

November 22, 2018

Words from the Pastor

Mission statement:

Grace United Methodist Church is a family of faith striving to share God's love with all people.

Dear Church Family,

On this Thursday we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. It is a time to reflect on all the things we have and give thanks to God. It is also a time for family gatherings, expressing thanks to family and friends, and sharing a meal. To usher us into a time of deeper reflection I am sharing with you some lines from a poem that was sent to me by a friend. The poem's title is "The World Is Mine". I saw a very beautiful woman and wished I was as beautiful. When she rose to leave, I noticed that she had one leg. I gave God thanks for my two legs. I stopped by the store to buy some candy from this very charming lady who appreciated me for taking the time to talk with her. Then I realized that she was blind. I gave God thanks for my two eyes. Later, I saw a small boy watching other kids at play. I asked him why he was not playing, and he just looked ahead without a word. I learned that he could not hear.

With my feet to take me where I'd go, with eyes to see the sunset glow, with ears to hear what I'd know, I give God thanks and ask him to forgive me for the times I failed to give him thanks. Today, I am reminded that I am blessed, indeed. During this Thanksgiving and always, let us remember to give thanks with a grateful heart for this is God's will for us.

Please note that Alpha has been cancelled for Wednesday, November 21. We will meet on November 28 in the Bert Keller Room in the Education Building. Enter on Fairview Avenue at 7 PM as we continue the Alpha course. There are seven remaining sessions. Call the church office if you have any questions.

Please come on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM to the chapel of the Church building if you desire to learn more about our church, become a member, or transfer your membership from another church. We welcome you and thank you.

To help us learn more about God, ourselves, and prepare for the worship service on Christ the King Sunday, please read the following scriptures: 1 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37. At least two of these scriptures will be read during our service and will be the focus of the message.

Thought for the Week:

“Love is the beauty of the soul.” ~Saint Augustine~

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Nation

Sunday, November 25, 2018. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Nursery Attendant is Talesha Bolden; Ushers are Jenifer Hartig, Chris Ukanwoke, Carol Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Helen Avedisian, Everett Fitch, Michael Provenzano, Carol Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge.

Prayer List. ♥Prayers for our neighbors, family, animals, fire fighters, police and all volunteers in California, ♥Marilyn Ike, ♥Everol Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Donna Lowe (daughter of Loretta Lewis Zimmer), ♥Eustine Grazette (aunt of Maria Gordon), ♥Jason Ryan (brother of Larry Gordon), ♥Linda Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Joan Bertie, ♥Rev. Barbara Melzer, ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥Family of the brother of John Schnur (friends of Elaine Treske), ♥Monica Godinho, ♥Susan Felsen, ♥Bill Hammen (brother of Edie Zipperlen), ♥Wilfredo Ortiz (brother of Frances Ortiz), ♥Gisela Nunez (friend of Naomi Brown), ♥Nadia Gay (aunt of Renée and Marlon Polycarpe), ♥Valerie Miles (friend of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Cliff McBride (friend of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Timothy Thomsen (nephew of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Richard Keidel, ♥Rose Ramsaran (mother of Savi Thomas), ♥Family of Excelencia Price-Edwards, ♥Carmelita Seraphin (grandmother of Brianna and Jessica Knice), ♥Loretta Lewis Zimmer, ♥Vincent Morrison, ♥Rondolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥John Simpson, ♥Bob Zimmer (husband of Loretta Lewis Zimmer). **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.

Church School. Twenty-eight students were in attendance at Church School on November 18th. There were three students present in the PreK/Kindergarten. There were four students present in the First and Second grade class. There were five students in the Third and Fourth grade class. There were six students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. The Youth class had ten students present. Our praise song for November was “Peace Like a River”. Next week will be a Family Worship Sunday-no Church School. Wishing you all a blessed and happy Thanksgiving! Thank you. ~Janet Stone, Church School Director~

What Is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome.

