

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

December 16, 2024

Words from the Pastor

⁴¹ *“Martha, Martha...you are worried and upset about many things,* ⁴² *but few things are needed... Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”* – Luke 10:41-42

Jesus was arriving to her village so Martha had invited Him to her home. The scriptures say that she was *“distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.”* (Lk 10:30) Mary, on the other hand, *“sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he said”* (Lk 10:39).

Martha's intentions were good in inviting Jesus for a meal, but in the midst of all that needed to get done, she became worried about many things. Mary, on the other hand sat quietly at Jesus' feet, listening to what he had to say. Jesus tells the sisters that *“Mary has chosen what is better.”*

I find this story to be an accurate depiction of what can happen in the days leading up to Christmas as we prepare for Christ's arrival. The busyness of this season can ultimately “steal our joy” leaving us tired and easily agitated. Yet we are reminded that to truly prepare, we must make time to be *with* Jesus, before doing *for* Jesus.

How can we sit idly at the feet of Jesus when there are so many expectations and responsibilities that I need to attend to? I believe it depends on where we get our sense of worth. If our value comes from doing a good job in the home, at work, or even as a Christian, then the amount of good we need to do is never ending. We will inevitably grow tired and frustrated. However, if my value comes from clinging to Jesus' love and sacrifice for me as evidenced on the cross, then there is nothing left to prove. Christ loves me so much that He died on that cross, not just to forgive my sin, but to prove my worth! When it comes to the goal of proving my goodness, *“It is finished.”*

During this season of preparation, may you rest of the feet of Jesus, as you hear His voice, telling you just how precious and valuable you are to Him!

Pastor Kim



♥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 LaRochelle (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 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 still need volunteers for **December 22 and 29**.

Church School (December 15, 2024) In the Old Testament, the prophet Micah said that a ruler of Israel would be born in Bethlehem, and this king would bring peace and justice to the land (Micah 5:2). Hundreds of years later, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, fulfilling the prophecy. The Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, ordered that a census be taken. All were required to return to their ancestral homes to register and pay taxes. Since Joseph was from the ancestral line of David, he and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem, the city of David. The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem was difficult because the time for Mary's baby to be born was very close. When they reached Bethlehem, a large number of people were already in the city to register and no room was available. Mary and Joseph were of the peasant class, so they didn't have many choices for lodging. When an innkeeper offered his stable, Mary and Joseph accepted immediately because of their

urgent need for a place for Mary to have her baby. How amazing that Jesus, God's Son, would be born in the most humble and unlikely place—a stable with an animal's feeding trough for his bed. Mary's baby was Immanuel, the living presence of God with them (Isaiah 7:14). He was the fulfillment of the angel's promise to Mary and Joseph (Luke 1:26-28; Matthew 1:18-25), and they named him Jesus, God saving us, as the angel told them to do. The angel also said about Jesus, "He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom" (Luke 1:32-33). The Creator of the universe chose this humble birth for God's Son to show God's love for all people.

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!!).



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 22, 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...**

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.

Advent Candle Lighting. *The Ukanwoke Family* will be lighting the 4th Advent Candle on Sunday, December 22nd.

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

- ***Saturday, January 25, 2025** – 10th Annual Evangelism Prayer Breakfast (TBD)



Warm at last!

Have a great week! Eileen