

2018

January

News



The January 2018 Newsletter of
Grace United Methodist Church

Pastor - Alan Atchison
Secretary - Jane Hubler
Choir Director - Diana Paul
Organist - Charlotte Gingrich-Mull
New Grace Praise Band - Ken Rudisill
Custodian - Pat Guarneri
Building Maintenance - James Carvell
Nursery Coordinator - Nicole Hooper
Noah's Crew Preschool - Lisa VanOlden
and Brenda Fultz
Elementary Lifesavers - Tracy Barcavage
Jr./Sr. High Youth Ministries - Alicia Spicher

Church Office

982 Medical Rd. Millersburg PA 17061
(717) 692 - 2838
Email - gracembgoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Alan Atchison

Parsonage (717) 692 - 2896
Cell (570) 847 - 2939
pastoratchison@gmail.com

[www. graceumc-mbg.org](http://www.graceumc-mbg.org)

Reflections.....

On the Seasons

Inspired, in part, by a blog posting from Brett Younger, in *Ministry Matters*

Cathy and I both like Nativity Scenes. There's just something about them that seems to have a calming, soothing effect. We have a number of them set up around our home at this time of year. But for all the ones that we have, or that I have seen, I can't remember any of them containing a King Herod figure. For that matter, I don't recall ever seeing, or getting, a Christmas Card with King Herod on the front, and the verse from Matthew 2:18 embossed on the inside:

"A voice was heard in Ramah - Rachel, weeping and wailing for her children, because they are no more".

Those horrifying events found in Matthew's gospel don't feel like they belong in the Christmas story, but we need to hear them. Like a lot of stories, we have to hear the whole story, or we get the story wrong.

We are reminded that even in the midst of blinking decorations and flickering candles, darkness threatens the light. Ignoring the darkness is ignoring reality. We leave King Herod out of the Christmas story because we think we're supposed to keep the hardships of the real world away from Christmas.

Matthew says that Christmas came in the days of King Herod. King Herod was a lot like Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Union's most ruthless dictator. He executed his favorite wife, his brother-in-law, and three of his sons - all because he thought they wanted his crown.

We usually imagine angels speaking in soft, re-assuring tones, but the angel in Joseph's dream

was shouting, “Wake up! Hurry! Run!” , and Matthew tells us that they immediately got up, and fled to Egypt. They were far from the comforts of their home, but at least they were safe.

Tragically, though, not everyone was safe. King Herod’s order for the death of every boy in and around Bethlehem two years old and younger brought soldiers with swords to the streets of Bethlehem, and found mothers clutching their babies, hiding wherever they could - trying not to breathe too loudly, and begging their infants not to cry.

There aren’t many questions more impossible to answer than, “Why couldn’t the angel have warned them, too?”

Sadly, the birth of this new King didn’t stop the suffering - it intensified it. So, it’s not surprising that we skip this part of the story. It’s easy to understand why there’s no carol in our hymnal about the slaughter of the innocents. Perhaps there should be, because we need to understand that Christmas is God’s response to our suffering, and our sorrows.

So, as we remember the story, let us remember **all** of the story. The message of Christmas is that God comes to the worst places and the most painful of circumstances in order to share our suffering, and to care for us in the midst of tragedy. Christ has come to bear our sorrows, so let us cling to the promise that God’s joy is deeper than our sadness. May the light of God’s love shine in your life... even in the midst of the darkness.

Celebrating the Light of Christ,

Pastor Alan

Bible Quiz 101

Because she was very old, she laughed when the angel told her she was going to have a baby. Who was she?

**A. Elizabeth
B. Rachel**

**C. Sarah
D. Deborah**

If you want to really grow this year in your knowledge of the bible, consider joining one of our Sunday School Classes. There is something for everyone of all ages and you are always welcomed here. Contact the church office for details. 717-692-2838

**WHEN GOD WANTS YOU
TO GROW, HE MAKES
YOU UNCOMFORTABLE.**



Don and Chrissy Chubb will be at Grace Church to share about their missionary work during worship on Sunday, Jan. 14th.

We will also be observing Blanket Sunday, and will be collecting monetary donations to purchase warm, woolen blankets to be distributed by Church World Services to the homeless and those in need in times of disaster.

Next Missions meeting January 11, 2018 6:30 pm.



