

Grace United Methodist Church — September 2020 Newsletter

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Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

Hello! My family and I have been in Piedmont for ten weeks already. It does not seem that long in some ways. During this pandemic time, I feel like I have hardly begun to get to know the congregation. Yes, we have worshipped together but much of this has been either behind a mask or online. Such are the times we are in now. In other ways it feels like we are right at home already. I have settled into my office at church and we have settled into the parsonage on Walnut Street. I have gotten to know the great staff and lots of other people too.

During my first eight weeks we worked through the “God at the Movies” sermon series. Here too the pandemic struck! As I planned it back in March, I had grand visions of a church movie night where my family and I could get to know folks from the church. And then COVID hit. I do hope you enjoyed the series anyway! Beginning the last week in August I will start a new series called “Learning to Love Our Enemies”. In our current state of affairs in the nation, this feels like a timely topic to wrestle with. The theme for the new series is this: though it often seems more easily said than done, loving the unlovable is possible with guidance from the Holy Spirit. I hope you can join us for this series — either online or in person!

As we await how the Sturgis Rally will affect our church, our community, our schools... we long for a time to once again gather without masks, without remaining physical distancing, and without fear of infecting one another. In God I trust the day will come. Until then, may the Lord our God bless you and your family! Peace in Christ!! - *Pastor John*

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Return service requested

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Leadership Chair Mike Marsland...Pastor John welcomed everyone and offered a devotion on Joy.

KITCHEN—Tom Stevens sent a written report regarding this year’s Turkey dinner. It will be attached to these minutes. Basically, the Kitchen committee met and voted unanimously to NOT have the usual turkey dinner but are looking at an option of pre-selling carry out and prepaid “to go” dinners with nothing prepared outside of the church kitchen. Their final decision will come sometime in early September.

TRUSTEES—Dana reported that the overhead garage door at the parsonage has been replaced. In regard to the roof hail damage, they are now leaning toward not having it replaced at this time if is not actually necessary and they will make that determination after the insurance adjuster looks at it. Rushmore Energy quoted a price of \$4200 to replace the parsonage fireplace with a gas one. Keith O’Neil, from our church owns Rushmore Energy, and has offered us a substantial discount and we are most appreciative. Another workday is scheduled for September 19, to work on the parking lot, playground equipment and repainting the picnic tables. Volunteers to help would be very appreciated.

FINANCE—Nancy Tryon again reports that even though contributions are down somewhat, the expenses are also down due to fewer supplies being used at this time. We are still in a holding pattern with the budget and our expenses.

SPPR—Committee Chair, Jamie Brennan was out of town and Lisa said their committee had no new information from that committee. We still do not have a Children’s Ministry leader.

PASTOR JOHN — Questions were raised as to what we were going to do as far as working with the schools. There are no answers yet. Pastor said we will try to mirror the schools on what is doable and what is not at this time and when we could possibly start with some type of children’s program. Pastor, and others, felt the online VBS went quite well.

Jerry Simmons has contacted parents of youth and invited them to a meeting tomorrow evening at 6pm to formulate some plans for those in the middle school and high school programs.

Mike closed us in prayer shortly before 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted — Phyllis Stevens



God's Promises — No Laughing Matter

The Lord was gracious to Sarah, just as he had said he would be. He did for Sarah what he had promised to do. Sarah became pregnant. She had a son by Abraham when he was old. He was born at the exact time God had promised him. Genesis 21:1-2 (NIV)

Complete the activity.

At the bottom of the page is a list of words. These words are hidden in the puzzle. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. When you find a word, draw a circle around it.

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F W L B N L G C M B X A A Q B
M B R D X A R M E O Z I A S G
O F Q H P U A Q G R E T P K U
C Y F J P G C P B N N V R G B
C E N Z V H I M U X F I O C F
E F N I M E O E H K T S M L H
B H O E S D U C P J G I I N L
E L A D I A S U D L H T S O H
P Y S R B B A D K T E O E O D
M P V C G R R K Q F U R D I N
S C I V O A A V I R S S A S B
H J H W L H H W N G I E T A U
S Q L I D A A A M Z M K Z A P
Q X W Y L M D J T Y S L X C F
S P T U N D G W E K C I O T E

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- | | | | |
|-------|----------|----------|------|
| CHILD | GRACIOUS | ISAAC | OLD |
| SON | ABRAHAM | VISITORS | BORN |
| SARAH | PROMISED | LAUGHED | WIFE |

Church Web Site:

I have been working hard to update our church's web site and wanted to share a little bit about what you can find at www.gracepiedmont.com!!



