

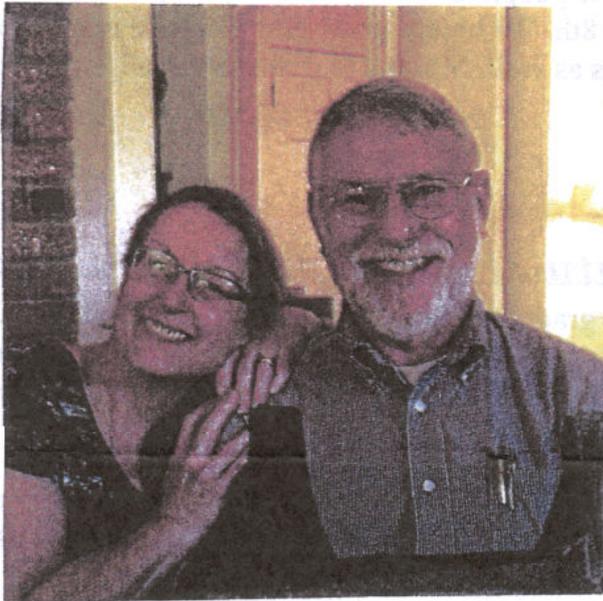
GRACE NOTES



JUNE 2018



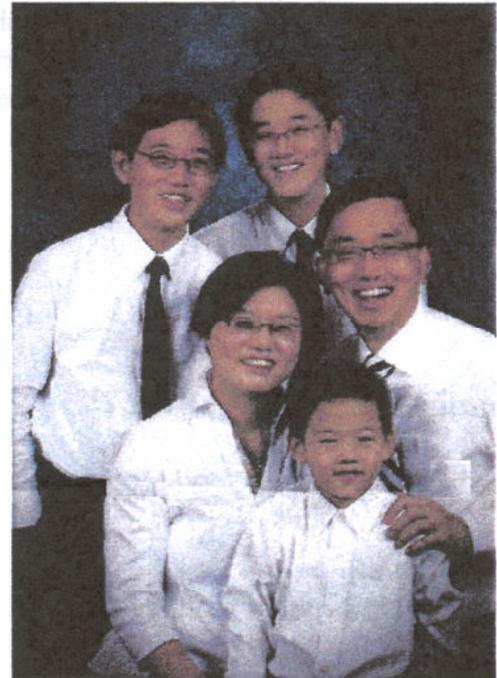
FAREWELL, FRIENDS!



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10. Cover and special UMCOR insert

On July 1, we will welcome
Pastor Kyu, Eun-Soon,
Daniel, David and Christopher



Scripture

- June 3** 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6
- June 10** 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
- June 17** 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20 or 72
2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-43
- June 24** 1 Samuel 17:32-49; Psalm 9:9-20
2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41
- July 1** 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Experiencing, Embracing and Extending God's Grace

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Summer is trying hard to arrive! Maybe next week ☺. Soon I will be providing coloring pages or puzzles for our youngest members as we won't be going downstairs during worship. I pray we might find ourselves welcoming summer visitors so I'll be sure to have adequate supplies!



Our Sundays with Pastor Kirk and Kathy are numbered now. Be certain to keep them in your prayers. This is such a stressful time of packing and making big changes. Give them your smiles and love every chance you get. **AND** as I'm sure you'll read elsewhere in this letter be certain to set aside **June 24** as a very special Sunday. Do your very best to attend worship that day and to stay for the retirement/Godspeed celebration!

While you're at it, praying, smiling and marking your calendar, also be remembering Pastor Kyu and his family. They will worship with us July 1st. Let's show them that the people of Grace value worship even on holiday weekends! His first Sunday of leading worship will be the 8th. We hope a good group will be in attendance to make them feel welcomed! Keep them in your hearts and prayers as well. Moving is stressful for all. I promised Kay this would be short! It's not!!

Blessings all,
Laurie



Congratulations to our Graduates!

Jocelyn Geiger graduated from Lyndon State College May 20 with a Bachelor's in Accounting and Business Administration Summa Cum Laude! She intends to find employment in the Burlington area.

