

December 14, 2017

Words from the Pastor

This Advent season is busy for us at Grace UMC. This past weekend is a good example of all the good intentions, words and actions of our church family of faith striving to share God's love with all people. People came together- members, family and friends- to produce excellent outcomes. **A big "thank you" to everyone** who participated in Breakfast with Santa, children and adult rehearsals, worship service, Christmas concert, and soup and sandwich. We look forward to seeing some of the pictures and videos that were taken at these events.

My prayer is that the events of this past weekend have enhanced your journey through the Advent season. Let us remember that these weeks leading up to Christmas Day are a special time of reflection on God's gift to us: the baby Jesus. To rejoice in Jesus' birth certainly brings glory to God. Let us remember that God did not just send the child, Jesus into the world. God sent us a mighty Savior to save His people from our sins. That is God's great love for us.

This Advent-Christmas season reminds us that every day Jesus is acting on our behalf, to empower, lead, guide and protect us. God sent His only Son to earth: to reveal God to us; to give us abundant life; to make intercession for us; to prepare a place for us and to prepare for his return to rule and reign on earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

My prayer for us is that we never forget that we are always on Jesus' mind and we should always keep Jesus on our minds. Jesus is constantly working to complete His plans for believers' lives as well as for the entire world. Jesus' constant care for us should motivate us to make sure that He is always on our minds. Are there obstacles that prevent you from keeping Jesus on your mind, all the time?

Journeying through Advent,
Pastor Nation

Sunday, December 17, 2017. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Greeter is Eleanor Phillip; Ushers include Donna Hartmann, Carol Provenzano, Elias Tarquino, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team Members Yvonne Basnight, JoAnne Hazell, Vicki Pemberton, Don Pike, and Matt Roth.

Prayer List. ♥Eulalee (Dell) Murray, ♥Connor Murray (friend of Fran and Al Greifenberger), ♥Rev. Barbara Melzer, ♥Helen Phillip (mother of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Rita Gallagher (friend of Naomi Brown), ♥Anna Shirshokiba (friend of Naomi Brown), ♥Michelle Fitch (daughter-in law of Everett Fitch), ♥Family of Regina Krebs (friend of Christine and Adam Doeringer), ♥Richard Keidel, ♥Rose Ramsaran (mother of Savi Thomas); ♥Carmelita Seraphin (grandmother of Brianna and Jessica Knice), ♥Loretta Lewis Zimmer, ♥Sandy Jones (niece of Edith and Charles Zipperlen), ♥Vincent Morrison, ♥Rondolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Bernard Basnight (son of Yvonne Basnight), ♥John Simpson, ♥Marge Frank, ♥Bob Zimmer (husband of Loretta Lewis Zimmer), ♥Bob Bryant, Robert T. Bryant (nephew of Bob Bryant), Arthur Lund (friend of Bob Bryant), Elizabeth Bryant (daughter of Bob Bryant), Donna and Brian Turner (friends of Bob Bryant), Myra Bryant (sister-in-law of Bob Bryant), ♥Joan Bertie, ♥Bess Condelles, ♥Peggy Lee (mother of Laurel Brown). **Note.** Prayer List names will continue to be listed for two weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information.

Book of Remembrance. Gifts have been given in loving memory of our wonderful cousin, Bev Budde, by Deb McLearn and Mel McLearn; in loving memory of Beverly (Bev) Budde by her granddaughter Petra; in loving memory of Reverend Robert W. Howard by the Grace United Methodist Board of Trustees; in loving memory of Pastor Howard by Carol and Bob Whyte; in loving memory of Bev Budde by Carol and Bob Whyte.

WE NEED YOU!!!! We are seeking a **volunteer** to complete our Counting Teams. You would meet once every six weeks for approximately one-half hour. If you can count money you are qualified! Ask one of your church friends, your husband or wife to join you and help out your Church. If you need any further information, please contact Eileen in the Church Office either at [516/825-1182](tel:5168251182) or GraceVSNY@aol.com. Thank you.

Calligraphy. We are looking for someone who is adept at calligraphy and would be willing to update our Book of Remembrance which is located in the Narthex. Please call the Church Office if you are interested. Thank you.

Gifts of Love. Are you looking for a way to share the joy of Christmas with others? Give to others by giving a **Gift of Love!** It's easy! Here's what you need to do:

Choose a category of recipient and go shopping! Gift items should fit into a shoebox, shirt box or gift bag. Choose whatever you'd like to give. Please be sure

to purchase NEW items. Please do NOT give food, candy, money or gift cards. Some ideas are described below. Because everyone loves to open presents, please be sure to wrap your gift! Clearly LABEL your gift with the category of recipient including the gender (ie: teenage girl or, boy toddler age 2-4). Bring your Gift of Love to church no later than **December 17th**. There will be collection boxes in the Narthex and in the Education Building. Items will be delivered to families in need the week of Christmas.