January Birthdays

Jan. 2 Rebecca Kolva
Jan. 3 John Witmer Jr.
Steven Whary
Jan. 4 Colt Bellis
Janie Martin
Jan. 5 Natasha Feidt
Karen Fulkroad
Jan. 7 Scott Vallier
Jan. 8 Yonnie Miller
Brian Peiffer
Briana Witmer
Jan. 11 Emily Bordner
Joshua Mauser
Jan. 12 Masen Bellis
Michelle Dreibelbis
Jessica Paul
Zander Underkoffler
Jan. 13 Janet Haines
Jacki Smith
Jan. 14 Dennis Bowman
Calleigh Hooper
Jan. 15 Matthew Deitrich
Jan. 16 Todd Bell
Robin Riegle

Jan. 20 Lynne Bolig
Loagan Leshko
Joshua Radel
Jan. 22 Zachary Mangle
Brian Miller
Jan. 23 Wyatt Schaffner
Jan. 24 Sandy Snyder
Jan. 27 Rebekah Brouch
Jan. 28 John Haines
Jan. 29 Malinda Klinger
Jan. 30 Debb Bowman
Lydia Troutman
Jan. 31 Kory Rothermel

**Happy Birthday to our
80+ Members**

Arlene Wilbert Jan. 2
Doris Troutman Jan. 7th
Sylvia Lehman Jan. 19th
James Wilbert Jan. 23rd



happy anniversary

Todd & Karen Mace
January 20th

Happy new year 2018



A Covered Dish Luncheon

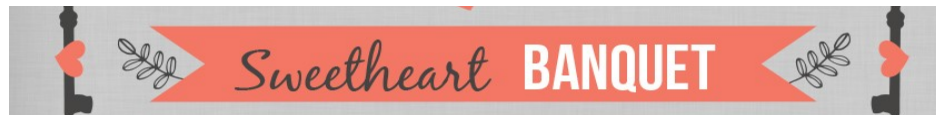


will be held following worship on **Sunday, Jan 14th**, to honor the long-time (25 years!) service of Karen Lentz as church treasurer. The meat will be provided. Families with last names beginning with A - M are asked to bring a covered dish to share, and families N - Z are asked to bring a dessert item.

January Nursery Ministry

Date	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
January 7	Jayne Harman	Kristen Snyder/Nicole Hooper
January 14	Nicole Hooper	Nicole Hooper
January 21	Nicole Hooper	Shannon Vallier
January 28	Nicole Hooper	Nicole Hooper

Should there be an issue with scheduling, please contact Nicole Hooper at (717) 805-2860 or nhooper@pa.gov



Saturday, February 10th, 2018.

Appetizers will be served beginning at 5 pm
with Dinner to follow at 6 pm.

Join us for a romantic evening !!!

For tickets and information, please contact

Mary Buffington at 717-503-7582 .

Cost of the evening - \$ 15 per person

ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE

The 7th Annual Grace UMC Yard Sale will be held **Friday, Jan. 19th** from **8:00 to 4:00** and **Saturday, Jan. 20th** from **8:00 to 12 noon** in the Family Life Center. Set-up will be Thursday, Jan. 18th from 10:00 - 6:30pm.

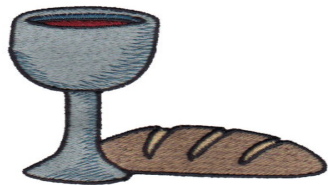


For those who have not previously participated, here is some information that you may find helpful:

- * *Tables are provided at no cost, but 10% of your earnings is to be given to the church as a tithe.*
- * *The cost of two weeks of Sentinel advertising is equally shared between all participants.*
- * *You are responsible for keeping your stand and area neat, and having your tables manned for the entire time.*
- * *You must wait until the end of the posted hours to begin packing up the remaining items at your stand.*
- * *You can choose to participate for one or both days.*

Clean out your closets, the basement, the attic! Turn that "stuff" into cash! Join us for fun and fellowship!

To reserve a space, or for answers to your questions, please call Linda Leshko, (717-364-9009).



Holy Communion

will be celebrated on
January 7th at both services.

Opportunities to Volunteer Work Days at Mission Central

Feb. 3, 2018 - with GUMC Youth

May 19, 2018

Aug 18, 2018

Oct 27, 2018 - 5K Run at Mission Central

DON'T MISS OUT!

SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON ~ Please join us on Sunday, Jan. 7th, following the 10:30 am worship service for our next Soup & Sandwich Luncheon. Sign up on the sheet right outside the main office to contribute a soup or dessert.

