

For Unto Us A Child Is Born ...



**Grace UMC Newsletter
December 2024**

Serving You at Grace United Methodist Church

Pastor - Alan Atchison
Youth Ministries - Tracy Wertz
Elementary Youth - Jon and Alex Martin
Grace Kids - Diane White
Nursery Care - Bobbi Jo Riden
Accompanist - Charlotte Gingrich
Grace Praise Band - Ken Rudisill
Custodian - Pat Guarneri
Building Maintenance - Mike Liddick
Noah's Crew Weekday Preschool -
Lisa VanOlden *and* Robin Willier

Church Office

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Pastor Alan Atchison

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Christmas Card Wall for Shut-ins and At-Home Members

The Missions Committee has placed decorated Christmas bags in the overflow to fill with cards and well-wishes for those members and friends who are not able to be in worship with us.

Please consider taking a moment to drop them a note over this Christmas season. Extra cards and a list of names is available at the wall.

Christmas Cookies!!

Grace Encouragers is asking for donations of homemade cookies, to



accompany the bags of Christmas cards on the card racks sponsored by the Missions committee. We have approx. 36 individuals or couples receiving cards / cookies, so 12-13 dozen cookies is our goal. **However, there is no such thing as too many cookies !!!**

If you can help out with this Christmas ministry, by baking a dozen or two, could you please place your cookies in separate Ziploc bags (4 cookies in each bag) and deliver the cookies to the church kitchen on Saturday morning, December 21st between 10:00 and 12:00 p.m. If you can't deliver the cookies at that time, please call Holly Kerwin (717-877-6883) and she will make arrangements to pick them up. A bakers' sign-up sheet has been placed in the narthex.

We are also looking for people to deliver these gifts on Sunday, Dec. 22nd after the worship services. Thank you for participating!

Food for Thought Bible Study will hold their annual Christmas Potluck on Thursday, Dec. 12th at 6:00 pm at Diane Nestler's home. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please call Holly Kerwin at 717-877-6883.

Christmas Eve at Grace UMC

A Family-friendly Christmas Eve Pageant will be presented by the Grace UMC Youth, along with a nativity by our middle and elementary age youth, beginning at 7pm.

Come enjoy an evening of carols and Candlelight !



Our Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 15th**, following our combined service of worship at 10:30am.

Come and enjoy great fellowship and worship, followed by a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. We look forward to seeing you for this wonderful day of celebration!



HOLY COMMUNION

will be celebrated on
Sunday, January 5th,
Sunday, February 9th,
and Sunday, March 9th

Ooops! You might have missed the deadline to order **poinsettias** for Christmas, but why not consider a gift to **Missions** instead?

A Gift In Lieu of a Poinsettia

The Deadline for Christmas Missions Giving is December 15th. Please drop your completed form in the offering plates, the church office door box, or contact the church office.



In Lieu of a Poinsettia

My Gift is

\$ _____

Your Name

In Memory of In Honor of

WEEKLY BULLETINS

Again, we are making available the opportunity to help defray some of our operating costs by sponsoring weekly bulletins and altar flowers for the upcoming year. You might sponsor a Sunday in honor or in memory of a loved one, friend, family member, or a special occasion. Contact the church office at (717) 692-2838 to see what weeks are available, or check on the sheets by the front entrance.

