERS NEEDED

Kim Stehle

Julie and Sarah (daughters of Mike Amos)

Jeanne Powell

John Gilmartin

Jack Yeager Jennifer sabo



SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS FOR DECEMBER

PHYLLIS REIFF

2489 POSSUM RD EAST

SPRINGFIELD, OH 45505



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

DEC 4

BETTY STANLEY

7200 S. EXCALIBUR DR

PAINSVILLE, OHIO 44077



DECEMBER 2022 WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>NAME</u>	
ACROLYTE	DEC 4,11	LARRY CAMPBELL	
	DEC 18, 25	GREG HOSIER	

COMMUNION SET UP	DEC 4	PASTOR VICKI	

COMMUNION SERVERS	DEC 4	BECKY FRANTZ & CONNIE MITCHELL	
		DONNA LAYNE & MARY AHLBORN	

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP	DEC 4	BECKY FRANTZ	

GREETER (FRONT DOOR)	DEC 4, 11	DONNA MYERS	
	DEC 18	CONNIE MITCHELL	
	DEC 25	?	

GREETER (SANCTUARY DOOR)	DEC 4, 11	BILL PINKERTON	
	DEC 18, 25	MARY AHLBORN	

LITURGIST	DEC 4, 11	MARILYN MARTIN	
	DEC 18, 25	BECKY FRANTZ	

USHERS	DEC 4, 11	LARRY CAMPBELL & BILL PINKERTON	
	DEC 18, 25	LARRY CAMPBELL & GREG HOSIER	

<u>COUNTERS</u>		<u>SPECIAL MUSIC</u>	
DEC 5	MARY AHLBORN & CONNIE MITCHELL	DEC 4	BECKY FRANTZ
DEC 12	CINDY YEAGER & BARB SHEEHAN	DEC 11	JIM MAYHUGH
DEC 19	MARILYN MARTIN 7 JACKIE GREGORY	DEC 18	CANTANA
DEC 26	KIM STHELE & DEB COOKE	DEC 25	DAN DOWNING

THANK YOU FOR SERVING GRACE !

DECEMBER 2022

				1	2	3
				6:00 TRUSTEE MT ?	CLOSED	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7 PM NA	7 PM MEN'S BS	7 PM NA	10 AM BIBLE STUDY	1 PM BUDGET MEETING	CLOSED	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7 PM NA PROGRAM	7 PM MEN'S BS	12 pm UMW HOLIDAY TEA SOCIAL 7 PM NA PROGRAM	10 AM BIBLE STUDY 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE		CLOSED	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 AM CANTATA 7 PM NA	7 PM MEN'S BS	7 PM NA PROGRAM	10 AM BIBLE STUDY ? 6:30 PM Choir Christmas Party at Becky's	OFFICE CLOSED	CLOSED	7 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE	BANKS CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED	7 PM NA	NO BIBLE STUDY NO CHOIR	OFFICE CLOSED	CLOSED	NEW YEARS EVE



MINUTES FROM ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE 2022

HELD AT HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH

NOV 2, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

District Superintendent Jim Wilson presiding

Meeting was opened with prayer.

Announcements per Jim Wilson

10 Clark County Methodist Churches present.

Come July 1, 2023, new districts will occur.

Jim asked each church to share one ministry we have.

Pastor Vicki shared about our Soap Making Ministry.

Conference Agenda:

Candidate for Ministries – none from any churches present

Lay Servants – all were voted on and approved

Certified Ministry – reviewed

2023 Lay Church Officers – all were voted on and approved

Lay Speakers – all were voted on and approved

Membership reports – all voted on and approved

Prayer For saints – each church can announce these names at a service

Pastoral Compensation Package – all voted on and approved

2023 Compensation Package

2023 Housing Allowance Exclusion

Accountable Reimbursement

Submission of required Reports

2023 Trustees Legal & Property

2023 Parsonage Inspection

Safe Sanctuary Policy

Open for questions to the DS

He reported in June 2023, another vote for disaffiliation will be taken.

Closing at 7:15 PM with The Lord's Prayer

Attendance of Grace Members: Bob Keeton, Donna Myers, Mary Ahlborn, Dan Downing, Betty Prosser, Pastor Vicki Downing, Pattie Mumma

Minutes Submitted by: Pattie Mumma (Office Manager)



GRACE CHURCH NEWS

Our Grace Family has had an unexpected loss with the passing of Mike Amos. Mike was a valued Trustee at Grace for many years. He was always the “Go-To” guy for any questions concerning our building as well as “Go-To” Handyman. Mike was active in being a door greeter, usher, communion server, Lay Speaker, and much more. He served our country in the United States Air Force. Our hearts and prayers go out to his beloved, Kim Stehle, as well as his daughters, Julie Barker and Sarah Conley. Services will be held at the church in January.



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

On Tuesday December 13 at 12:00 noon, the Women of Faith will be hosting a
“HOLIDAY BRUNCH SOCIAL”.

Everyone is invited, men and women of the church.

There will be music, Christmas games, and light lunch.

Wear your Christmas attire and come join in the festivities !!!

*(The drawing for the Christmas Tree will be done on Sunday
Dec 18 following church service in the Wesley Room.)*



Word Search

Find the following words.

angel
bell
candles
candy
chimney
December
eggnog
gifts
greetings
happy
holiday
jolly
lights
merry
mistletoe

V K G N A C R D E T B B K O
T N E B C A T O D T A R K P
G Y C H I M N E Y G N C W Y
J C J V Q D Y E C E G Y P L
Q A C H N E E H A Q E A P L
S N E A X C G F N P L D D O
G D S P J E G S D F U I L J
N Y T P V M N X L Y F L L U
I T H Y J B O G E N G O E V
T W G H B E G Q S J V H B N
E P I W H R D S T F I G V I
E R L N W T B E E Y K U I F
R D O Y R R E M G G X Q W N
G M M E O T E L T S I M D O

