

GRAPEVINE

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Zanesville, Ohio

December 2017

PASTOR'S PAGE

What Gift Can We Bring?

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

As a child, I could hardly wait for Christmas. The Season of Advent* was just too long for me. It seemed like those days went by so slowly. And then, when Christmas Eve finally did arrive, I could barely sleep because of the excitement and the anticipation. Oftentimes, I was the first to awaken on Christmas morning. I remember lying in bed for what seemed like hours, waiting for my parents and siblings to stir. Of course, I was thinking of all the wonderful presents that I would find with **my** name on the packages.

* Our church family begins this wonderful season of preparation we call Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word "*Adventus*" meaning, "*coming*." This season is about the "*comings*" of Christ. We prepare for His birth, we celebrate His coming to us through the Word and the Holy Spirit, and we anticipate His triumphal return. The season of Advent is filled with eager anticipation of the comings of the Christ. (Book of Worship)

As the years passed and I transitioned from child to adult/parent, the excitement and anticipation did not diminish greatly. Even as our children were young, I would find myself having to waken them on Christmas morning. My anticipation of their reaction fueled my excitement.

Now, as Empty Nesters with adult children, Christmas has a slightly different pace. While there is still excitement and anticipation, it seems that being together with family (in worship and around the table) is much deeper and richer.

Whatever stage you may be in, may Advent and Christmas be a meaningful time. Cherish the moments you have with your loved ones and build lasting memories. Connect with your church family to strengthen and

deepen those relationships. Rekindle your faith in the Savior, Who came as a baby and lives within us.

May we all be reminded that Christ comes to us all the time, even when we may not recognize His presence. And may we remember that it is His coming to this earth, and to our hearts that gives us life and hope.

*"What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart."*
"In the Bleak Midwinter" Christina G. Rossetti, 1830-1894

Pastor Mark

The OWLS will be meeting on Wednesday,

December 6, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions to be credited to 2017 giving must be to the church office before noon of **December 31**. Any money received after that date will be credited to 2018.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – 2018

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.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

The annual Family Christmas Potluck will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **December 10**, 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.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Address Change

Brenda Allen – 2677 Sawmill Green Dr., Powell, OH 43065
A. J. & Ashton Sidwell – 1195 Fairview Rd., Zanesville, OH 43701

Baptism

Kasen Evan Kanavel received the Sacrament of Baptism on November 19.

He is the son of Wade & Devin Kanavel. Grandparents are Bryan & Tasha Lucas, Todd & Mellissa Kanavel, Randy & Kelly Beem. Great-grandmother is Joy Kanavel.

With Sympathy

- . . . to Joe Shotts and family following the death of his sister, Delores 'Dee' Stiles, on November 8.
- . . . to Genevieve Tyson and family following the death of her brother, Gene Pence, on November 12.
- . . . to Ann Longstreth and family on the death of her mother-in-law, Nancy Longstreth, on November 15.
- . . . to Jessica Cranz and family following the death of her grandmother, Bonnie Sites, on November 24.
- . . . to Carol Woods and family following the recent death of her brother, Bill Hilton, of Goodyear, AZ.

IN THE COMMUNITY

The 87th annual performance of **Handel's MESSIAH** by the Civic Chorus and Orchestra will be on Sunday, December 10, at **6:00 p.m.** at Central Trinity U. M. Church. Open dress rehearsals are on Saturday (Dec. 9) with soloists and orchestra from 2:00-4:00 and chorus and orchestra from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Advent Worship Series

“Coming Home”

While so many of our families and friends will be traveling during the holiday season, the notion of “Coming Home” is a large part of this busy time of year. For some, that will mean driving [or flying] great distances to be with loved ones. For others, it may mean putting aside anger, bitterness or grudges to make an important appearance. In the life of the church, it may mean simply returning to your church home and church family. For some, it is a time to reconnect with our spiritual roots and start fresh with a renewed commitment to live out our vows of membership and discipleship.

Plan now to join us for the Sundays of Advent, as well as on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. We invite you to bring a friend, relative, neighbor or co-worker to “Come Home” with you.

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 17 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 8.

_____ number of poinsettias _____ amount enclosed

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

___ pick up later

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, **December 3** – First Sunday of Advent

We will begin our Advent journey by celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion at both the 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship celebrations.

Scripture — Isaiah 64:1-9

Message — *Coming Down Home*

Sunday, **December 10** – Second Sunday of Advent

There will be **ONE** worship service at 10:00 a.m. which promises to be a light-hearted, yet meaningful, Christmas Worship Celebration led by our children, youth and adults [in the sanctuary].

Enjoy a fun trip through time to learn about the birth of Jesus. The show will feature our church family including our youngest sheep!

This service will be followed by the annual Christmas potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Don't miss the fun!!

Sunday, **December 10** – 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy the 88th presentation of Handel's *Messiah* at Central Trinity United Methodist Church.

Sunday, **December 17** – Third Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship celebrations

Scripture – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Message – *Joy: Our True Home*

Sunday, **December 24** – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship celebrations

Scripture – Luke 1:46-55

Message – *God Makes This World a Home*

Sunday, **December 24** – Christmas Eve

Beginning at **7:30 p.m.**, we will be celebrating the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with joyous Christmas music, followed by a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at **8:00 p.m.** featuring Lessons and Carols as well as the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Message – *A Manger for the World*

Sunday, **December 31** – First Sunday of Christmastide – New Year's Eve

We will celebrate the end of another year with lively music led by Two By Two at both the 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship celebrations.