Kaelynn Silver graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy June 4. She was a member of the St. J. A. track team that won their 4th Division 1 Championship. She'll be at the pool this summer and plans to attend college this fall.

Ava Lavigne graduated from 8th grade from the Caledonia Christian School on June 5th and will attend St. J. Academy in the fall. She is a member of the Bells of Grace.

Leashie Silver will graduate from 8th grade at the Barnet school on June 11 and will attend St. J. Academy in the fall.

Small groups at Grace

Tuesday

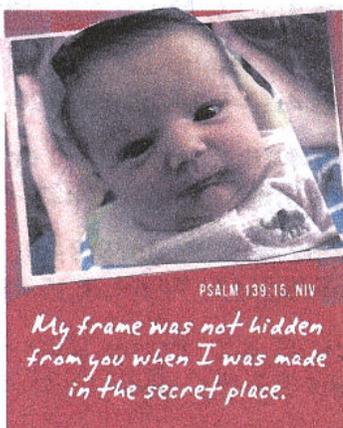
3rd Tues at 11:45-A Few Good Men at Wright's

Wednesday

Noon – BYOBB meets monthly at Robinson's

Thursday

7AM Prayer & Share



Jill, Jocelyn, Curt



Jen, Kaelynn, Bobby



Kaelynn

Welcome to Kenna, the newest member of the Gingue family

My Compliments to the Creator

Dear God, I saw the Grand Canyon this [spring]. Nice piece of work!
Love, Kyle (age 9)



the PASTOR'S CORNER

June 2018

Farewell, Old Friends...Welcome New Ones

The Apostle Paul always began his letters to the churches of the New Testament with a formal and affectionate greeting. This was common practice in the Greek culture of the world in which Paul ministered. "Beloved in Christ..." he would start out. There often followed a boatload of unsolicited advice and scolding about how they could improve their faith and live in ways that would bring more glory to God and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ more effectively. There might be some explanations offered in defense of his own ministry, and some pithy criticism of those who disagreed with him. But he would always close urging them to remain faithful, to place their trust in God, and to find peace and fellowship with God through the working of the Holy Spirit in one another. Soooo...

Beloved in Christ: Grace and Peace to you in the Church of Jesus Christ called Grace United Methodist Church in St. Johnsbury. I never think of you without giving thanks to God in my heart for the privilege of serving among you. Even when I am grumpy and tired, I know that my work among you was less a gift from me to you than it was a gift from Christ Jesus and you to me. Though I came as your guide, shepherd and teacher, with much experience and some wisdom to share, I learned from you. I pray you learned some things about following Jesus from me, too.

We have shared...much. Laughter. Tears. Frustration. Fun. Silliness. Singing. Music. Friendships. Work. Play. Chores. Worship. Stories of Faith. Growing Pains in Spirit. Shrinking Pains in Statistics. Weddings. Funerals. Christmas Candles. Easter Sunrises.

You have patiently endured your pastor's lousy jokes (C'mon! I had to tell you when to laugh. That's how bad they were.) and a host of other annoying things about Kirk. I'm sure some of you felt neglected or unappreciated - not my intention, but a failing all the same. Some tasks were left incomplete, like the disposition of the Parish House, next door. I hope you are not keeping a list. And I hope you will not hold this pastor's weaknesses against the one coming to replace him. He and his family will need your trust, advice, invitation, embrace and encouragement.

A word of professionally-driven precaution for us all: Kathy and I have interacted at greater and lesser depth with most of you at one time or another, and when circumstances have moved it, have come to value our friendship with many of you. It is critically important for me not to interfere with or jeopardize Pastor Kyu's new role and relationship with you. Returning to perform pastoral functions, maintaining frequent (the guidelines would say *any*) back channel connections, discussing current events at Grace after I have departed are all violations not just of some cranky Church rule,

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Farewell, Old Friends...Welcome New Ones *(continued)*

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but of the trust I owe both to Kyu as a colleague, and to you, as my former parishioners and friends. I have shared with you every gift I knew how to share. And you have endured the short-falls of my ministry, too. I am not turning my back on you, but we really are setting off on a new direction, our eyes looking forward. And you really do have to welcome your new leader, and set off on the journey it is now his to share with you. Please don't be hurt, therefore, if I seem unwilling to stay closely connected. It is required of me. And it is truly healthier for the next phase of Grace UMC's ministry.

