

# GRAPEVINE

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Zanesville, Ohio

December 2016

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## PASTOR'S PAGE

### LOOKING BACK – LOOKING FORWARD

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

As the Earth completes another rotation around the sun and the calendar pages turn to the final month of the year, we look back and celebrate all that has transpired in our recent past. We also pause to consider what great things God has in store for us in the coming year.

We began the year with a renewal of our baptismal covenant, vowing once again, to commit ourselves fully to God's will and direction.

Our youth reminded us to "Make God a Priority" in everything we do as they led us in worship.

We celebrated several baptisms of little ones and committed to support and nurture these children in the Christian faith.

We learned of our District Superintendent's Alaskan adventure, motorcycling 10,000 miles to raise funds for and awareness of eliminating malaria.

We hosted and participated in community Lenten services.

We began and completed a search for musical staff to be part of the team that leads us in our worship of God.

We hosted some excellent musical groups [Kuyasa Kids Choir] and David Wells [jazz musician], and also sponsored two school "Anti-bullying assemblies" led by David Wells.

We demonstrated Radical Hospitality in an amazing way in hosting the Foothills District Spring Conference. Our District Superintendent and our Bishop graced us with their presence and wisdom.

We provided Hospitality Training in order to be our very best in every- thing we do.

We celebrated Ned Weaver's faithful service.

We welcomed Tracie Moss, Tony Merry, Joyce Cooper, and Ann Lillie Briggs to our dedicated staff team.

Many musicians graced us with their unique and amazing gifts.

We all came together to make the annual Block Party an event that touched the community in a tangible way. So many persons stepped up and took leadership.

We said good-bye to a number of our faithful members.

We gladly welcomed seven new members.

We provided over 250 blankets for local cancer patients.

We raised \$9,814 for Eastside Community Ministries' Food Pantry through Race for Grace and the annual Food Drive.

We served meals [including Bereavement Meals] and provided meeting space for a variety of community groups.

Looking back, we have so much for which to be thankful!

Special guest preachers challenged us in a variety of ways: Rev. Wesley Anderson, Todd Sands, Dana Christine Swope (2), Elizabeth Wood (2), Libby Dolen, Bishop Gregory Palmer, Coty Brown, Deborah Chow, Rev. Dennis Baker, Rev. Scott Johnston, Rev. Steve McGuire, Cassie Burris, and Dr. Dennis Miller.

Recently, Dr. Dennis Miller challenged us to celebrate the past but to move boldly into the future that God has in store for us.

Looking back, I echo the words of the Apostle Paul - *I thank my God every time I remember you.* (Philippians 1:3)

Looking forward, these words of Apostle Paul resonate with my spirit. *"....I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.* (Philippians 3:13-14)

Let us open our hearts to the movement of God's Holy Spirit.

**Pastor Mark**

The OWLS will be meeting on Wednesday,

December 7, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## 2016 CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions to be credited to 2016 giving must be to the church office before noon of **December 29**. Any money received after that date will be credited to 2017.

## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### Address Change

Chase & Sarah Tippie – 3220 Riverside Airport Rd., Zanesville, OH 43701

### Wedding

Nikki Dominique and David Marks were united in marriage on November 6.

David is the son of John & Diane Marks.

### Birth

A son, Miles Ray, was born on November 21 to Chase & Sarah Tippie. Grandparents are Steve & Tammy Vincent.

### With Sympathy

- . . . to Chase Tippie and family on the death of his grandfather, Robert Tippie, of Frazeyburg on November 24.
- . . . to Linda Friel and family following the death of her mother, Peggy Cooperrider Esworthy, on November 28.

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## IN THE COMMUNITY

The 87th annual performance of **Handel's MESSIAH** by the Civic Chorus and Orchestra will be on Sunday, December 11, at **6:00 p.m.** at Central Trinity U. M. Church. Open dress rehearsals are on Saturday (Dec. 10) with soloists and orchestra from 2:00-4:00 and chorus and orchestra from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

## ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

On Sunday, November 27, Foothills District Superintendent, Dr. Dennis Miller, preached at both services and presided over our annual Charge Conference. We celebrated what God is doing among us and through us and looked forward to what God has in store for us.

