

January 2026 Newsletter

Grace United Methodist Church

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Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

Happy New Year!! (Well, almost.) As we turn the calendar to 2026, we will begin a new worship series called “Glory Revealed.” This series will bring us right into the season of Lent, which begins on February 18th with Ash Wednesday. The series begins with Epiphany on January 4th. This special Sunday celebrates the light of Christ that was revealed to the world. That joyous recognition reminds us of the gift of incarnation made known to us and to all of creation. During this series we will first explore what the light of Christ does for us and to us. We will also explore what we do because the light has been revealed to us. We will be invited to embrace the gift of light that is Jesus the Christ, and to do an attitude check as we stand in the promise of glory revealed. Thanks for your time!! Blessings to you and your family throughout this new year!! — Pastor John



December 2025 Finance Update

Total Revenues through December 2025 —> \$ 237,667

Total Expenses through December 2025 —> \$ 229,243

2025 Year-End Balance —> \$ 8,424 😊 😊 Thank you!!

“GLORY REVEALED” READING SCHEDULE

Seeing the Light

- December 29 – Ephesians 1:3-14
- December 30 – Jeremiah 31:7-9
- December 31 – Jer. 31:10-14
- January 1 – Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
- January 2 – John 1:1-9
- January 3 – John 1:10-18
- January 4 – Psalm 147:12-30**

Carrying the Light

- January 19 – 1st Cor. 1:10-18
- January 20 – Matthew 4:12-17
- January 21 – Psalm 27:1 and 4-9
- January 22 – Matthew 4:18-23
- January 23 – Isaiah 9:1-4
- January 24 – Psalm 27:1 and 4-9
- January 25 – Isaiah 9:1-4**

Power of Presence

What Is Good

- January 26 – 1st Cor. 1:18-25
- January 27 – Micah 6:8
- January 28 – Psalm 15
- January 29 – Micah 6:1-8
- January 30 – 1st Cor. 1:26-31
- January 31 – Matthew 5:1-9
- February 1 – Matthew 5:10-12***

Give You as a Light

- January 12 – Isaiah 49:1-4
- January 13 – Isaiah 49:5-7
- January 14 – Psalm 40:1-4
- January 15 – Psalm 40:5-11
- January 16 – 1st Cor. 1:1-9
- January 17 – John 1:29-34
- January 18 – John 1:35-42**

Call to Action

- February 2 – *Isaiah 58:1-9a*
- February 3 – *Isaiah 58:9b-12*
- February 4 – *Psalm 112:1-10*
- February 5 – *1st Cor. 2:1-5*
- February 6 – *1st Corin. 2:6-16*
- February 7 – *Matthew 5:13-16*
- February 8 – *Matthew 5:17-20***

2026 Special “Second Sunday” Events at Grace UMC

This year we will gather on the second Sunday each month for a time of fellowship, food, and fun. We will gather at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Each month the church will provide lemonade, coffee, water, and the paper products. Details for the first couple of months are below!!

Second
Sunday



January 11th – Cards and Cake – Join us to play your favorite card games (Bridge, Crazy 8s, Uno, Go Fish...) and to share in some cake. Please bring one or two of your favorite card games. And bring a favorite cake to share!!

February 8th – BG² – Bring your favorite board game (BG) to play with others! (Yahtzee, Monopoly, Battleship, Dominos...) And bring your “bestest” baked good (BG) to share during our time of fellowship.



March 8th – What would YOU suggest?? A crafting project... A painting effort... Something else??!!

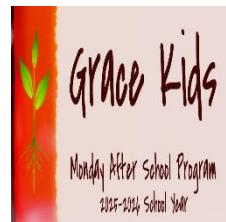
Let Pastor John know your thoughts! Thanks!!



Service Saturdays — On the third Saturday of each month folks from the church gather to serve for about 3 hours. On January 17th we will _____ . Ideas?????

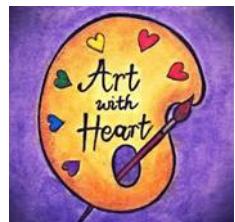
Grace Kids

During the new year we will begin exploring the New Testament! During the month of January we will study Jesus washing feet, the Passover meal, and Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Thanks for sharing your children with us each week!! — *David Weeks and the Crew*



Art With Heart

We invite all 5th and 6th graders to join us Tuesdays after school to be creative, have snacks, and grow in faith.



Happy New Year!

