



# GRACE NOTES

## JANUARY, 2018



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

*In Grace Notes*

*it is our pleasure to*

*Inspire, Inform & Invite you!*

*Youth Groups in  
Sunday School*

*see page 2*

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*Methodist Rule of Life*

*Do No Harm*

*Do good*

*Attend the Ordinances of God*

### *Covenant Prayer*

*"We usually think of presence as showing up on Sunday morning ... (but) being present with and for God also may mean being present with and for God in other places, with those who are ill or who need advocacy or who simply are lonely and need someone to stand with them." -- The Rev. Mark W. Stamm, author of "Our Membership Vows."*

Lord, make me what you will  
 put myself fully into your hands;  
 put me to doing, put me to suffering,  
 let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,  
 let me be full, let me be empty,  
 let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
 I freely and with willing heart  
 give it all to your pleasure and disposal. Amen.  
 John Wesley



## Experiencing, Embracing and Extending God's Grace

### *Our Church*

Holidays are truly over, things are sort of back to normal after our deep freeze, time to really take a good look at 2018. There are changes coming for us at Grace. I'd like to remind us all again how very much our steadfast prayers and support are needed as we move forward.

First be praying for Pastor Kirk Thompson and for Kathy Miner Thompson, they are looking forward to retirement while navigating the tough waters of transition. They need our love, support and prayers.

Second be fervently praying for our new DS and the cabinet as they are right now beginning the process of bringing us a candidate for our new pastor. Please pray that prayer is their primary tool, that God might grant them wisdom. We trust that God has a plan for us but prayer is the vital part we can participate in to keep the process aimed straight at Heavens doors!! Knock, knock, knock some more, the Lord is listening.

Lastly, pray for all of us who are part of this wonderful Grace Family. We need one another on this journey of faith and ministry. We each play a vital part. Let us not give up meeting together, let us not give up working together, let us not give up praying.

Can you imagine the horror we would all experience if a we saw a big sign on the front doors of Grace that said "Closed due to lack of interest"?

The church is more than our building it is all of us. Our beautiful building is the place we've been blessed to gather and to worship Him, may we always give thanks for that.

Let's "pray ourselves forward" through 2018!

### *Winter Gift*

"God...does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, 'Fall to the earth'; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work" (Job)

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. "Snow days" due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We're granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It's like a surprise sabbath—the gift of grace-time when no one's expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work—his place—in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

--Heidi Mann

Knowing the future is uncertain; knowing the One who holds the future is a sure thing

Father, whenever we are troubled or alarmed, help us to seek You. We commit this coming year and all it holds to You.

### *Epiphany Wonder*

On Epiphany the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look...

their symbolic gifts bear witness:

Incense for God,

Gold for a king,

Myrrh for one who is to die.

--Peter Chrysologus (5<sup>th</sup> century)



### *Scripture*

Jan. 13	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-14)	
Jan. 21	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12
	1 Cor. 6:12-20	Mark 1:14-20
Jan. 28	Deut. 18:15-20	Psalm 111
	1 Cor. 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
Feb. 2	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84 or 24:7-12
	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Feb. 11	Transfiguration Sun.	Last Sun before Lent
	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6
	2 Cor. 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9

# Experiencing, Embracing and Extending God's Grace

## Thanks to the December Worship Team

**Communion Stewards:** Mary Ann Allen and helpers who served

**Fellowship Hosts:** Charlotte Hutchins, Carolyn Wright, The Desilets, Sara Gingue, Lois Ward and Family

**Greeters & Ushers:** Peter Bedard, Bob Carpenter, Curt Geiger, Ray Richer, Bernie Timson, Lisa Wood

**Scripture:** Jean Maleski

**Community Lunch:** Peter & Laurie Bedard, Ray & Jeana Desilets, Curt & Jill Geiger, Jeana Glidden, Aime LaBounty, Dianne Lavigne, Beulah McGinnis, Julie Nadeau, Ray & Evelyn Richer, Pastor Kirk, Lisa Wood,

**Altar Environment:** Laurie Bedard, Jim Allen

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



## Thanks to...

- all those who transformed our church into a celebration of advent in preparation for Christ's birth; it was beautiful!
- all of you who gave poinsettias and flowers to decorate the sanctuary. There were 26 beautiful poinsettias this year!
- the many who gave memorials either in memory or in honor of loved ones. They help fund our ministries.
- Peter Bedard who keeps the walks safe for congregants.
- Musicians, singers and soloists who share their gifts for the benefit of all worshippers. The trumpet was a nice touch, Shawn.
- Faithful members and friends who braved snow and cold to attend carefully prepared services.
- 20 of you who bought gifts for the Community Co-Op, so people with needs could be gifted.
- to Julie and the luncheon crew who gave new fluffy towels to guests as gifts.
- Greeters who volunteered at First Night!
- (Looking forward to thanking those who help to undecorate the church.)