## Advent and Christmas Services

Plan to join us for the Sundays of Advent, as well as on Christmas Eve. Invite a friend to come with you. This year, Advent began on Sunday, November 27th.

On Sunday, December 4, – Second Sunday of Advent – we will celebrate Holy Communion at both the 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship celebrations.

\*On Sunday, December 11, – Third Sunday of Advent – there will be **ONE** worship service at **10:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. Led by our children, youth and various musicians, we will experience *Manger Tales* and take a fresh look at the story of Jesus' birth. Following worship, our church family will enjoy a delicious potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

\*On Sunday, December 18, – Fourth Sunday of Advent – there will be **ONE** worship serve at **10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary.

On Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve  
7:15 p.m. — Music of the Season  
8:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Celebration  
in the Sanctuary.

\*On Sunday, December 25, — Christmas Day — there will be **ONE** worship service at **10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary.

\*On Sunday, January 1, — New Year's Day — there will be **ONE** worship service at **10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall with Holy Communion.

\*During these FOUR Sundays from December 11 to January 1, we will have a chance to worship as ONE Body in Worship at 10:00 a.m.

## FAMILY CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

The annual Family Christmas Potluck will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **December 11**, 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.

## MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

The Christmas season is upon us and we are pointing to two ambitious musical goals.

First – we would like to fill the choir lofts during the month of December. If you like to sing but can't commit to singing with the choir full-time, please consider joining us just for the next few Sundays (and Christmas Eve). We are going to focus on familiar (and not too difficult) Advent and Christmas music. We strive to make our choir practice a time of fun and fellowship. The choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the sanctuary.

Second – we want to fill the church with as much music on Christmas Eve as possible. We are planning to begin the music at 7:15 p.m. and continue it throughout the Christmas Eve service, which begins at 8:00 p.m. If you want to sing, dance, or play an instrument, please let us know. Please contact the church office or me directly ([tmerry@tmerrylaw.com](mailto:tmerry@tmerrylaw.com)). Thanks! **Tony Merry**

## OFFERING ENVELOPES – 2017

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.

## 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 20 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

## Christian Education

**The Disciples Class** will welcome Christmas by studying the announcement to Mary of her carrying God's Son and then her meeting with Elizabeth, who was carrying John the Baptist finishing with the circumstances of Jesus' birth.

**The children** will be studying Advent and Christmas for the month of December. In January, we will resume our trek through the Bible.

**The youth** under the leadership of Todd and Julie Sands will continue to study the Bible and grow their faith each Sunday. This class explores the Bible and discusses its application in each youth's individual lives.

**The Women's Book Study** will take the month of December off to enjoy family activities. They will resume in January to finish the study of Joseph's great forgiveness story.

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. Please continue to pray for this important demonstration of how God's love can change the world, one child at a time.

## Christmas Party and Program

We will have our final dress rehearsal on December 10 followed by a Christmas lunch! The program will be enjoyed on December 11 during the **10:00 a.m.** worship service.

## Grace is on the web!

Facebook — like the “page” at –

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

OR join our “group” at –

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/419305344801902/>

The “group” will have items that are best not made public.

Website — [www.graceumcz.org](http://www.graceumcz.org)

On the website you will find announcements, bulletins, the *Grapevine*, and more!

YouTube Channel — click on the link found on the sermon's page of the website to watch what we've posted. You will enjoy some of the sermons and special music.

Instagram — tag Grace UMC if you're taking pictures using Instagram!

## INFORMATION THAT WILL BE GIVEN TO PARENTS AS THEY ENTER WITH CHILDREN

Like Jesus, we welcome children and want them to experience the love and joy of a relationship with God's people. We are excited to give you the following choices for you and your child(ren)!