I beg and encourage you to show all the cooperation and love to Hyung Kyu Yi and his family that you shared with me, and with John, and with the long line of those who have served for a time among you, to teach you, and to learn from you, too. Now is the time for all of you to re-double your commitment to hold one another close in Christ Jesus.

That's a lot of Churchy talk. Paul would have said it more simply. He would have said, "I am arrived in my new place where God has called me. I remember you and cherish all the moments we shared. And now you must accord Timothy whatever balance of pastoral regard and respect you may have had for me." Or, put another way, It's like the closing song all those years ago on the Carol Burnett variety program: "I'm so glad we had this time together..."

Most especially, in the footsteps of Paul, I beg you to remain faithful. Trust in God even when your faith in The Church is flagging. Seek the fellowship and guidance of the Holy Spirit as you search for the path God wants this congregation to follow. Don't forget to hold each other up in prayer, in conversation, and in action. Find peace and strength in your fellowship with God and with one another. And pray for Kathy and me if you will, for our journey takes us away from you, but it not ending. We also follow God's leading, and it's time for us to go.

The congregation where as a teenager I began to hear God's call and claim on my life was much like St. Johnsbury, in many ways. It was struggling to develop a new vision and mission. The old social and economic constructs on which it had been founded in the 19th-century had shifted from beneath it like sand. It could no longer be what it had been. It was struggling to become something new. And, in the end, they succeeded. All through that time, new vision was sustained by the traditions that bound them together. One of them was that every worship service ended with the old hymn of blessing sung as a congregational response to the pastor's prayer of Benediction. And we meant it!

"God be with You, til' we meet again..."
May this hope remain with you, as it does in us,
in this world, and in the Kingdom to come.
Praying for your family and for mine...



Experiencing, Embracing & Extending God's Grace

Thanks to the May Worship Team

Communion Stewards: Mary Ann and Jim Allen, Jill, Bob, Ray, and helpers

Greeters & Ushers: Peter Bedard, Bob Carpenter, Curt Geiger, Cheryl Kerr, Beulah McGinnis, Ray Richer, Bernie Timson, Lisa Wood

Scripture: Maryanne Allen, Jean Maleski

Community Lunch: Jim Allen, Peter & Laurie Bedard, Aime LaBounty, Beulah McGinnis, Julie Nadeau, Donna Reed, Ray & Evelyn Richer, Pastor Kirk, Lisa Wood,

Altar Environment: Laurie Bedard, Pastor Kirk

Projection Team: Jeana Desilets, Bart Selle, Kathy Thompson, Nicquelle Timson

Clear-headed Faith

Most often ... worry is a lack of confidence in life, in its purpose, in God, Faith in life, in God, is native to the human spirit. Worry is faith in reverse. Not only because most of the things we are anxious over never come to pass but also because, when we worry the most obvious things to do in our situation are overlooked. We should relax our tension by trusting God and putting at the disposal of that trust a clear head.

Howard Thurman, *Deep is the Hunger*

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UMW Assembly

May 18-20 I attended "The Power of BOLD" where with 6100 other women (and a handful of men) we worked in service (ubuntu), worshiped, sang, attended workshops, learned, shared and in general revitalized ourselves. I went to "Lovers of Justice Dwelling Together in a Multi-Faith World" which was excellent. God's creation continues to suffer tremendous injustices that are common to all. There are threats of land and cultural extinction, environmental contaminants, and pollution of water and natural resources, all forms of violence against humanity and the earth, abject poverty, discrimination, racism, child exploitation, sex trafficking, and...sadly the list continues. This workshop explored the ways that we as faithful followers of Christ Jesus must live out an essential part of our divine mandate to "do justice...", by learning how to live, work, pray, and serve with people of multiple faith traditions.

