



March 2019
Newsletter

LENT

A Season
of
Preparation

Grace United Methodist Church

982 Medical Road, Millersburg, PA 17061

Phone: 717-692-2838

Email: gracembgoffice@gmail.com

Web: www.gracemillersburg.org

Currently Serving you at Grace UMC

Alan Atchison, Pastor
Jane M Hubler, Secretary
James Carvell, Building Maintenance
Pat Guarneri, Custodian
Diana Paul, Choir Director
Charlotte Gingrich, Organist
Nicole Hooper, Childcare Coordinator
Alicia Spicher, Youth Leader



Grace UMC Services

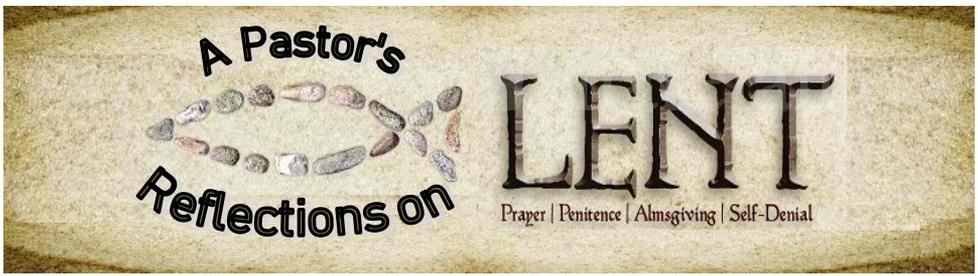
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30 am & 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 am

For more information or to join a class contact the church office at 717-692-2838



Please join us on
March 6, 2019 - Ash Wednesday for a
Special Service at Hebron UMC starting
at 7:00 pm

Keeping
a Holy Lent



Growing up, I never had a dog. The truth is, I never really wanted one. My friends had dogs, and although I enjoyed romping around and playing “fetch whatever was handy to be thrown”, I never saw much value in owning and caring for a dog. It seemed like a **lot** of work. Besides, our small ranch house already held five kids, two parents, and various small (or orphaned) animals that we managed to smuggle into the basement from time to time, under the premise that they needed our “help”.

My wife, Cathy, on the other hand, grew up with a dog that she was very close to. And so it should come as no surprise that when we married, she thought it would be a good idea for us to get a dog. But because we rented, we were unable to keep one.

As our kids came along, I always used renting as an excuse to not have a dog. That worked for a while - until we built our own house. Our kids did a good job of reminding me that we no longer rented, and even though I really didn't **want** a dog, it wasn't long before we **had** a dog - a small, hypo-allergenic Yorkshire Terrier that loved to curl up on the couch beside whomever would let it.

Often times, I reflect on the lessons that I've learned from dogs over the years, and I must admit that my life would have been much less rich had I stubbornly held to my convictions.

Here's a few things our furry, four-legged friends have taught me:

- ◆ Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- ◆ Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- ◆ When someone you love shows up, run to greet them.
- ◆ Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
- ◆ If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- ◆ Be loyal.

(continued on next page)

- ◆ Run, romp and play daily.
- ◆ When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
- ◆ When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body
- ◆ No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout...simply run right back and make up.
- ◆ Never pretend to be something you're not.
- ◆ Don't bite when a growl will do.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to let people touch you.
- ◆ And the list could go on....

As we enter into the season of Lent, you and I are called to purposely slow down, and to set aside some time each day to reflect on the current state of our hearts, the depth of our relationship with the One who has given and purposed our lives, the things that we need God's help with, and the amount of joy and thanksgiving that is apparent in our lives.

And as we spend some time in reflection and contemplation, we can - if we are open to it - gain a sense of what's **really** important to us - simply the things that can bring joy and a purpose to life. (If you are not sure of what that is, re-read the list above).

Above all, let me remind you how important you are to God, and to God's plan. Don't be afraid to curl up in God's lap. Don't be afraid to give...and receive...love. And last, but not least: remember to invite God's Holy Spirit to mold and shape the rough edges of your life, so that you might, like our four-legged friends, be willing to throw caution to the wind, and embrace the true joy of a life lived in relationship with the One who gives us everything we need. I am looking forward to sharing an empowering Lenten Season with you all.

