

Dec. 16/Jan. 17



"Called To Share God's Grace"
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Christmas Eve, December 24: 5:00p Worship

8:00p Lessons & Carols Communion Worship

Sunday December 25: 9:30a Worship



Merry Christmas

From All of Us
at Grace Church!



Holy

IS HIS NAME.

LUKE 1:49

Each month I try to reflect upon the many ways I've witnessed God's presence within the Grace community.

As I write this article - the temperature is in the single digits. It's bitterly cold!! Yet, even in brutal conditions, the snow on trees and the blue coloring of the sky is gorgeous. God's winter artistry is truly magnificent!

I've been witness to God's presence at the graveside. Recently a family gathered around the graveside of a loved one who died of a terminal illness. Even though the pain is still very real and the loss is great, the family is hopeful and comforted by knowing and believing that "in life and in death we belong to God."

This most wonderful time of the year is often painful for those who experience grief and loss. Darkness overshadows the joy of the miracle of God among us. Isolation and helplessness crowds out the promise of hope and peace. I ask you to keep those who experiences loss and grief in your prayers. Pray that Christ's light will shine and guide and "provide a lamp unto thy feet."

I've been witness to God's presence while being away for a week of vacation. Gathered around the Thanksgiving table - my brothers, sister-in-law, and cousin celebrated being with each other. Even though I was a wee bit ill - even though the journey is long - it is good to be with family!

Upon returning from my travels to Pennsylvania, I was approached by many folks expressing joy that the Rev. Kathryn Craven led worship on the 27th of November. When I shared this with Kathryn, she expressed deep gratitude regarding how she was welcomed. "Chris, Grace Presbyterian is such a kind and welcoming congregation. The many smiles and gestures of hospitality were such a delight!"

Yet, hospitality wasn't only shared with Kathryn. Through the wonderful efforts of many, Grace Church welcomed many to our social hall for a common meal around the Thanksgiving Table. Hospitality was also shared with those unable to attend a meal by countless folks delivering meals to those homebound for whatever reason. I've heard that roughly 350 folks were served! This is how we truly reflect our calling. This is how we show who we really are as a congregation "Called To Share God's Grace."

This past Sunday, I was witness to God's presence through the voices of the choir and the talents of musicians. For what may be our 18th year (not sure about that?), Grace was led in worship by the "music department" of our church. We as a congregation are so very blessed to have such a fine choir and instrumentalists. The story of our Savior's birth was shared! God was glorified. Our spirits were lifted! YAHOO!

Even though I am writing this a week before the children will lead us in worship, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Alicia Rake for lovingly leading our children in music. I also want to thank the Children's Ministry Committee under the leadership of Emily Shier for caring for the youngest of our congregation. The Spirit is in control of our worship - I know all will go well.

God is very present within the Shier family household as Emily has announced that she is pregnant! In this season of Advent, what true joy the news of a pending birth brings! May we as

a congregation lift up Emily and the little one yet to be born, Ben and the boys as they prepare for their new addition.

With the great news that Emily shares of her pregnancy, comes the news that she will be leaving us as Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministry at the end of March. Emily has been a true disciple of Christ in her ministry here at GPC. Her caring spirit, nurture, and loving ways, as well as true faith has guided the Christian Education committee in creating disciples of all ages. Even though we still have three months with Emily, pray for her in this time of transition and change!

In this pending time of transition and change for GPC, the work of the Session committees as guided by the Holy Spirit will lead us in a new direction regarding the discipleship and nurture of our Grace community. I beg each and every one of you to lift up in prayer our congregation. I pray that God's Spirit will lead us and serve as a guide on this path yet to be travelled. I pray that God will allow us to continue to respond to our calling to share God's grace.

Friends God is so present and so very tangible! Be still and seek God's presence!
May God's peace be with you all!
Pr Chris Davis

SWEET NEWS

It's a girl!