The other workshop was just as good: **Be Just Be Green** UMW's national office has made climate justice one of its four social justice priorities. We were provided practical, theologically sound tools to guide and inspire our work as environmental justice advocates. The tools were developed to delve through deep intersectional injustices among gender, racial, economic, and climate injustice. The time together included four parts: 1) Theological basis for engaging in climate justice. 2) Science of climate change! 3) UMW's work around climate justice--pressing for the reduction of greenhouse gas emission from key emitters like the energy sector. 4) How we respond to advance climate justice. We learned so much from women deeply involved in the work of climate justice and education.

Now to get to work using what I learned! --Kay Ellis

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Heavenly father, help us to live in ways that reflect you and your love.

Amen.



Thanks to...

Our Gardeners. Ones I've seen are Jean Maleski, and Gina Glidden. Perhaps there are others who may not

have been seen. The garden is lovely!

- Our new custodian, Bob Carpenter. That kitchen floor looks great!
- Jean Maleski who is guiding the Pastor Staff Parish Committee, confirming dates, communications, and plans for the pastor's moves. The committee plans to be helpful during these stressful times.
- Pastor Kirk who provided music while Kay was in Columbus OH, attending UMW Assembly on May 20.
- Those who wore red on Pentecost.
- Former members Anita Dragoo and Charlotte Blodgett for helping to compile the 18 yr. history of BYOBB, celebrated at the last meeting at Robinson's on 5/30.
- Mary Jo Lote who arranged a catered lunch for us all, at BYOBB, including special guest, Pastor Kirk.
- Laurie Bedard who not only facilitates Sunday School activities and gives the worship theme each Sunday, but also hosts Prayer & Share each Thurs. AM, and has for over 20 years!! She also serves as Lay Leader, Prayer chain facilitator, sends Facebook and email messages, is altar arranger and other duties too numerous to mention! Kudos, Laurie and much appreciation.

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Living Proof

Have you ever realized that you can give things to God that are of value to him? Or are you just sitting around daydreaming about the greatness of his redemption, while neglecting all the things you could be doing for him? I'm not referring to works which could be regarded as divine and miraculous, but ordinary, simple human things—things which would be evidence to God that you are totally surrendered to him.

--Oswald Chambers

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Experiencing, Embracing and Extending God's Grace

Special Dates

Flag Day, June 14
Father's Day, June 17
First Day of Summer, June 21
Independence Day, July 4

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Congratulations & Best Wishes

To: **Andrew Nadeau** who was awarded a scholarship from NVRH.
To: **JoAnn (Jody) Reed** on her retirement from the St. Johnsbury School System
To: **Hannah Wescott** for her outstanding first place finishes helping St. J. Academy to win for the 4th year in a row, the Div. 1 Track & Field Championship

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A Church or a club?

Rev. Theodore Wedel, a former canon of the National Cathedral, once told a parable about congregational life. It began: "On a dangerous sea coast where shipwrecks often occur, there was a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea."

Some neighbors and people who'd been rescued began donating time and money, thinking the station needed better furnishing and better equipment. As the station grew as a gathering place, members hired lifeboat crews to do the dirty work of saving lives. Those who disagreed with that approach broke away to form their own stations.

The parable concluded; "if you visit that sea coast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown."

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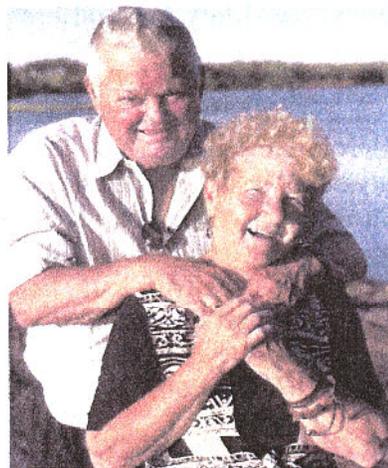
1	Jill Lavigne	18	Lisa Carlson
1	Maya Page	19	Ronald Stellpflue
7	Sara Gingue	22	Jeana Desilets
7	Gena Glidden	24	Ray Desilets
11	Megan Wood	24	Carol N. Robinson
15	Miles Goff	29	David Reed



June 6 – Richard & Beulah McGinnis
June 21 -John & Cindy Robillard
June 24 -Rev. Kirk & Kathy Thompson
June 27 -Will & Kathy Merrill
June 27 -Nate & Julie Nadeau

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Pastor Carlyle & Torry Pierce



SUN JUNE 10, 2018
**-SURPRISE-
RETIREMENT
CELEBRATION**

Celebrating 17 Years of Faithful Service

FVI

As you all know, we will be sharing Pastor Kyu with the folk from Danville UMC. Schedules may have to be rearranged as he serves the congregations of both churches. So, the summer schedule has yet to be set, so check the website or call the church at 748-2895 mornings M-Th for time of worship July 1. The Kyu family will be worshipping with both churches.