Under the “Worship” tab you can find information on the current sermon series as well as links to the Sunday messages. You can read the print version of Sunday’s message by clicking on the title.

The “Live Stream” tab will take you to the church’s YouTube channel to tune into Sunday morning worship, funerals, and other events. If you “Subscribe” once there you will receive notifications each time we go “live”.

Each of the next three tabs will take you to a specific location on the web site — ministries, staff, events. Using the back arrow button or by clicking on the “Home” button, you will return to the main web page.

The “Blog” tab will open a new window that connects to Pastor John’s daily blog. Each day of the week I reflect on a reading from the lectionary cycle. These are the same readings listed each week in the bulletin.

The last tab is the “Give” tab. There are two options here—Tithely or Vanco. Both are on-line giving platforms that allow you to give electronically. If you are interested and need help, contact the church office.

Upcoming Events and Meetings at Grace UMC

Weekly Meetings:

- Wed. — 10 AM — Ladies’ Bible Study
- Wed. — 5:30 PM — Youth Group (starts 9/16)
- Fri. — 6:30 AM — Early Risers Ladies’ Study

Monthly Meetings:

- Tues., Sept. 15 — 6:15 PM — Team/Committees
- Tues., Sept. 15 — 7:00 PM — Leadership

Special Events:

- Trustees Work Day — Sept. 19 — 9:00 AM



Mission of the Month: “Sharing the Dream”

Friends of “Sharing the Dream” in Guatemala is a volunteer-based fair trade organization that works to reduce poverty through collaborative partnerships with local artisans. The



artists make handmade jewelry, handwoven scarves, and baskets from all-natural materials. A group will be at the church on Sunday, September 20, to sell these craft items after worship.

Birthdays for September:

Sept. 3 — Paisley Sageser	Sept. 16 — John David Graves
Sept. 4 — Kaitlyn Brown	Sept. 16 — Michelle Kroger
Sept. 5 — Don Hilton	Sept. 16 — Scott Kopplin
Sept. 6 — Joshua Brown	Sept. 17 — Nia Belt
Sept. 6 — Collin Andrew	Sept. 18 — Porsche Hemsher
Sept. 6 — Catrina Railsback	Sept. 19 — Carly Holly
Sept. 6 — Bryan Teachout	Sept. 21 — Bridger Doyle
Sept. 8 — Aaron Morovits	Sept. 23 — William Toenneis
Sept. 9 — Dennis Levin	Sept. 25 — Michael Keller
Sept. 12 — Kevin Stock	Sept. 26 — Bobbi Wells
Sept. 12 — Jace Gingras	Sept. 29 — Carrie May Masters
Sept. 12 — Isaiah Brown	Sept. 30 — Ted Pukas
Sept. 13 — Jazmyn Brekke	Sept. 30 — Delaney James
Sept. 13 — Jackson Peterson	Sept. 30 — Clara Metzger
Sept. 14 — Trevor Newbrough	



Greeters' Schedule for September:



We would LOVE to start having greeters before church each Sunday!! If you would be willing, please sign up on the clipboard on the left as you enter Fellowship Hall. :)

Notes from Christian Education and Youth:

Christian Education:

We are still in search of an individual or two to fill the role of our Christian Education Director. There are two main parts of the position — Sunday morning and the after school programs. On Sunday, the right person for the job would coordinate, plan, and oversee the Sunday Morning “Children’s Church” time. On Mondays and Tuesdays the right person would help with Monday’s “Art with a Heart” program that works with students in 5th and 6th grade and would coordinate, plan, and oversee the after school program that works with students in elementary school. If you have any questions or might be interested, please contact Pastor John or Jamie Brennan.

Youth Group:

There is a lot going on with COVID-19 and school starting. We wanted to share with you the plan for youth ministry at Grace UMC. We will try to keep things as normal as possible, but there will have to be some changes to be made.

Youth will start on September 16th. We will be asking that no one shows up before 5:15 on Wednesday nights. There will be a dinner with proper personal distancing provided each week. If you would like to help provide a meal please let me know. We will then have a group lesson in the sanctuary and then break into small groups. We are going to be taking it week by week on what will happen and how we will handle each youth gathering for the week. If you have any questions please let me know.