

December 2016

The Courier



"Called To Share God's Grace"
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THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
AT GRACE CHURCH

Sunday December 11: Christmas Choir Concert,
9:30a & 7:00p

Sunday December 18: 9:30a - Children & Youth
Christmas Program, Cookie Reception & Giving Tree
Wrapping party! Bring your favorite cookies to share!

Christmas Eve, December 24: Two Worship
Services - 5:00p & 8:00p

Sunday December 25: 9:30a Worship



Each month I try to reflect upon the many ways I've witnessed God's presence within the Grace community.
God has truly been present within our worship services. I was so excited that on Reformation Sunday we recognized our ancestral heritage and history as Presbyterians.
Many of you who worshipped that day wore plaid! This made me smile!! We were led in worship by Christopher Brand - Pipe Major of the Madison Pipes and Drums. I had fun sharing a brief "history" lesson about the Reformation. There was energy and excitement - so much so that many of you "got jiggy" during the last hymn!

On All Saints Day we gathered around the common table to celebrate communion as well as commemorate those who died in the Lord over the past year. I watched as many of you lit candles to remember those who were saints in your own life. On that day, the children led us in singing "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" and we commissioned Pat Lyon and Ruth Meylink to do God's work in Cambodia. Worship was busy and we went a wee bit over time - but every now and then I suppose that's OK!

On Monday, October 31, I participated with other area clergy in celebrating the Reformation at an ecumenical service held on the campus of Wayland Academy. Preaching that evening was an ELCA Bishop as well as a Catholic Bishop! What struck me was how two faith communities with a 500 year history of separation are truly making efforts to reconcile. The Spirit was truly present.

On October 30, approximately 350 community neighbors stopped by the church to participate in the Annual Trunk or Treat event. Many children as well as adults were dressed in costume. I truly think a good time was had by all. Sadly, my family didn't win the prize for best car!!!

Which leads me to reflect upon another event held at Grace Church. I am so happy for the leadership from our Fellowship Committee in hosting yet another successful Quarter Auction. Even though I stayed for only a few minutes, I hear those who attended enjoyed themselves. When our church is able to draw folks from within the Beaver Dam community the Spirit is truly at work.

The presence of the Spirit was also visible as we opened our doors to welcome groups like Leadership Beaver Dam, Green Valley, and as a site to host voting. As people of faith we are called to be hosts to those around us!

During the month of October, I made my way down to the University of Wisconsin - Madison to attend worship at the Pres House - a Presbyterian campus ministry. I was encouraged that roughly 60 students chose to worship mid-afternoon on a Sunday. I envision our church someday supporting this ministry as a mission.

Finally, I must share with you that I am truly excited that we are now in possession of an AED. An AED is an Automated External Defibrillator. Having this device will allow our congregation to respond on site to heart related emergencies. Thanks so much to Barb Rheingans for making this happen! Also thanks to Marla Noordhof for providing training in using the device.

Actually, I have one more Spirit spotting! I want to share that I've partnered with a teacher at Wayland Academy to host what we call FaithTime. For approximately one hour

students gather from various faith traditions, on the first Saturday at 4:00, to discuss how faith impacts life. This most recent interfaith dialogue consisted of Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and one from the Sikh religion. To gather in a safe space and learn from each other is so valuable. Through open conversation we learn that we have so much in common.

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

Welcome These New Members to Grace Presbyterian Church!

Sheri & Peter Brodzeller, Angela Heinbuch (husband Jonathan), James Schulz (Helen Glewen), Robert & Betty Stafford.

THIRD WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

In the Chapel

12.21.16
6:00 - 6:30pm



SECOND TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet Tuesday, December 13th at 9 AM. We will discuss the book, *Greek Treasure* by Irving Stone. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Ann Peck.

Future titles are:

January - *Without You There is No Us* by Suki Kim

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.