ΧΡΙCΤΟC

This set of letters spells "Christ" in Greek. It may be written using the Roman alphabet (from which the English alphabet descended), but is also often presented in Greek characters as shown here.

## A New Year's Prayer

"Help us to make room for the blessings that are in store for us in the coming months."

## Happy Birthday to:

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Emma Carlson      | 21 Suzanne Timson |
| 3 Danny Driscoll    | 24 Julie Nadeau   |
| 7 Barbara Stamm     | 29 Margaret Irwin |
| 9 Gladys Konstantin | 29 Jean Maleski   |
| 10 Bob Coathup      | 30 Perley Wright  |
| 18 Gary Parker      |                   |

## Happy Anniversary to:

- January 12 Curt & Jill Geiger  
January 26 Janssen & Sarah Willhiot



*FYI*

from the Methodist news service

## A prayer box grows in Brooklyn

NEW YORK — A prayer request box on the streets outside Brooklyn's Grace United Methodist Church is an effort by the congregation to serve its changing neighborhood.

## Way Forward Commission tops 2017 news stories

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The work of the commission addressing the denomination's debate over homosexuality topped a news poll for the second consecutive year. United Methodists' response to a wave of natural disasters, the church's witness against racism and its focus on global migration issues were also noted.

## A Penguin "Parable:



During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective "creches" (French for "cribs"); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can't survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

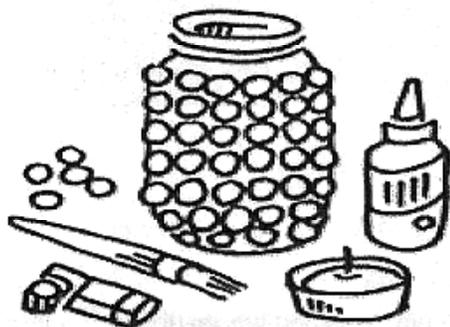


# The Kids' Page



## MASON JAR nightLIGHT

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



### What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

### What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



## A NEW CREATION

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON  
 SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE  
 QWCDREYATMIOCNHFASWCOR  
 MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL  
 ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

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\_\_\_\_\_! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



# the PASTOR'S CORNER

## JANUARY 2018

### While You Were Out...

"While You Were Out..." the little message slip reads, a note left on your desk, or tucked into a crack in your door. Sure sign that someone paid you a visit and found that you were not available. "Where were you?" we are interrogated later. "The lights were on. I could hear the TV! But you weren't home." The phone rings, and you want to check caller-ID before you pick up the handset. Have you ever kept still, hoping that whoever it was would go away? Knowing that they wanted something from you? Time? Money? Your companionship?

We have all seen a person who walks along a sidewalk with their head down, their eyes on the cracks in the sidewalk, talking incessantly to him- or herself, sometimes loudly, sometimes inaudibly. Their eyes never glance up to see the neighborhood through which they move; they never catch the eye of an acquaintance or a stranger to greet, smile, or converse.

We say of such persons when we encounter them that they are living in their own little world. And we mean by that that they are incomplete, somehow ~ broken or sick in heart or mind. And we are right! When that deep withdrawal into self is the manifestation of physiological disease, as in Alzheimer's, or other changes in the mind that we call dementia, we recognize immediately how tragic it is. We see the loss of self, or self-knowledge, or identity, which we would fear to suffer ourselves. Our hearts go out instinctively to victims of such

diseases, and those who love them, because it is not just the individual who suffers the loss, but those who know and love that person. And the more deeply known, the closer the bond, the more painful and tragic is the loss of love and friendship.

In both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, a key understanding of human beings is that we are easily distracted from living our lives in the company of the Holy Spirit. We allow our attention to focus ever more exclusively on the daily grind and what it requires of us. And we devote less and less of our energy and attention to the daily bread God has given to us. I know that this description of our human condition is true from immediate and personal experience. And I am certain that you know it, too.

One result of this tendency is that we miss the joyfulness of life in the opportunities God sends to interact and enjoy fellowship, first with God, and second with one another. The person lost in himself doesn't reap the benefit of his surroundings. She doesn't see the beauty, or experience the unique diversities in which we perceive beauty. And all that is sad enough.

But it is not just our loss. It deprives God of something, too. Believe it or not, we deprive God of the pleasure of our company. We hole up in our castles, "safe" behind the walls of our emotional and personality castles, not answering the door, pretending no one is home. Picture Jesus standing at the door, knocking....

