



The Messenger
Grace United Methodist Church
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Pastor Kim Krause

Dedicated to building a strong Christian family for all of God's children, working together for the purpose of putting our faith and love into practice.

November 2018

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Family & Friends of Grace UMC,

At the end of September, I served on a Walk to Emmaus team. The Walk to Emmaus is a 72-hour retreat that seeks to help those that are attending to find a deeper relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to serving God in the world. Fifteen different talks are given by team members over the weekend, five of those are given by clergy - all of which deal with God's grace.

Three of the grace talks take a look at the different ways that we experience God's grace, one on the things that get in the way of our seeing/experiencing God's grace (and offering it to others), and one on the ways that God has given us to experience God's grace.

We will be looking at these more in depth in the year to come, but you can begin to explore some of these anytime. Means of grace is a term from John Wesley – the ways in which we experience God’s grace.

Some of these happen in community – baptism, communion, corporate worship, corporate prayer, and group study. Others can happen alone, with another, or several others – prayer, reading and studying scripture, worship, fasting, generosity, confession, forgiveness, healing and reconciliation.

One of my sermons several weeks ago dealt with grace and challenging our community to find ways that we can live into our church name. I hope that you will join me on this journey as we prepare to explore what it means to be a people of grace and how God can use that to work in us and through us in our homes, our community, and the world.



Peace,
Pastor Kim



EVANGELISM NEWS

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 7th at 7:00pm.

We have rescheduled the Chili Cook-Off originally set for Nov. 11th until January 2019. Date to be announced.

The Thanksgiving Turkey food collection will take place during the week of November 11 to 17. Last year we were able to provide five turkey dinners to five families in need. Please help us meet and possibly exceed our goal this year!

Looking ahead...Grace Coffee House will be Dec. 14th. We'll also be adopting 3 or more families to receive gifts from the "Giving Tree". Details to follow in next month's Messenger.

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

Since the Shed opened in the spring, total receipts (including at the Fall Fair) are about \$5,300. Donations have been wonderful and the shop is filled with bargains.

Beginning on Saturday, November 3, we will have a bag sale. For \$3 you can fill a bag with anything in the shop.

This is always a popular event, so if you see something you want or need, better get it now! The sale will continue until we close.

Our last day for donations is Saturday, October 27.

Our closing date is November 17. Hope to see you!



AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Emma Lambert
- 3 Devonna Quinn
- 3 William Haslett
- 4 JoAnne Burrill
- 5 Audrey Griffin
- 8 Andrew Ginder
- 9 Liz Spence
- 10 Lisa Maurer
- 11 Cindy Bliss
- 11 Jessica Ingraham
- 12 Preston Lambert
- 14 Jo Anna Cochenet-Gallastegui
- 18 Jay Ingraham
- 20 Chris Ingraham
- 30 Marcie Duval



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We had a great crowd this year again for our annual Halloween party on October 19th. Over 130 people came through our doors with about 25 youth working in the haunted hallway. During the party a large container of canned goods was collected to benefit our St. Patrick's food pantry.

Many thanks to Annie and Liana for keeping the kids busy with creative crafts and games all night. Special thanks to Audry and George June, Alan and Wanda Whitney and Christine Frazee for their invaluable help in the kitchen and running last minute errands. Thanks also go to James June for his help with the haunted house and to all the members of the congregation who so generously donated food and goodies that night to feed the crowd. We appreciate your continued support of our events!!

With Halloween comes our annual candy drive for Operation Gratitude. There will be a collection box outside the office to donate Halloween candy, toothbrushes, toothpaste and cards to distribute to the military.

Please take a moment to send a note to our brave military men and women. Cards will be available alongside the collection box. The organization requests that you do not go out buying candy,

but instead send any leftover Halloween candy that has not been given to children. Financial donations are always gratefully accepted to assist with shipping costs.







SUNDAY SCHOOL – CONTINUED

Christmas Shoeboxes will be available to anyone interested in filling a box for Samaritan's Purse's annual Operation Christmas Child. Boxes will be collected between November 12-19th in order to be shipped out worldwide in time for Christmas.

For those who are unfamiliar with this ministry, Samaritan's Purse has been shipping out shoeboxes to more than 100 countries in places where people many not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Boxes are also provided to orphanages and other at-risk areas. You can choose whether the box is for a girl or boy and what age child you'd like the gift to go to. Boxes can be filled with stuffed animals, toys, hygiene items and school supplies. (Food, used items, war related items, glass items or liquids are not permitted) Boxes are prayed over prior to being shipped to children around the world.

