

January 17, 2019

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,

According to Tod Bolsinger, “The culture is changing, the world is changing rapidly, and churches are facing change on an unprecedented scale. Churches and church leaders are becoming increasingly irrelevant, even marginalized. Shared cooperate faith is viewed with cynicism at best, downright hostility at worst. The cultural advantage we experienced during the seventeen centuries of Christendom has almost completely dissipated.”

However, the church is at an exciting crossroads. We are entering a new day, new terrain and new adventure. In spite of these challenges, we need to remember that we are not alone. The Spirit of God goes before us. The mission of Christ will not fail. A day will come when the “kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

The next steps are going to be demanding. More than anything, this moment requires those of us in positions of leadership and those with whom we work to embrace an adventure-or-die mindset, and to find the courage and develop the capacity for a new day. We are heading into uncharted territory and are given the charge to lead a mission where the future is nothing like the past.

As we journey as a church in 2019, let us ask God to give us the knowledge, wisdom and understanding to face the uncharted territory of church life and church leadership with courage and hope. Let us remember that leadership by clergy and laity is about a church fulfilling its mission and realizing its reason for being. Let us embrace these three leadership principles: leadership is essential, leadership is expressed in behaviors, and leadership is developed.

On Tuesday, January 15, at 7 PM we will meet in the Bert Keller Room in the Education Building to continue the Alpha course. Those who are participating in Alpha are enlightened with God's Word, grace and mercy. There are two remaining sessions and a Saturday retreat.

To help us learn more about God, ourselves, others, and prepare for the worship service on Human Relations Day, please read the following scriptures: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; and John 2:1-11. At least two of these scriptures will be read during our service and will be the focus of the message.

Journeying with you towards Lent,

Pastor Nation

Sunday, January 20, 2019. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Liturgist is Lenore Kurz; Reader is Chimdi Ukanwoke; Ushers are Donna Hartmann, Carol Provenzano, Elias Tarquino, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Bill Hartmann, Jennifer Morton, Eleanor Phillip, Savi Thomas and Karen Vetter.

Prayer List. ♥Family of Olive Hutchinson (sister of Enid Simpson), ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Marianne Pike, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥Buddy Dookhi, ♥Family of Carol D'Amico (grandmother of Lisa Becker), ♥Marilyn Ike, ♥Monica Godinho, ♥Fay Rose (mother of Nichole Robinson), ♥Everol Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Donna Lowe (daughter of Loretta Lewis Zimmer), ♥Linda Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Joan Bertie, ♥Rev. Barbara Melzer, ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥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 and Charlie Seraphin (grandparents 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.

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.

Request. Anyone who might need to remove the safety outlet covers in the gym, please put them back. Thank you.

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 - 1/15/19 (7PM)/BKR West Fairview Entrance.

Church Offering Envelopes. They are available in the Narthex.

Church School. There were 18 students in church school on Sunday, January 13. There were two students in the Pre-K/Kindergarten class. There were four students in the First and Second grade class. There were three students in the Third and Fourth grade class. There were four students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. And there were five students in the Youth class. This coming Sunday, January 20th, will be a Family Worship Sunday in honor of Martin Luther King Junior's weekend. *Janet Stone, Church School Director*



HELP WANTED. We are looking for two volunteers who would be willing to work on Monday's and Thursday's from 10AM-3PM in our Thrift Shop. Our Thrift Shop is not only a service to the community, but a ministry for our Church. Please either speak with Yvonne Basnight or Eileen in the Church Office. Thank you.

January Calendar 2019

Sunday, 1/20 – Human Relations Day

Sunday, 1/20 – No Church School

Sunday, 1/20 – Ecumenical Service 6 PM/St. John's UMC

Tuesday, 1/22 – No Alpha Meeting

Saturday, 1/26 – 4th Annual Prayer Breakfast 9AM-11:30AM/BKR

Tuesday, 1/29 – Final Alpha Meeting 7PM/BKR

What is Human Relations Day? Human Relations Day is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

How does The United Methodist Church distribute the offerings received on Human Relations Day? The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration allocates net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, to the administering agencies:

- Community Developers Program: 57 percent (General Board of Global Ministries)
- United Methodist Voluntary Services Program: 33 percent (General Board of Global Ministries)
- Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program: 10 percent (General Board of Church and Society)

Have a wonderful week and keep warm.



Eileen