

**December 20, 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,

This weekend at Grace felt like our world was turned upside down. In addition to our personal chores and plans, we had rehearsals for Christmas Concert and Christmas Pageant, and Charge Conference on Saturday. On Sunday, we experienced worship service, Christmas concert, and Soup & Sandwich. We are grateful to each person who contributed to make these events and worship service successful. We extend special thanks to the directors of the choirs, parents, hospitality team and helpers. Lots of time and energy was spent to prepare for these events. Each contributor made a difference.

Advent is a time to prepare the way of the Lord. The crooked roads shall become straight, and our rough ways smooth. A child will be born! Something eternally significant will come to all the people and all will know the way to an abundant life. Let us continue to prepare our hearts and minds to receive and celebrate the birth of Jesus. If we truly prepare well, we will have a more successful Advent/Christmas season. Let us encourage each other on our Advent journey.

We are reminded of two women who played significant roles in the birth of Jesus. These women are Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary, after hearing the words of the angel Gabriel, went to visit Elizabeth. As Mary entered Elizabeth's house, Elizabeth blessed her with words of power and faith, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what has been spoken to her." Elizabeth complimented the gutsy faith Mary showed by believing that what God said, He would do. This statement was a turning point for Mary as she awaited the arrival of baby Jesus.

Mary needed Elizabeth's words to affirm the mighty miracle that was taking place in her life. We are birthing: new ideas, new hopes, new direction, and new challenges. Without someone to encourage us, we will feel like the load is too heavy and our faith is too light. We all need encouragement. It is a powerful balm to a weary soul. As a step of faith during this Advent Christmas season, let us find opportunities to encourage others. Let us be encouragers. And it would be great to take this into the New Year.

On Wednesday, December 19, at 7PM we will meet in the Bert Keller Room in the Education Building to continue the Alpha course. There are four remaining sessions.

To help us learn more about God, ourselves, and prepare for the worship service on the 4th Sunday of Advent, please read the following scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; and Luke 1:39-45. At least two of these scriptures will be read during our service and will be the focus of the message.

Journeying with you through Advent,

*Pastor Nation*

**Sunday, December 23, 2018.** Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Liturgist is Alan Towson; Reader is Echo Eshun; Jennifer Morton is the Nursery Attendant; Ushers are Jenifer Hartig, Chris Ukanwoke, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members are Barbara Casey, Pat Eshun, Debbie Nicosia, and Maria and Alan Towson.

**Prayer List.** ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Marianne Pike, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥Buddy Dookhi, ♥Carol D'Amico (grandmother of Lisa Becker), ♥Marilyn Ike, ♥Fay Rose (mother of Nichole Robinson), ♥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), ♥Rose Ramsaran (mother of Savi Thomas), ♥Family of Excelencia Price-Edwards, ♥Carmelita Seraphin (grandmother of Brianna and Jessica Knice), ♥Vincent Morrison, ♥Rondolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥John Simpson. **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-seven students were in attendance at Church School on December 16th. There were four 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 eight students present. Next week is our Christmas Pageant! All students, if not participating in the pageant, will remain with their families during worship. There will be no Church School on December 30. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you.

*Janet Stone, Church School Director*

The **Christmas Pageant** will be on December 23rd! Pageant rehearsal will be held at 8:30AM on the morning of our Pageant performance in church. We are looking forward to a heartwarming, spirit filled Christmas Pageant!

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,** for joining us at our 2018 Christmas Concert and Soup and Sandwich dinner. Over 100 of us gathered together in the gym to share food and fellowship! Thanks to all the volunteers from the Hospitality Committee, the UMW, the Men of Grace, and the Boy Scouts who helped plan, shop, prepare, cook, and serve a wonderful meal. Many hands made light work of it. Our Lord Provides!! Thank you and bless you all. *Bob DiSalvo*

**Grace Methodist Nursery School.** Registration for programs at Grace Methodist Nursery School is now available for eligible children of members of Grace United Methodist Church. Please contact the Nursery School office at 516/825-2354 to obtain a registration packet or arrange a tour.

**Christmas Cookies.** The UMW is holding a bake sale on December 23rd after church. We would like to invite all who may have a favorite Christmas cookie recipe to make up a batch or two and bring them to church Saturday morning or Sunday morning at 9AM. We plan to make boxes or assorted Christmas cookies for the sale. They make a great gift.

**HELP WANTED.** We are looking for a Bookkeeper as our current Bookkeeper will be leaving for a new full-time job. The job would require approximately 3 hours per week. If you are interested, please contact Eileen in the Church Office 516/825-1182.

### December Calendar

Wednesday, 12/19 – Alpha 7PM/BKR

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

Sunday, 12/23 – Pageant Rehearsal 8:30AM/Church

Sunday, 12/23 – Christmas Pageant during Church

Sunday, 12/23 – UMW Bake Sale (Christmas Cookies) & Youth Crafts after Church

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

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

*Sunday, 12/30 – No Church School*

Monday, 12/31 – Watch Night Service 11PM

Have a very Merry Christmas!