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Buddy Munding of the Danville UMC called to thank Jean Maleski for joining them in singing at St. J. Health & Rehab. They go the first Tuesday of each month at 6 PM to sing with the residents. He issued an invitation to all who would like to join them. Sounds like a great way to combine a ministry. Just come as you are...

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Storms continue to damage homes, businesses and lives. **UMCOR** needs donations of \$\$ and hygiene kits. (See insert) The Thompsons and the Ellises will be glad to take any donations to NE Annual Conf. on June 14. Puerto Rico will receive \$16.8 mil. for disaster relief this year.

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Dear Jesus, thank you for helping us to provide nourishment to others. Amen.

Please join us!



12-3:30pm
Lunch provided

Twin Valley
Senior Center

4558 VT US RT 2
East Montpelier, VT

UNABLE TO ATTEND?

Join the Card Shower
AFTER June 10
Mail to:
10 Buchanan Drive
Gryton, VT 05405



The Kid's Korner June 2018



The Newsletter Just for Kids!

Summer Fun in God's World

Summer is just around the corner! And I'll bet you are just itchy to go outside and play. Spending time out in the fresh air and the sunshine (and sometimes even in the rain!) can fill a day with fun and discovery. Getting outside can also be



a fun way to learn more about the world that we live in. God made it a wonderful place, and when you play in it, you begin to learn things and appreciate it, too! Remember to be careful, always.

What can you do to have fun in God's world? Here are some easy things you might be able to do by yourself, or with some help from someone in your family, or with your friends:

- 1) **Invent a new game!** Should it be an Inside game or outside game? Active game or quiet game? Lots of people, or a game you can play by yourself? Pretend to be -- a teacher, a person who fixes things, a medical professional, a pilot. Maybe your stuffed animals can be passengers in your airplane? Figure out the way the game might work. Make your own rules. Give your game a name. Try it out!
- 2) **Learn to do something new.** Play an instrument. Ride a bike. Jump rope.

Paddle a boat. Cook a meal. Anything that stretches your world. Just be sure you pay attention whoever might be teaching or helping you. And stay safe!



3) **Write a story or put on a play.** This one is lots of fun, and your parents would love to be your audience, or have you read a bedtime story to them! Write a story about...oh, a dream you had, or something fun you did with your family. Or how about make up a story *about* a bible story! Like what it felt like for you the time *your* family went on a picnic by the lake and Jesus came by to teach the crowd and fed you all with one loaf and two fish!



4) **Read a book.** Curl up with a collection of stories. Read the "Narnia" stories by C. S. Lewis as a family project this summer. Our library at Grace Church has books of stories just right for you! I know a great collection of stories. It's called "The Bible." Happy Summer! See you in Church!



June

~ June 2018 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Flames of Grace 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	4 11 Luncheon	5 7pm PSPRC	6	7 7am Prayer & Share Grace Notes Mailed	8	9
10 9am Flames of Grace 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	11 11 Luncheon	12	13	14 7am Prayer & Share 	15	16
17 9am Flames of Grace 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 	18 11 Luncheon Pastor Kirk & Kathy are Moving Out 	19	20 1:00pm TBI	21 7am Prayer & Share 9:30 Care for Caregivers	22 6pm A Few Good Men at Wright's Camp	23
24 9am Flames of Grace 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11:30- pm Open House for Pastor Kirk & Kathy	25 11 Luncheon	26 Pastor Kyu and Family are moving in 	27	28 7am Prayer & Share	29	30
July 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
1 9:30 Flames of Grace 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Time may change !!!	2 11 Luncheon	3	4 Independence Day	5 7am Prayer & Share	6	7