Dear Grace Family,
As you know, The Shiers are a busy family. This past year we were blessed with caring for a fifth boy- a perfect, sweet foster child- for 9 months. Now we get to do it all again! We took an unconventional route- one of great science and technology- to participate in something called embryo adoption where embryos created for IVF are unused and waiting for an invitation to life. The result is a miracle we could not be more excited about....a baby girl expected in the spring! A bittersweet effect is that I will not be returning to my position as Christian Education & Youth Ministry Director at Grace. I will be working through late March and then focusing on being full-time Mama of 5. We welcome your prayers for our growing family & trust that someone ideal for the CEYM Director Position will hear the call loud and clear! -Emily



SECOND TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet Tuesday, January 10 at 9 AM. We will discuss the book, *Without You There is No Us* by Suki Kim. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Ann Peck.

For **February** - *The Lady with An Ostrich Feather Fan* by Frederick R. Andresen

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER (Meditation) meets Wednesday mornings from 8:45-9:45 in the chapel. Join this group that meets to nurture and sustain spiritual vitality in contemporary life. New faces are always welcome.



Just a reminder that Confirmation Class will begin on January 8 @ 10:45am. If you are in 8th grade you are invited to be part of this class. If you are older and have not been confirmed you are also invited. Our class will kick-off with a meeting in which your parents are invited to attend. At this meeting, we will discuss the format of the class as well as what to expect. I hope you are able to be a part of this opportunity.

Here are some of the details: the class is every Sunday morning from January 8 through February 26 - 8 weeks. Each class will start at 10:45 and end at 11:45. Our format will be discussion with a potential trip to another Presbyterian Church in Madison and a small mission experience. The actual day you confirm your faith in public worship will be Sunday, February 26 @ 9:30.

If you have questions contact Pastor Chris @ [920.885.3198](tel:920.885.3198) or send me an email to pastor@bdgracechurch.org. SEE YOU ON JANUARY 8th.

Mystery Box & Silent Auction



Sunday January 15th Grace Social Hall 10:45a
Accepting Donations Now
for Silent Auction Items
Contact Emily Shier
cedirector@bdgracechurch.org
Proceeds go to June 2017 Youth Mission Trip



Donations Needed: Do you own a business that would donate items to be auctioned? Or do you have treasures that would spark some playful competition among your church family members? ☺ Contact Emily

The Grace Church Sunday School Children & Youth Challenge the congregation to a Food Drive Competition! If you can raise more items of Non-perishable food and/or Dollars (in \$1 increments) than we can, we will host a Fellowship Hour*with treats* for you in February!

Items may be placed in the Food Pantry Bin.
Checks/cash to Church Office or Emily Shier.
Final count: Monday 2/6/17 9am



THIRD WEDNESDAY WORSHIP



In the Chapel
118.17
6:00 - 6:30pm



The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church has called for the Annual Congregational Meeting to take place on Sunday, January 22, 2017. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual report including the budget, as well as approve the terms of call for the pastor.



INCOME & EXPENSES:

November - Income		November - Expenses	
Offering Envelopes	\$ 23,843.00	Missions	\$ 794.21
Loose Offerings	\$ 302.37	Session	\$ 754.06
Per Capita	\$ 120.00	Worship	\$ 2,569.14
Interest	\$ 0.00	Christian Education	\$ 2,895.30
Housing Allowance	\$ 500.00	Administration	\$ 7,026.61
Building Rental	\$ 300.00	Property	\$ 2,060.81
Fellowship	\$ 64.00	Deacon	\$ 0.00
		Pastoral	\$ 7,537.04
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 25,129.37	EXPENSES	\$23,637.17

Stewardship is a rewarding way of life in which your personal relationship with Jesus is enriched and deepened every day.



SCRIP PROFIT REPORT

Support our church throughout the year!

January	\$ 408.10	May	\$338.64	Sept.	\$303.92
February	\$ 395.67	June	\$289.06	Oct.	\$311.97
March	\$276.28	July	\$97.21	Nov.	\$430.74
April	\$390.89	August	\$138.26		

We encourage families to shop with Scrip and help support Grace Presbyterian Church in the process.

Everyone needs gas and groceries, why not order a Scrip card to use for these purchases? There are many local and non-local businesses that offer Scrip, so check out our Scrip order form at church or on-line on our web page www.bdgracechurch.org. Thank you to all who support Grace Presbyterian Church by purchasing Scrip!

Thank You...

I would like to take a moment to thank those of you who faithfully volunteer their time and talent to the weekly collection counting process. Your dedicated assistance is greatly valued and appreciated each and every week. The church is fortunate to have a strong core of dedicated people to assist in this important part of the church's life.

