

January 24, 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,

The Gospel reading, John 2:1-11, on Sunday reminded us of Jesus' first miracle: turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana, Galilee. Jesus' mother and the disciples were present at this wedding. Jesus' mother made Jesus aware that "They don't have any wine". Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn't yet come."

In this story, Jesus appears to be reluctant to help in providing the needed wine. His mother is a catalyst to Jesus' extravagant generosity in providing good quality wine. The wine Jesus provided was better than the wine previously served. Jesus' mother is the first one in the Gospel of John to show us what discipleship looks like.

I think a lot of times we make discipleship rather complicated. Jesus' mother teaches us that sometimes all God needs us to do is to be, to be present and to abide. It is her abiding, her presence, that gets Jesus' ministry going. She is the catalyst, the one who says, "Come on, you can do this, I know who you are. I have seen what you can do."

Today, God is saying to us come on, you can do it. I know who you are. I made you. I know what you are capable of doing. Is there something that God is nudging you to do and you are reluctant to move forward? Then, talk to God, ask for God's guidance, trust God and go for it.

On Tuesday, January 29, at 7PM we will meet in the Bert Keller Room in the Education Building for our final Alpha class. The Alpha participants are strengthened in their faith and have developed deeper relationships. There will be an Alpha retreat on Saturday February 23, 2019. This will conclude our first Alpha course. It is our hope that we can facilitate a second Alpha course in 2019.

To help us learn more about God, ourselves, and others, please read the following scriptures: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; and Luke

4:14-21. 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 27, 2019. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Kim Neri is the Director of the Rainbow Ringers, Cherub Choir and Junior Choir; Liturgist is Vicki Pemberton; Reader is Ryan Pemberton; Ushers are Jenifer Hartig, Chris Ukanwoke, Carol Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Sonia Khan, Phil Osei-Boah, Yvonne and Ken Pearce, and Marisa Pershad.

Prayer List. ♥Family of Olive Hutchinson (sister of Enid Simpson), ♥LaVada Scarlett (daughter-in-law of Maudlyn Scarlett), ♥Beverly and Charles Scarlett (cousins of Maudlyn Scarlett), ♥Frederick Comrie (friend of Maudlyn Scarlett), ♥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), ♥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.

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. Our **last meeting** is Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 7PM/BKR. Please use the West Fairview Entrance.

Church Offering Envelopes. Our envelopes have arrived. They are available in the Narthex.

HELP WANTED. We are looking to hire a Bookkeeper who can work 2-3 hours one day every week. If you are interested please speak with Don Pike, Ken Pearce or call the Church Office and speak with Eileen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. 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.

REMINDER. If you put the heat up in the room you are using, please remember to put it back down before your leave. Thank you for your cooperation.

January Calendar 2019

Tuesday, 1/22 – No Alpha Meeting

Wednesday, 1/23 – Finance Meeting 7:30PM/BKR

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

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

February Calendar

Saturday, 2/2 – Nursery School Open House 10AM-12N

Sunday, 2/3 – Evangelism Meeting after Church/UL

Sunday 2/10 – Scout Sunday

Sunday 2/10 – UMW after Church/UL

Tuesday, 2/12 – GMNS 7PM/Rm#2

Wednesday, 2/13 – Troop 109 7:30PM/G

Thursday, 2/14 – Happy Valentine’s Day
Sunday, 2/17 – Church Council Meeting after Church
Monday, 2/18 – President’s Day/Washington’s Birthday
Saturday, 2/23 – Alpha Retreat

Have a great week. Hopefully a warmer one!

Eileen