

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

December 9, 2024

Words from the Pastor

“A broken and contrite heart O God, you will not despise.” Psalm 51:17

Advent is a season of preparation. We prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, both for his arrival as Savior which took place in the past, but also for His promised return as judge and king. How can we prepare ourselves for Christ's arrival? What would be an appropriate and acceptable gift that we can bring to Him this Christmas?

I believe our HEART is probably the most precious gift we can bring. When I say “heart”, I am not saying it in the cliched manner in which we often talk about our hearts. Phrases like “speak from the heart” or “just put your heart into it” - while they allude to passion and dedication, don't get to the “heart” of the matter.

When I speak about heart, I am referring to the innermost part of who you are. It is that hidden and secret place buried underneath all of our busyness. Truth be told, we ourselves are often afraid to admit what lies beneath the surface: our hidden hopes, our worst fears, our most painful regrets, even our darkest sins. The things in our heart are the very things that both motivate us and cause us to lose sleep at night.

David confesses, *“you (God) do not delight in sacrifices or I would bring it...the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart O God, you will not despise.”* (Ps. 51:16,17) After bottling up his feelings of guilt and regret after committing adultery, David finally pours out his heart before God. More than any other act of service to God, David gave the one gift that is most pleasing, his heart and everything in it.

If someone were to perform open heart surgery on your soul, what would they find? Bitter disappointment? Anxieties and fears that we try so hard not to think about? Regret? Guilt about a situation we want so hard to break out of, but find ourselves perpetually stuck in?

This Christmas, would you have the courage to bring to Jesus your heart? Would you take that risk as you come face to face with the truth that resides inside of you? And would you trust that in giving Jesus your heart, He may take that burden and replace it with the joy, hope, peace, and love of His salvation. Give Jesus your heart and wait for the gift He will give back to you!

Blessings,
Pastor Kim



♥†◆Family of Charles Zipperlen, ♥Yeari Kim, ♥Jasmin Whittaker, ♥All victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, ♥Edie Zipperlen, ♥Mary Flynn (mom) and Maureen Andersen (daughter), ♥Priscilla Caparelli (friend of Kim Neri), ♥Manny Kurz, ♥Cecil and Carol Walker (friends of Barbara Woodford), ♥Veronica Stone (friend of Margo Morrison), ♥Everon Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Carol Whyte, ♥Winston Scarlett (brother-in-law of Maudlyn Scarlett), ♥Jennifer LaRoche (friend of Kim Neri), ♥David Biegler, ♥Michael Kurz, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Garvin Phillip (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Marilyn Eller (sister of Elaine Treske), ♥Jim Poch, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske, ♥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

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS - 2024

MISSIONS – January/April/July/October 2024

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY – January 14, 2024

UMCOR SUNDAY – March 10, 2024

EASTER – March 31, 2024

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY – April 14, 2024

GOLDEN CROSS SUNDAY – May 5, 2024

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY – May 26, 2024

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 06, 2024

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY – November 24, 2024

CHRISTMAS EVE – December 24, 2024 (Tuesday)

CHRISTMAS DAY – December 25, 2024

COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2024

December 15 – Pershad

December 22 – Nicosia

December 29 – Fitch

Please sign up for *Coffee Hour*, now known as **FELLOWSHIP HOUR**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Bert Keller Room. Please use the sign-up sheet in the BKR or call the Church Office. We need volunteers for **December 22 and 29**. Thank you UWF for volunteering – December 15th!!

HOLD THE DATE. Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 3PM we will have our annual Christmas Concert followed by Soup and Sandwich! Tickets are \$20 for Adults and \$10 for Children. Fresh baked desserts are welcomed!

Church School (December 8, 2024) We continue on with the Christmas story by learning about Joseph. Joseph was a righteous man who became the earthly father of Jesus, God's Son. The Hebrew Scriptures gave a promise of a king from the line of King David. This new king would restore Israel to its former greatness. Joseph was the link to this promise in the Old Testament

because he was part of David's family. Joseph and Mary were engaged when Mary shared with Joseph that she was pregnant. The engagement was as legally binding as a marriage, so Joseph could have had Mary stoned for adultery. Although he was greatly distressed from the news, he decided to put her away quietly. Then an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and gave him God's message: "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21). Just as Mary did, Joseph accepted God's Word and obeyed. Joseph and Mary were married. She gave birth to a child, and they named him Jesus. From very early in his life, Jesus knew he was God's Son, but Joseph also played an important role in his childhood. Joseph accepted the role as Jesus' father. He protected Jesus, provided a family life for him, taught him life skills, and obviously loved him dearly. Some scholars think that Joseph died before Jesus became an adult since he wasn't mentioned during Jesus' ministry. However, Joseph fulfilled his appointment as Jesus' earthly father until it was time for Jesus to be about God's business.

Janet Stone



The UWF this year adopted a family through the Mary Brennan INN **Adopt-a Family program**. We supported a family with five children. Each child was able to receive toys and clothing items that they desired. We are happy to report that the entire shopping list was taken care of and we were able to provide all the gifts that the family wanted as well as \$300 in cash and a \$50 gift card! We are very grateful that we are able to support a family in need, particularly at this time of the year. Thank you to all who have contributed. You have done much to bring the Christmas spirit to the lives of others!