Wishing Happy Birthdays to Friends and Families of Grace Church

<i>Dec. 1 Douglas Goudy</i>	<i>Dec. 17 Alexander Vallier</i>
<i>Dec. 2 Daniel Troutman</i>	<i>Janel Bolig</i>
<i>Dec. 3 Angela Hosterman</i>	<i>Dec. 19 Linda Douty</i>
<i>Dec. 4 Eric Fite</i>	<i>Holly Kerwin</i>
<i>Rick Ibberson</i>	<i>Dec. 20 Chris Miller</i>
<i>Jeanette Snell</i>	<i>Dec. 21 Carter Dreibelbis</i>
<i>Dec. 8 Emma Riden</i>	<i>Dec. 22 Halen Leshko</i>
<i>Dec. 9 Jan Lebo</i>	<i>Dec. 23 Pamela Mauser</i>
<i>Dec. 10 Tyler Erdman</i>	<i>Dec. 24 Bradley Kessler</i>
<i>Lexi Riden</i>	<i>Dec. 25 Russell Hubler</i>
<i>Dec. 11 David Bellis</i>	<i>Dec. 27 Zachary Savidge</i>
<i>Wesley Fulkroad</i>	<i>Trish Snyder</i>
<i>Debra Savidge</i>	<i>Dec. 28 Charlotte</i>
<i>Dec. 13 Susan Turnbaugh</i>	<i>Gingrich</i>
<i>Dec. 15 Jarred Shoop</i>	<i>Dec. 30 Matthew Bellis</i>
<i>Dec. 16 Delaney Bellis</i>	<i>Stephenie Shoop</i>
<i>Dylin Bellis</i>	

Anniversaries

- Dec 12 ~ Ron and Wanda Brooks*
- Dec 21 ~ John and Alicia Spicher*
- Dec 25 ~ Larry and Judy Snyder*
- Dec 27 ~ Doug and Deb Goudy*
- Dec 31 ~ Jim and Arlene Wilbert*

On This Very Night

The 2024 Grace Christmas Cantata will be shared at 3pm on Sunday, Dec. 22nd, featuring a great chorus of voices from our community, including a number of voices from the Line Mountain Area. Our Guest Conductor for this event is Kaitlyn Troutman.

youth ministry NEWS

- Dec. 4 ~ 6- 8 pm Normal, crazy, fun*
- Dec. 11 ~ 6- 8 pm Normal, crazy, fun*
- Dec. 18 ~ 6- 8 pm Normal, crazy, fun*
- Dec. 24 ~ 7pm Christmas Eve Pageant*
- Dec. 29 ~ Youth Overnight Lock-in & Holiday Party + crazy fun*



I want to shout out a huge **THANK YOU** to all who have helped to pack, distribute, and pray for our backpack feeding program for the elementary and

middle school kids who don't always have food security on the weekends. We have had participants from many local churches join in to help support this awesome and much needed ministry - both physically and financially. We are currently packing for **59** children each month. Please pray for the children that receive these bags, as well as for our continued opportunity to serve them.

Holiday Blessings,

Debb Bowman & Team

Our next packing day will be **Monday, January 6th** beginning at 3:00 pm in the **Gymnasium** entrance

ONE YEAR IN THE BIBLE

*A New Bible Study group is forming for a Tuesday morning **10am** study beginning **January 7th**. Please contact Deb Goudy @ (717) 919-2330, or sign-up in the narthex.*

A Savior was born for You.



Harvest Home Sunday Update

A Great Big Thank You to all who donated food items and monetary gifts, and all the hands that helped with the beautiful display on the Altar.

What A Glorious Sight !

All of the donated items will be distributed in the **December** Food Boxes.

Mark Your Calendars

Our January Fellowship Meal

will be held on **Sunday, Jan. 12th**, following the late worship service.

Hope to see you there!



A Children's Winter Festival

is being planned for **Saturday, January 18th**.

Consider how you might be part of the fun !

Games, food, prizes, and some awesome activities!

Volunteers are needed.

Please see or call Diane White or Tracy Wertz



Mark Your Calendars.....

**Church UN-Decorating day
is Monday, Jan. 13th.**

Lots of hands make for
quick work.....

Thank you!



Dear Grace Church,
Thank You for all
the prayers, cards,
texts, and calls to
check on me while I
underwent hip
replacement surgery.
It is so very nice to
hear from everyone
who is thinking of me.
God Is Awesome!