You Are Invited

Where: Bert Keller Room, Education Building (West Fairview Entrance)

When: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 7PM

Why: Food, Talk and Discussion

5th Annual FREE Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2018. This FREE dinner is being hosted by our Scout groups, the Outreach Program, parishioners of Holy Name of Mary and members of the Valley Stream Community. It is intended for ANYONE who would like to enjoy a delicious meal, good company and entertainment! The location is Holy Name of Mary School Cafeteria located at 90 South Grove Street (East Jamaica Avenue entrance). **RSVP is required** (516/825-0177) or email hnmthanksgiving@outlook.com. Unfortunately, NOT handicapped accessible.

The **Christmas Pageant** will be on December 23rd! We need volunteers!!! If you weren't able to make the planning meeting, that's okay. Let Kim Neri or Janet Stone know that you are interested in being a part in the Pageant. Pageant rehearsals will be held on Saturday, December 1, *8 and 15 from 3PM-5PM as well as at 8:30AM on the morning of our Pageant performance in church. **The rehearsal on *December 8 will take place immediately following the Breakfast with Santa.** We are looking forward to a heartwarming, spirit filled Christmas Pageant!

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 16th**. 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

CONVERGE. Converge is a multi-district United Methodist Youth Retreat hosted by the LI East District. It is open to Youth grades 6-12. Registration opens December 1st (Space is limited). Send the following to Kim Neri: Permission Slip and Medical Release; \$100 or \$50 deposit. Checks should be made out to Grace United Methodist Church. The Retreat is being held at Camp Quinipet, 99 Shore Road, Shelter Island Height, NY 11965. \$100 includes housing, snacks, 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Please join us on April 26th-28th (Friday-Sunday). **(Anyone interested please contact Kim at 516/644-0979 by next Sunday as registrations opens up on December 1st and fills up quickly.)**

According to the Book of Proverbs 29:19 - "*Where there is no vision, the people perish, but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*"

As we continue to serve in an ever changing and diverse community and a world that promotes division, we at Grace United Methodist Church have agreed to create a Vision Statement, Mission Statement and promote key values in keeping with the Law of God. Our aim is to continue to develop unity of purpose and foster clarity of values. We thank the members of the congregation, church council, leaders and Pastor Nation who have led us through this process by thoughtfully and prayerfully submitting their ideas that keep in line with the unchanging precepts of God while being cognizant of the changing world in which we live.

Our Vision Statement:

An enlightened family of faith serving our members, community and wider society with grace, hope and love.

Our Mission Statement:

Grace United Methodist Church is a family of faith striving to share God's love with all people.

Our Core Values:

We value:

