

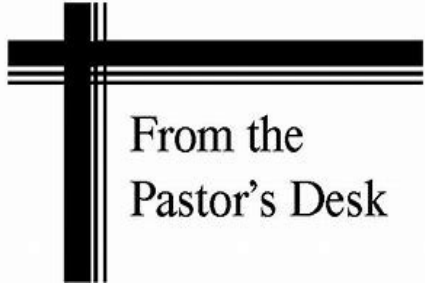
Grace Notes is published monthly by Grace United Methodist Church in Joliet, IL.

GRACE NOTES

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2023

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing



From the Pastor's Desk

The first song in the United Methodist Hymnal is "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing." It has been traditionally the opening hymn in

Methodist hymnals since John Wesley's collection of hymns for the people called Methodists.

The first stanza goes "O For a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace." The hymn deals with Charles Wesley's emotions upon his spiritual transformation. Charles Wesley was a prolific hymnodist and with John Wesley proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ. Imagine today the many voices praising God in the four corners of the world. You can hear this hymn sung in different languages either as a choral rendition or a congregational song.

Psalm 96 reads "O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord, all the earth, Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day." When we sing we bear good tidings of good news. Only a heart filled with overflowing will want to share the story of God's redeeming grace.

This season is marked with the visit of the Three Wise Men and the Baptism of Jesus. The Magi's honored Jesus with gifts symbolizing his Divinity, humanity and glory. Jesus in turn honored God by immersing himself in the water of baptism. Epiphany is most often lost in our observance because it comes in between Christmas and Easter. I like to believe that the "center" holds us together.

"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17).

Be centered in Christ in all that you do. It's the New Year. We begin again in God's good time. Bishop Desmond Tutu said that Jesus is the center for him and not on the border. Imagine what God can do when we move to the center.

As we begin the New Year 2023, let us pray for a renewed church and that our ministries will continue to be a reflection of God's grace in our lives. It is an irresistible grace. God is always doing a new thing in our horizon. Share your faith stories. Invite a friend to church. Speak words of encouragement.

The light of the World has come.

Happy Epiphany and New Year.

Pastor Romir R. Esguerra



It is with appreciation that I wish to THANK the Grace Family for supporting the Angel Tree 2022. Because of your generosity, every child received a gift from Grace Church. Thank you so much. Also, a big thanks to the men of Grace that helped with the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. Especially, thanks to Steve and Linda Meister, Kay and JoAnne, who helped place the donated ornaments on the tree. May God bless You. Clarice

Many thanks to all of you who helped beautify our sanctuary for the Advent season, to those who provided beautiful music to inspire us, to those who participated in the Angel Tree and sweatshirt ministries, and to those who purchased soups and coffees that supported our causes. Maida McCormack

Missions Christmas Sweatshirts

Thank you to everyone that donated sweatshirts for our annual drive. They will be put to good use & protect them from the winter chill. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Adrian

As per church policy, please refer all requests for the use of the building to the church office.
Thank you for your cooperation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Upcoming Activities

Christian Education Meeting is Thursday,

January 12, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. Zoom

Fifth Sunday - Youth Sunday - January 29, 2023

Our Christian Education lessons in the month of January are focused on the concept of "Believe". Our Sunday School Children and Youth will have bible stories and lessons that will challenge them to consider what they believe and then share their faith on what they believe. Thank you for your support as we engage our young people in areas of ministry in the church by sharing through their gifts of time, prayers, presence, service and witness.

Memory Verse - "Jesus is truly the prophet who is coming into the world." - John 6:14b

Rev. Nancy Grim Hunter



WELCOME ADRIENNE HARTMAN

Hello Grace UMC, I am very excited to be here with you as your Office Manager. A little bit about myself - my husband Marlin and I have been married for 43 years, have 3 beautiful daughters, 2 son in laws and grandparents to 4 wonderful grandkids. We are members of Minooka UMC. We live in rural Minooka with our 2 German Shepherds and 1 cat. Being empty nesters gives us time to continue to work and travel. I look forward to ministering with all of you. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful.

Adrienne Hartman



Uncle Wally's Donut Shop will continue to serve coffee and donuts in between services and Sunday school. I will be needing volunteers to assist me on a week by week basis. It is a two person job. Please contact Wally Farrar at 815-600-1595 for more information.

November 2022 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/16/21

	November		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$20,100	\$31,419	\$236,100	\$273,369
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,128	\$0	\$23,408	\$6,384
Salary & Benefits	\$16,424	\$15,383	\$192,484	\$184,023
Administration	\$1,175	\$726	\$12,925	\$13,524
Programming	\$1,071	\$1,491	\$11,780	\$6,394
Church Buildings	<u>\$5,713</u>	<u>\$4,048</u>	<u>\$84,239</u>	<u>\$78,712</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,511	\$21,648	\$324,836	\$289,037
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$6,411	\$9,771	-\$88,736	-\$15,668

Notes:

- 1) Income now above budget by \$37K.
- 2) Expenses \$19K below budget when adjusted for not paying apportionments Apr-Nov.

What a wonderful way to commemorate a special occasion, remember a loved one, or celebrate a joyous occasion then with beautiful flowers that would be displayed prominently on the altar or one of the tables in the church. Just fill out an Altar Flower Form (found next to the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board in the Narthex) and turn in to the office two weeks before.



