

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

November 28, 2022

Words from the Pastor

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

A Methodist preacher tells the story about receiving a call from a woman who was quite upset over the death of her pet cat, Homer. She wanted the preacher to conduct the funeral service for Homer. The Methodist preacher explained that this was a little out of his line, so he referred her to a friend, a Presbyterian pastor at a church down the street. Later, the preacher learned that his Presbyterian friend had referred her to a Baptist minister, who had referred her to someone else. About an hour later, she called the Methodist preacher back and she was still upset. The woman said she was at her wit's end. She couldn't find a preacher to conduct Homer's services and didn't know what to do. She said she planned to give \$1,000 to the church of the minister who performed this service for Homer. The Methodist preacher said it took him only a moment to mull this over and then say to her, "Well, why didn't you tell me Homer was a Methodist cat in the first place?!"

- Adapted from Unknown Author

What motivates you? In the case above it seems a healthy donation was motivation enough to do a funeral for a cat. There are all sorts of motivations in our lives, but we ultimately decide which motivations we follow. Serving God is the most wonderful thing we can do, but what are your motivations? Do we serve others in hopes to be compensated? Are we kind simply because we want to be known as such? Or do we serve in response to our faith in a loving God?

Advent began yesterday and there is a long road ahead of us. We enter this season with a sense of wonder and hope of what God can do. I don't want you to think of that

in some existential way, rather I want you to think about it in a practical way. Is there something you have been praying for, a way God is calling you to change, or a new way God is calling you to serve? As our Advent journey unfolds, I pray that you will be motivated by the transformative and redemptive power of Jesus Christ. So that when the time comes, we are prepared for the birth of promised Christ Child and continue to live our lives faithfully.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker

P.S.: Our Advent Study begins this Wednesday on Zoom @7:30 pm. We will look at each gospel and the authors who begin their books differently: Matthew and Luke include a narrative about Jesus's birth, but Mark and John do not.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

11/30 - Matthew 1 - 2

12/7 - Mark 1

12/14 - Luke 1:1- 2:20

12/21 - John 1



♥Family of Connie Paige, ♥Family of Thornton (Thornie) Stone, ♥Family of Ella Fort, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥Jennifer Morton, ♥Honey Knice, ♥Bob LoBello, ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Tyrone Jenkins (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Patricia Sullivan (friend of Jenifer Hartig), ♥Jim Poch, ♥Christine Doeringer, ♥Rasheen Rutledge (cousin of Naomi Brown), ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥People of Ukraine, ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske). **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. † - Death in family, ♦ - New entry

COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2022

12/04	E. Fitch
12/11	D. Nicosia
12/18	M. Pershad
12/25	K. Pearce (includes 12/24)

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS - 2022

MISSIONS – February/April/July/November 2022

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY – January 16, 2022

UMCOR SUNDAY – March 27, 2022

EASTER – April 17, 2022

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY – May 1, 2022

GOLDEN CROSS SUNDAY – May 8, 2022

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY – June 12, 2022
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 2, 2022
UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY – November 27, 2022
CHRISTMAS EVE – December 24, 2022 (Saturday)
CHRISTMAS – December 25, 2022 (Sunday)

If you haven't already done so, there is **still time to pledge** before we begin to prepare our Budget for 2023. There are Pledge Cards in the Narthex of the Church, you can mail in your desired pledge, or you can call the Church Office. In order to prepare our Budget, we need to have a reasonable amount of money to work with. We are not quite there yet. Hopefully we will receive some last minute pledges that will take us closer to our goal.

We are still in need of **Volunteers** to work on the **Counting Teams**. It would require your time only once every six weeks after Church. Please call Eileen in the Church Office if you have any questions and/or are willing to join!! Thank you.

If you require a **Hearing Aid**, please speak with one of our Ushers.

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS THIS CHRISTMAS. GRACE UMC IS HAVING A TOY and CLOTHING DRIVE DECEMBER 10 and 11. Please drop off items in the driveway of the church's Education Building (51 West Fairview Ave., Valley Stream) on Saturday, December 10 from 12 to 2PM or bring them with you to church and drop them off in the narthex Sunday, December 11. Items Needed are (not wrapped): New Toys and New Clothing for ages 1-12 yrs. old and New Games and Gift Cards for ages 13-16 yrs. old. We will take the items to Long Island Council of Churches to be distributed to area families. **THANK YOU** and **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

WHERE CAN YOU VOLUNTEER....

Sunday School – Contact Kim Neri
Evangelism – Contact Andrea Owen-Boyd
Thrift Shop – Contact Andrea Owen-Boyd
Music – Call the Music Ministry Office (516/825-1940) Ken Richardson
Missions – Contact Katherine Perkins
Worship – Contact Kim Neri or Carol Provenzano
Acolytes – Contact Tim Neri
Ushers – Contact Mike Provenzano or Carol Provenzano
Counting Team – Contact Don Pike or Eileen Robertson
Hospitality – Contact Bob DiSalvo
Greeters – Contact Naomi Brown or Carol Provenzano
(Please call Eileen if you need contact information – 516/825-1182)

CALENDAR

Meetings: Please check the calendar below for which meetings are being held in-person or via Zoom. Thank you.

Weekly Meetings:

- *Every Sunday – Choir Rehearsal 8:15AM/Church
- *Every Sunday – Sunday School (in-person) 10AM
- *Every Sunday – Junior Choir 9:15AM/Bert Keller Room
- *Every Sunday – Rainbow Ringers 9:15AM/Bert Keller Room
- *Every Wednesday – Bible Study 7:30PM-9PM/Zoom
- *Every Thursday – Westminster Ringers 7:30PM

Monthly Meetings:

- *Every Second Sunday – UWF after Church/Upper Lounge - In-person

Upcoming Events:

- *Saturday, December 10, 2022 – Missions Toy Drive (Nursery School Driveway) 12-2PM
- *Saturday, December 10, 2022 – Thrift Shop Sale 10AM-2PM
- *Sunday, December 11, 2022 – Missions Toy Drive – Drop off in Narthex/Church Service
- *Sunday, December 11, 2022 – Annual Christmas Concert 4:00 PM
- *Saturday, December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve Service 7:30PM
- *Sunday, December 25, 2022 – Candles and Carols 10AM
- *Saturday, December 31, 2022 – New Year's Eve 11PM (TBD)
- *Saturday, January 28, 2023 - 8th Annual Evangelism Prayer Breakfast 10:30AM/Gym
- *Sunday, May 14, 2023 – Music Sunday



Eileen