UN-DECK THE HALLS ~ We will be putting all our Christmas decorations away on **Monday, January 8th at 6:00 pm.** Please remember we have our enormous tree that needs taken down, so some big strong men will be needed. Come and join in on the fellowship as we put away our beautiful decorations for another year and clean our church in preparation for the New Year.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ~ We are very much in need of people who would be willing to remove the flowers from the Altar and prepare them for the Sponsors or for delivering them to our shut-ins. Any help would be appreciated. Please call Lynne Bolig at 717-692-4535 if you can help.

MEMBERSHIP 101 ~ Those interested in joining Grace UMC are encouraged to attend a membership class to discover just what it means to be a United Methodist. A two-part class will be offered the last two Wed. nights in January, from 6 - 7:15pm, or a single class on Sunday, Feb. 11th, from 2 - 4:30pm. Please see the sign-up sheet outside the church office, or call Pastor



Sunday, Feb 4th

Before you settle in for The Super Bowl, remember to support this annual food drive by bringing a canned good and a dollar to Sunday Morning worship to help stock our Hearts of Grace food pantry.

Plan on joining us for a fellowship time of soup and sandwiches following morning worship.

Be the Blessing



Hearts of Grace Food Ministry

Our January distribution will take place on Thurs., Jan. 25th. Box packing begins at 5:00 with distribution at 6:00pm.

We Need Your Help!!!

We are in need of additional pasta & spaghetti sauce, applesauce, canned fruit, oatmeal, hot chocolate & Peanut Butter for our January food boxes.

January Youth Activities

January 3, 2018, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

January 10, 2018, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

January 17, 2018, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

January 19, 2018, 4:00pm-12:00am Winter Jam – Bryce Jordan Center in State College. The youth will travel to State College for our annual Winter Jam trip. Please send a packed supper with your youth. Cost per youth will be \$15. Sign-up sheet located outside the youth room.

January 24, 2018, Jr High 6-7:30, Sr High 7-8:30 - Jr/Sr High Youth Group with lesson, games and fellowship.

January 31, 2018, 6:00-8:00pm - Combined JR/SR high youth group. Lesson, games and fellowship. We will have a friendly competition of youth volleyball between the JR and Sr High Youth groups.



Dear Grace Church Family,

THANK YOU for all the wonderful cards, the gifts of food, and the extravagant Christmas Gift that was presented to us during worship. We are truly blessed to be among you as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Alan & Cathy Atchison

FINANCE NEWS

Expenses Reimbursement ~ Beginning in January, we will be starting a new process for reimbursement of funds for individuals. The form below will be available in the office. Please fill it out, attach the receipt, and put in the treasurer's inbox. I will then see that you receive a check in a timely fashion. If I don't have a form and a receipt, a check can't be issued. Thank you for your time and understanding as we make changes to our accounting systems.

Karen Travitz

PURCHASED BY: _____

ITEM (S) PURCHASED: _____

PURCHASE DATE: _____

TO BE USED FOR: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: _____

GROUP/AREA OF MINISTRY TO BE FUNDED FROM: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ATTACH THE RECEIPT!!

**Youth Dodgeball Tournament
Friday nights in February from 6-8pm!**

For ages 11-18

Everyone welcome, please spread the word throughout the community! This will be a youth ran and sponsored event. There will be a recommended donation of \$2.00 per person each night. The proceeds will go towards the youth fund to allow for us to continue our service projects and mission trips. It is our hope that we will be able to reach others in our community and encourage them to learn more about Jesus.

We will also be offering a couple different adult led classes for the parents to attend while their youth participate. Childcare will be provided for younger family members.



Contact Alicia Spicher for more
information 717-648-9306

It's that time again!

We are now accepting sponsors for
the 2018 Bulletins and Altar flowers.



Sponsor a week in memory or in honor of loved ones,
friends, family members, anniversaries, birthdays, etc.
Please call Jane Hubler in the church office (692-2838)

Race 4 Grace

5k Glow Run

May 12 @ 9:00pm
Grace UMC-Millersburg

Registration begins at 7:00pm
Live Music and lots of fun!

Kids Fun Run Begins at 8:00pm
(Please bring a box of cereal to donate to Hearts of Grace in lieu of a fee for the kids run.)

Please check out our Facebook page or go to www.gracemillersburg.org for more info and to print a registration form.

*Proceeds will benefit the GUMC-Youth Mission
Trip & Hearts of Grace*

*“You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my
darkness into light.” ~ Psalm 18:28*