## While You Were Out...God Came a'Knockin' *(continued)*

Knowing ourselves as we do, it may surprise you to know that God longs for your company. You may protest that you are not, by nature, the most scintillating company, the most compelling companion that God could have to suffer without. And you would be correct. Because we all have our less attractive aspects, don't we...? However...

At the heart of the Gospel is the completely unjustifiable realization that God loves you. This is what the Church is always proclaiming, and what the world finds so hard to believe. In fact, we seem to go out of our way to challenge God with reasons to leave us behind -"Can you love me, now?" God actually wants your companionship. God actually enjoys it when you recognize and appreciate God's presence. And God misses you when you are gone.

There is an (yet another) old story that I learned from Emmaus that tells about an encounter between an old Yankee farmer and a country pastor. Over a period of several months the old farmer had gradually pulled away from the fellowship of weekly worship and social engagement with the rest of the parish / congregation. Perhaps it was just a season of work on the farm. Or the loss of his son a few years back. His absence was noticed, and his presence missed. A few folks had reached out to invite him back into connection. But his habits had changed. Going back to renew the fellowship he used to enjoy just seemed too hard. So he stayed at home.

One afternoon, the pastor stopped by. "Knock - knock - knock" went the door.

It was a cold afternoon, so the farmer invited the pastor in, and they sat side by side in front of the fire. They spoke briefly, but conversation faltered. Apparently the pastor wasn't the greatest engaging conversationalist, either. They sat quietly before the blazing fire. After awhile, the pastor took the poker, reached into the fire, and slid one of

*At the heart of the Gospel is the completely unjustifiable realization that God loves you.*

the glowing coals out from under the center of the blaze over to one side. They continued in silence. The coal faded from bright orange-red to a dull rose, then through grey to black. The visitor reached out again, and slid the coal back into its vacant spot among the other glowing embers. After a few more minutes, the pastor rose to go. The farmer thanked him for his visit and for his wordless sermon, and promised to be in his spot in the sanctuary that next Sunday. And he was.

It's an old story. But there is a lot of truth in it. The glowing warmth of the Holy Spirit dissipates easily if we are not careful to keep ourselves in the company of others whose hearts are also warm with that Spirit. And God misses you when you are gone. So...why not humor God, today. Give God a little jingle. Hear that knocking? Go ahead. Answer the door....

Praying for  
your family  
and for  
mine...



**POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

Our Family who are now with the Lord, by Peter & Laurie Bedard

Tim Bigelow, by Deb Bigelow

Sandy, by Cathy Conte

The Family we lost this year – Mom, Dad & Grandma,  
by the Desilets Family

James (Bud) Easter, by Wife, Children & Grandchildren

Bev Gehlbach, Rosemary Bitcon & Audrey Penniman,

by Durward & Kay Ellis

by Jean Maleski

Steve McGinnis, by Mom, Dad, Gary, Heather, Gavin, Cale,

Michael, Tabetha and Linda Stellpflue

Steve McGinnis, by Kathy McGinnis

Ann Parker, by Linda & Dale Goyet, Jeremy & Megan Goyet,

Daniel Goyet & Molly Greaves, Ana (Goyet) Marcotte,

Philo Marcotte & Family, Dianah & Tim Hale,

Gary Parker, Deborah (Parker) Heller

George Parker, by Linda & Dale Goyet, Jeremy & Megan Goyet,

Daniel Goyet & Molly Greaves, Ana (Goyet) Marcotte,

Philo Marcotte & Family, Dianah & Tim Hale,

Gary Parker, Deborah (Parker) Heller

Mom, Eunice Studley, by Donna Reed

Mr. & Mrs. George Demick, Mr. & Mrs. Hector Richer,

by Ray & Evelyn Richer

Loved Ones, by Lois Ward

Loved Ones, by Laura Webster

Lewis & Marion Streeter and Lloyd Wheeler,

by Laurie Wheeler and Family

**POINSETTIA GIVEN IN HONOR OF**

Our gracious and loving family of believers at Grace Church.

Thank you for loving us and covering us with your prayers.

Jim, Jeannie, Carter and Sophia Barron

Two roses in loving memory of Rev Harry & Eva Lindley

beside the creche he made and figurines she made.

