

**December 4, 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,

The story of the miraculous birth of Jesus begins the most incredible life ever lived – and led to the best gift we could receive. At this time of year, as we journey through Advent, so much effort is spent on looking for the right gifts. However, in our hearts, we know the best gifts of the season are those that can't be wrapped or placed under the Christmas tree.

As we wait and prepare for the coming of Christ, let us reflect on the great truth recorded in John 1:14, when “*the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*”

During this Advent season and beyond, consider how you can allow yourself to see more clearly the glory of Jesus Christ, who came from the Father, full of grace and glory.

***Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we journey through this holy season of Jesus' birth, open our hearts and shine Your Light into our lives. Guide us to offer kindness, support, forgiveness and strength – help us generously give the gifts of the Spirit. Amen.***

On Tuesday, December 4, 2018, Bishop Bickerton will visit the LIW District at St. Albans - Grace UMC, 200-08 Murdock Avenue, St. Albans, NY 11412. You are invited to attend: 6PM-6:45PM refreshments, 6:45PM-8:45PM meeting.

On Wednesday, December 5, at 7PM we will meet in the Bert Keller Room in the Education Building (enter on Fairview Avenue) to continue the Alpha course. **There are six remaining sessions. Call the church office if you have any questions.**

Please come to share on Sunday mornings—we gather at 9:15AM in the chapel of the Church building— if you desire to learn more about our church, become a member, or transfer your membership. On December 9th during worship service we will receive new members.

To help us learn more about God, ourselves, and prepare for the worship service on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, please read the following scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6. At least two of these scriptures will be read during our service and will be the focus of the message.

### Thought for the Week

Miracles happen when ordinary people serve an extraordinary God.

Journeying with you through Advent,

*Pastor Nation*

**Sunday, December 9, 2018.** Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Nursery Attendant is Andrea Owen-Boyd; Greeter is Katherine Perkins; Liturgist is Simon Nzuzi; Reader is Eleanor Phillip; Westminster Ringers, under the direction of Kim Neri, will perform “What Child is This”; Ushers are Earl Boyd, Pat McKnight, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include William Hartmann, Jennifer Morton, Eleanor Phillip, Savi Thomas, and Karen Vetter.

**Prayer List.** ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Marianne Pike, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥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.

**Book of Remembrance.** A very generous gift has been given in loving memory of Pastor Robert W. Howard by his family.

**Church School.** Nineteen students were in attendance at Church School on December 1st. There were two students present in the PreK/Kindergarten. There were three students present in the First and Second grade class. There were four students in the Third and Fourth grade class. There were four students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. The Youth class had six students present. Next week's lesson is Zechariah from Luke 1:68-79. We look forward to working with your students! 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, December 5, 2018 at 7PM

**Why:** Food, Talk and Discussion

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, \*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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> (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 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>(Friday-Sunday). **(Anyone interested please contact Kim at 516/644-0979 by next Sunday as registrations opens up on December 1<sup>st</sup> and fills up quickly.)**

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**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.

**Breakfast with Santa.** Breakfast with Santa will take place on **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, from 9:30AM to 11:30AM in the Education Building. Please join us for breakfast, entertainment and a visit with our special guest, Santa. Parents will have the opportunity to take pictures as their children meet Santa. Tickets are \$10.00 per person, please email [juleast@earthlink.net](mailto:juleast@earthlink.net) or contact the Church Office for tickets.

**Christmas Card List/Sign-up.** Our annual Christmas Card Sign-Up List begins on Sunday, December 2, 2018, and continues through and including Sunday, December 16, 2018. 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](mailto:GraceVSNY@aol.com) and then send in your donation to the Church Office.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT.** Come Join Us at Grace Methodist Church's Annual Christmas Concert on December 16, 2018, at 4PM in the Church. Our wonderful choirs and musicians of all ages will be celebrating, singing, and praising the birth of our Savoir Jesus Christ! Come on out and enjoy the hymns and songs that bring the Joy of Christmas to us all! Directly following the concert we invite all to attend our "Soup and Sandwich" dinner in the Gym. Tickets will be available during coffee hour and at the door the day of the concert. Please come out and support our Music Ministry.

## **SOUP AND SANDWICH DINNER SUNDAY DECEMBER 16, 2018,**

**directly following our Christmas Concert.**

The dinner will be served in the Gym and will include a choice of homemade soups and sandwiches. Tickets are available for \$12.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children 12 and under, from the Church Office and Bob DiSalvo. Please come down and join our family of faith as we celebrate the gifts and blessing of our children and choirs, and the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! *Merry 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 16, 2018. 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](mailto:GraceVSNY@aol.com) and send your check to the Church Office. Mark your check, "Poinsettia" and if appropriate, include your Envelope Number. Thank you.

**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.

### **December Calendar**

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

Saturday, 12/8 – Pageant Rehearsal after Breakfast w/Santa

Sunday 12/9 – UMW after Church/UL

Wednesday, 12/12 – Alpha 7PM/BKR

Saturday 12/15 – Charge Conference 1:15 PM/BKR

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

Saturday, 12/15 – Pageant Rehearsal 3PM-5PM/Church

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 – Pageant Rehearsal 8:30AM/Church

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 (Youth) & 11PM

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

Monday, 12/31 – Watch Night Service 11PM

Have a wonderful week. See you at Breakfast with Santa!

Eileen