

GRAPEVINE

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Zanesville, Ohio

January 2018

PASTOR'S PAGE

A Life Well Lived

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

As we approach the end of another year, it is an opportune time to reflect on the prior months. Looking back over the past year, we can learn from our successes, failures, mistakes and struggles, while celebrating the faithfulness of God through the highs and lows we have faced.

One of my observations from this past year (and recent years) is that I have attended or officiated funeral services for more younger folks (college friends, family members, church members, community members). During the Memorial Worship Service at Annual Conference this past June, it seemed that I knew most of the clergy who had died since our last Annual Conference. While these names were read, a candle was lit and family and friends stood silently. During moments like these, we have the opportunity to pause and give thanks for the gift of life and love, and for the many ways our lives have been blessed by those whose faces we see no more.

The question that has struck me so often recently is, "*How will I be remembered? How have I lived my life?*"

Sometimes we may slip into deep sadness and think that we have nothing to offer. "*Who am I that I can share anything worthwhile with anyone else?*" We may even feel sorry for ourselves or regret that we were even born (like George Bailey in the classic Christmas movie "It's a Wonderful Life"). Or maybe we know of someone who has expressed such feelings. Maybe we can be the voice of affirmation for someone else.

Near the end of his earthly life, the Apostle Paul reflected on his life and ministry. He learned from the past, but didn't dwell there. He kept looking forward.

“Brothers and sisters, I myself don’t think I’ve reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God’s upward call in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14 Common English Bible)

How have you lived your life so far? How will you live in the coming year?

Pastor Mark

The OWLS will be meeting on Wednesday,

January 3, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

HELP!!

Following the worship service on **January 7**, the Christmas decorations will be taken down. The more hands we have the sooner it will be done! Please plan to help!!!!

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY --

As we ease into 2018, we need our God and our friends around us more than ever before! We are going to hope that it warms up a bit and start the Max Lucado study – *Be Anxious for Nothing* – on **January 11** at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you then! It looks like a great study!

STONE SOUP – The children will make their “stone” soup once again for Club Jesus on January 28. Please bring in a can of soup (not creamed) to mix up so we can make our delicious soup. Thank you!

GRIEF SHARE is a seminar and support group at Grace Church for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. The next series will begin on Monday, **February 26**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. It is open to anyone in the community.

LOOKING AHEAD

The 2018 Food Drive will take place in February. Funds collected will be given to Eastside Community Ministry to support their Christ’s Pantry program.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Address Changes

Josh & Holly Roquemore – 6121 Dustin Rd., Galena, OH 43021-9365

Birth

A daughter, Zeva, was born on November 24 to Dr. Jonah & Allison Barasz (Connecticut). Grandparents are Bill & Jennifer Stewart.

With Sympathy

- . . . to Joan Minning and family following the death of her mother, Mary Hannon, on December 19.
- . . . to Judy Cranz and family following the death of her aunt, Mary Jeanette McGowan, of Minerva on December 23.
- . . . to Bill Black, Steve Straker, Tim Straker and families following the death of their wife and mother, Nancy Black, on December 27.

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Christian Education Updates

Thank you SO MUCH for all those who participated, helped, and watched our travel through time! It was a great blessing to all who participated or watched! We will long remember our herd of adorable sheep! We will be counting the days until next Christmas to see what special joy the program will hold in 2018!

Disciple Class – This adult class is working their way through the Bible. Anyone is welcome to attend! See you Sunday!

Children & Teens – are studying the books and stories of the Bible.

Let us know – if you have any fun ideas for our children and youth! We're always looking for new and exciting things to have fun and learn about God together!



Grace is on Facebook! Like the “page” at:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceUnitedMethodistZanesville>

Or our group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/419305344801902/> The group is closed so ask to be included..

Grace also has a website — www.graceumcz.org. On the website you will find announcements, the bulletins, the *Grapevine*, and more.

COMING SOON – SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 7 — *God Is Speaking* — Holy Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 14 — *Listen* — Baptismal Reaffirmation

1 Samuel 3:1-20; Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 21 — *Move*

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 28 — *Answer* — Music led by Two By Two

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-28

LOOKING AHEAD – SEASON OF LENT/EASTER

Wednesday, February 14 — Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 18

Sunday, February 25

Sunday, March 4

Sunday, March 11

Sunday, March 18

Sunday, March 25 — Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 1 — Easter

THANK YOU!!!