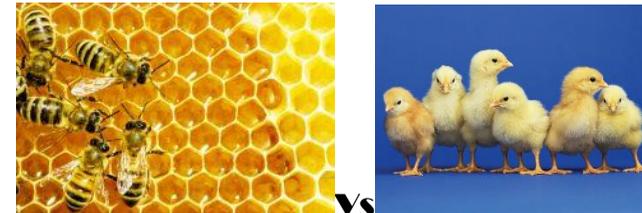


CHILDREN & YOUTH

Christmas Program December 18 -- 9:30a!!

There will be Special Practices for Grades 3k-4th Grade participating in the Children & Youth-led Christmas Worship Program 9:30 on Sunday 12/18
Please mark your schedule for your children to stay until 11:30 (from Sunday School) on 12/4, 12/11 and to be present for Final Rehearsal on SATURDAY 12/17 9:00-11:00am

Children's Ministry



Bees vs. Chicks! Are you up for a little competition? What's the buzz all about? We have an Eggcellent cause! Grace Christian Education Children's Ministry is sponsoring Heifer International this holiday season. Heifer International is a non-profit organization, winner of the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize, that allows us to sponsor an animal that will be given to a family in a part of the world where just one animal can be the difference between life and death of a hungry child. Through December 18, 2016, we are having a contest for who can raise more funds: the "bees" or the "chicks". Funds will be sent to Heifer International for the Gift of Honeybees (\$30 per hive) and "Flock of Chicks" (\$20 per flock).

The Gift of Honeybees provides a family with bees, a box and hive, and training in beekeeping. Because bees will pollinate the crops on a family's farm, a healthy beehive can double fruit and vegetable yields. Income from the sale of honey, wax, and pollen can be put toward food, clothing, medicine, and education. The gift of chicks will provide a family in need with a starter flock of 10 to 50 chicks and training for their care. Every egg is a nutritious gift for a hungry child. Since a good hen can lay more than 200 eggs a year, families can earn income to pay for clothing medicine, home improvements, drinking wells, and school fees.

Individuals are encouraged to sponsor Heifer International by gifting animals for Christmas presents and/or to participate in the Children's Mission we are facilitating.

Youth Ministry

SAVE THE DATE: Youth Mission Trip 6/10/17-6/17/17. Sioux Nation, SD. We're going to the reservation to work on home repair, constructing wheelchair ramps, building relationships, and opening our minds and hearts to another world! Early Bird Registration Deposit of \$89 due Dec 1.



Friday Dec 2
5-8pm
Grace Presbyterian Church
215 Gould St.
Beaver Dam
Bring your children for babysitting, dinner, games, crafts, & cartoons
\$7 per child
Ages infant-10 yr old

UPDATE ON RUTH & PAT'S MISSION TRIP TO CAMBODIA

Thank you to all people who gave soap, shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, tooth brushes and tooth paste. Between us, Ruth and I brought 196 pounds of pre-cut fabric and pins, band-aids, and liquids in small bottles in our suitcases. We came to the New Riverside as though in a dream. The 21 hours of air time had taken its toll on us. We rummaged through the suitcases trying to make sense of our new world. We were too tired and just fell to our beds. My last thought before falling asleep was that I would ask for empty boxes at the desk so we could sort our supplies.

Ruth has fallen in love with the breakfast buffet. That is another story. As we left the lobby, I put in a good word for some boxes.

When we returned in the late afternoon, I asked the new staff about boxes. At first I thought he understood. Then I realized he wanted to be a helpful person but had no idea about empty box. "Maybe box. What M.T.?"

So I try to illustrate empty box with story and gesture. I tell about a man that comes with a truck to bring soda or something for the bar. Then they have box empty. His brow furrowed. All I can think is empty tomb. I don't know how to tell a nice young Buddhist desk clerk about empty tomb. So I say lamely (is that a word?), "There is nothing in the box." Half an hour later, his assistant knocks on our door holding a small plastic tray for tooth brush holder. Oh, thank you so much, but bigger. Tom! Tom! "Oh, Ya, ya, ya." He says. Then another knock at the door. I am in my new \$3.00 swim suit and towel. I show him plastic bags with lotions, shampoo, these are the things I want to put in the box. I show him a cardboard box from my suitcase. "Like this. Need more and bigger."

When he returned for a third time, Ruth dealt with him. He brought a bigger plastic tray. Still no have empty box.

