



# GRACE NOTES

Volume 9 Issue 12

December 2021

## “Joy to the World”

“*Joy to the World the Lord is Come!*” It has been two years since we learned about “Covid 19” and the word “Pandemic”. Still we sing on with our faithful hymn of praise. The last time we sung together this hymn happen to be in that same year and as the world turned inward, into our inner sanctuary, we still sing on our faith. In Psalm 98 it says: *Sing, Shout and Praise*. All of creation is being renewed and there is an air of freedom. The *Divine Word*, Jesus, is coming to bless all God’s people. The hymn writer was inspired by this Psalm.

Psalm 98, describes God’s redemption of Israel and the rejoicing that will ensue. It is a song of the future. The people will go into exile, the temple will be destroyed and attempts will be made to erase the way of life of the covenant community. But Israel will not be deterred because the Holy One who was and is to come, will offer a new Kingdom. The world was caught off guard, in that silent night, when God’s own Son blessed the world. Mary was the “Christ-bearer”, Joseph stood guard to witness this glorious beginning.

We prepare for the Son of God as promised. We live differently this Christmas 2021. We have learned the lessons of resiliency and steadfast faith. We refuse to surrender to the predictions of gloom. From darkness we are invited to see the glimmer of light emerging. This is who we are, faithful to our calling, to offer Christ.

We sing “Joy to the World” from a new perspective. Imagine this song sung in different languages and culture, colorful and distinct. We bring our own tradition to this moment. There are many who still cannot return to their respective churches because of the continuing Pandemic. There are also many who have been displaced from their homes scattered in all the corners of the world. Let the love of Christ hold you this Christmas season. Our faith is relational reminding us that “the true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.” (John 1:4)



- *We invite you to join us for our Christmas Cantata on December 19th at the 10:30 Worship Service.*
- *On December 24<sup>th</sup> we have two services at 5:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m., with candle lighting.*
- *One service at 9:30 a.m., on December 26<sup>th</sup> & January 2, 2022*

Joseph and Mary found the humble manger and was the resting place for the evening. “Joy” came down and the “Savior” was born to dwell. This “Joy” is with us. No matter where you are in this journey of faith, may the “Joy” be your companion and friend. Let us press forward in faith and not be weary. The Lord is come! Welcome home!

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all of you.

*Pastor Romir and Ministry Staff of Grace Church*



*Christmas  
Cantata*

As we enter the season of Advent, leading up to our celebration of the birth of our Savior, the choir, bells, organist, pianist, soloist, and our charming children, are preparing a Christmas Cantata for the fourth Sunday in Advent. It also includes a few Christmas Hymns that you know and love, so you can sing right along with us

Join us at the 10:30 service on December 19 for "Everlasting Light", by Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, Jay Rouse, and Larry Shackley.

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwell in the shadow of death, upon them, a great light has shined."

Isaiah 9:2

## BIRD FRIENDLY COFFEE FUNDRAISER

Grace Church is holding a fundraiser featuring coffee that is grown in a natural setting that preserves habitat for resident and migratory birds that winter in Central and South America. Its Bird Friendly Coffee!



A major study published in the fall of 2019 showed that since 1970, we have lost 25% of our bird population in the US and Canada. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/19/science/bird-populations-america-canada.html>.

A major contributor to this loss is destruction of habitat. In the US, we have loss of habitat issues, but where do our birds migrate to for the winter? Many winter in Central and South America, which happens to be where a lot of the world's coffee is grown.

Coffee naturally grows in the shade of trees in the tropical regions of the world. In the mid-1900's coffee companies found if they grew coffee in full sun, they could produce more, faster and make more profit. Many people think coffee grown more slowly under shade tastes better. Today, 75% of the world's coffee is grown in full sun. Tropical forest must be cut down to create full sun coffee fields. This growing method also requires pesticides, herbicides and synthetic

fertilizers.

You and I can make a positive contribution to the environment by drinking Bird Friendly coffee. That is coffee that bears the logo from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center which certifies that the coffee is grown under their strict standards for habitat which includes native shade trees and organic methods.

You will find a fundraiser booth in the Narthex where you can select from 5 different coffees to order. The last day to order is 11/28/21 and the coffee can be picked up on 12/12/21. Make you check payable to Grace Church and give to Greg or Cathy DuBois, place in the collection plate or mail to the church office.

