



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.

January 2019

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As we begin another year together, I look forward to what God will be doing in our lives! We have had some exciting things happen during this past year and God will continue to work in and through the people of Grace United Methodist Church.

The Covenant for 2019 crafted by Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and myself, on behalf of the congregation, focuses on increasing discipleship. In the past we have put forth great effort to increase numbers, but through prayerful discernment, we recognize that the best way to grow as a congregation and to have a greater impact on our community is to focus on our own discipleship.

So what does it mean to increase discipleship? Discipleship is the position (as in job/occupation) of being a disciple – a student, a follower, an active adherent and/or one who embraces and assists in spreading the teachings of another (Jesus).

So we are to be students – studying, learning, applying – of the teachings of Jesus. These are all intentional activities. We have to choose to be active participants in our becoming better disciples of Jesus Christ.

In 2019, Grace UMC will be seeking to create additional opportunities to learn, grow, and apply the teachings of Jesus Christ. Sunday school for adults is at 9:00am on Sunday mornings and Sunday school for our children is during worship. If you are in need of another time or place, please make your need and any suggestions known to SPPRC. We will also be looking to find more ways to apply what we learn about being a disciple in our community. Again, if you have suggestions, please let us know.

I look forward to working with you as we continue to increase our discipleship – and all the exciting things that God has planned for us here at Grace United Methodist Church in the year to come.



Peace,
Pastor Kim

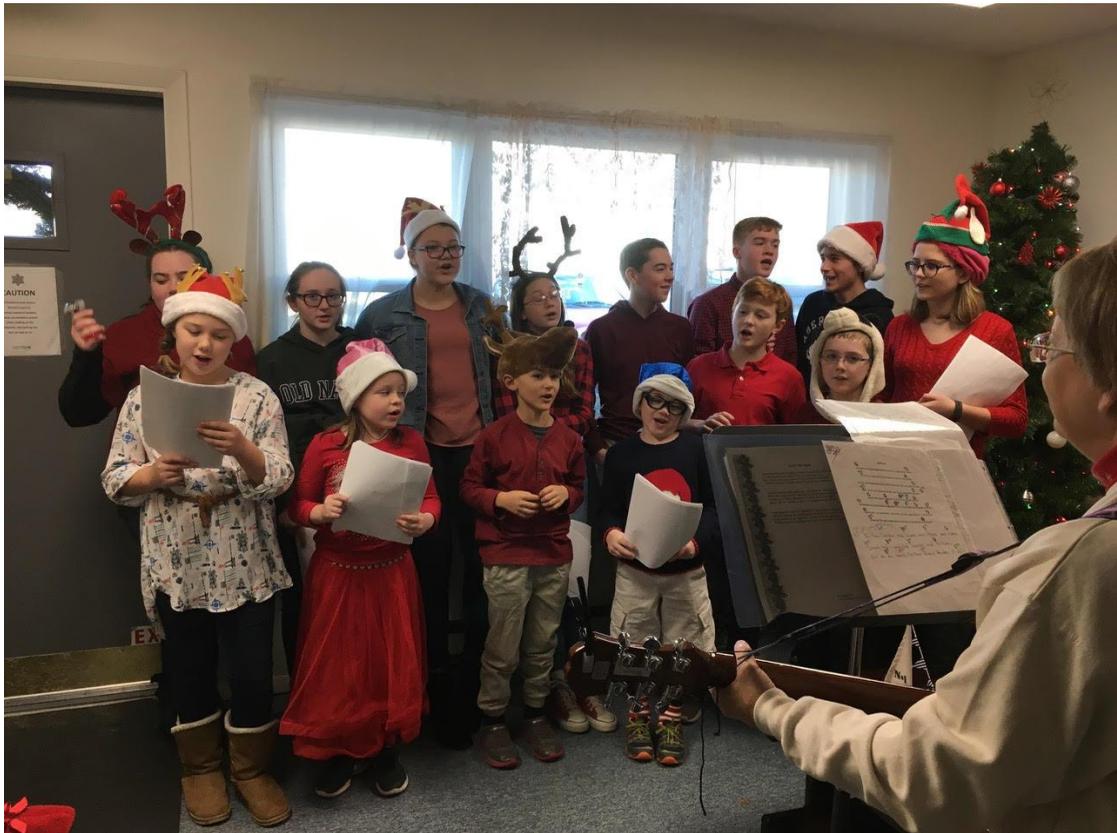


EVANGELISM NEWS Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we provided Christmas gifts for 7 families this Christmas! The Giving Tree ministry allows many hard-working parents to place gifts under the tree and still stay within their budgets. We all know how expensive this time of year can be for folks. Thanks for shopping, wrapping and bringing gifts back to the church by the deadline. Through your willingness to buy a few extra items this Christmas, God was able to truly bless these families.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, December 9th, our new youth choir made its community debut! The children made gingerbread cookies during Sunday School and then brought the cookies and some holiday cheer to the senior apartments. With help from Sharon Phillips on guitar, the kids sang Christmas carols at both Civil Senior Housing and Louis Apartments. They also donated some decorated wreaths they made in Sunday School. The residents loved it and were very appreciative of the music and attention. Many thanks to Sharon for accompanying them and sharing her gift of music.





Are you looking for a way to serve during worship?

We are always looking for ways to include people in the Sunday morning worship. If you would like to become a liturgist (lay reader) on Sunday morning, please let Fran Lobdell know. Training is available for those that would like it.

We are also looking for anyone interested in helping prepare the Communion elements. Please speak with Phyllis Shook or Pastor Kim if you are willing to assist in this important behind the scenes activity.



Calling all bell ringers!!!

We are hoping to re-start the Bell Choir here at Grace UMC. If you have played in the past and are still interested, please send an email to Pastor Kim.

If you have NOT been a part, but are interested in this fun and fulfilling music ministry, please consider joining us. While the ability to read music is helpful, it is not required. As long as you can count, we can work with you. Send any questions to pastorgraceumc@gmail.com.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

11 Amanda Wolfe
15 Colin McTigue
16 Lisa D’Arcangelis
18 Will Robertson
23 Adam Newton
24 Karin Beswick
31 Jeffrey Haslett

Praying for unity



Every January, the Christian church worldwide marks the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This ecumenical “octave,” or eight-day observance, lasts from January 18 (the Feast of St. Peter) to January 25 (the Feast of St. Paul).

The week is based on Jesus’ prayer to his heavenly Father in John 17:21 that his followers “may all be one ... so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (ESV).

Jesus knew that if Christians were fiercely divided, people outside the faith wouldn't want to learn more about him.

The theme for the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from Deuteronomy 16:20 NRSV: **"Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue."**



Special dates in January

New Year's Day, *January 1, 2019*

Epiphany, *January 6, 2019*

Baptism of the Lord, *January 13, 2019*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2019*

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 21, 2019*





A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.



We were there**f**ore buried with him
through bapt**i**sm into death in order that,
just as Christ was rais**e**d from the dead
through the gl**o**ry of the Fath**e**r,
we too may live a _____.

Roman**s** 6:4, NIV

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Answer: f i e l e w n; new life



What did Jesus say brings greater joy in heaven than 99 righteous people?

- A. The singing of angels
- B. One sinner who repents
- C. 100 righteous people
- D. None of the above

Answer: B (See Luke 15:7.)

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If you are on Facebook, please join the Church page by liking us at Grace United Methodist Church, Ravena, NY. Find out what's happening each week, including meetings and special events.

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