

Grace United Methodist Church — November 2020 Newsletter

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Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

November is just around the corner! And that also means that Advent is not too far away. Advent is one of my favorite seasons of the year! Trunk or Treat will happen at the end of October and the Turkey Dinner will come at the beginning of November. Sunday School will gear up on November 8 and soon our children will be practicing a Christmas program. That means we will get to see a Christmas program! Of course, as I think about these things, the reality of the pandemic threatens to throw cold water on my excitement. At any moment we can be back to having only online gatherings...

In November I will offer a sermon series called “Entrusted”. In this series I will touch on the fear, worry, doubt, and other difficult emotions that many of us are experiencing during this unique season. If you or someone you know needs to hear of the hope and peace we find in Christ, come yourself, invite this person to join us. The series will also extend some of the ideas from the “Thriving” as we further develop our call to be a part of making disciples and transforming our lives and our world. Using passages from the gospel of Matthew, we will come to realize how much God loves us and trusts his church to care for the world.

As we continue to live out our “new normal”, please continue to express acts of love for one another by wearing a mask when we gather together. Thank you.

May the Lord our God bless you and your family and Grace Unite Methodist Church! Peace in Christ!! - *Pastor John*

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Leadership Board Minutes—October 13, 2020

Leadership Board Meeting—

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm by Chair Mike Marsland, following our Annual church Conference, which was presided over by our District Superintendent Bob Ruedebusch.

FINANCE—Nancy Tryon reports our year to date expense is \$146,600. Because we had fewer expenses again this month we continue to gain ground. Prior to Covid we had been running in the negative.

KITCHEN—Tom Stevens reports that Cindy Puckett has put a lot of work into the planning, arranging for tickets, advertising etc. for the “To Go Only” Turkey Dinner this year, which will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The committee is excited for the event.

SPPR—Jamie said his committee completed the staff evaluations, did the formalities for keeping John as our Pastor, hired Kelly Carter as Children’s Ministry Director and discussed our Church Policy for various events in our church such as weddings, baptism, etc.

TRUSTEES—Dana reports the bid on replacing air conditioners at the parsonage are put on hold for now due to the price. They also will be discussing our current policy for weddings, funerals, etc., and work on an updated policy.

The sign sub-committee is gathering further information on what we need as far as signage, but has decided to wait until spring to get bids on roof repair from the hail.

PASTOR JOHN—John reminded us of the Trunk or Treat for Halloween and how that will be handled. His messages for this month are around generosity and he has invited individuals to give testimonies, either prerecorded or from the pulpit, during the service. The Adult Sunday School has started, as has the Men’s group on Thursday evenings. The children’s Sunday School will start in November under Kelly’s direction. We will work towards restarting coffee hour and a Christmas program is planned.

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis Stevens



Jesus said, “The greatest among you will be your servant.”

Use the code to find what Jesus said to conclude this teaching.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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|     |     |     | 2,3 | 9,10 | 1   | 4,5 | 7,8 |     |     |   |
| 7,8 | 3,4 | 2,3 | 5   | 7    | 2,3 | 4,5 | 8,9 | 2,3 | 7   |   |
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| 9   | 3,4 | 6   | 3,4 | 8    | 5   | 1,2 | 4,5 | 2,3 |     |   |
| 7,8 | 3,4 | 2,3 | 5   | 7    | 2,3 | 4,5 | 8,9 | 2,3 | 7   |   |
|     | 9   | 4   | 4,5 | 4,5  |     | 1,2 | 2,3 |     |     |   |
|     |     |     | 2,3 | 9,10 | 1   | 4,5 | 7,8 | 2,3 | 2   |   |

”

## Advent 2020:



During the month of December, our church will offer several special opportunities to make your Advent season special. Here is a brief description of each:

**Advent Study** — Each person will receive an Advent devotional called “At That Time”. This devotional is based upon the lectionary readings for Advent. This booklet will also connect in to the Sunday sermon series, “Where We Belong”. This resource will be available for small group study and for individual use.

**Blue Christmas Service** — On December 21 we will gather in the Chapel at 7:00 PM for a special “Blue Christmas” worship service. This is a service of remembrance dedicated to bringing healing and hope to those experiencing grief and loss during the holiday season.

