

Grace United Methodist Church

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Monday- Friday 9am- 3:30 pm

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FaceBook
Family and Friends of Grace United Methodist Church

December 2019 Grace Notes



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OUR VISION: MAKING DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST

**OUR MISSION: TRANSFORMING PEOPLE INTO THE
LIKENESS OF CHRIST; BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM.**



Keep these Church members and friends in prayer

Church Members: Betty Baxter, Tanya Bobo, Margaret Calvin, Marianne Campbell, Harla Eutsler, Demmie Hanna, Rosemary & Brice Hanning, Bette Horan, Jean Houck, Rick & Jeri Howell, Leeanna Hughart, Robert S. Jones, Janet Johnson, Lou Long, Joan Krambeck, Reva Mullins, Pat & Jim O’Dell, Carol O’Rourke, Bruce Pennington, Dick & Sally Roberts, Edie Ross, Bambi Roush, Penny Sager, Glen & Gail Smith, Kari Saunders, Maxine Stutes, Ricky & Mary Swain, Phyllis Thomas, Leo & Clarice Valentine, Eloise Ward & Tombo Woodward

Family Members & Friends: Our country and its leaders, our military, all caregivers, all homeless, Leland Brehm, Daniel Brown, Mike Brown, Pat Dressel, Roberta Duncan, Mary Edmonds, Beth Sager Gearhart, Paulette Hogg, Linda Kay Houck, Bob Kyger, Dale Lamphier, Judy Maxwell, Jeff O’Dell, Chris Price, Mike Price, Gordon & Ruth Ann Roth, Dusty Roush, Paula Roush, Nikki Spangler, Karen Stickler, Steve Thomas, Faye Young & Kayla Ziemnik

Prayer List

Please remember to give us updates on those you put on the Family Members and Friends Prayer list. We will start taking those off at the end of the month if we haven’t heard anything about them by then. You can always add them back on by calling the church office and giving us their name and a brief update.

Grace Notes & Call-Em-All

Information for Grace Notes needs to be in the office or emailed to galliagrancenotes@yahoo.com by the **20th of each month**. If you change your email, or would like to be added, please let us know. If you would like to be notified of upcoming events and important information from the church via phone or text, contact the church office.

Help Needed!

The Lutheran Social Services food truck will be here on **December 17**, and we could use your help! Please show up at the church by 10:00 and we will find a job for you, questions, please call the office for more information.

Ushers

8:30 - Needed
10:45 - Mel Tabor, Jerry Dillon, Gene Rees, Steve Bobo
Christmas Eve – Needed

Liturgist

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:30</u>	<u>10:45</u>
December 1	Margaret Calvin	Terry McKinniss
December 8	Bob Powell	Aaron Hoover
December 15	Bev Young	Jeri Howell
December 22	Aaron Hoover	Faith McKinniss
December 24	(4:00 pm) Pastor Ray	(10:45 pm) Pastor Ray
December 29	Deborah Compton	Marlene Stout

Death in the Church Family

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Cindy Harrison on the passing of her mother, Betty Yovich on November 25.



Reverse Advent Calendar



The UMW invite the congregation to join us in participating in a reverse Advent calendar. If you aren’t familiar, what you do, purchase each item, and then on each day place one item in a box or bag. Then on December 24, bring it to church to the Christmas Eve service and place in the Dining Room, or if you can’t make it, bring it when you can. After Christmas, everything that has been collected will then be given to our little food pantry to be used for those in need.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| box of cereal | peanut butter | stuffing mix | boxed potatoes |
| macaroni & cheese | canned fruit | canned tomatoes | canned tuna |
| dessert mix | jar applesauce | pack of oatmeal | canned sweet potatoes |
| cranberry sauce | canned beans | box crackers | package of rice |
| pack of pasta | spaghetti sauce | chicken noodle soup | tomato soup |
| can of corn | can mixed veggies | can of carrots | can of green beans |

Reminder

Church office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.

UMW Circle Christmas Parties

Esther will meet on Sunday, December 8, at 4 pm at the home of Robin Kane. Bring a homemade item for the exchange and an appetizer or dessert to share. Abigail Circle will meet at Zack & Scotty's on Tuesday, December 10 at 12:30, and Mary of Bethany Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 11 at noon in the church dining room, bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share.