We'll resume Tuesdays after school on January 6, and we can't wait! I've been thinking up some fun projects to keep winter chill at bay and planning a little service project for the beginning of February.

To help with planning ahead, I'm looking for a couple more helpers for Sue in April and the first week of May. (Pastor John and I are taking an extended leave April 6 – May 6.) If you have a creative talent you'd like to share, or simply like being around young creative energy and can volunteer any of those Tuesdays, please be in touch with me soon!

--Kristin, Sue, and Pastor John

Youth Group News

Happy New Year, Youth Families!

We wrapped up 2025 with a fun-filled game night and a *silly sock exchange* that brought lots of laughs and excitement. The kids had a blast, and there were definitely a few *favorite socks* that sparked some friendly competition — especially during the intense rock, paper, scissors showdown!



A few of our youth also joined the monthly UMC Youth meetup at Canyon Lake UMC on December 14th. We decided to take a break over Christmas to spend time with our loved ones and focus on the season's joys.

We're excited to kick off the New Year on January 7th with a game night! After that, we'll dive into a brand-new *Stranger Things* themed lesson series. On a wonderful side note, we have grown so much that we have shifted to breaking up into smaller groups for the lessons so we can all get more out of the lessons each week. (We began this in December.)



We're so grateful for your continued support — it's a blessing to see our youth group growing stronger each month.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. We can't wait to see what 2026 holds!

Blessings, Kristal

Piedmont Valley
Community Church



"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for the One who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:23-24).

Happy New Year! What are your goals for deepening your faith this year?

On PVCC Verse of the Day, I will be posting mostly from the Upper Room Disciplines readings. Monday-Friday I will post the verse and Scripture reference and some thoughts/questions triggered by the daily devotion. If you want you can buy the book through The Upper Room, and you can also access the daily readings through their website (www.upperroom.org).

I also picked up an older devotional book by Joni Eareckson Tada: Pearls of Great Price (Zondervan 2006). It must have been leap year, because there are 366 readings. Here is an excerpt from the introduction:

"Dad Tada explained how a pearl is produced. A tiny bit of sand lodges in the flesh of an oyster and becomes an irritating intrusion. Unable to expel it, the oyster covers the particle with layer after layer of a milky secretion until the irritation has become smooth, round, and acceptable. It also, inadvertently, becomes a precious gem....Pearls are produced by a life that has overcome affliction, that has overcome suffering.... Jesus is the Pearl of Great Price. He is unlike any other...our example" (Joni Eareckson Tada, Pearls of Great Price, 2006, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, "Before You Begin").

Changes are coming. At the end of April, we will continue Livestreaming Worship on Facebook and the Grace United Facebook page will remain active, but PVCC will no longer be a part of our online presence. But Jesus, our Savior and our Pearl, is always at the Head of our Table of Grace. Whether you follow the Bible Verse of the Day on PVCC or use your own system, I hope you will develop a habit of daily reading, meditating, and prayer. And I pray God blesses you with insight and deeper faith in 2026.

--Kristin



Upcoming Events and Meetings at Grace UMC

Weekly Spiritual Grow Opportunities:

- Sun.— 8 AM — Adult Sunday School — Sunday Sch. Room
- Sun. — 9 AM — Worship (in person or online) - Sanctuary
- Mon. — 3 PM — Grace Kids — Fellowship Hall
- Tues. — 3 PM — Art with Heart — Fellowship Hall
- Wed. — 7:45 AM — Women's Small Gr. — Sunday Sch. Room
- Wed. — 1:30 PM — Midweek Chat — Chapel
- Wed. — 5:30 PM — Youth Group — Fellowship Hall
- Thur. — 5:30 PM — Men's Bible Year Study — Fell. Hall
- Fri. — 6:30 AM — Ladies' Bible Study — Chapel

Upcoming Monthly Events and Meetings:

- Jan. 17 — 9 AM — Service Saturday — TBA
- Jan. 23-24 — 7 PM-3 PM — Winter Connection (Youth)



Birthdays for January:

Jan. 3 – Maisie Kroger

Jan. 18 – Dayton

Jan. 3 – Les Rice

Newbrough

Jan. 5 – Carol Penn

Jan. 28 – Steve Hilton

Jan. 8 – Megan Baird

Jan. 29 – Prairey Walkling

Jan. 9 – Jolene Hanson

Jan. 10 – Ivy Elrod

Jan. 10 – Lewis Penn

Jan. 17 – Dawn Demers

Jan. 18 – Michell Kroger

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Grace United Methodist Church

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