Scripture – Luke 2:22-40

Message – *Going Home Again*

Christian Education

SUNDAY MORNING SPECIAL – Join with your

friends to enjoy a movie clip and discussion to prepare for the Savior who is “Coming Soon.”

We will meet in the High School room at 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. on December 3 and December 17.

During the first week we will work with the children to prepare for the Christmas program. Child care will be available for the final session as well.

Disciples' Class — This class will continue to study an in-depth study of the Gospel of John. Each person brings their own favorite verse of the Gospel and we compare versions, look at the real issues, have a very active discussion, and draw our conclusions as to God's message to us in this favorite Gospel. Come join in the learning experience. We may only cover one paragraph or two per week, but are looking deeply into the Scriptures.

Children and Youth — The children will experience the Bible in fun ways using the weekly scripture lessons from the worship service to sculpt the lesson – maybe it will be a game, maybe it will be an art project! Whatever it is, we will learn about what it means to be a Christian in a super-fun way.

Fun! We're looking for new and exciting things to have fun and learn about God together! If you have any ideas for our children and youth, please let Sarah know.

Children of Grace - Families and children now have choices during the 10:30 service. Children can participate in the worship service while playing

quietly with a family member or volunteer adult in our new **Grace Space**, play in the **nursery**, stay in the **pew** with their parents or older children may learn a special lesson in **Kid's Own Worship**.

A special **Grace Space** corner for kids to play is also available for the 8:15 a.m. service! If you have an early napper or an early riser, now you have more options.

The Women's Group will take the month of December off to enjoy family activities and will resume in January to begin a new study by Max Lucado called – *Anxious for Nothing*.

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 37 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.

John 1:14 (NIV)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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!!

THANK YOU!!

Dear 'Grace Girls' and Mark Chow,
On behalf of my cousins and aunts, thank you so very much for comforting our family with food and hospitality after Aunt Colleen's death. I am proud to call you my 'other' family, my Grace family, and brag about how wonderful you all are! Thank you all again for everything!

Yours faithfully, **Erin Forshey**

[for Debbie O'Neal, Patti Winhoven, Heather Dolen, McKenzie McLean]

RACE FOR GRACE . . .

. . . was a wonderful event again for 2017. God blessed us with good weather! We had 212 walkers and runners – 6 dogs – 3 babies that participated. We have raised \$3,949 so far to be donated to Eastside Community Ministry Food Pantry. We want to thank the over 30 volunteers and those who donated money, food, and prizes. Without you we couldn't do it!!

Becky Woods and Bob Moon

**COMMUNION STEWARDS ---
Looking for an opportunity to serve in 2018?**

Would you consider volunteering for the preparation for communion, distributing the communion elements of bread and grape juice, or cleanup? This is a meaningful role in our congregational life, which does not require much time, and you are invited to experience this sacred work for yourself!

Communion is celebrated at both services [8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.] on the first Sunday of each month, on Ash Wednesday, and at our Christmas Eve service. We offer communion by intinction or by distributing the elements as people remain seated in the pews.

To help with the organization of communion stewards for the coming year, it has been suggested that we create a master list of volunteers. There are many serving opportunities and a scheduled list will be developed based on each volunteer's preference and availability. You may be contacted soon if you have helped in recent years. In case you have not been notified and would like to serve as a communion steward in some way, please contact **Janet Hill** – phone 740-704-7406 or e-mail jhill62@columbus.rr.com. You may also call the church office.

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)
Extending hospitality at the doors, elevator and during worship (Dana & Cindi Swope, Tracie Moss, Cindy Lawyer, Susan Tyson, Paula Jasper,
Bob & Martha Lentz, Bill & Becky Woods, John & Diane Marks, Doug & Carla Waltman, Linda Friel, Janet Hill)
Tending to the audio/video/computer needs (Craig Hill, Cindi Swope, Sarah Burris, Debbie Collett, Pat Burkhart, Bill Woods)

Thank you to all who provided excellent leadership in worship last month!
Acolytes (Carly Oldfield, Lexi Oldfield, Cindi Swope, Dana Swope, Avery Dunn, Nora Dunn)
Liturgists (Coty Brown, Cindy Lawyer)
Children's Moment (Cindy Lawyer, Sarah Burris, Janet Hill)
Musicians (Marcie Butterfield, Joyce Cooper, Tony Merry, Sarah Burris, Mary Mason, Cynthia Tuck, Tom Swan, Carrie VanSickle, Nathan Zangmeister, Ann Lillie Briggs, Grace Chancel Choir, Grace Handbell Choir)
Communion Steward (Janet Hill)
Communion Servers (Mary Mason, Maryanna Fenton, Linda Friel, Cindy Lawyer, Becky Woods, Dana Swope, Cindi Swope)
Children's Ministry / Grace Space, Kids Own Worship, Nursery (Sarah Burris, Cindy Lawyer, Julie McAllister)

We wish you a ***Blessed Christmas***
and a ***Happy New Year!***

From Your Church Staff

Mark Chow – Tony Merry
Ann Lillie Briggs – Joyce Cooper
Judy McAllister – Sarah Burris
Judy Cranz – Tracie Moss
Craig Hill