I will be sending out a new schedule for 2017 by the end of December. If any of your assigned dates don't work for you, please let me know or switch with someone on the list.
-- Paula Bartelt, Bookkeeper



2016 Offering Contributions

Complete your Pledges by December 31, 2016!

Grace Church depends on you completing your pledge commitments to meet our financial obligations, so please complete your 2016 offering pledges by year end.

You can put them in the offering plate on Sundays; mail it in (*postmarked ON or BEFORE* December 31st); or drop it off at the church office.

The last day for you to drop off any last minute contributions will be **Thursday, December 29, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM.**

Please note that the church office hours are limited during the week between Christmas and New Year's. Monday, December 26th the office will be closed and Tuesday – Thursday we are here from 7:00 AM till Noon. *Thank you!*

Let's start your New Year with signing up for **Direct Contribution Plan or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** For Your Sunday Offerings

The advantages to you would be:

- You never have to worry if you "forgot" your offering each Sunday.
- You will always be up to date and never behind with your offerings.
- One less check/payment you have to deal with.
- You decide how much and when the transfers will occur.

An authorization form will have to be set up and signed for those who are interested.

You decide on the frequency and amount being transferred. We will take care of the rest!

Please call the church office and ask for our bookkeeper, Paula Bartelt, to get set up.



2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2017 Offering envelopes are now available for you to pick up. Please be sure to start using your new envelopes in 2017! For those who are on our Direct Contribution Plan or (EFT), there will not be a box of envelopes with your name on it since your offerings are paid electronically. Thank you!

If you have not returned your 2017 Pledge and the Time/Talent Sheet to the church it is not too late!

Through pledging, we make a regular commitment to support the church. It causes us to be more connected and more attached to the activities and programs of the church.

For those who usually don't like to pledge, we invite you to consider making a commitment this year and see how it improves your relationship with the church and with Christ.

Are you interested in signing up for our electronic funds transfer (EFT)? Please contact the church office for a form to fill out.

Thank you to those who have already returned their 2017 Pledges!



MISSION NEWS

PAVE Wish List: For the month of **January**, PAVE wishes for **Gift cards for Fleet Farm or Menard's, bars of hand soap, toothpaste & toothbrushes, brooms or mops.**

Beaver Dam Food Pantry - Non-perishable and unexpired food items including canned goods, boxed meals, e.g., macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, canned and boxed juices, baking items and pancake mixes.

PAVE & Food Pantry bins are located next to the main parking lot entrance at the Church.

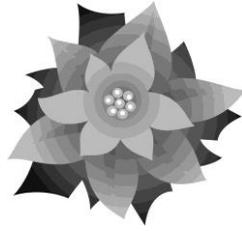
PROPERTY NEWS

As we enter the Christmas season and "winter in Wisconsin" we will be in need of volunteers to handle our snow removal from all sidewalks. If anyone can be of assistance please call either Howard Spinler @ 885-3272 or Wayne Schneider @ 920-344-5619, and we can get you set up. We will have a sign-up sheet in Narthex and you will be contacted for availability. We have been notified that our remainder roofing material has been delivered to our installer and we should see the roof over the social hall/office area completed soon. (Before Christmas) Also have been notified that the new Parking lot entrance doors will be installed week of 5-9 Dec. by Hometown. They will match the Narthex doors. A special Thank You to all the volunteers who contributed time and effort to help keep our facility in good shape this year. As we enter 2017 we will be addressing other projects to improve and maintain our facility as we strive to reduce exterior maintenance issues. Special note: Wendy Meier has taken on the project of "burning" the prairie garden, this requires some pre-work and she can use some extra hands, please call her to help.

-- Property Committee

Grace frequently uses images from church activities and events on our website, Facebook page, in the newsletter, and for promotional purposes.

If you do not wish for us to use your image please contact the office.



2016 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The following people made memorial donations toward poinsettias or brought their own plant to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas season. We extend appreciation to these people and we call to mind the importance of treasured memories of our loved ones. We also thank the Board of Deacons for delivering plants to the members who are on our Church Support List.

