

December 2018 at Grace UMC

Serving You at 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

Christian Ed & Family Ministries - Brian Cooper

Church Office

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Pastor Alan Atchison

Parsonage (717) 692 - 2896

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Pastor's Desk



**It's that time of year... when the world falls in love
Every song you hear, seems to say... Merry Christmas !
May your New Year's dreams come true ...**

As Cathy and I were traveling back from Harrisburg the week after Thanksgiving, this familiar Christmas song came across the radio, and I was reminded of Christmas's past - a time when life was much simpler.....

When Frank Sinatra recorded that wonderful song back in 1968, Christmastime *was* a lot different - at least, it *seemed* a lot different...

My brothers and sisters and I would pool our Christmas money, and then go together to buy each family member *one gift* from all of us together - specifically chosen for that person. That entailed all five of us wandering together through the store, (usually our local JC Penney or Sears), searching for that one, perfect gift for each person. Every person had a vote, and we all needed to agree. Some years, it was difficult - but we always managed to come to a consensus.

While many of those gifts were homemade, some were simple store-bought presents. But the one thing that they had in common was that they were given from the heart, and were presented to those that we cared about as a reminder of all that was good in the world, and in our relationships.

One of the things that I anticipated most was seeking the looks of joy and excitement on the face of each person

· as they opened our carefully selected gift on Christmas.

Most people will admit that the act of giving makes them feel good. But research has proven that it is not the actual act of giving itself, but the anticipation of how the person receiving the gift will react when they open the gift, that releases endorphins into the blood stream, thereby helping us to “feel good” about giving.

So, this season, I challenge you to take some time to consider the ways in which you might make a difference in someone else’s life. Rather than spending money on gifts for people that don’t need them, or on things that will be soon forgotten, used up, or discarded, why not make this the year to change someone’s life for the better ?

Find a family close by who is struggling to make ends meet, and take them a bag of groceries. Better yet, drop by with an envelope filled with cash - not \$20, or \$40, or even \$60 - but an extravagant gift of money. Ask God how He can use YOU to be a blessing this Christmas Season, and be blessed in the process.



Jesus encourages his disciples ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

I pray that as you make your preparations for the celebration of the coming of the Christ-child into our lives once again, you are filled with anticipation for all that will be accomplished in this season.

Your Excitedly Anticipating Pastor,
Alan



**This Year's Christmas Cantata
*will be presented on***

Sunday, Dec 16th

at the 10:30am Worship Service
and again at 4:00pm in the afternoon

Nursery / Toddler Room Caregiver Schedule

8:30 am Service

Dec. 02 Nicole Hooper
Dec. 09 Nicole Hooper
Dec. 16 Jayne Harman
Dec. 23 Nicole Hooper
Dec. 30 Nicole Hooper

10:30 am Service

Nicole Hooper
Nicole Hooper
Nicole Hooper
Nicole Hooper/Shannon Vallier
Nicole Hooper

**Please call Nicole Hooper at 717-805-2860
if you can help at either service.**



HOLY COMMUNION

will be celebrated on
Sunday, Dec. 2nd &
Sunday, Jan. 6th

Christmas Day Breakfast

December 25, 8:00am-9:30am



The menu includes:

Eggs

Pancakes

Sausage

Bacon

Breakfast dessert (yum!)

Coffee and OJ

All are invited! Come and join us for a hot breakfast and fellowship on this wonderful day.

**For information contact
Alicia Spicher
717-648-9306**



Women's Prayer Breakfast

will be held on **Tuesday, Dec. 4th**
at First UMC New Life Center, 346
Center Street, Millersburg.

The ladies from St. John's Lutheran
Church in Berrysburg will be our

hostesses. This will be the last Community Prayer Breakfast
until Apr. 2, 2019. Our Offering will support the Upper
Dauphin Area Middle School Weekend Power Pack Program.
Breakfast is \$8.00. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. For reservations
please call the New Life Center @ (717) 692-2719.

Come Pray With Us

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8

The Take it to the Cross prayer ministry team is committed to praying for all the many and varied ministries and members of Grace Church. We invite you to join us and receive a daily email during the week.



If you haven't joined the daily email devotion, consider it today. Send an email to Becky Witmer at bgwitmer@comcast.net to join. You will receive a quote from Scripture as well as some thoughts to consider throughout your day and a prayer all based on the scripture used by the Pastor as the basis of his sermon. It is a great way to stay connected with our church family and God through the week. Prayer works!