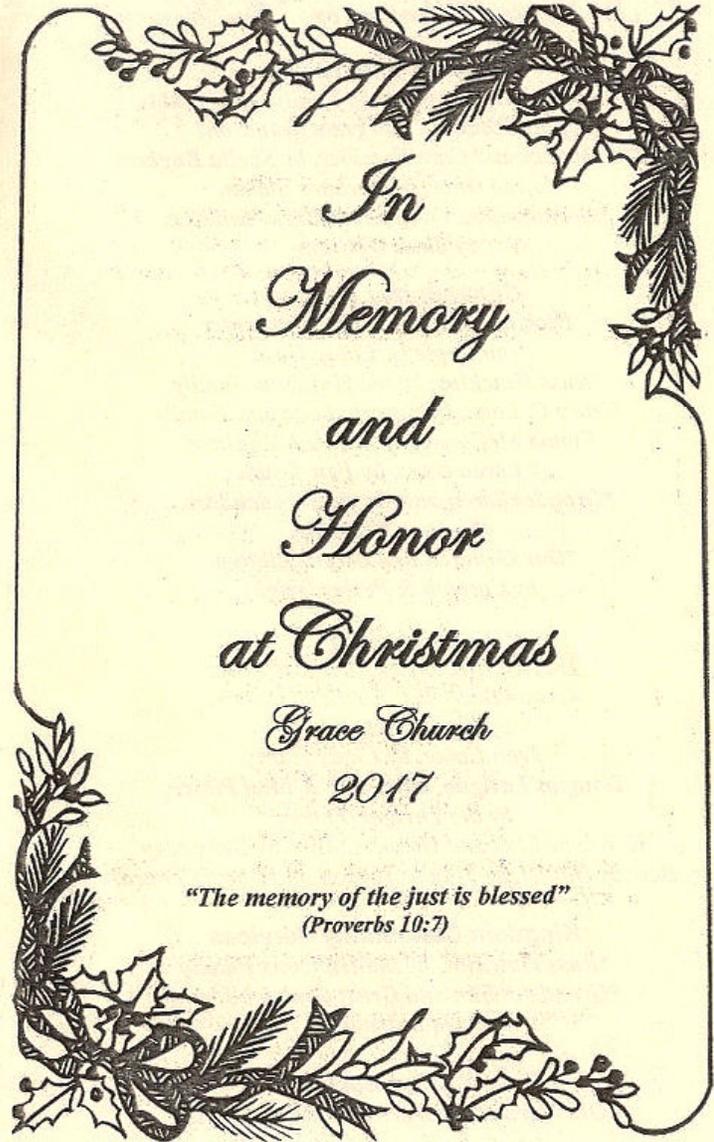


*In  
Memory  
and  
Honor  
at Christmas*

*Grace Church*

*2017*

*"The memory of the just is blessed"*  
*(Proverbs 10:7)*



## *Memorials*

### *In Loving Memory or \* In Honor*

#### **Children's Ministries**

*Glenn Barber, by his loving family; Peggy, kids,  
grandchildren and great grandson!*

*The Bugbee and Carr Families, by Sheila Bugbee  
Loved Ones, by Barbara Stamm*

*\*Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren,  
by Joan Wollrath*

#### **Community Luncheon**

*Dick Carpenter, by Alice Carpenter*

*Jean Coble by Cindy Hardy*

*\*Russ Hutchins, by the Hutchins Family*

*Henry C. Lane, by Beverly Lane and Family*

*Emma McElravy, by Mildred McElravy*

*\*Loved Ones, by Pam Smith*

*\*Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren,  
by Joan Wollrath*

*\*Our Children and Grandchildren,  
by Carolyn & Perley Wright*

#### **Fuel Fund**

*Dick Carpenter, by Alice Carpenter*

*All our Deceased Family Members,  
by the Desilets Family*

*Jean Coble, by Cindy Hardy*

*Douglas Lavigne, Betty Yole & Mial Pierce,  
by the Lavigne Family*

*E. Wayne May and Glenn A. May, by Betty May*

*Beverly Boulet, by Maude Timson and Robert Tweedie*

#### **Kingdom Community Services**

*\*Russ Hutchins, by the Hutchins Family*

*\*Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren,  
by Joan Wollrath*

#### **Pastor's Outreach Fund**

*Our Parents, by Durward and Kay Ellis*

## *Memorials*

### **Perry Holbrook Scholarship Fund**

*All our Deceased Family Members,  
by the Desilets Family*

*Ruth and Edward Hanson,  
by Peggy & Alfred E. Hanson*

*E. Wayne May and Glenn A. May, by Betty May*

*\*Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren,  
by Joan Wollrath*

*Family Members of the Wood and Vitko Families,  
by Ken and Lisa Wood*

#### **Other**

#### **Christmas Eve Bulletins**

*Irene Gadbois and Trudy Turner,  
by Durward and Kay Ellis*

#### **Elevator Fund**

*\*Loved Ones, by Pam Smith*

#### **Garden Fund**

*Hugh and Marguerite Impey,  
by the Impey Family*

#### **Mission Trips**

*\*Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren,  
by Joan Wollrath*

*Special flowers at the Altar area on Dec. 24  
in loving memory of Doris Leightcap and  
Dan Leightcap, by Sandi Boyle*