With your purchase of this coffee, Grace Church gains a few bucks for its missions, the environment and wildlife win and you win by drinking rich flavorful coffee.

# October

## 2021 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/19/20

	October		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>INCOME</b>	\$23,700	\$21,711	\$260,700	\$263,358
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Apportionment	\$1,954	\$1,954	\$19,540	\$19,540
Pastor Salary & Benefits	\$8,034	\$7,200	\$83,732	\$81,033
Personnel	\$8,577	\$9,315	\$88,596	\$64,233
Administration	\$1,058	\$769	\$10,583	\$9,387
Programming	\$1,050	\$447	\$10,500	\$5,047
Church Buildings	<u>\$10,317</u>	<u>\$10,234</u>	<u>\$74,367</u>	<u>\$69,803</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$30,990	\$29,919	\$287,318	\$249,043
<b>SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):</b>	-\$7,290	-\$8,208	-\$26,618	\$14,315

**Notes:**

- 1) Income lower than expected in October but still above expectation YTD
- 2) Expenses below expectation by \$38k YTD (unfilled staff positions for most of year)

### OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022

Since our current offering envelopes have no expiration dates on them you can continue to use them in the New Year and beyond until you run out of them (your account # will remain the same). Be sure to contact the church office if additional envelopes are needed.

Thanks for your continued financial support of Grace Church.





## POINSETTIAS

Grace Church will decorate the chancel area with Poinsettias on Christmas Eve. The flowers can be in honor or celebration of a special event, in memory of a loved one, or to the "Glory of God."

If you wish to order, please fill out a form and return it with a check made out to Grace Church by December 5, 2021. Poinsettias are \$9.00 each.

## CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

During the coming weeks our Confirmation class will be collecting candy donations to make holiday gifts for senior citizens and shut-ins being served by the Meals on Wheels program. More people are in need of assistance this year than ever before. These gifts with their meals are a real treat for them and a simple way for us to show them that Grace UMC cares.

About 300 pounds of individually wrapped regular and sugar-free candies are needed for this project. Your left-over Halloween candy is an ideal donation. Monetary donations are most welcome, too; let us buy for you!

Candy donations can be dropped off outside the church office in our decorative collection box; monetary donations can be mailed to the church or left in the mailbox.

## SWEATSHIRTS FOR THE HOMELESS

Missions will do our annual sweatshirt drive for the homeless. We need Men's L, XL & larger size. Bigger is better shirts can be layered underneath for warmth. Dark colors preferred. Sweatshirts can be placed in Narthex under Christmas tree starting after Thanksgiving. We will collect them until December 26. If questions, call Adrian Stoddard 815-353-6032. Thank you for your generosity!

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

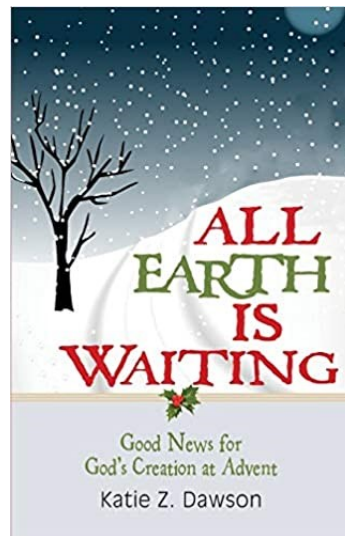
### Will Grundy Medical Clinic

Funds collected will be sent to the Will Grundy Medical Clinic to support their mission of providing medical care for those in the community who cannot afford it.

## ALL EARTH IS WAITING

### DEVOTIONS FOR THE SEASON

The whole created world waits and hopes for the coming of Christ.



All Earth Is Waiting invites readers to explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace with the heavens and earth in mind. Through her powerful and personal reflections, author Katie Z. Dawson calls us to consider how all creation longs for the coming of Christ, taking seriously

the notion that the good news of Christ is good news for all the world. Anticipating in Christ's birth the reconciliation of the heavens and the earth, Dawson highlights the responsibility to care for this earth in preparation for Christ's return.

We will meet on Wednesdays, December 1 thru December 22, at 6pm with Pastor Romir. The cost of the book is \$5.00. The sign up sheet is on the table in front of the office.