Please prayerfully consider joining our email team to prepare and send devotions. We have been personally blessed many times over and would love to have you share blessings with others. For more information see a team member: Eileen Orr, Ina Schoffstall, Jeanette Snell, Janine Boyer, Beth Spicher, Cathy Atchison or Becky Witmer.

Thank You

~ We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the beautiful cards and flowers that I received during my hospital stay and recovery. Also, thank you for the meals, snacks and help with the chores and errands. What a blessing to be a part of this church family.

God Bless

Karen & Tim Travitz

Christmas ☆ NIGHT of ☆ WORSHIP

hosted by the churches of the
Millersburg Ministerial Association

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 ☆ 4PM

at David's Community Bible Church

fellowship meal to follow

Holiday Cookie Baking Day

Join us in the church kitchen on Sat., Dec 15th from 8am - 2pm as we join together to create holiday masterpieces for our shut-ins and our homebound members. Bring you recipes and ingredients, or join in helping someone else, as we work together to spread Christmas Cheer ! Call Tina Fetter (395-0498) for more information, or to sign up to help.



Christmas Eve Services

2018

7:00 pm - Children's Pageant

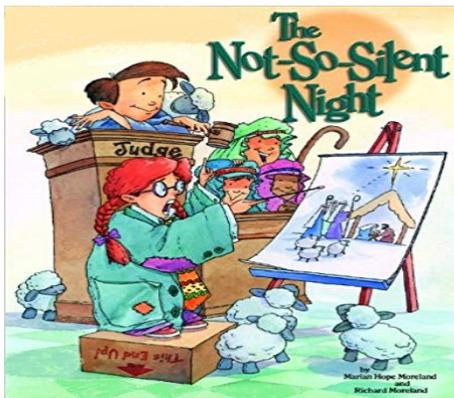
10:00 pm - Service of Special Music

Christmas Eve Children's Pageant

Dec. 24th - 7:00 pm

Join us as we experience the Christmas story through the eyes of the townspeople in Bethlehem. We will need a multitude of people to fill a large number of parts. The

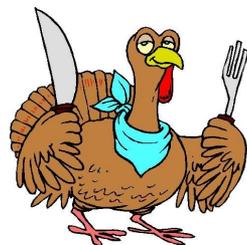
good news is - there are no lines to memorize! Practices will be held Tuesday evenings, Dec. 4th - 18th, beginning at 6:30pm. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway, or call Tina Fetter (395-0498) for information.



WEEKLY BULLETINS

Again, we are asking you to partner with us to sponsor bulletins and / or Altar flowers for a Sunday in 2019. Your sponsorship helps keep down office expenses. You can sponsor in honor or in memory of a loved one, friend, family member, or a special occasion. Contact Jane in the church office (717) 692-2838 to see what weeks are available.

Our Annual Christmas Dinner is going to be held on **December 23rd** at 12:00pm. We are looking for volunteers to help cook turkeys and also volunteers to prepare the turkeys for the dinner. If you are willing and able to help out in any way, please contact Larry and Deanna Bellis at 717-692-3540.



Happy Birthday



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Dec. 1 Douglas Goudy
John Mallon