Race for Grace [Thanksgiving Day] was a wonderful event again for 2017. God blessed us with good weather. We had 212 walkers/runners, 6 dogs, and 3 babies that participated. We raised \$4,885 to be donated to Eastside Community Ministry's Christ's Pantry. We want to thank the over 30 volunteers and those who donated money, food, and prizes. Without you we couldn't do it!!!

Bob Moon & Becky Woods

Many Thanks

Thank you to our Hospitality Team for:

Providing space, hospitality and/or meals for various community groups
(OWLS, Barbershop Chorus, County H. S. Choirs, Adult/Child
Protective Services Kinship Program)

Extending hospitality at the doors, elevator, and during worship
(Dana & Cindi Swope, Tracie Moss, Rick & Cindy Lawyer, Joe &
Susan Tyson, Paula Jasper, Bob & Martha Lentz, Bill & Becky Woods,
John & Diane Marks, Tom & Vickye Lewis, Bev Dunworth, Carl
Minning, Dan & Karen Vincent, Doug & Carla Waltman, Paul & Lois
Dearth, Mary Probasco, Jodi Toledo)

Tending to the audio/video/computer needs (Craig Hill, Cindi Swope,
Sarah Burris, Debbie Collett, Pat Burkhart)

Thank you to all who provided excellent leadership in worship!

Acolytes (Carly Oldfield, Lexi Oldfield, Cindi Swope, Noelle Flarey,
Nick Flarey, Dana A. Swope, Dana C. Swope, Tom Swan)

Liturgist (Todd Sands)

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, New Strings and Things, Molly Chow, Lexi Oldfield, Carley
Oldfield, Wendy Cochran, Christy Swope)

Communion Steward (Janet Hill)

Communion Servers (Mary Mason, Maryanna Fenton, Linda Friel,
Cindy Lawyer, Cassie Burris, Dana Swope, Cindi Swope,
Margaret Merry, Heather Dolen, Debbie O'Neal, Tom Swan,
Nancy Chow, Doug & Carla Waltman, Tom & Susan Holdren,
Bill & Becky Woods, Sarah Burris, Janet Hill)

Children's Ministry – Grace Space, Kids' Own Worship, Nursery
(Sarah Burris, Cindy Lawyer, Allison Palmer, Julie McAllister,
Dana C. Swope)

A Special Thank You to all who participated in our *Advent and Christmas
Services!* We are so blessed to have so many willing servants.

Sundays of Advent – Advent Wreath Readers (Susan Tyson, Cindy
Lawyer,

Margaret Merry, Noelle Flarey, Nick Flarey, Jim Gillespie, Kym Cross,
Keeley Herron and Emma, Sarah Burris, Avery Dunn, Nora Dunn,
Doug & Becky Spade, Amy Dosch, Lexi Oldfield, Carley Oldfield,
Casey, Amelia & Lincoln Lepi)

MANY THANKS – con't.

Christmas Program

CAST (Lexi Oldfield, Carley Oldfield, Jennah Flarey, Jordan Flarey,
Noelle Flarey, Tom Swan, Christy Swope, Avery Dunn, Nora

Dunn,

Dana Swope, Lincoln Lepi, Layla Lepi, Elliott James, Miles Tippie,
Alexander McCune, Vincent McLean, Mack Palmer,
Isaac Stonecypher)

CREW (Sarah Burris, Tony Merry, Amelia Lepi, Laura James,
Sarah Tippie, Jessica Stonecypher, Allison Palmer, Cindi Swope,
Amy Dosch, Lisa Flarey, Molly Dunn)

Christmas Eve

Willing Servants (Dana & Cindi Swope, Tracie Moss, Bev Dunworth,
Bill & Becky Woods, Paul & Lois Dearth, Craig Hill, Doug & Carla
Waltman, Tom & Susan Holdren, Cassie Burris, Sarah Burris,
Janet Hill, Nick Flarey, Noelle Flarey, Dana C. Swope)

Musicians (Jim Gillespie, Bob Paap, Tom Swan, Margaret Merry,
Tony Merry, Mark Chow, Molly Chow, Wendy Cochran,
Christy Swope, Marcie Butterfield, Ann Lillie Briggs,
Grace Chancel Choir, Grace Handbell Choir)

Readers (Coty Brown, Chase & Sarah Tippie, Dan & Karen Vincent,
Amelia Lepi, Noah Vincent, Tammy Vincent, Todd Sands)