Janet Stone

Christmas Card List. Our annual Christmas Card Sign-Up List begins this Sunday, December 1, and continues through and including Sunday, December 22, 2024. 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(s) (in the Church Narthex and Coffee Hour) or call Eileen in the Church Office. You can also email your info to Eileen at GraceVSNY@aol.com and then send in your donation to the Church Office. Thank you in advance for your participation. (Elaine Treske and Lenore Kurz have volunteered to take your names!!).

Book of Remembrance/Music Ministry. A gift has been given in loving memory of Charles Zipperlen from Jeanne and George Simmons.



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 call the Church Office. The deadline is Sunday, December 16, 2024. Poinsettias are \$13 each. Please send your check (**made out to GUMC**) with the order form to the Church Office or place it in the Offering Plate (in a sealed envelope marked for the Church Office). Mark your check, "Poinsettia" and if appropriate, include your Envelope Number. Thank you.

Due to hurricanes Helene and Milton, the inventory of Flood Buckets in all of the UMCOR warehouses has been depleted. There is a call for United Methodist Churches in our district to replenish their supplies. To fulfill this need, Grace United Methodist Church will be collecting the following items...

- 25 Five-Gallon Round Buckets with lids - (14.35"h x 12.19"w x 12.19"d)**
- 17 32-64oz. bottles of liquid laundry detergent**
- 25 16-40oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner (No spray cleaners)**
- 21 4-8oz. Pump Spray Air Fresheners**
- 24 6-14oz. Pump Spray Insect Repellant**
- 11 Scrub Brushes with or without handle**
- 450 Cleaning wipes (no terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels)**
- 58 Scouring pads (no stainless steel or pads with soap in them)**
- 22 packs of 50 clothespins**
- 23 clotheslines (50-100ft.)**
- 20 Rolls of 24 heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon sizes)**
- 40 N94 particulate respiratory dust masks - (1-3mm thickness)**
- 20 2-pair of rubber kitchen gloves**
- 25 pairs of work gloves - (cotton with leather palm or all leather)**

If you would like to make a cash or check donation, please put Flood Buckets in the memo line and we can purchase the items. If you have any questions, you may reach out to Bob DiSalvo, Prumeh Lee, Kim Neri, or Katherine Perkins.

News of Friends and Members.



All your friends at Grace Church wish you a **HAPPY 54th Anniversary.**

Advent Candle Lighting. *The Lopez Family* will be lighting the 3rd Advent Candle on Sunday, December 15th.

New Confirmation Class

Pastor Prumeh will be starting a new confirmation class in 2025 for youth. At the end of the class, there will be a special for the participants. If a child was baptized as an infant, they will "confirm" their faith during the service. If a child was not baptized, they will receive their baptism. Everyone becomes a full member of the congregation. Please email Pastor Prumeh at prumeh.lee@nyac-umc.com to let her know you are interested in registering. Include the child's name, grade, and email address as well.

Looking for Volunteers for Youth Ministry

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping with youth ministry. We would love volunteers of all generations - seniors, adults, and young adults (Pastor Prumeh loves intergenerational ministry.) However, everyone will have a background check completed for the safety of our youth. Email Pastor Prumeh if you are interested, either as a volunteer or if you have youth in your family: prumeh.lee@nyac-umc.com

1) Hospitality

We are looking for volunteers to help cook on rotation (either an entree, salad or dessert) for our upcoming Youth Dinner Church that will start in January.

2) Chaperone

We also need chaperones willing to be a warm and welcome presence either at the Youth Dinner Church, other youth programs, or Confirmation.

3) Committed to a youth ministry team.

- Considering committing to be a part of the team to help plan, organize, and lead youth programs.
- If you are a youth, you may also consider becoming part of this leadership team! We need your voice!

CALENDAR

Weekly Meetings, Rehearsals and Gatherings:

- ***Every Sunday** – Church School 10AM/Church
(except 1st Sunday of the month – 10AM/Education Building)
- ***Every Second Sunday of the month** – Healing Prayer Service after Church/Chapel
(Starting Date TBD)
- ***Every Wednesday** – Bible Study 7:30PM-9PM/Zoom (Same Zoom Link every week)
- ***Every Thursday** – Westminster Ringers 7PM
- ***Every Thursday** – Chancel Choir 8PM/Church
- ***Every Saturday** – Prayer Meeting 8AM/Zoom (Same Zoom Link every week)
- ***Every Saturday** – Thrift Shop 10AM-2PM
- ***Every Fourth Sunday of the month** – United Women in Faith

Upcoming Meetings

- ***Tuesday, January 14, 2025** – Board of Trustees 7:30PM/BKR (Teams Meeting Link is optional)

Upcoming Events

- ***Sunday, December 15, 2024** – 3PM Christmas Concert followed by Soup and Sandwich
- ***Saturday, January 25, 2025** – 10th Annual Evangelism Prayer Breakfast (TBD)



Just trying to keep warm!

Have a great week! Eileen