

# GRAPEVINE

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Zanesville, Ohio

January 2019

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## PASTOR'S PAGE

### *Celebrations and Milestones*

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

I greet you in the Name of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ! It is hard to believe we are at the eve of one year and moving swiftly toward a new year. As I reflect over the past year, my heart is full of gratitude!

On a personal level, our family celebrated some major milestones this year.

Our four daughters kept the year full of celebrations.

Chronologically, we shared the following joys:

**Molly** graduated from Ohio Northern University with a Bachelor of Arts in Music. She is currently working with young children and preparing for Graduate School.

**Jayne** (Culinary Arts Teacher) became engaged to Chas Albright. They are planning a June 2019 wedding.

**Deborah** (Vocal Music Teacher and Children's Music Director) married Brady Brennan. Prior to the wedding, they bought and renovated a house.

**Jenn** (Audiologist) delivered a healthy baby boy, Henry Brice. Earlier in the year, Jenn and Brett bought a house.

What an exciting year it has been! With each milestone, there was great celebrating. And now, as grandparents, the celebrations will continue as often as possible with Henry's new milestones. Having a grandchild has definitely changed our lives for the better!

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The Grace Church Family has also had a year filled with celebrations and milestones. Some of the celebrations came with pain and loss, while others were filled with great joy. There were weddings, births, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, new jobs, retirements, surgeries, ER visits, rehab, funerals, and other life transitions.

Through each one of these moments, we have stood together. And for that, I am deeply grateful to be your pastor. Thank you for your continued generosity and gracious spirit to our family. You are a blessing to us!

I look forward to what God has in store for us in the next chapter of our journey together!

May the Love, Hope, Joy and Peace of Christ bless you in the new year!

**Pastor Mark**

The OWLS will NOT be meeting in January.

### **HELP!!**

Following the worship service on **January 6**, the Christmas decorations will be taken down. The more hands we have the sooner it will be done! Please plan to help!!!!

**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 25**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. It is open to anyone in the community.

### **LOOKING AHEAD . . . . .**

The 2019 Food Drive will take place in February. Funds collected will be given to Eastside Community Ministry to support their Christ's Pantry program.

### **Coming Soon — Season of Epiphany**

Sunday, January 6th - "Find" — Isaiah 60.1-6; Matthew 2.1-12;

Holy Communion

Sunday, January 13th - "You Are Beloved" — Luke 3.15-17, 21-22;

Baptismal Reaffirmation

Sunday, January 20th - "Gifted for Others" — I Corinthians 12.1-11

Sunday, January 27th - "Being Needy" — I Corinthians 12.12-31

## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### Address Changes

Kevin & Tracy Miller – 1777 Longhill Dr., Zanesville, OH 43701

### Birth

A son, Nash Ryan, was born on December 4 to Chase & Sarah Tippie.

Grandparents are Steve & Tammy Vincent and Chuck & Mary Beth Tippie.

### With Sympathy

- . . . to Bill Straker, Susan Holdren, John Straker, Jane Straker, Ann Plosser following the death of their wife and mother, Mary Helen Straker, on December 12.
- . . . to Connie Williams and family following the death of her husband, Dr. Ross Williams, on December 12.
- . . . to Meg Deedrick and family following the death of her mother, Betty Frary-Deedrick, on December 22.

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**THANK YOU!!!**

Dear Grace Family -

It is an honor to be followers of Christ and serve our Lord alongside all of you, not just at Christmas, but year-round! Your graciousness and generosity continues to humble us, your staff, with your gifts and love this year. We pray that the peace from Christmas and living a life with Christ, will remain in your hearts throughout 2019!



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

## Christian Education Updates

Thank you SO MUCH for all those who participated, helped and watched as we traveled around the world learning about Christmas! New this year was a craft time prior to the service thanks to Amy Dosch, we all made some awesome crafts and had a great time!

**Disciple Class** – We now are entering an in-depth study of the book of Romans, written by Paul to the believers in Rome, giving them a concrete theological foundation on which to construct their faith, and to live and serve God effectively. You already have the study book, the Bible. You are welcome to come join our discussions as we look to Paul's directions to the early believers.

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

**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 clipboard [for the sanctuary] and color away.

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](http://www.graceumcz.org). On the website you will find announcements, the bulletins, the *Grapevine*, and more.

**THURSDAY WOMEN'S GROUP** is helping a local pastor [Geoff Geyer] complete work towards his doctoral thesis. We will study his book – “Understanding How God Reproduces Churches and Groups.” The study's intent is to increase our overall awareness of the sending nature of God and the multiplying nature of His Kingdom. This group continues to meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. This study will begin on **January 10.**

### **THANK YOU!!!**

Race for Grace [Thanksgiving Day] was a wonderful event again for 2018. God blessed us with good weather. We had 117 walkers/runners, a few dogs and babies that participated. We raised \$3,225.59 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!!!

We have lots of beanies and shirts available for purchase. They are \$10 a piece or 2 for \$15. Contact Becky at 740-683-4529 to get yours.

God bless you all! **Becky Woods**

**Thank you** for your inspired donation of 'appreciation bags' for our staff.

You are surely living the Lord's way – 2 Corinthians 9:7 – “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Your random act of kindness was met with appreciation by all our staff and also shared with a few of our clients. Going to our kitchen area and finding the bags of treats was a great reminder that our efforts to help those struggling with drug/alcohol addiction and educate our youth of the dangers of all addictions are appreciated.