This is a wonderful program to benefit children in need while spreading the gospel and teaching our own kids about giving. Please consider filling a box or donating to cover shipping costs. More information is available at www.samaritanspurse.org



An Update from the Trustees

Roof - The new rubber sheeting has been placed and seams resealed. A silicon coating was rolled over the entire roof to take care of any areas where water might still seep in. The leaking has already decreased dramatically. Trustees will be keeping an eye on this and will reapply silicon in late spring/early summer to any areas that need it.

Trustees intend to address the ceiling tiles that are damaged or have already been taken down. New tiles will not be put up until we are sure that these areas will not experience more damage. However, there is a plan in place to make the entryway and narthex look better by moving some of the tiles from other areas of the church.

Trustees are still working with Zach (the former roofer) to have the money that he owes the church paid back. The church is still owed approximately \$30,000.

Heating and Cooling – The Trustees have addressed the heating issue in the sanctuary. As you recall, there were many Sundays last fall/winter when the temperature was too low to worship in the sanctuary, so we worshipped in fellowship hall. In discussions with Persico, it was determined that the old heating system was not going to be able to be fixed easily (both disruptions to the building and financially) and that the heating/cooling system that has been purchased and installed is a better alternative in the long run.

It will reduce our use of oil (which is one of the largest budget items) and is energy efficient. Paul Maurer and Rodger Coryell

have been taking care of installing the electrical, with oversight by Herb Wagoner, which has helped to reduce costs. Persico has also been generous in their billing for us.

The decision to continue the heating/cooling system in the fellowship hall made sense in that the fellowship hall is the second largest area to heat with high ceilings. The added bonus of being able to control the humidity and temperature in the warming months means that the area is more accessible to those with breathing issues.

Consistent Giving

You may have noticed from recent bulletins that the amount needed to pay our bills has been substantially higher than the amount the church has received to date. The budget was created based on the giving from 2017 with the hope that people would be able to continue to give at that same level or even above that.

While we are current on most of our bills, we no longer have a cushion for emergencies and we have not repaid any of the loan for the roof to be repaired. If you are one of those that would like to be more consistent in your giving, even when you are unable to attend church, please consider the electronic giving that can easily be set up. Your offering would be automatically sent to the church bank account.

If you have any questions about this type of giving or about finances, please speak with Rodger Coryell or Rick Robertson.



Some of the statistics about churches are enough to make us really, really downhearted:

- Fewer than 20 percent of Americans regularly attend church.*
- By 2050, the percentage of Americans who attend church will be almost half of what it was in 1990.*
- Only 6 percent of churches are growing, defined as increasing in attendance and keeping pace with the growth of its community.**
- A staggering 94 percent of churches are losing ground in the communities they serve.**

It's certainly enough to make anyone involved in church work anxious!

But just replace this anxiety with piety, and your task will become more manageable.

In a 2010 report, the United Methodist Church calculated what we called a Vitality Index of our churches. The report's authors believed that four "drivers" would create congregational vitality: Small Groups and Programs, Lay Leadership, Worship Services, and Pastoral Leadership.

This served as a call to action for denominational leaders. They devised a plan to implement these “drivers” of vitality. They measured, tinkered, managed, and implemented, believing this would make people fill the pews. Alas, it fell short of hopes and expectations.

The truth is, what these drivers did was serve as indicators of health. They did not create health.

I believe growing, thriving and healthy congregations are vital because they have never lost sight of the primary task of making disciples.

I believe the only way back to vitality comes through the deep and adaptive work we seem to want to avoid – a concerted and intimate reengagement of the communities we serve. We have to see and connect with the people God has called us to reach. This becomes the foundation of effective ministry.

We have the privilege of going out and engaging with our unchurched and hurting communities. We must embrace the opportunity to touch lives and form meaningful relationships in authentic, organic, and consistent ways.

The kind of intimacy required is not going to happen by sending a postcard or producing a PowerPoint. It requires so much more of us. It’s going to be messy and complicated. It will be frustrating for those of us who want a quick fix and immediate measurable results.

We can’t let the business of doing ministry become the ministry. Doing ministry requires us to engage people in our everyday life experiences.

Praying for you to set aside your anxiety,

Rev. Junius B. Dotson

General Secretary

Discipleship Ministries

The United Methodist Church

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