Given by

Myrt Beecher in memory of Bill Beecher

Bill & Lois Bradley in memory of Everett & Myrtie Bradley, Ken & Ruth Russell, Tony Westhuis

Kathi & Richard Gallus in memory of Virgil Sinner, Don & Rose Gallus

Doug, Susan, Aaron & Micah Ganske in memory of Louie & Barb Ganske, and

Sanford & Helen Disrud

Helen Glewen in memory of Claryn Glewen & Beth Glewen

Joan F. Goodrich in memory of Calvin "Kelly" Goodrich and Stanley & Warren Ganske

Scott & Sandy Hautamaki, LouAnn Muenchow, & Rose Cantafio in memory of Ryan Cantafio,

Dale Muenchow, Emily Muenchow, Bob Hautamaki, and Sandy Gant Muenchow

Harold & Carol Hicks in memory of Parents, Grandparents and Son

Richard & Mary Jacobs & family in memory of Carol Boviall & other beloved family & friends

John & Laurie Klinger in memory of Loved Ones

Norm & Joyce Klug in memory of Merlin & Etta Mae Klug, Herman & Clara Kloostra

Nancy Noordhof & Family in memory of Fred H. Noordhof

Bob, Brenda, Steven & Mitchell Propst in memory of James Pearson & Margaret Propst

Margaret Propst Family in memory of Margaret & other family members & friends

Bill & Sue Reifsnider in memory of Austin Reifsnider

Amy Rochester in memory of Parents

Jay & Barb Ruenger in memory of Don Dulas (Barb Ruenger's father)

Shiers in memory of John & Helen Lyon

Carol Taylor in memory of Taylor C. Taylor

Josie & Bud Turner in memory of Frank Woodworth and James Woodworth and LaGarda Turner

January Birthdays

5 - Judi Miller, Sofia Mohammed, Catie Wolc

6 - Lisa Amport

7 - Patricia Walden

8 - Pat Bird, Ellie Klug, Ron Mayberry, Mary Morgan

9 - Tammy Eilbes

10 - Kasandra Carrick, Emily Shier

12 - John Klinger, Susan Lord, Roy Marthaler

13 - Travis Malueg

14 - Ayanna Dahl, Libby Gartland

15 - Sandra Eckes, Richard Gallus

17 - Erin Braun, Scott Uhrich

18 - Marq Clawson, Helen Kasmiski

20 - CJ Ganske, Alyce Schoenwetter

23 - Jacob Anderson, Todd Apel, Mitchell Propst

24 - Louis Jung, Carley Schraufnagel

25 - Baylee Sheppard

26 - Alicia Rake

28 - Judy Jung

29 - Harold Hicks, Cindy Jameson, Jennifer Walter

31 - Audrey Unertl



OFFICE HOURS DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 2:

December 26 - office closed

December 27 - 29, office hours 7-12noon

January 2 - office closed

Don't Miss the



The next Courier deadline is January 16 for the February newsletter. Thanks!



J **JANUARY 2017**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30a Worship – Communion 	2 Office Closed	3 9:00p Mom’s Group 9:30a Senior Coffee	4 8:45a Meditation	5 7:00p Choir	6	7
8 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Worship – New Members 10:30a Christian Education 10:45a Confirmation Class – Parents Meeting	9 5:00p Stewardship Committee 6:00p Worship Committee 6:30p Deacons Meeting	10 9:00p Mom’s Group 9:00a 2 nd Tuesday Book Club 9:30a Senior Coffee 6:00p Personnel Committee	11 8:45a Meditation 6:00p Session Meeting	12 7:00p Choir	13	14
15 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Worship 10:30a Christian Education 10:45a Confirmation Class 10:45a Mystery Box Silent Auction	16 Newsletter Deadline 1:30p Hillside Manor Communion 	17 9:00p Mom’s Group 9:30a Senior Coffee	18 8:45a Meditation 6:00p 3 rd Wednesday Worship	19 7:00p Choir	20	21 Youth Cascade Trip
22 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Worship Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30a Christian Education 10:45a Confirmation Class	23 	COURIER 24 9:00p Mom’s Group 9:30a Senior Coffee	25 8:45a Meditation	26 7:00p Choir	27	28
29 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Worship 10:30a Christian Education 10:45a Confirmation Class	30	31 9:00p Mom’s Group 9:30a Senior Coffee				

