

GRAPEVINE

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Zanesville, Ohio

December 2018

PASTOR'S PAGE

Unto Us a Child is Born

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

As we move into a holy season filled with activities (concerts, parties, family gatherings, worship services, etc.) we have opportunity to be renewed through music, laughter, sharing, and celebration. One of my highlights of the season is participating in the presentation of Handel's "*Messiah*" by the Zanesville Civic Chorus and Orchestra. This year it will take place on Sunday, December 9th at 6:00pm at Central Trinity UMC, 62 S. 7th Street in downtown Zanesville.

I first sang Handel's "*Messiah*" as a sophomore in High School. I can't really say that I could sing all of it, or sing it very well, but I did stand with the combined High School choirs on a cold December night in Northwest Ohio so many years ago.

Since that experience, I have had a deep appreciation for Handel's masterpiece. In under a month, Handel composed this amazing work. Truly inspired, he took a wide variety of scripture texts and put them to music. In the end, he was able to tell the story of our Messiah, from prophecy to birth, from suffering to death and resurrection.

I have many favorites in this vast collection. Each time I sing or listen to any part of it, I am deeply moved. It's not always the same songs that move me. Our music director, Jim McLaughlin, always tells us, that at some point we will get caught up in the singing and experience an emotional or spiritual "moment."

I never know which song will trigger that ecstatic moment from year to year. I can't even prepare for it. It will just come. But I do know that one of

the songs may have an added meaning to me this year: "*For Unto Us a Child is Born.*"

This Advent and Christmas will be extra special for our family, as our daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, Brett, welcomed their firstborn, a son, Henry, into the family, and into the world, almost four months ago. For us, the season of Advent (from the Latin word "*adventus*" which means, "*coming*") began nearly a year ago with their birth announcement. Perhaps like Mary and Joseph, we began to anticipate the arrival of our first grandchild. I imagine Mary and Joseph felt a mixture of excitement, surprise, joy, and fear.

In a world filled with so much pain, suffering, violence, division, the thought of raising a child can be a little frightening. But because of the Child that was born many years ago, we have hope-filled lives. The God of all Creation surrounds us with love, joy and peace.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6-7 New King James Version)

May your Advent and Christmas season be blessed as you prepare the way for the Christ Child.

Pastor Mark

The OWLS will be meeting on Wednesday,
December 5, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

2018 CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions to be credited to 2018 giving must be to the church office before noon of December 31. Any money received after that date will be credited to 2019.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – 2019

Due to the cost of postage, we are encouraging you to pick up your envelopes located on a table at the rear of the sanctuary. [Those who regularly attend the 8:15 service will find theirs in the Fellowship Hall.] They will be arranged in alphabetical order. You may come to pick up at any time.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Address Change

Jan & Storm Elston – 76 Ocean Ln., Apt. 7637,
Hilton Head, SC 29928-7667
Jordan & Emily Hubbard – 279 Braxton St., Delaware, OH 43015-7546

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IN THE COMMUNITY

The 88th annual performance of **Handel's MESSIAH** by the Civic Chorus and Orchestra will be on Sunday, December 9, at **6:00 p.m.** at Central Trinity U. M. Church. Open dress rehearsals are on Saturday (Dec. 8) with soloists and orchestra from 2:00-4:00 and chorus and orchestra from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

EVENING OF ADVENT MUSIC AND PRAYER

On Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m., the Parish Choir of St. Thomas Aquinas will once again present a special service of Advent Lessons and Carols. This service is a very moving combination of the Scriptural prophecies of Christ's coming and the beautiful carols of Advent, sung by choir and congregation. The service is sung by choirs of many denominations and finds its home in the English collegiate and cathedral traditions. Please consider making this service part of your preparation for Christmas – it can be a welcome moment of prayerful rest in the busy weeks of Advent. We look forward to seeing you on December 16 at 5:00 p.m. A reception will follow.

FOR SALE –

Used, blue, wide-seat Jazzy Elite HD motorized wheel chair in good condition. For more information or to see it, call 740-454-7382.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

The annual Family Christmas Potluck will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **December 9**, following the **10:00** worship service. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish or two (depending on family size) to share and their own table service. Meat and beverages will be provided.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Now is the time to be placing your order for poinsettias for the Christmas season. They are \$7.50 each. They will be used in the sanctuary on December 16, 23 and 24.

Please complete the order form and return to the church by placing it in the offering plate or mailing (checks payable to the church).

We need your order by December 7.

_____ number of poinsettias _____ amount enclosed

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

_____ pick up later in week

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICES

“Prepare the Way”

Jesus is coming!

During the next few weeks, we will prepare the way for the Christ Child, the Messiah.

Many of us will be busy preparing our homes and workplaces for special holiday gatherings. Kitchens will be filled with wonderful aromas and tasty treats. Trees will be trimmed, lights will be lit, garland will be hung, decorations will transform our homes and community.

As the Body of Christ, we will prepare our hearts and lives for the soon and coming King. In what ways will we as individuals and as a congregation prepare ourselves to make Christ known in our community?