- > Bring your child(ren) to our **Grace Space** located in the room towards the front and to the right of the sanctuary. Children of any age can play while experiencing the service with their parents.
- > If you and/or your child would rather **stay in your pew**, we can bring you a bag of coloring books and other activities.
- > We also have a **nursery** with a qualified and background checked adult, if that is your preference. From there, you can hear the service through a speaker if you want to stay there.
- > Following the Children's Moment, children may join a background checked adult for a lesson and fun in our **Kid's Own Worship** experience.

**FRIENDLY CALLERS** is in need of correct phone numbers for our church family members. We have called many numbers that we have and find them disconnected as many have given up land lines for cell phones. Please update the church with any address or phone number changes for our 2017 directory. Thank you. **Judy McAllister**

## CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE

Tom Swan has Christmas Cards for sale. The cards feature the sanctuary decorated for Christmas and the large nativity. All proceeds will go toward the Grace Church Foundation. The cards are \$2.50 each. Contact Tom if you think you might be interested.

E-mail — [Lswan@columbus.rr.com](mailto:Lswan@columbus.rr.com)

Home Phone — 740-454-3134

Cell Phone — 740-683-5499

## OUTREACH NEWS

On November 19, members of the Outreach Committee participated in a Game Nite at the Pollock Apartments for Seniors in Zanesville. Twelve residents had fun playing Bingo and Corn Hole while enjoying tasty snacks.

## CLUB JESUS

For the past several years, the members of Grace Church have provided a simple meal on the fourth Sunday of the month for Club Jesus - a Sunday evening ministry that takes place at Euclid Ave. UMC for those who are in need. Last year an average of 35 individuals attended each week and now it is up to 100!! The need for our help has really grown!! The Outreach Committee is looking for more individuals to help with this project — you do not have to do it alone!! Please contact Judy in the office if you are willing to be a part of this important project.

## THANK YOU!!

I would like to thank our Grace Church Family for making my 70th birthday celebration one that I will never forget. I was truly surprised and thrilled by all who attended the “memorial” organ concert that Tony Merry provided. We are so fortunate to have Tony and Margaret a part of Grace, sharing their wonderful gifts. Thank you to all for a day that I will always remember.

**Rick Tuck**

## *Vision for Grace Church as Presented to Administrative Board —*

Imagine a church that is more than welcoming. A place where people are in positions based on their personal strengths and the needs of the church.

On Sunday morning, there would be parking attendants to help worshipers find a place to park and find their way into the sanctuary. Attendants will be aware of the needs of each individual. For example, special attention will be paid to help the handicap and families with children. The attendees will make the worshipers aware of the greeters waiting to greet them in the doorway of the church.

When attendees enter the church, trained greeters will have bulletins and direct worshipers to any special services required. Child care and hearing impaired needs are just some of the issues they can assist worshipers.

When a visitor [new to the church] enters the church, a team of sponsors will be ready to take turns mentoring people until they become members of the church or indicate they are no longer interested in becoming members. A team will be trained to perform this function. The team will be made up of several members. They will take turns be-friending visitors, making phone calls, sending cards and dropping off cookies to their homes. The point is to mentor visitors, let them know we care about them and their spiritual well being.

In the sanctuary, we will provide the Grace Space. This is an area when children can learn and play in view of the sanctuary. Parents and worshipers will feel a connection to the children during our time of worship.

Our worship service will take on a new form. We will have more current music and screens will be in the sanctuary to enhance our worship experience. We will incorporate a worship leader to lead music and again enhance our worship experience. The screens will also assist the pastor with the sermon.

We will be known for our hospitality. We will become very intentional in becoming a church that welcomes all and eliminates any barriers that hinder anyone from worshipping with us.

This change is mostly about the right people in the right places. We are auditioning for sharing the love of God every Sunday morning. All members need to understand our cause is bigger than any single person and no areas of ownership can keep us from doing God's work in this

most beautiful church.