Tina Billow

Dear Grace Church,

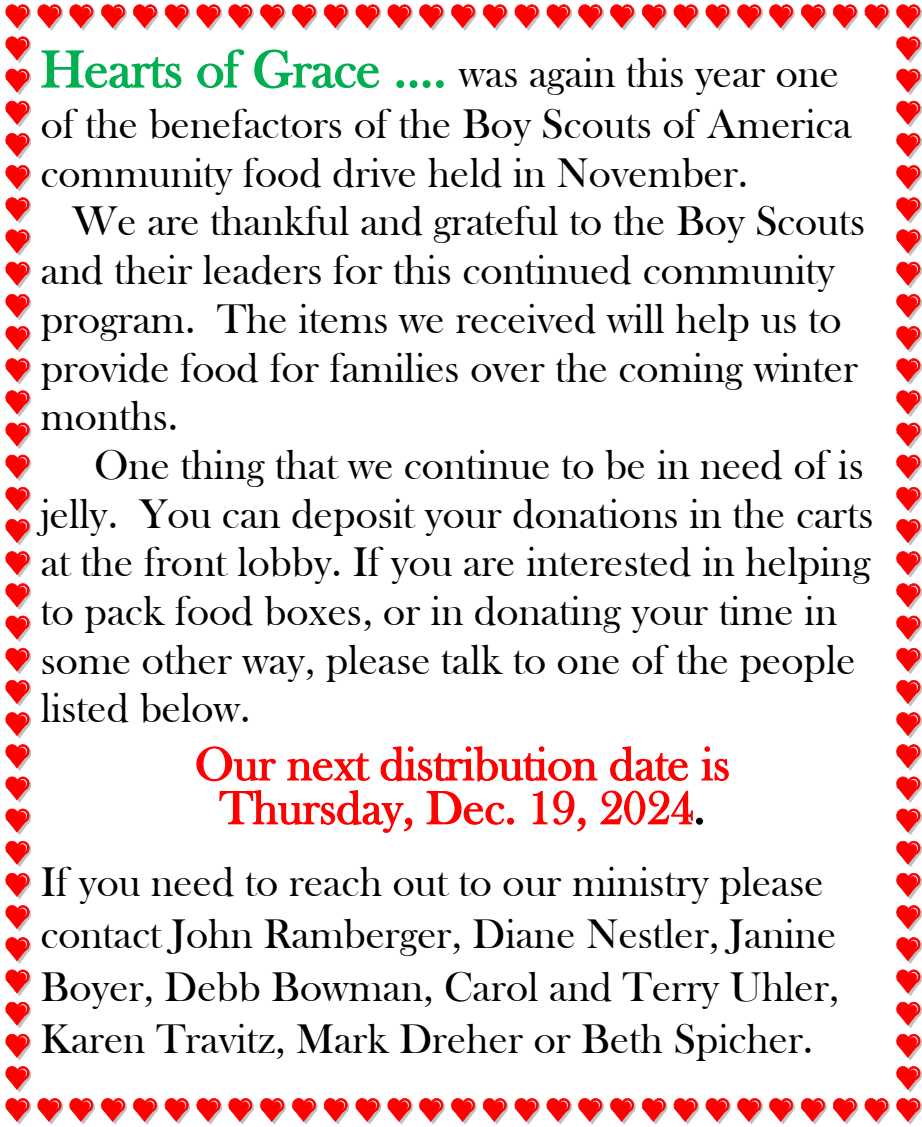
It is with heartfelt gratitude that I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, meals, cards, visits and flowers. I truly appreciate my church family and friends. I am very blessed. God bless you!

Karen and Tim Travitz

Dear Friends,

For all who sent cards, well-wishes, notes of encouragement, and expressions of appreciation during the fall for Pastor Appreciation - THANK YOU ! It is an honor and a privilege to serve among you as we share the Hope of the Good News in so many varied and important ways.

Pastor Alan Atchison



Hearts of Grace was again this year one of the benefactors of the Boy Scouts of America community food drive held in November.

We are thankful and grateful to the Boy Scouts and their leaders for this continued community program. The items we received will help us to provide food for families over the coming winter months.

One thing that we continue to be in need of is jelly. You can deposit your donations in the carts at the front lobby. If you are interested in helping to pack food boxes, or in donating your time in some other way, please talk to one of the people listed below.