During these weeks of Advent, we will prepare the way of the Lord as we look to the prophets and the Gospel for insight in our preparation.

Jesus is coming! It is our responsibility to “prepare the way” and get ready.

What is your church doing to make a place for Christ to be known in your community?

Advent is a great time to invite friends and family to join us for worship and fellowship. Come and be inspired through music and God's Word. We will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion early in the month, as well as on Christmas Eve. To better prepare, you may wish to read the scriptures each week prior to Sunday worship. Below is a schedule of readings and themes:

Readings and Themes for Advent - Christmas - Epiphany

First Sunday of Advent - December 2

Jeremiah 33.14-16

Luke 21. 25-36

Theme: “Stand”

Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served at 8:15am and 10:30am

Second Sunday of Advent - December 9

Malachi 3.1-4 — Luke 3.1-6

Theme: “Refine”

9:00am Advent Activities and Crafts for all ages. Fellowship Hall.

10:00am **ONE** Worship Service led by our children, youth and adults.

“*Around the World at Christmas Time.*” Fellowship Hall.

11:15am or so - Christmas Carry-in dinner following worship.

Third Sunday of Advent - December 16

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Luke 3.7-18

Theme: “Do”

8:15am and 10:30am

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 23

Micah 5.2-5

Luke 1.39-55

Theme: “Welcome”

8:15am and 10:30am

Christmas Eve - December 24

Isaiah 9.2-7

Luke 2.1-20

Theme: “Arrive”

7:30pm Festive Christmas Music

8:00pm Service of Lessons and Carols, Sacrament of Holy Communion and Candlelight.

First Sunday After Christmas - December 30

Luke 2.41-52

Theme: “Search”

8:15am and 10:30am

Epiphany Sunday - January 6

Isaiah 60.1-6

Matthew 2.1-12

Theme: “Find”

Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served at 8:15am and 10:30am

Christian Education

The Manger Project: During the season of Advent -- as a congregation-- we are going to fill our manger with love (and hay) to prepare for the birth of the Christ-child. To help us fulfill the project, families are being asked to spread kindness to others during the Advent season. As we serve with kindness, we live the life that Jesus asks us to. As the weeks go on and your family spreads the kindness, we will fill the manger with hay to prepare for His birth. Watch for more information how you can spread kindness and fill our manger in the bulletin, on Facebook and our website.

Christmas Program: This year's program on December 9 will be a trip around the world. We will begin at 9 with crafts and fun activities for the whole family. The program will begin at 10. Did you know: "the concept of the Advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th Century. However, it was not until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape. The modern Advent wreath, with its candles representing the Sundays of Advent, originated from an 1839 initiative by, a Protestant pastor in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor. In view of the impatience of the children he taught as they awaited Christmas, he made a ring of wood, with nineteen small red tapers and four large white candles. Every morning a small candle was lit, and every Sunday a large candle. Custom has retained only the large candles." Source: Wikipedia.

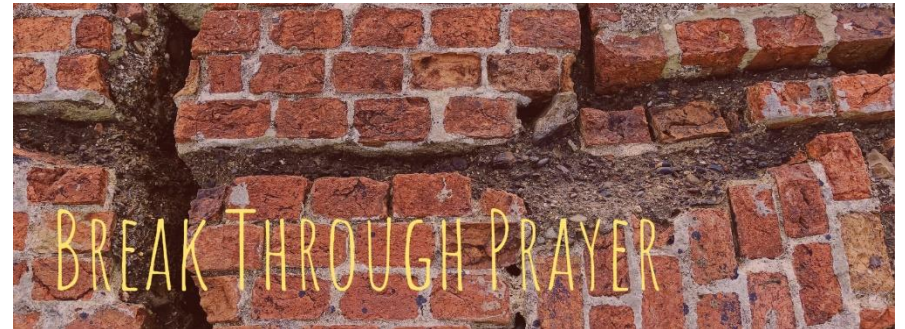
Disciple Class: The Disciples' class continues to look at Paul's book to the Roman Christians. Paul was chosen by God to be the chief expounder of the Gospel to the world and his Epistle to the Romans us Paul's completest explanation of his understanding of the Gospel. It is called "the most profound work in existence." You are welcome to join any Sunday for this insightful look not only into Biblical times, but life today in the light of God's Word.

Grace Space: During the Grace Space time, all children are taken to the nursery for a short lesson. We are learning about Advent and Christmas. Check out God's children on the wall outside the nursery! They are amazing!

Teens and young adults: continue to study the books and stories of the Bible based on the Lectionary Scriptures with Todd Sands in the HS classroom.

Women's Book Study Group: We will take a holiday break from doing a study and begin in January (date to be announced) to work on a study to help a seminary student with his doctorate! All women are welcome, we meet at 6:30 on Thursday evenings in the High School classroom. More information on that as it becomes available.

Coloring: In the back of the sanctuary or on the table as you enter the Fellowship Hall, are some coloring pages. They are not just for kids! Studies have shown that coloring can help you concentrate or even help to relieve stress. Feel free to take a sheet, some colored pencils and a clip-board [for the sanctuary] and color away.