There will be a new focus on young adults and children's programs. This appears to be an area that we have not experienced growth in recent years. This will be reflected in our investments in areas that serve these two groups.

An attempt will be made to form a young adult and young couples Sunday school class. We will provide child care for both Sunday school and

Grace Space. Parents will like not being away from their kids for two straight hours. We will provide other opportunities for young adults to spend time together such as parents night out and movie nights. Our hope is to grow this age group. While at the same time try to restart a youth group.

The time has come to face the fact that we are no longer a vibrant church. We continue to lose members because some are not having a positive worship experience. We do have new people visit from time to time. This is a good thing. We can still turn the tide. However, we must ask ourselves, when is the last time you invited someone to worship with us because something was happening that you wanted to share with a friend.

We are here to be an example of God's love in downtown Zanesville. If there is an area where we don't exhibit his love, then changes need to be made. We have the most beautiful sanctuary in the area. We have the most wonderful, talented, and loving people of any local organization. It's time to put all the pieces in the right places and with God's blessing make Grace church the place our loving Father not only wants it to be but needs us to be.

### **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!!

### **PROUD OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

During this year, the Youth and Young Adults led worship on the Fifth Sundays. This year, we had four "Fifth Sundays." October 30 was the fourth and final *Fifth Sunday Service* led by our youth and young adults. Each time our young people led worship, we were greatly blessed.

Special thanks to all of our youth, young adults and youth leaders who led worship through word, witness and song. They reminded us that we are all God's Children and we are loved just as we are. Thank you to Cassie Burris for boldly bringing the Word of God. Thanks to Coty Brown, Nick Flarey, Lexi Oldfield, and Dana Swope for the dramatic reading of the scripture (*Parable of the Prodigal Son*). Thank you to our musicians

Two by Two – Nathan Zangmeister and Carrie VanSickle – who inspired and uplifted our spirits.

Thank you to our acolytes (Jenna Flarey, Jordan Flarey, Noelle Flarey, Carley Oldfield) and ushers (Lexi Oldfield, Carley Oldfield, Nick Flarey, Noelle Flarey). Thank you to our wonderful technical team (Cassie Burris, Cindi Swope, Craig Hill). Thank you to Todd Sands and Sarah Burris for their wisdom, encouragement, and guidance for our youth in this huge and challenging undertaking.

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

***MANY THANKS!***

Thank you to our Hospitality Team for demonstrating Radical Hospitality during the past month.

Providing space, hospitality and/or meals for various community groups (OWLS, ZHS Band, Barbershop Chorus, GriefShare, Race for Grace).

Greeting people at the doors and elevator (Dennis & Debbie Baker, Rick Lawyer, Tracie Moss, Bob & Martha Lentz, Doug & Carla Waltman, Dan & Karen Vincent).

Providing nursery care when needed (Julie McAllister).

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

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

Acolytes – Lucy Thorne, Nick Flarey, Noelle Flarey, Carley Oldfield

Ushers – Tom & Vickye Lewis, Dana Christine Swope, Tracy Miller, Jim Schumacher, Cindi Swope, Julie Schumacher

Liturgist – Todd Sands, Coty Brown, Lexi Oldfield

Children's Moment – Sarah Burris, Tom Swan, Cindy Lawyer, Christy Swope

Musicians – Joyce Cooper, Tony Merry, Sarah Burris, Christy Swope, Mary Mason, Marcie Butterfield, Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir  
Communion Steward – Janet Hill  
Communion Servers – Mary Mason, Rick & Cynthia Tuck, Bev Dunworth, Maryanna Fenton, Janet Hill  
All Saints' Day Worship participants – Sarah Burris, Dana Christine Swope, Mary Mason, Coty Brown, Todd Sands  
Kid'sOwnWorship leaders – Cassie Burris, Sarah Burris, Cindi Swope