Here are some suggestions:

Babies - onesies, washcloths, towels, blankets, clothes, bottles, pacifiers, toys

Toddlers, Children, young teens - toys, clothes, toiletries, books

Young adults and Adults - hats, gloves, socks, undergarments, books, toiletries, handbags, wallets, belts

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Stone at mom2springers@gmail.com.

For those students who are participating in the **Christmas Pageant** - rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 16th at 3PM in the Church, as well as at 8:30AM on the morning of our Pageant performance, December 17th.

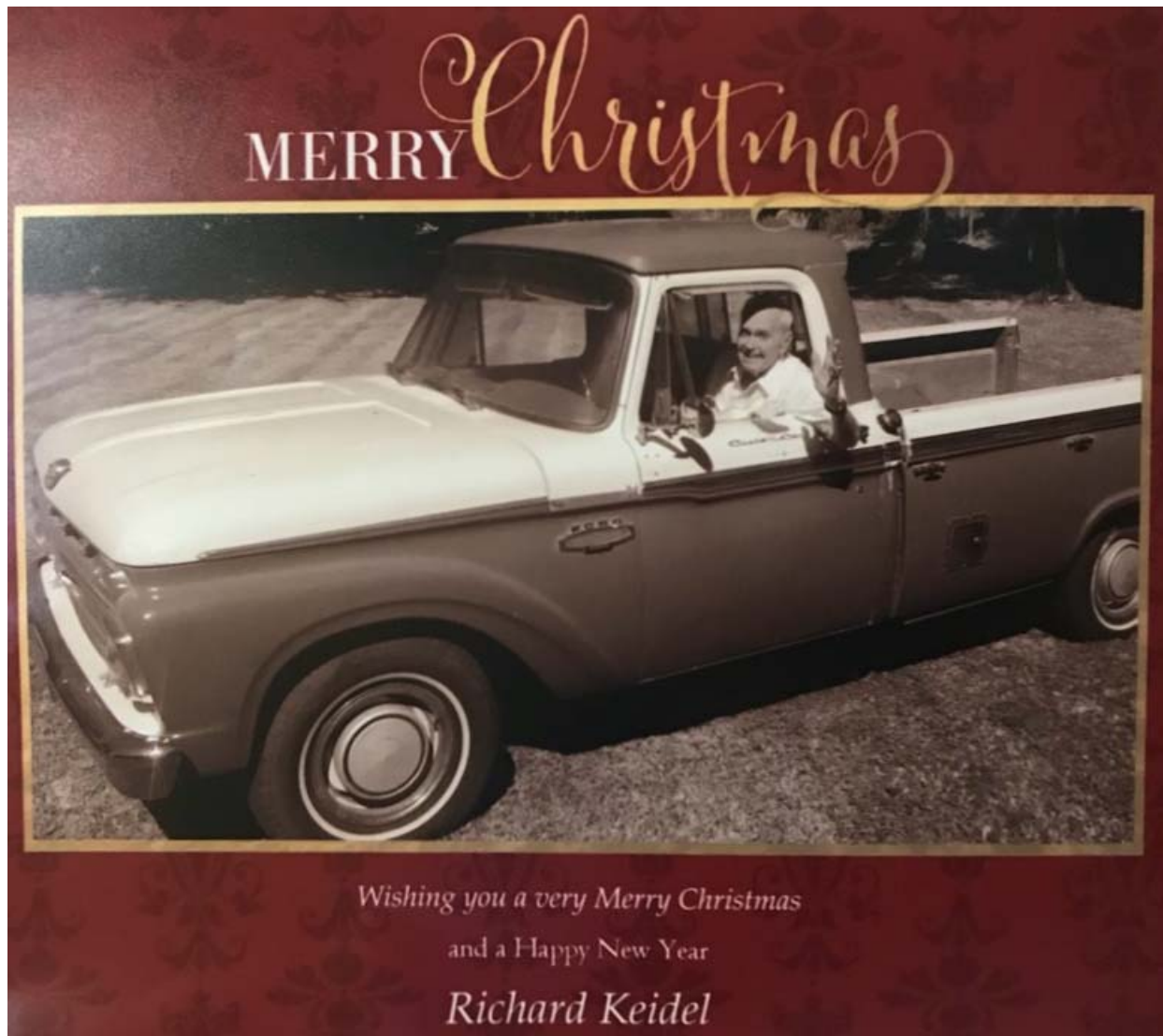
Our **Christmas Pageant** entitled **New Star** will be performed this Sunday, December 17 during our 10AM service. Come and enjoy the tale of Old Star telling younger New Star all about the first Christmas and along with New Star we learn that Jesus Christ is the true reason we celebrate Christmas!