Pastor Alan



Easter Flowers

We would like to offer you the opportunity to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter Morning with fresh flowers. Lilies, Tulips, and Hyacinths are available for order at \$8 apiece. Flowers can be given in honor or in memory of someone, if you would like. The list will be printed in the Easter Morning Bulletin. You may also designate a gift to missions in lieu of flowers. Please call Jane in the church office to place your order, or grab an order sheet on the Welcome Table in the church entryway. They will be available to take home after the service on April 21. **The deadline to order is Sunday, March 31st**



“Have fond memories of VBS when you were growing up? Love working with children? We are in need of volunteers to make this years VBS a success including someone to take on the leadership role.

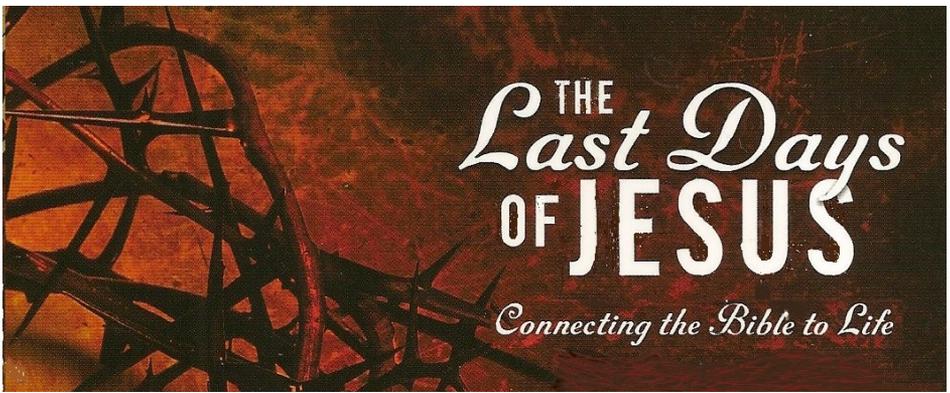
Anyone interested please contact Lisa VanOlden at 717-649-8931 or Alicia Spicher 717-648-9306

Nursery Schedule for March:

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
March 3	Nicole Hooper	Nicole Hooper
March 10	Jayne Harman	Shannon Vallier
March 17	Nicole Hooper	Nicole Hooper
March 24	Nicole Hooper	Nicole Hooper
March 31	Nicole Hooper	Sarah McAlanis



Sunday Evenings in Lent

We will gather each Sunday evening during Lent from 6 - 7:30pm in the sanctuary for a video presentation from the Holy land, followed by a time of discussion and sharing by a different presenter each week. A time of light refreshments and fellowship will follow. Please make plans to join us for this unique experience.

March **EVENTS**

March Youth Events

Mar 3 ~ Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night

Mar 10 ~ Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night

Mar 17 ~ Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night

Mar 24 ~ Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night

Mar 30 ~ Winter Jam in State College at the Bryce Jordan Center - more details to follow.

Mar 31 ~ Youth Group 6-8pm - normal youth night



March Birthdays

Mar. 1 Todd Peifer
Mar. 2 Aiden Harman
Carson Kauffman
Mar. 3 Erik Bolig
Hunter Green
Lucas Dewees
Clair Fulkrod
Mar. 4 Ashley Lubold
Carol Uhler
Mar. 5 Sawyer Kauffman
Kim Sitlinger
Mar. 6 Jordan Hubler
Emma Reed
Laine Goodling
Mar. 7 Nichole Underkoffler
Mar. 8 Karen Lentz
David Martin
Mar. 9 Emily Myers
Mar. 10 Sawyer Snyder
Adrian Fulkroad
Mar. 12 Peyton Goodling
Mar. 13 Tracy Wertz
Mar. 14 Becky Witmer
Mar. 15 Rowan Tobias
Mar. 16 Liam Hoffman
Mar. 17 Jacob Haddock
Judy Stoneroad
Mar. 18 Ben Rothermel
Mar. 19 Brenna Bordner
Jerry Marks
Grant Smith
Mar. 20 Abigail Vallier
Mar. 21 Ron Barcavage
Mar. 22 Karleen Bell
Tad Troutman

Mar. 23 Amber Brosius
Mar. 24 Craig Fetterhoff
Brenda Kessler
Christine Shiffer
Thomas White
Mar. 25 Rachel Feidt
Hannah Hill
Mar. 26 Sarah Danner
William Lentz
Megan Okafor
Mar. 27 Kirby Brosius
Joshua Feidt
Mar. 28 Brenda Fultz
Olivia Garay

80+ Members

Nancy Snyder 3/2
Norm Messersmith 3/10
Robert Hoffman 3/29
Sarah Novinger 3/30



Matt & Marcie Bellis
March 6th

Tim & Kelly Scheib
March 16th



Grace UMC Annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 13, 2019 at 9:00am

For ages 1-10 years old

Hunts will begin at 9:00am for the 1-2 years olds and each consecutive group will follow after each is done.