### **Muskingum Behavioral Health**

THANK YOU for support of the annual SOUPer Bowl Benefit Luncheon. 753 meals were served – 624 in the dining room and 129 carry-out. \$12,700 was raised with \$2,540 to each to benefit the work of Fellowship of Christ's Community, Christ's Table, Eastside Community Ministry, Muskingum County Center for Seniors and Salvation Army.

THANK YOU very much for our gracious hospitality in hosting one of our district health insurance meetings. Your staff made the day run smoothly and it was a very productive event. May God bless you all!

**Sandi George, Mike Kremnitzer – West Ohio Conference**

### **Many Thanks**

Thank you to our Hospitality team for:

Providing space, hospitality and/or meals for various community groups (OWLS, Barbershop Chorus, County choirs, Adult/Child Protective Services Kinship Program, Muskingum County Court, Straker family).

Extending hospitality at the doors, elevators and during worship (Cindi & Dana Swope, Tracie Moss, Rick & Cindy Lawyer, Bill & Becky Woods, John & Diane Marks, Tom & Vickye Lewis, Bev Dunworth, Carl Minning, Dan & Karen Vincent, Doug & Carla Waltman, Frank & Amy Dosch, Mary Ruth Mock, Maryanna Fenton, Jaynellyn Sharp)

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

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

Acolytes (Carly Oldfield, Lexi Oldfield, Cindi Swope, Dana C. Swope)

Liturgist (Christy Swope, Cindi Swope, Joyce Cooper, Lexi Oldfield, Amelia Lepi)

Children's Moment (Cindy Lawyer, Sarah Burris)

Musicians (Marcie Butterfield, Joyce Cooper, Tony Merry, Sarah Burris, Mary Mason, Christy Swope, Cynthia Tuck, Tom Swan, Dorothy Cronk, Belinda Paisley, Rick Tuck, Ann Lillie Briggs, Grace Chancel Choir, Grace Handbell Choir, New Strings and Things)

Communion Steward (Janet Hill, Cassie Burris, Sarah Burris, Joyce Cooper, Mary Mason)

Communion Servers (Mary Mason, Bill & Becky Woods, Margaret Merry, Heather Dolen, Debbie O'Neal, Tom Swan, Nancy Chow, Doug & Carla Waltman, Tom & Susan Holdren, Bill & Becky Woods, Cassie Burris, Sarah Burris, Janet Hill, Kevin & Tracy Miller, Frank & Amy Dosch, Jaynellen Sharp, and Susan Hendley.)

Children's Ministry [Grace Space, Kids Own Worship, Nursery] (Sarah Burris, Cindy Lawyer, Julie McAllister, Allison Palmer, Dana C Swope, Sarah Tippie, Amelia Lepi, Jennifer McCune, Nicole Hannahs, Laura James, Cassie Burris)

Christian Witness - Renee Shaw (Global Missionary), Joyce Cooper, Christy Swope, Cindi 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 (Debbie Collett, Mary Mason, Jaynellyn Sharp, Jane Trent, Paula Jasper, Amelia Lepi, Layla Lepi, Lincoln Lepi, Tammy Vincent, Dan & Lisa Arter, Jim & Pat Burkhart, Floyd & Carol Sours, Frank & Amy Dosch, Lexi Oldfield, Carley Oldfield, Lexi's friend, Hailey, Clay & Alice Graham, Cole & Katie Graham, Emma & Mara Graham )

Christmas Program

Cast: Elliott James, Layla Lepi, Lincoln Lepi, Miles Tippie, Alexander McCune, Cameron Hannahs, Xavier Hannahs, Emma Graham, Mara Graham, Isaac Stonecypher, Jordan Flarey, Jennah Flarey, Nick Flarey, Lexi Oldfield, Carley Oldfield, Mack Palmer, Macy Palmer, Lily Witucky, Jack Witucky, Oliver Jones, Zane Looker, Tom Swan

Crew: Laura James, Amelia Lepi, Sarah Tippie, Jennifer McCune, Nicole Hannahs, Katie Graham, Julie Sands, Jessica Stonecypher, Lisa Flarey, Noelle Flarey, Cassie Burris, Dana Christine Swope, Cindy Lawyer, Julie McAllister, Allison Palmer, Kyle & Megan Witucky, Cole & Katie Graham, Courtney Jones, Alice Graham, Robert Looker, Tyler Kohli

Christmas Eve

Willing Servants — (Cindi & Dana Swope, Tracie Moss, Bill & Becky Woods, Craig Hill, Doug & Carla Waltman, Tom & Susan Holdren, Cassie Burris, Sarah Burris, Janet Hill, Dana C Swope, Carl Minning, Frank & Amy Dosch, Lexi Oldfield, Carley Oldfield, Jaynellyn Sharp, Kevin & Tracy Miller, Susan Hendley, Joyce Cooper, Mary Mason, Craig Hill, Ned Weaver, Tracie Moss, Judy Cranz, Craig Hill)  
Musicians — (Jim Gillespie, Bob Lentz, Tom Swan, Margaret Merry, Tony Merry, Mark Chow, Marcie Butterfield, Anne Lillie Briggs, Grace Chancel Choir, Grace Handbell Choir)  
Readers — (Dan & Karen Vincent, Amelia Lepi, Steve & Tammy Vincent, Christy Swope, Clay & Alice Graham, Cole & Katie Graham, Emma Graham, Mara Graham)