Dec. 2 Daniel Troutman

Dec. 3 Angela Hosterman

Dec. 4 Eric Fite

Rick Ibberson

Jeanette Snell

Breslynn Deitrich

Dec. 5 Robert Butler III

Dec. 6 Maxwell Osman

Laura Dreibelbis

Dec. 7 Daniel Shoop

Cathy Atchison

Katherine McAlanis

Dec. 8 Betty McCahill

Dec. 9 Jan Lebo

Glenda Parish

Dec. 10 Tyler Erdman

Dec. 11 David Bellis

Wesley Fulkroad

Debra Savidge

Dec. 13 Susan Turnbaugh

Dec. 15 Jarred Shoop

Ethan Strauser

Dec. 16 Delaney Bellis
Dylin Bellis

Dec. 17 Alexander Vallier
Janel Bolig

Dec. 18 Keith Danner

Dec. 19 Linda Douty

Holly Kerwin

Dec. 20 Michael Davis

Chris Miller

Dec. 21 Carter Dreibelbis

Dec. 22 Marika Bordner

Halen Leshko

Rhonda Prouse

Dec. 23 Pamela Mauser

Dec. 24 Bradley Kessler

Dec. 25 Russell Hubler

Dec. 26 George McAlanis

Dec. 27 Zachary Savidge

Dec. 28 Charlotte Gingrich

Dec. 30 Matthew Bellis

Katelyn Leaman

Tori Prouse

Stephenie Shoop

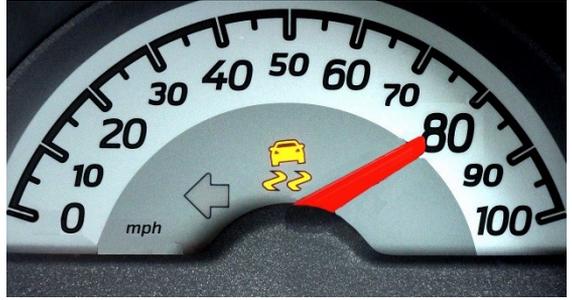
Dec. 31 Caleb Shade

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to
the GRACE 80-Plus Club**

Blanche Nice 12/13

Charlie Lebo 12/21

Jan Zuver 12/25



Anniversaries

Dec 12 ~ Ron and Wanda Brooks

Dec 21 ~ John and Alicia Spicher

Dec 24 ~ Norm and Marie Messersmith

Dec 27 ~ Doug and Deb Goudy

Dec 31 ~ Jim and Arlene Wilbert

2018 Operation Christmas Child Summary

First, a huge thank you to all that helped with OCC this year! At our Youth Packing Party, our youth packed 215 Shoe Boxes. On Collection Sunday, over 25 youth and adults packed an additional 928 shoe boxes into cartons and loaded the trailer in little more than 2 hours. Many hands made our task easy. Thank you, thank you and thank you again!

A total of One thousand five hundred seventy three (1,573) shoe boxes were processed through the Grace UMC Drop-Off Center this year. Three hundred ten (310) of these came from our church. Next year, with new leadership and a renewed energy, I believe that we will see greater numbers than these!

Cathy Atchison has agreed to lead the in-church portion of this ministry for 2019. She has a passion for OCC, and new leadership will be good for the program. I ask that you support Cathy as she directs our in-church campaign. I plan to continue as Coordinator of the OCC Drop-Off Center for 2019.

**Thank you for all that you do,
John Orr**

Youth Events & Happenings

December 2, 2018 ~

Youth Group 6-8pm - study and activities

December 9, 2018 ~

Youth Group 6-8pm - study and activities

December 16, 2018 ~

Youth Group 6-8pm - study and activities

December 23, 2018 ~

1:00pm-6:30pm - **Ice Skating at Twin Ponds** from 2-4pm then **Christmas Pizza Party** after skating back at the church, each youth please bring a small gift worth \$2-3 for a game exchange. Cost per youth is \$5.

December 30, 2018 ~

Youth Group 6-8pm - study and activities



**Tournament
Dodgeball**
Friday nights in
February from 6-8pm
in the Family Life
Center

For All Youth, ages 11-18

Spread the Word!

We're working on reaching our community for Jesus.

A donation of \$2.00 per person each night.
Proceeds benefit youth mission trips and service projects.

Contact Alicia Spicher for more information
717-648-9306

Hearts of Grace Food Ministry

A few weeks ago, we received boxes of food from the Colonnade Theatre in Millersburg. They have special showings where the cost of admission is a can of food. There are several opportunities during the Holiday season, so be sure to check out their website!

We have a growing number of families that have difficulty finding transportation to pick up their food boxes. We are looking to create a team that is willing to deliver boxes on a rotating basis. If you would be willing to share a little of your time in this way, please contact a team member. All our families are very appreciative and look forward to that visit.

DECEMBER BOXES will be distributed on the 20th. We are hoping for donations of turkeys to share with our families. If you are willing to donate a turkey, please take one from the tree in the overflow area, or contact Jane in the church office so we can keep a count. We estimate we will need 50 turkeys!!

We have to say a huge thank you for the great response to the Harvest Home collection. We are still in need of spaghetti and other pastas, canned fruit, fruit juices, peanut butter/jelly and dessert mixes. We also really appreciate the regular giving of funds to be used to purchase items from the Central PA Food Bank at a very significant savings!

Just For You Back-pack Ministry

Packing is complete for 2018. Between Lenkerville Elementary and the Millersburg Middle School, we deliver an average of 120 packs of food each week. We will be scheduling packing dates for the remainder of the school year – watch the weekly bulletins and the Church website for more information.