Christmas Sale

Abigail Circle is holding their Christmas Items Sale on Friday, December 6, from 9-2. New & gently used clothing, trees, bulbs, wreaths, decorations, ornaments and more! Bring items into the church by Thursday, December 5th.



Evangelism and Missions



We are still collecting socks, hats and gloves to be distributed on December 17, during the LSS food truck. Please have them to the church no later than December 13, thank you!

Staff Appreciation Brunch

A potluck will be held on Sunday, December 8, during the Sunday School hour, 9:30-10:30. Bring your favorite breakfast casserole, muffins, fruit or other breakfast foods and show our staff your appreciation.



Needed



The youth will be doing their live nativity in the city park on Sunday, December 8, 6-7:30, and the Evangelism committee is asking for homemade cookies to serve with the cocoa they will be handing out. Please have cookies to the church by 5pm that day, thank you!

Loaves and Fishes

Will be December 29 and they are asking for 4 gallons of chicken and noodles and 6 dozen cookies. Please contact Marlene Stout at (740)709-1771.

Dear Grace Church Family,

Once again, we are celebrating the birth of our Savior and Lord – Jesus! We are decking the halls, putting up the trees, hanging the greens, and singing carols with Bing Crosby, Perry Como, Martina McBride, Amy Grant, and... ok, your favorite singers too.

Isn't it amazing how the birth of a common peasant boy from the Middle East has changed the course of the world! Even the way we mark time with our calendar year is based on His birth. I wonder, how has His birth changed the course of your life, your world view?

Let me quote from Rick Warren's The Purpose of Christmas. "God's Christmas gift to you has three qualities that make it unique. First it is the most expensive gift you'll ever receive. It's priceless. Jesus paid for it with His life. Second, it's the only gift you'll ever receive that will last forever. Finally, it is an extremely practical gift – one you'll use every day for the rest of your life." That's a lot to think about this month as you're shopping, worshipping, decorating, baking, visiting, and singing.

Don't let Christmas pass you by as just another holiday come-and-gone. Really take time to reflect and thank the Lord for His gift to the world and His personal gift to you. And take time to come and worship Christ the Lord during the 4 Sundays in December as we gather around the Advent theme - "*Away in the Manger*".

Dec. 1 8:30 & 10:45am "The Hope of Christmas" (Isaiah)
Dec. 8 8:30 & 10:45am "The Love of Christmas" (Mary)
Dec. 15 8:30 & 10:45am "The Peace of Christmas" (Shepherds)
& special Children & Youth Presentations
Dec. 22 8:30 & 10:45am "The Joy of Christmas" (Joseph)
& Choir Musical "*Jesus – the Advent of Messiah*"

Dec. 24 4:00 & 10:45pm "The King of Christmas" (Magi)
with Carols & Candlelights

Also, take time to be a blessing to others. Write a note, send a card, use the Christmas Card Exchange Box outside the Office area to exchange cards with the congregation. Christmas carol at the nursing homes, bake a batch of cookies for the neighbor, make a donation to the Gideon Bible ministry. All are wonderful ways to express and live out the Purpose of Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Ray

Thank you

~I want to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards I've received thru all I've been thru. They are what has gotten me where I am. All my love and prayers, Linda Carroll P.S. I'll be back soon!

~Just a note to say a BIG THANK YOU to your wonderful folks for filling our Hunger bags again this year. Looking forward to 2020, bigger and better things ahead.

Love and prayers, Sharon Harmon

Address

If anyone would like to send Christmas greetings to Alex Kane, his email is kane.alex@icloud.com and his address is 403-0004 Japan Yamanashi-ken Fujiyoshida-shi, Shimoyoshida 4-7-41 Kaneda Heights 101.

Prayer Topic of the Month

Pray that the ministry of KFC here at Grace touches and saves lives during this Christmas season. May we always remember the reason for the season... Jesus.

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in
His 
presence



Bob's Babble

Two Amish Proverbs: Our duty is not to see through one another, but to see one another through. The best gift in the world came wrapped in a manger.