Groups will be as follows:

9:00am 1-2 year olds

3-4 year olds

5-7 year olds

8-10 year olds

**Special prize eggs included in each age group.

**Donation boxes will be located in the overflow if you would like to contribute ! We will need lots of candy!



pretzels and
peanut butter-filled
crackers

You can place your order by calling the office at 717-692-2838, or sign the order form by the front entrance. 5.00/bag for pretzels and 1.00/pack for crackers. **Deadline to order is March 29th.**

Orders will be ready for pick up April 7th .

Help is needed to bag our goodies!! We will be making them on April 4th and 5th. Anyone is welcome to volunteer.

LENTEN SEASON SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER and a MOVIE

Beginning March 17th, 1st UMC, Millersburg is offering a light meal at the New Life Center at 5:00pm followed by a short devotion by Pastor Rich Berg, before heading down the street to the Colonnade Theater for a FREE movie at 6:30pm. Please call Abbie at the 1st UMC Church office at 717-692-2719 to sign up.

Are You Looking for a Way to...

GET involved ?

We currently are looking for persons to join our volunteer staff and serve in the areas of :

- ☺ *VBS Volunteers and Coordinators*
- ☺ *Administrative Council Secretary*
- ☺ *Funeral Meals coordinator*
- ☺ *Monthly Food Box delivery drivers*
- ☺ *Just For You food backpack volunteers*
- ☺ *Bible Study / Small Group leaders*
- ☺ *Sound / Media technicians*
- ☺ *Table and Chairs set-up and tear down*

Please see Jane in the church office...

... And get connected !

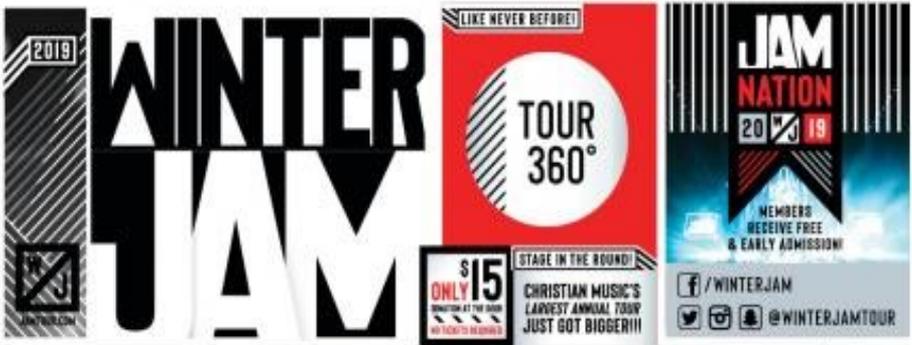
Bulletin and Newsletter sponsors needed.



Why not sponsor a week in Memory of or in honor of loved ones, friends, family members, anniversaries, birthdays, etc. ?

Please call Jane Hubler in the church office (692-2838) for costs and available dates, or see the sign-up sheets on the wall at our Main Entrance.

Several dates are available.



ALL YOUR FAVORITE GROUPS TOGETHER
 IN ONE PLACE, ON ONE NIGHT,
 FOR THE CONCERT OF A LIFETIME !!!
SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH

IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO WINTERJAM - THIS IS THE YEAR. SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE THE YOUTH ROOM, OR CALL ALICIA SPICHER TO SIGN UP. YOUR HELP AS A YOUTH CHAPERONE IS ALWAYS WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED.

**The Red Bird Mission, located in Kentucky, is our
March Designated Mission Project.
They will receive a gift of \$350.00.**



Red Bird Mission, guided by Jesus Christ, empowers individuals and advocates justice through spiritual, educational, health and community outreach ministries. It's goal is to see that each person fulfills their God given abilities for the good of their family and the community where they live.