If you are in need of church offering envelopes, please contact the church office at 815-725-7632.

Thank you for your faithful financial support of Grace.

Please remember to sign the attendance pads—It is so important for the purpose of accurate record keeping and for your presence to be acknowledged and recorded for the maintenance of our church membership rolls. Help the office keep up with your current address, phone #, birthdays, anniversary, etc.

Adrienne Hartman

ASP Fundraiser

Baked Potato Bar

February
5th

9 am—12 pm

\$8 each

your choice
of toppings

Dine In or
Take Out Only
Pre sale Jan.
8th, 15th &
22nd in the
Narthex.



God's Work Our Hands

DAYBREAK SHELTER

The sign up sheets are back up on the bulletin board. All items need to be at church the Sunday before Day-break.

Daybreak this month is January 16th and 17th. The sign up sheets are posted in the back of the Narthex. Food donations should be left in the kitchen by Sunday, January the 15th. Please label all donations day-break. Thank you for supporting this important mission. Diane Lutz

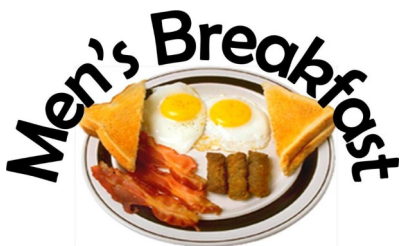
MISSION OF THE MONTH

January – Global (pg. 14) Micro-Credit in Mo-Dega and Papease, Ghana (#3020810)

This mixed farming project was set up to reduce food shortages through improved crop reduction processes and providing viable seed lands for production on an out-grower basis as well as production of animals for supply to peasant farmers.



**Our Adult Choir and Sunday School Choir
Christmas Cantata**



The men's group from Grace has a Thursday morning breakfast fellowship. They meet at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St.

Since nearly all who attend are retired, the groups meets at 7:00 am starting January 4, 2023.

All are welcome.

RIDGEWOOD PANTRY

The Sunday before the third Wednesday of every month all loose coin offerings will be used toward support of the Ridgewood United Community Pantry, Joliet, Illinois. The food pantry operates every Wednesday in support of the Ridgewood area on the east side of Joliet. The funds will be used to supplement the pantry's budget for purchase of food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank for distribution through the pantry. These Sundays in 2022 are: Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 16, May 14, Jun 18, Jul 16,



- 1/2—Jia Joy Renzi, Samantha Kazak
- 1/3—Joseph Sabella, Erin Lutz
- 1/6—Maria Chaney
- 1/8—Scott Paulson, Mike Parro
- 1/9—Cheryl Deardurff
- 1/10—Christine Butler, Lauren Mulvey
- 1/11—Carol Cook
- 1/15—Patrick Morrow, Gus Kramer
- 1/16—John Louis Boswell, Anna Rocha-Gray
- 1/18—Kaliah Dolph, Braydon Hocking
- 1/19—Justin Farrar, Nancy Leggett
- 1/24—Diane Parro
- 1/25—Mark Landers
- 1/26—Karen Storcz
- 1/31—Stephen Meister, Mason Meister, Kelly Renzi

John & Kathryn Moore January 5, 2009
 David & Debra Black January 16, 2001



February Grace Notes articles can be sent to me in the office at anytime. Deadline for the February newsletter will be January 20th. Thank you so much for all your help with the newsletter. Adrienne Hartman



DECEMBER ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 8AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Dec. 4	66		
Dec. 11	91		
Dec. 18	110		
Xmas Eve	106		
Dec. 25 9:30	36		



Give With Vanco

You can now submit payments/donations to all your favorite church causes right from our website! Go to www.graceumcjoliet.org and scroll down to the Vanco section. Click the button to open a variety of church cause to select from. Donate to the Mission of the Month or Ridgewood Food Pantry, pay for Flowers for the Altar, use Amazon Smile and designate Grace Joliet as your beneficiary.



Flowers for the Altar

Pay now



UMCOR Disaster Relief

Donate



General Operating

Contribute



Mission of the Month

Contribute



Daybreak Homeless Shelter

Donate



Daybreak Homeless Shelter

Donate



Ridgewood Food Pantry

If you prefer to use the purchasing power through the Northern Illinois Food Bank, you may make a monetary donation. Our day at the Food Pantry is the third Wednesday of the Month.

Donate



Christmas Donation

Christmas is special time for coming together to worship. Thank you for making a Christmas offering to GUMC.

Give

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 9:30a Worship	2	3 6:30 SPRC	4 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	5 7 am Men's Breakfast 10a Remove Christmas decor	6	7
8 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	9	10 6:30 	11 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	12 7 am Men's Breakfast 	13	14
15 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	16  5pm Daybreak	17 7am Daybreak Breakfast 10:00a Worship	18 11:30am Pantry 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	19 7 am Men's Breakfast 7pm Christian Ed Meeting via ZOOM	20	21
22 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	23	24 6:30p Finance 7pm Church Council 	25 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	26 7 am Men's Breakfast 	27	28
29 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship 24TH—Family Fun Event	30	31				

Grace United Methodist Church

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