Time again for what many people call Christmas. How you understand it, and celebrate it, depends upon how you learned about it. Those who grew up in the church, learned of a baby who was born in Bethlehem one night. They learned of how it was not possible to find room for the night, but they found a space in a building much like a small barn, or so some people teach it. Others imagine different kinds of places. An old familiar song says that He was laid in a manger after birth. His parents seemed normal kind of people, although His mother was a teenager, thought to be 14-15 years old. Unlike today, when a sterile kind of hospital would be the place for babies, His birth was in a place that would probably been dusty, dirty, not too warm, not what we would expect for someone called "King" and other names. His mother rode into town on a donkey, His father, probably on foot. There is so much more, but we'll leave it for another time. It's hard to imagine how this took place for Jesus Christ, who became known as the Savior of the world, a world created by God Himself – a world that this small child was destined to be Lord over.

In this rather lengthy paragraph, which probably offered nothing new to many of you, we are reminded of the birth of an infant who even today remains powerful in the eyes of some, and uninteresting to others. Yet there is a side to all of this that everyone should know. Today in the world, there are those who believe and celebrate the Christ child and Jesus as we know Him as Lord. There are also those who deny him. It appears as though there are many in the middle who believe in various degrees.

Yet, if we could find out, there are many big spenders, and small ones, who celebrate the Christmas season by spending money, partying, and doing things that we witness in our daily life. Someday, we are told, the One who started in the manger, was crucified, buried, resurrected and rose, will come again.

The world's ways are not our ways if we are Christians. Scripture teaches us to learn to know Him and make Him an important part of our life. If this is all new to you, find time to learn it now. It will be the best present you'll ever have, or the best present you ever gave someone if you share it. It's guaranteed never to break, rust, wear out, or become out of date. In fact, you'll have a better than a lifetime of guarantee. There will be extended care. Not interested? Talk to a Pastor or friend who you know who has Jesus as his or her Savior. Best wishes

~Bob

Youth & Young Adults



Merry Christmas Grace Church!

In November the Grace/1st Nazarene young adult group enjoyed our first outing! We watched OU Bobcat hockey take on Slippery Rock and followed it up with a late dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings. The youth group finished up their Financial Peace for Teens study. Again, many thanks and much gratitude to the Pennington's for their service. (For those interested, a Financial Peace study for adults will be starting in January on Monday evenings; please contact Nancy Pennington for details.) Boy Scout Troop 200 invited me to attend the closing of a campout one Saturday afternoon and treated me to a delicious foil dinner! And finally, I traveled to Tampa along with Jesse Rivers from Gallipolis 1st Church of the Nazarene to attend the National Youth Workers Convention.

In December we will be shopping for and preparing gifts for our Kids For Christmas outreach. While we have reached our stated goal, we will continue to receive donations for this and future ministry activities through Sunday 12/1. A huge THANK YOU to those that supported this outreach. Instead of meeting at the Church for youth on 12/1, we will meet at Walmart at 6PM near the pharmacy to shop for KFC. If parents are able, we ask that you attend and help your youth as needed with the shopping lists that they receive, and to assist in transporting the gifts back to the church afterward. If enough time remains after shopping, we will plan to eat dinner on the way back to Grace Church. The youth Christmas party on 12/22 will be open to youth and their families and held during the normal youth meeting time. Everyone in attendance should bring a \$5 gift for a white elephant style gift exchange (please let me know if you need help supplying a gift, I have lots of junk...er, um, wonderful things

that can be provided.) This year we will also be hosting a New Year's lock in. Families are invited to participate. Details to follow.

January 26 after the 10:45 service we will be hosting a Safe Sanctuaries training meeting for everyone who currently works with children, youth, and vulnerable adults at Grace Church (lunch will be provided.) As our Safe Sanctuaries Policy has been updated everyone currently in our registry will need a refresher. It is suggested that youth in middle and high school also attend so they can be informed of what they can expect of the adults in their service. In addition, there are many individuals that will need an updated background check (at the expense of Grace Church) performed due to a decrease in the time between re-certifications at the recommendation of the West Ohio Conference. While this will be a minor inconvenience to some, I will do my best to make the process as smooth as possible as a part the training meeting. You are strongly encouraged to make yourselves available for this meeting; however, we will schedule another training session for those who absolutely cannot attend on 1/26.

With December upon us, the winter school sports season is underway! Ryan will be wrestling, Dylan and Tyler will be playing basketball, and several of the students that we have developed friendships with through cross country have begun training for their indoor track season. They would love to have the support of Grace Church at their events! (At the time of writing, Tyler's basketball game schedule was not available.)