Both of these programs are always in need of volunteers. If you would like more information about the ministry, or how you might help, please see a team member.

Hearts of Grace/JFY team: Janine Boyer, Michelle Dreibelbis, Deb & Doug Goudy, John Ramberger, Ina Schoffstall, Beth Spicher, Carol & Terry Uhler, Diane Nestler or Becky Witmer.

MISSION NEWS

UNITED METHODIST CHILDRENS HOME Mechanicsburg, Pa

Kids end up at the United Methodist Children's Home for many reasons. Usually they are removed by court-order from unsafe homes or dangerous situations. Many of these young people have been neglected, abandoned, abused, or assaulted. Many suffer from post-traumatic stress or other disorders. Often, they are developmentally disadvantaged for their age.

The dedicated staff at the Children's Home works to help teach them how to live through their pain, and to find new ways to cope - including understanding and addressing the situations that brought them to the Home. As they recover and heal, they are taught skills that help prepare them to go out into the world.

Accomplishing this unique, youth-centered mission takes caring, patience, and ongoing financial support. ***The Missions committee has earmarked \$ 350 toward this worthy cause this month.***

Would you consider becoming a contributor to the work that is done there, as well? Please contact John Ramberger for more information. We appreciate your interest, engagement, and continuing generosity.

Upcoming trips to Mission Central

May 18, 2019 - Day of Volunteering

Aug 17, 2019 - Day of Volunteering

Oct 26, 2019 - Help with the M.C. 5K Run

Harvest Home Sunday Update

A Great Big Thank You to all who donated food items and monetary gifts, and all the hands that helped with the beautiful display in front of the Altar. What A Glorious Sight ! All of the donated items will be distributed in the December Food Boxes.

BLANKET SUNDAY will be held on January 13th . We will be collecting monetary donations that will be used to purchase warm, woolen blankets that will be distributed through Church World Services to those who are homeless or in need. The cost to sponsor a blanket is only \$10. Please come prepared to give generously.

Shut-in Visitation Schedule

We are looking for compassionate people who will give a little time each week to brighten the day of one of our friends. If you are planning a visit over the Christmas Holiday our members are in the following rooms.

Rm 109 Sarah Novinger

Rm 201 Janyce Van Sickle

Rm 704 Robert Hoffman

Rm 816 Blanch Nice

Rm 604 Margaret Silks

P.S. Don't forget to drop your cards in the boxes and bags provided in the main entryway of the church.

Collection of Items for December

Our friends at Premier Nursing and Rehab Center are in need of the following items that we can help provide:



Liquid soap and lotions - aromatic scents
Sudoku and Word Search Puzzle Books
Mini candy bars - Snickers, KitKat, Hershey's
Stuffed animals - all varieties
Holiday room decorations - any season

Please deposit your items in the box marked PREMIER in the entryway. Thank You !

Special Music for Christmas Eve

If you are interested in sharing special music at our 10pm service, please see Pastor Alan.

Turkeys on a tree?

Our Hearts of Grace food ministry is hoping that you will take one home, and return it with a frozen turkey (or a gift of \$20 to purchase one) as we seek to bless our food box recipients on Dec. 20th.



We are hoping to provide at least 50 turkeys for families.

Coming Up in January ...



You are invited to come and set up your unwanted treasures on our tables in the Family Life Center on Thursday, **January 10th** from 10 am - 8 pm. The Annual Yard Sale will be open to the public on **Friday, Jan. 11th from 8-4 pm**, and on **Sat., Jan. 12th from 8 am - Noon**

All we ask is that you donate 10% of your profits to Grace UMC to help cover expenses. Start gathering up those treasures now !!!

**For answers to your questions,
please call Kori Bell at
717-692- 2955**

January Small Group / Bible studies

Mark your calendars for **THREE** new studies / groups beginning January 15th:

Bible 101 - What is the Bible? w/ Pastor Alan

A 6-week study exploring its content, its context, and its conflicts
Sundays 6:30 - 8pm OR Tuesdays 6:30 - 8pm

Parenting - 101 w/ Brian Cooper

An 8-week study exploring difficult issues surrounding the parenting of today's kids Sundays 6:30- 8pm

The Gospel of John w/ Brian Cooper

An 8- week study exploring the "odd" gospel - it's purpose, position, and passion in sharing the life and death of Jesus.
Tuesdays 6:30 - 8pm OR Wednesdays 6:30 - 8pm