**Our next distribution date is
Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024.**

If you need to reach out to our ministry please contact John Ramberger, Diane Nestler, Janine Boyer, Debb Bowman, Carol and Terry Uhler, Karen Travitz, Mark Dreher or Beth Spicher.

Church World Services Blanket Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 19th

Your monetary donations will be used to purchase heavy-duty woolen blankets that will be distributed to people in need around the world. Please give generously!

Grace Church Missions Report

WE CELEBRATE THAT, FOR 2024, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MEET 100% OF OUR MISSION GOALS, PLUS SOME ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUESTS – THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY!

GUMC MISSION GOALS FOR 2025

Our Goal for 2025 is to continue to pursue our benevolent giving goal of ***AT LEAST 10%*** of our church budget. We will continue to encourage **your participation** in missions and outreach through our Faith Promise Giving, with any commitment shortfall being met through our General Fund.

1. We are ***committed*** to paying our UM Shares of Ministry in Full for 2025. The Benevolence portion for 2025 will be \$8,955.95. It will be \$746.33 per month.

The Benevolence portion supports the ministries of the Susquehanna Conference, both home and abroad, including UMC Missionaries serving through the General Board of Global Ministries; Africa University; the United Methodist Home for Children in Mechanicsburg, PA; Iglesias Stevens Emmanuel Church, Harrisburg; The Neighborhood Center, Harrisburg; and Harrisburg Uptown United Methodist Ministries.

2. We are ***committed*** to continue to support various agencies and services, including:
- a. Mission Central with our volunteer labor and donations;
 - b. Lifeline Pregnancy Care Center with donations and baby care items;
 - c. Operation Christmas Child with shoeboxes and donations;
 - d. Church World Services through our Blanket Drive Sunday;
 - e. Christmas card collection for shut ins and those who reside in extended care facilities/communities
 - f. The missionaries that we have committed to support.
3. We are ***committed*** to providing food and services for those in our community thru:
- a. The Hearts of Grace monthly food distribution
 - b. The JFY Backpack Program
 - c. The Community Needs Fund.
 - d. Wrapped in Grace Free Clothing Ministry

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Grace Church Missions Report - con't

4. We have committed our continuing support of each of the monthly mission projects:

Jan - \$ 400 - Bethesda Mission, Harrisburg

Feb - \$ 400 - McCurdy School, Espanola, New Mexico

Mar - \$ 400 - Red Bird Mission, Kentucky

Apr - \$ 400 - Endless Mountains Mission Center

May - \$ 400 - Highland Park Camp Fund

June - \$ 400 - Lifeline Pregnancy Center

July - \$ 400 - Enright's Pastor School and Day Care, Africa

Aug - \$ 400 - New Life Center for Mothers and Children

Sep - \$ 400 - Grace Church Community Needs Funds

Oct - \$ 400 - Mission Central

Nov - \$ 400 - United Methodist Children's Home

Dec - \$ 400 - To be Determined

5. We also envision continuing support, based on your generous giving, for the following ministries:

Global Ministry and Outreach:

\$1,500 - Sylvia Webb, Indian Mobile Mission, Arizona

\$1,500 - Jennifer Cook, TMCI Missionary in the U.S.

\$1,200 - Rachael Biddle, Campus Crusade

\$1,000 - Don and Chrissy Chubb, Ethnos 360, Mexico

\$ 600 - Phoebe Hoyle, China Outreach Ministries, GMU

\$1,000 - Aaron and Kimberly Schlegel, SCI, Mexico

\$1,200 - Tawney Miller, United World Missions, Mexico

Local Ministry and Outreach:

\$ 1,000 - The Valley Lighthouse Ministry

6. We will continue to encourage our children, youth, and adults to live a life grounded in mission, by:
- seeking to provide opportunities for our members to participate in "hands-on" mission work locally;
 - suggesting correspondence (Christmas cards, notes, letters, etc.) with our missionary representatives.
 - providing opportunities to give to "special collections" throughout the year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MISSIONS