Respect

Honesty

Inclusiveness

Fairness

Openness

Oneness

Collaboration

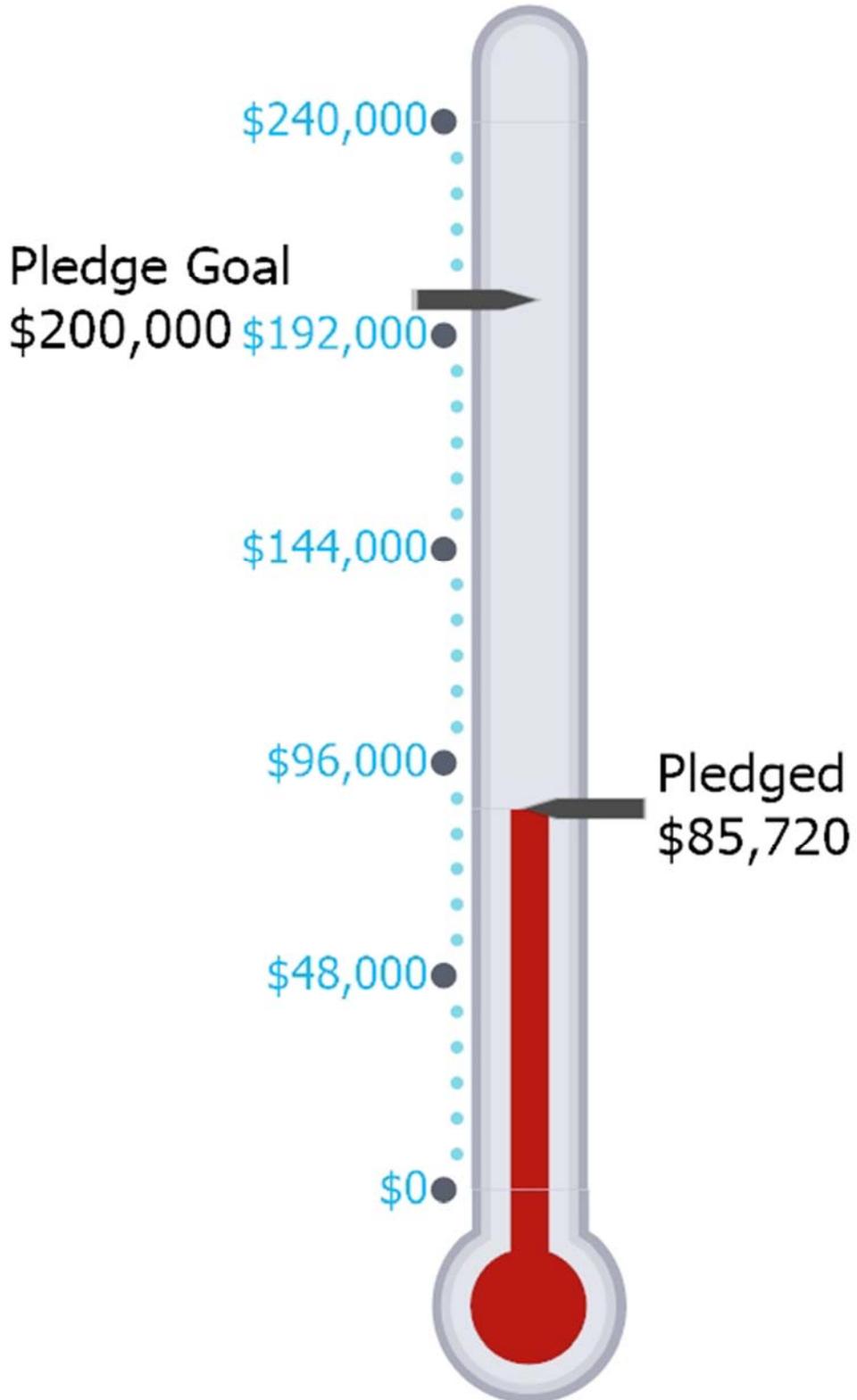
Respectfully submitted by,

Andrea Owen-Boyd

Pledges. If you haven't turned in your pledge card, please either send it in to the Church Office or put it in the Offering Plate on Sunday. You can also call Eileen in the Church Office and she will input your information directly. Thank you as always for your continued support of Grace Church.

Pledges Toward Goal of \$200,000

for 2019



November Calendar

Wednesday, 11/21 – Alpha (**No meeting this week** – Return on 11/28)

Saturday, 11/24 – Far Rockaway Food Prep 10AM/K

Sunday, 11/25 – Thanksgiving Packaging after Church

Wednesday, 11/28 – Alpha 7PM/BKR

December Calendar

Saturday 12/1 - 9AM- Come decorate the sanctuary for Advent

Sunday, 12/3 – 1st Day of Advent

Sunday, 12/3 – Evangelism Committee after Church/UL

Wednesday, 12/5 – Alpha 7PM/BKR

Friday, 12/7 – UMW at the INN/10:45AM

Friday, 12/7 – Set-up for Breakfast w/Santa 5PM/G&K

Saturday, 12/8 – Breakfast w/Santa 9:30AM/G&K

Sunday 12/9 – UMW after Church/UL

Wednesday, 12/12 – Alpha 7PM/BKR

Saturday 12/15 - 1 PM Annual Conference BKR

Saturday 12/15 - 2:30 PM -Set up for next day's soup and sandwich dinner

Sunday, 12/16 – 4 PM -Christmas Concert followed by Soup and Sandwich

Wednesday, 12/19 – Alpha 7PM/BKR

Saturday, 12/22 – Far Rockaway Mission Food Prep 10AM/K

Sunday, 12/23 – Christmas Pageant during Church

Sunday, 12/23 – UMW Bake Sale; Youth Crafts after Church

Monday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve Services 7:30PM & 11PM

Wednesday, 12/26 – No Alpha meeting until 1/2/2019

Sunday, 12/30 – Youth Sunday

Monday, 12/31 – Watch Night Service 11PM

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Eileen