Breakthrough the walls of resistance, around us, that keep us from recognizing your miracles. A breakthrough occurs when you recognize that the answers to your prayers are in front of you.

Would you be willing to share personal breakthroughs on this page?

They may be anonymous. Contact the church office, Christy Swope or Diane Marks.

We must be able to recognize personal breakthrough before we can recognize breakthroughs at the church.

Dear Lord, fill us with the joy of the Christmas season. Help us to recognize that you are constantly moving us forward even when we don't recognize it. Breakthrough the walls that keep us from recognizing your blessings in our lives. Amen.

THANK YOU

Together we will bring joy and the love of God to many children this Christmas through the Operation Christmas Child program. Thank you to all who helped by packing a box or donating money. We packed 35 boxes! Please continue to pray for this important demonstration of how God's love can change the world, one child at a time.

Grace is on the web!



Facebook! Like the "page"
at: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceUnitedMethodistZanesville>
We have started Live Broadcasting the 8:15 service for those unable to attend the service or wanting to check out our services at Grace.

Or our
group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/419305344801902/> The group is closed, let us know you want to be invited.



Website: www.graceumcz.org. On the website you will find announcements, the bulletins, the *Grapevine*, and more! Check it regularly!



Grace has an Instagram page! Tag your pictures of Grace and follow us: [graceumchurch_zanesville](https://www.instagram.com/graceumchurch_zanesville).

YouTube Channel: Search for Grace United Methodist, Zanesville. We've posted some of the sermons, and special music.

MITTEN TREES

Please help us decorate our mitten trees with gloves, mittens, and hats for children and adults. These items will be given to the LifeWell Free Store. Also, socks of all sizes are needed. Mitten trees will be at the Shinnick St. entrance to the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall area. Help make warm hands and feet!! Coats are also needed.

THANK YOU!!

RACE FOR GRACE . . .

. . . was a wonderful event again for 2018. God blessed us with cool but good weather! We want to thank the all the volunteers and those who donated money, food, and prizes. Without you we couldn't do it!!

Becky Woods

We sincerely appreciate everything Grace U. M. Church has done to support the Zanesville High School Marching Band. You are awesome!

Zanesville Band Boosters

They use our kitchen to mix the batter for their famous waffles.

CROP Walk Report

The CROP Walk was held on October 14. The total amount raised is \$11,875. Churches participating – 15. Walkers – 160. Church with most walkers – First Christian = 22. Church with most money – Gratiot UMC = \$2,094. Grace walkers = 16. Grace money = \$602. Twenty-five percent of the \$11,875 will be divided between the Salvation Army and Christ's Table.

MANY THANKS

Thank you to our Hospitality Team for –
Providing space, hospitality and/or meals for various community and United Methodist groups (OWLS, Barbershop Chorus, Grief Share, Handbell Festival, Race for Grace, West Ohio Conference and Foothills District “All In Community”, Zanesville H. S. Band)
Extending hospitality at the doors, elevator and during worship (Dana & Cindi Swope, Tracie Moss, Rick & Cindy Lawyer, Bob & Martha Lentz, John & Diane Marks, Doug & Carla Waltman, Linda Friel, Janet Hill, Dana Christine Swope, Dan & Karen Vincent, Sarah Tippie, Miles Tippie, Wendy Cochran, Ann Longstreth.
Tending to the audio/video/computer needs (Craig Hill, Cindi Swope, Sarah Burris, Debbie Collett)
Decorating the Church for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany (Cassie & Sarah Burris, Pat Burkhardy, Nancy Chow, Judy Cranz, Doug & Carla Waltman, Dan & Karen Vincent, Tom Swan, Cindy Lawyer, John & Diane Marks, Cindi & Dana C Swope, Judy McAllister, Rick Tuck)

Thank you to all who provided excellent leadership in worship last month!

Acolytes — Carly Oldfield, Cindi Swope, Dana Swope
Liturgists — Coty Brown
Children's Moment — Cindy Lawyer, Sarah Burris, Cassie Burris
Musicians — Marcie Butterfield, Joyce Cooper, Tony Merry, Sarah Burris, Mary Mason, Cynthia Tuck, Tom Swan, Dorothy Cronk, Christy Swope, Carrie VanSickle, Nathan Zangmeister, Ann Lillie Briggs, Grace Chancel Choir, Grace Handbell Choir
Communion Steward — Janet Hill
Communion Servers — Mary Mason, Maryanna Fenton, Nancy Chow, Jaynellyn Sharp, Margaret Merry, Janet Hill
Children's Ministry / Grace Space, Kids Own Worship, Nursery — Sarah Burris, Cindy Lawyer, Julie McAllister, Amelia Lepi, Sarah Tippie, Jennifer McCune, Cassie Burris, Todd Sands, Allison Palmer, Chase Tippie
All Saints' Day Participants — Bell Ringers – Cindy Lawyer, Gabe Dolen; Candle lighters – Susan Tyson, Nick Flarey;
Readers – Coty Brown, Steve Vincent