Located in southeastern Kentucky, in some of the poorest counties in the United States is Red Bird Mission. In this beautiful area of Appalachia the economy has never been robust, and in recent years has not recovered from layoffs and plant closures in the dominant industry - coal mining. Red Bird, a mission of the United Methodist Church, has served the area since 1921 with a K-12 school, medical relief, agricultural programs, local housing improvement, a community thrift store, a retail outlet for local craftspeople's, and more.

Teams of United Methodists from around the USA volunteer their time at the mission site in Kentucky, working on the mission site and out in the community.



Thank You for your patience during the upgrade of our main restrooms. The restrooms had to be brought up to ADA

(handicap) standards during the remodeling. Please note that the only way the Architect could lay out the restrooms and keep the same amount of fixtures in each restroom, while meeting the ADA requirements, was to switch the men's and ladies restroom locations. Please keep this in mind when the project is completed later in March. Thank You for your understanding in this matter.

Where Do Your Missions Donation and Faith Promise Contributions Go?

GRACE UMC MISSIONS REPORT Jan 01 - Dec 31, 2018

Corrected balance January 1, 2018 : \$2,643.05

Receipts

Blanket Sunday offering:	855.00
Christmas in July:	295.00
Ethnos 360-Chubb, Don and Chrissy-designated giving	75.00
Faith-Promise Giving (Jan. thru Dec. 31)	26,348.00
In Lieu of Lilies	163.00
In Lieu of Poinsettias	836.00
Interest (Jan. thru Oct.)	16.78
Leshko, Loagan– scholarship refund Mission trip	250.00
McCurdy School-designated giving	600.00
Native American Ministries-(UMC Sunday)	990.00
Peace with Justice Sunday- (UMC Sunday)	49.00
UMCOR Sunday	997.00

Total Receipts: \$31,474.78

Disbursements

Shares of Ministry to conference (Jan. thru Dec.)	10,753.08
Bethesda Mission-Jan. Home Mission	350.00
Camp Smiles at Grace- June Home Mission	350.00
China Outreach Ministries-Hoyle	600.00
China Outreach Ministries-Osborn	1,000.00
Mission Central (Christmas in July) (\$295 ;+\$55)	350.00
Church World Service-Blanket Sunday	855.00
CRU– Missionary support—Biddle	1,200.00
Endless Mt. Mission Center-April Home Mission	350.00
Enright Flight Ministries-July Home Mission	350.00
Ethnos 360- Chubb-+ design. giving (\$75)	1,075.00
GCFA (UMCOR Sunday)	997.00
GCFA (Native American Ministries Sunday)	990.00
GCFA (Peace w/Justice Sunday)	49.00
Grace Community Needs-Nov. Home Mission	350.00
Grace UMC-O.C.C.- Sept./Oct. Home Mission	700.00

2018 Disbursements (cont'd)

Grace UMC-scholarship fund-(Loagan Leshko)	250.00
Indian Mobile Mission	1,500.00
Lifeline Pregnancy Center-Aug. Home Mission	350.00
McCurdy School- Feb.Home Mission+ designated	950.00
Mission Central-designated giving	30.00
Mission Central- May Home Mission	350.00
Nestler, Diane- reimb. for shipping - <i>N. Coyle's dolls /clothes to S.A.</i>	97.75
Pat Nissel- Hbg. Street Ministry	1,000.00
Red Bird Missionary Conf.- March Home Mission	350.00
TMCI- Missionary support - Jen Cook	1,500.00
Methodist Children's Home -Dec. Home Mission	<u>350.00</u>

Total Disbursements: \$27,046.83

Balance as of Dec. 31, 2018: \$7,071.00
(includes transfers through 01/02/19)

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Kerwin, Treasurer

OCC News Update

by Cathy Atchison

It is never too soon to begin planning for this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection. Having agreed to oversee the in-house collection portion of the program for 2019, I would like to begin collecting one or two items each month in preparation for our fall packing drive. For the month of March, we are asking for child-sized plastic cups, plates, and bowls. Please pray about what God is calling you to contribute, and deposit your items in the red and green tub marked OCC in the church entryway. Thank you in advance for your contributions.