**Christmas Eve Worship** — On December 24 we will gather for three worship services. Here are the details:

- 1:30 PM — Children’s Christmas Eve
  - This service is designed and intended for families with younger children.
- 4:00 and 6:00 PM — Traditional Christmas Eve
  - This is our traditional candlelight service.

**Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service** — On December 31 we will gather at 7:00 PM to celebrate John Wesley’s traditional service of covenant renewal. This worship service sets our hearts and souls to walk faithfully throughout 2021.

## Upcoming Events and Meetings at Grace UMC

### Weekly Meetings:

- Sun. — 8 AM — Adult Sunday School
- Wed. — 9 AM — Ladies’ Bible Study
- Wed. — 5:30 PM — Youth Group
- Thur. — 5:30 PM — Men’s Group
- Fri. — 6:30 AM — Early Risers Ladies’ Study

### Monthly Meetings:

- Tues., Nov. 17 — 6:15 PM — Team/Committees
- Tues., Nov. 17 — 7:00 PM — Leadership

### Special Events:

- Turkey Dinner — Fri., Nov. 6 — 4:00 PM



### Mission of the Month: “Annual Conference — Camping”

In November, our church will support the camping program of the Dakotas Annual Conference. Due to COVID-19 the camping program was suspended for this summer and fall. The camps are still maintaining some staffing (directors, maintenance personnel...) and are continuing to pay utilities... Our mission funds for November will go to offset income lost from the cancellation of these events in order to “keep the fires burning”. Thank you!!



Birthdays for November:

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nov. 1 — Kim Anderson       | Nov. 20 — Matthew Brown    |
| Nov. 2 — Cal Anderson       | Nov. 21 — Ivan Masters     |
| Nov. 5 — Jan Zabel          | Nov. 22 — Nadine Stromberg |
| Nov. 8 — Deandre Nalley     | Nov. 23 — Thomas Jacobsen  |
| Nov.9 — Dick Helmstetter    | Nov. 23 — Casen Thomas     |
| Nov. 10 — Esther Newbrough  | Nov. 23 — Diana Evans      |
| Nov. 12 — Matilda Bergstrom | Nov. 26 — Jayda Wells      |
| Nov. 13 — Jilian Aldren     | Nov. 28 — Bryan Carter     |
| Nov. 13 — Mike Marsland     | Nov. 28 — Deb Meendering   |
| Nov. 15 — Desiree Ownbey    | Nov. 28 — Phyllis Stevens  |
| Nov. 15 — Elizabeth Regelin |                            |
| Nov. 15 — Don McVay         |                            |
| Nov. 16 — Milo Hemmingson   |                            |
| Nov. 18 — Nakia Thurman     |                            |
| Nov. 20 — Evelyn Erikson    |                            |
| Nov. 20 — Alexi Chapman     |                            |



NEEDED: "Sunday Readers" for Worship:



PLEASE sign up to be a "Sunday Reader"!! The BRIGHT PINK signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board inside Fellowship Hall. It is very bright pink. We will even send you the readings ahead of time. Thanks!!

Notes from Christian Education and Youth:



*Christian Education:*

We welcome Kelly Carter as our new Children's Ministry Coordinator. We are so excited to have Kelly joining our great team here at Grace UMC. As Kelly begins to plan and gather a team to help her with Children's Ministry, here are a few dates to be aware of:

November 8 — Children's Church begins!! During worship, children will have their own "church" - leaving after the Kids' Message. On communion Sundays they will return for communion. Otherwise, children will be in Children's Church until the end of worship.

January 2021 — "Art with a Heart" (grades 5-6) and the Tuesday after-school program (grades K-4) will begin again.

*Youth Group:*

Hello Grace UMC, Youth has been going really well and we are having a lot of fun. We had a question night where they could ask any question they wanted to ask. The youth had some very good questions as they are eager to know more about God and what it means to follow God. We will be looking at the book of Psalm and more of the New Testament in the coming weeks.

I have a sign-up sheet above the water fountain for Wednesday night meals. If you would like to help provide a meal, please sign up. We are still taking all measures and precautions in order to be safe during these times. With flu season here, plus our COVID concerns - if you feel under the weather, please stay home and join us for Youth group via YouTube. We have been posting each week the lesson from youth group.

Thank you and blessings! — Jerry Simmons