# December

## BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1—Brandon Bogucki, Travis Bogucki,
- 12/3—Brianna Anderson
- 12/4—Debra Black, Quinn Kolodziej
- 12/9—Patti Bailey, Jay Wait
- 12/11—Frieda Gray, Juda Gray
- 12/12—Alice Jackson, Linda Jursinic
- 12/13—Kathryn Ray
- 12/14—Peg Tucker
- 12/15—Joan Krosnicki, Daniel Potter, Caryn Young
- 12/16—Zachary Harrison
- 12/17—Elijah Gray
- 12/20—Destiny Hicks
- 12/21—Gene Lockhart
- 12/22—Matthew Renzi
- 12/23—Reyna Guzman
- 12/24—Jay Caswell
- 12/26—Russ Ghilain
- 12/27—Benjamin Meister
- 12/28—Jacob Linko
- 12/31—Stephanie Butler, Jean Navin



### PLEASE BE MINDFUL

You are surely familiar with the wall mounted lights in the high ceiling portion of the Narthex. What you may not be aware of is how much power each of these lights consumes. They are operated by 4 sliding dimmer switches on the wall next to the library door and regardless of the position of these dimmers, when the lights are on, each light draws 300 watts of power. When all 16 of the current Narthex lights are on, that is a total of 4800 watts of power consumption which is more than your central A/C unit draws at home, which is a lot!

Please turn these lights OFF when they are not in use.

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Jeffrey & Michelle Ray      December 17, 1994
- Gail & Lee Shaw              December 23, 1961
- Henry & Clarice Boswell      December 31, 1957



NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 8AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY	ADULT SUNDAY
Nov. 7	12/73	12	11
Nov. 14	16/73	18	16
Nov. 21	/63	12	15
Nov. 28			

Thank you Grace Family,

Peggy & Ron Tucker want to express their 'thanks' for the many beautiful cards, prayers and kind words that were expressed over the passing of our brother Jerry Bell, in Sacramento, CA. We are very grateful for your loving concern.

In Grace Love, Peg & Ron Tucker





AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Grace United Methodist Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Grace UMC.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR GRACE CHILDCARE

Since Grace Child Care is one of our outreach ministries of the church, let's help them this Christmas by bringing the following items:

- ◆ Paper plates
- ◆ Paper napkins
- ◆ Disposable kids face masks

- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Clorox wipes
- ◆ Baby wipes
- ◆ Kleenexes

Please put the donations in the decorated box by the church kitchen.

Thanks so much for your help!

## ANGEL TREE

- \* Donors are encouraged to select an angel from the tree, purchase a suitable gift(s) and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the tree with the angel tag attached.



## ANGEL TREE

- \* Gift cards may be received in lieu of gifts. Gifts in price should be about \$35 per child. Higher amounts are up to the discretion of the donor.
- \* All items must be new.
- \* Wrapping paper can be included for the parents to wrap the gifts.
- \* All gifts are due back to Grace Church by Sunday, December 12th.

**They ask that you do not use gift bags. Gift bags break easily when transporting.**



## ALL ARE INVITED UMW CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 9 at 1:00 p.m.

THE MAD HAT SISTERS

Present

## A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

The beloved songs of the season  
all have their own story to tell

COME JOIN US



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	2 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 	3	4
5 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	6	7 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 SPRC 	8 6pm Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	9 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 1pm UMW Christmas Program 5pm JTHS Choir Concert	10 6:30 Cub Scouts 	11
12 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship <b>Angel Tree Return</b>	13	14 10am Daycare Christmas Program 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Trustees	15 11:30am Pantry 6pm Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	16 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 	17	18
19 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship <b>Cantata</b>	20 5pm Daybreak 	21 7am Daybreak Breakfast 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Daycare	22 6pm Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	23 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 7pm Church Council	24 5pm & 7pm 	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> 
26 9:30 Worship <b>Sweatshirts for the Homeless Due</b>	27	28 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 	29 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	30 6:30 am Men's Breakfast	31 Office Closes at 12 noon.	

Grace United Methodist Church

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# Christmas Eve Services



5 pm—Early Christmas Service

7 pm—Late Christmas Service