POINSETTIA. If you would like to place a beautiful Poinsettia in the Sanctuary for Christmas in honor of or in memory of a loved one, friend, soldier, etc., please fill out an order form which is located in the Narthex of the Church or in the Church Office. The deadline is Sunday, December 17, 2017. Poinsettias are \$13 each. Please send your check (**made out to GUMC**) with the order form to the Church Office, place it in the Offering Plate (in a sealed envelope marked for the Church Office) or email your request to GraceVSNY@aol.com and send your check to the Church Office. Mark your check, "Poinsettia" and if appropriate, include your Envelope Number. Thank you.

Christmas Card List. Our annual Christmas Card Sign-Up List began on Sunday, December 3, 2017, and continues through and including Sunday, December 17, 2017. All money collected will go to the Grameth Fund, a discretionary fund *for those in need*. Single Name is \$1; Family Name (The Smith Family) is \$2; Family Listing (Bob, Mary, Susie and Jack Smith) is \$4. In addition, *any contributions*

will be merrily accepted!! Your participation in this annual event is greatly appreciated. Please see our volunteer, Lenore Kurz, in the Church Narthex and at Coffee Hour or Eileen in the Church Office. You can also email your info to Eileen at GraceVSNY@aol.com and then send in your donation to the Church Office.

News of Friends and Members. Received a great Christmas Card from our long-time member Dick Keidel. He is currently in Arizona with his daughter. (You are looking good! and we miss you.)



MERRY CHRISTMAS! Thanks be to God for all those who attended the **2017 Soup and Sandwich Dinner** following our wonderful Christmas concert. Your gifts and your service support Grace Church and our Music Ministry and have enabled us to break bread together as a family of faith. It takes a family to serve over 120 dinners of homemade soup and sandwiches. Thank you for your help with shopping, kitchen preparation, table set up and decorations, clean up and breakdown. Thank you to the Boy Scout Troop 109 and Cub Scouts Pack 109 for their assistance serving, set-up and breakdown. Thank you to all those who made time in this busy season to serve our Lord, as we serve our Brothers and Sisters. May God Bless you all.

Registration for programs during the 2018-2019 school year is now open to members of Grace United Methodist Church who have children who will be 2 1/2 by September 1st and/or children who will be three or four years of age by December 1, 2018. Please contact the **Grace Methodist Nursery School** office ([516/825-2354](tel:5168252354)) for information or to request a registration packet.

Twenty-seven students were in attendance at **Church School** on December 10th. There were three students present in the PreK/Kindergarten class and three students in the First and Second grade class. There were six students present in the Third and Fourth grade class and five students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. There were ten students in the Seventh through Eighth grade class. Next week will be a Family Worship with the Church School presenting our Christmas Pageant entitled "New Star". The following week is Christmas Eve, with a 10AM service, a Family Worship service at 7:30PM (led by the youth) and an 11PM Carols service. On Sunday, December 31st it will be Family Worship. Church School resumes on January 7th. I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018! *Janet Stone, Church School Director*

Breakfast with Santa. We filled the gym on Saturday morning with 210 children and adults in attendance at Breakfast with Santa and the Dinglebells. There are numerous people to thank for making the event successful including Pastor Nation, Grace Methodist Nursery School (GMNS) and numerous volunteers including members and friends of Grace Church who willingly gave their time and talents. Diane Panzarino, Director of GMNS, advertised the event and sold 135 tickets! Santa and the Dinglebells, provided musical selections, invited children to the stage to sing and provided entertainment during the event. The entire kitchen staff, headed by Anthony Mazella, started preparation on Thursday night when the dough was made for the home-made bread. The decorating team added new items to the winter wonderland theme this year; young adults took care of the hot

chocolate bar; servers; clean-up; ticket collectors; individuals who transported food from the kitchen to the gym; and the team that wrapped over 100 gifts to make sure each child received a gift. Thanks to all who attended and supported the event!

"On behalf of Grace Methodist Church School, I would like to say **"THANK YOU!"** to you all for contributing so generously to the Fall Food Drive, the Gifts of Love collection and to the Church School Mini Craft Fair. Those who received your donations are most appreciative and the money collected from the craft sale will go towards helping those in need. Thank you all for being so generous!"

December Calendar

Sunday, 12/17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, 12/17 – Christmas Pageant during Church
Saturday, 12/23 – Far Rockaway Food Prep 10AM/K
Sunday, 12/24 - 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve
Sunday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve Services 7:30PM and 11PM
Monday, 12/25 – MERRY CHRISTMAS
Sunday, 12/31 – Youth Sunday
Sunday, 12/31 – Happy New Years' Eve
Sunday, 12/31 – Watch Night Service 11PM

Have a great week!
Eileen

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Music Office: [516/825-1940](tel:5168251940)
Nursery School: [516/825-2354](tel:5168252354)
E-Mail: GraceVSNY@aol.com
Website: GraceVSNY.org
10AM Worship Service; 10AM Sunday School
(Check out our Facebook Page)