Eileen

**Christmas Cards and Poinsettia List follows:**

**CHRISTMAS**

**2018**

**GREETINGS**

**FROM YOUR FRIENDS**

**AT**

**GRACE**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The Ankobiah Family

Linda, Sal, Emily and Lola Artusa

David Edward Aulisio

Emily Rose Aulisio

Lisa, Billy, Nick, Chris, Adrianna, and Dominic Becker

Andrea, Earl and David Earl Boyd

The Bolden Family

Laurel and Paul Brown

Anthony Ryan Cangialosi

The Condelles Family

Dorrell DaCosta (Hope)

Nancy and Alan Davis

Theresa, Bob, Julie and Kenny DiSalvo

Christine and Adam Doeringer

Everett Fitch

The Godinho Family

The Greifenberger Family

Jane Gunther and Family

Pearl Hamilton

The Harper Family

The Hazell Family

Marilyn and Brud Ike

Richard Keidel

Brianna Nicole Knice

Honey Knice

Jessica Lynn Knice

Lenore and Manny Kurz

Kurz Kids and Grandkids

Michelle Lewis

Anne Mahoney

The McKnight Family

Michael Meheux

Iris Molina

Margo and Vincent Morrison

Jennifer, Douglas, Jackson and Casey Morton

Coleen and Eulalee Murray

Pastor and Desmond Nation

Jermaine, Shamair, Zakri, and Zaiyon Nation

Desmond Jr., Mikisha, Trey, Marcellus, and Victor Nation

The O'Loughlin Family

The Panzarino Family

Katherine, Jim, David and Matthew Perkins

Marianne and Don Pike

Carol Provenzano

Nancy, Michael, Erica and Michael Jr. Provenzano

Eileen and Sarah Robertson

The Robinson Family

The Whittaker-Roth Family

The Scarlett Family

The Sjoberg Family

Lainie Spencer and Family

Janet, Brian, Matthew and Thomas Stone

Thornton Stone

Richard Tiedge

Elaine Treske

Danielle Jade Vito

Kara Michele Vito



Nicholas Daniel Vito

Marie White

Barbara Woodford

Edie and Charlie Zipperlen

Katy and Carl Zipperlen

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019**

**We wish everyone a very  
MERRY CHRISTMAS**



**2018 Altar Poinsettia Plants**

**have been given...**

In loving memory Olive and Lyle Temple from their daughter Jane Gunther.

In loving memory of Veronica and Philip Gunther from Jane Gunther.

In loving memory of my dear mother Ruby Walrond from her daughter Maudlyn Scarlett.

In loving memory of Jessie Dupong, Barbara Ehlinger, Florence Rothage, Bev Budde, Margie Frank, and Phoebe Nollenberger from a friend.

In loving memory of my husband Ned Mahoney from Anne.

In loving memory of my son David Carl Mahoney from Mom.

In loving memory of Salvin and Authur from Pastor and Desmond Nation.

In loving honor of our Loving Family and Friends by Pastor and Desmond Nation.

In loving memory of Beatrice and Owen Honeyghan from Pastor and Desmond Nation.

In loving memory of the Fitch Family from Everett Fitch.

In loving memory of James Wright from Everett Fitch.

In loving memory of Loved Ones from Everett Fitch.

In loving memory of my loving father Joseph E. Casey (Pop Pop) from Jennifer Morton.

In loving honor of our Kids from Margo and Vincent Morrison.

In loving memory of my loving friends and family who have passed on from Lainie Spencer and Family.

In loving memory of Helen and Ludwig Kurz from Lenore and Manny Kurz.

In loving memory of Jeannette and Gilbert McCormick from Lenore and Manny Kurz.

In loving memory of M. Esther Marcell beloved mother of Gloria Godinho.

In loving memory of Marina Marcell, beloved sister of Gloria Godinho.

In loving memory of Bev Budde, longtime friend and member of Grace UMC from Gloria Godinho.

In loving memory of Irene and Thomas Robertson, from their daughter Eileen and granddaughter Sarah.

In loving memory of Irene M. Belsky from Eileen and Sarah Robertson.

In loving memory of Edward Knice from his wife, Honey.

In loving memory of Edward Knice, our grandpa in Heaven watching over us from Kara, Emily, Anthony, Danielle, Brianna, Jessica, David Edward and Nicky.

In loving memory of Horst Hoehn from his wife Harriet Hoehn.

In loving memory of my parents Gladys and John Kline from their daughter Harriet Hoehn.

In honor and memory of Loved Ones from the Panzarino Family.

In loving memory of Marion and Edward Kruger from a friend.

In loving memory of Gregory Ike from Marilyn and Brud Ike.

In loving memory of Lillian and Nils Olsen from Marilyn and Brud Ike.

In loving memory of Mary and Clarence Ike from Marilyn and Brud Ike.

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Keller and Uncle George from Eileen and Sarah Robertson.

In loving memory of my Deceased Family by Pearl Hamilton.

In loving memory of Waltraut (Trudy) Budde and Dr. Fred Budde Jr. from their daughter Petra.

In loving memory of Ruby Walrond from Eileen and Sarah Robertson.

In loving memory of our dear parents from Nancy and Alan Davis.

In loving memory of Beverly Budde from the Lutkowski Family.

In loving memory of Loved Ones from the Lutkowski Family.

In loving memory of Elizabeth Stone from Thornton Stone.

In loving memory of Elena and Walter Smith from Janet, Brian, Matthew, and Thomas Stone.

In loving memory of Elizabeth Stone from Janet, Brian, Matthew, and Thomas Stone.

In loving memory of Loved Ones from Janet, Brian, Matthew, and Thomas Stone.

In loving memory of Cora Stafford by Rick and Mary Polley and Family.

In loving memory of Rodna Stafford by Rick and Mary Polley and Family.

In loving memory of Robert Howard by Rick and Mary Polley.

In loving memory of Mark Nathaniel Treske from his wife Elaine.

In loving memory of our parents from Marianne and Don Pike.