Happy new year!

Nate



Grace Youth & Young Adult Events, November 2019			
Date	Time	Event	Location
12/2, Mon	7PM	GAMS-BB	Ironton MS
12/5, Thu	Ryan Weber's Birthday!		
12/5, Thu	7PM	GAMS-BB	Dawson-Bryant MS
12/7, Sat	9:30AM	RVHS-W	Jackson HS
12/9, Mon	6:45PM	GAMS-BB	Gallia Academy MS
12/11, Wed	6:30PM	RVHS-W	River Valley HS
12/12, Thu	TBD	GA-Band	Gallia Academy HS
12/12, Thu	6:45PM	GAMS-BB	Gallia Academy MS
12/13-14	TBD	RVHS-W	Point Pleasant HS
12/16, Mon	6:45PM	GAMS-BB	Portsmouth HS
12/19, Thu	6:45PM	GAMS-BB	Gallia Academy MS
12/20, Fri	1PM	RVHS-W	Jackson HS
12/27-28	TBD	RVHS-W	Vandalia Butler Activity Center
12/31-1/1	TBD	New Year's Lock In	Grace UMC

Legend:

GA=Gallia Academy, RV=River Valley, MS=Middle School, HS=High School,
W=Wrestling, BB=Basketball, JB=Jazz Band, TBD=To Be Determined,
Yellow=Church Event

Photo Credit:

Grace/Naz Young Adults at Bird Arena
Foil dinners with Adam Stout and BSA Troop 200
Financial Peace for Teens practical lesson: Untangling a human knot



Prayer point for December: Please pray for students, faculty, and staff as they prepare to start the second half of the school year!

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1. *Vickie Powell Wendy Gatewood	2. Bertie Saunders Dianne Eutsler <i>*Mark & Vicky Sheets</i>	3. Bambi Roush John Sager	4. Ray Kane	5. Ryan Weber	6. *Dick Roberts Robert Woodward Craig Sager	7. Josie Bapst
8. *Linda Guinther *Fred Bryant <i>*Guy & Linda Guinther</i>	9. Michael Sager	10.	11. Chris Kyger Nicholas Sheets	12.	13. *Edie Ross Drew Dunkle	14. *Jim Oliver
15. Michael Northup	16. <i>*Bob & Carolyn Haner</i>	17.	18.	19. Josh Radvanyi	20.	21. <i>*Bryce & Nancy Smith</i>
22.	23. <i>Nate & Jencie Swindler</i>	24.	25.	26.	27. Marilyn Kuhn <i>*Dick & Sally Roberts</i>	28. *Sara Northup *Clarice Valentine *Phyllis Stewart
29.	30. Nancy Pennington Eric Weber <i>*Dan & Jean Henderson</i>	31. *Mel Tabor	 			

December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1. 6:00 KFC shopping	2.	3. 10:00 UMW Executive 7:00 LOL, Wheeler Home	4. 7:50 For Men Only 9:15 Faithful Friends 10:00 Friendship Bible 5:30 Music practice	5. 4:00 SPR	6. 9:00 Christmas Rummage Sale	7.
8. 9:30 Staff Appreciation Brunch 4:00 Esther Circle 6:00 Youth Nativity in the Park	9. 6:00 Trustees	10. 12:30 Abigail Circle 6:00 Fireman's Dinner 7:00 LOL, Wheeler Home	11. 7:50 For Men Only 9:15 Faithful Friends 10:00 Friendship Bible 12:00 Mary of Bethany 5:30 Music practice	12. 6:00 Finance 6:30 Lunch Bunch Comm. 7:00 Ad Council	13.	14.
15. 10:45 Children's Christmas Program	16.	17. 12:00 LSS Food Truck 7:00 LOL, Wheeler Home	18. 7:50 For Men Only 9:15 Faithful Friends 10:00 Friendship Bible 5:30 Music practice	19. 12:00 Lunch bunch group 6:00 Worship 7:00 Evangelism	20.	21.
22. 10:45 Choir Cantata	23.	24. OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 Family service 10:45 Candlelight service	25. OFFICE CLOSED 	26.	27.	28.
29.	30.	31. OFFICE CLOSED	<u>Music Practice times:</u> 5:30 Hand Chimes 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Chancel Choir 			