Today we met with Makara at Provincial Teacher's College. We set up our teaching schedule. We went to the market for present for students: Small clippers. We visited Manta and Rotney. We were measured for skirt and jacket. Many dogs and cats witnessed the whole thing.

Ruth is pleasantly amazed at everything and everyone. We have so many things we want to see and do we don't know where to start.

Pat

QUARTER AUCTION THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone that attended the Quarter Auction and made it successful event!

Also we made a total of \$835.25; with \$500 of it going towards the outdoor playground.

Julie Roberts, Fellowship Committee



Celebrating God's Grace at Christmastime

The Mission Committee and Youth are again sponsoring The Grace Giving Tree to provide presents to families who may not otherwise be able to provide for their children. We gather names of local families and their gift requests including gift cards for basic needs and these are hung on our Giving Tree in the Narthex. Please bring your unwrapped gifts with the tags to Grace Church by December 18 when Mission and Fellowship Committees will host a gift-

wrapping and **"Taste of Grace Christmas Reception"** for all members following Worship. Please bring your contributions of one dozen Christmas cookies or other goodies to the church kitchen before the service on December 18, and join us for holiday food, fun and fellowship!

If you have any questions, please contact: Patrice Vossekui: 920/858-9468;

pvossekui@iirp.edu, or Judy Douglas: 920/887-8958, judydouglas2327@yahoo.com.



Thanksgiving Meal Thanks

We appreciate all those who answered our call for donations to support the Thanksgiving meal outreach to our community. Thank you for your generosity with this mission. Thanks too, to all those who donate time and labor to the meal preparation and delivery.

From community recipients:

- Hi, I would like to thank everyone who helped get our meal ready. Being by myself it means so much to me. God Bless each one of you and also to those who delivered it to our door. Thank you so much, Betty Haefner
- The meal was great!! The girls who came were really nice. Thank you so much. This was a treat. It was so good. Thank you again. I know I didn't have to give, but I really do because it sure was nice of you all to do this. Bless all those helpers.
-- Clarisse Dean
- Also had a voicemail from Mary Frens expressing her appreciation for the wonderful meal.



THANK YOU TRUNK or TREAT VOLUNTEERS! Grace's annual Trunk or Treat was a huge success! Once again the friendly congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church opened its doors to the community and it's estimated that over 400 children were served a treat. That doesn't include parents, guardians and others who accompanied the children who were greeted with

a warm smile and welcome. Thank you to all those who donated candy, patience, time and energy to this event! We GREATLY appreciate it!!!!

Thank you EVERYONE!

Therese Henriksen and Jennifer Smith, Elders, Membership Committee

MISSION NEWS

PAVE Wish List: For the month of **December**, PAVE wishes for **bed pillows, printer paper, 13 gallon trash bags.**

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.



INCOME & EXPENSES:

October - Income

Offering Envelopes	\$ 23,520.01
Loose Offerings	\$ 466.75
Per Capita	\$ 0.00
Interest	\$ 0.00
Housing Allowance	\$ 500.00
Building Rental	\$ 300.00
Fellowship	\$ 71.00
Peace Making	\$ 573.00

TOTAL INCOME \$ 25,430.76

October - Expenses

Missions	\$ 1,118.08
Session	\$ 174.75
Worship	\$ 1,930.93
Christian Education	\$ 3,349.26
Administration	\$ 7,407.79
Property	\$ 3,762.23
Deacon	\$ 25.23
Pastoral	\$ 7,107.41

EXPENSES \$24,875.68

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		
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!

You're invited!

You are invited to join the members and friends of Grace Presbyterian Church who are "**Called to Share God's Grace**"

We have 50% returned leaving 50% still out.

The 2017 Time & Talent and Pledge cards were mailed out last month. The Stewardship Committee is inviting you to join us by giving of your time, talents and your financial resources to Grace Church. If you have not pledged in the past - Now is the time to do so!

Please fill out and return your Time & Talent sheet and pledge cards to the church today!

An easy way to fulfill your financial pledge is to sign up for our "Direct Contribution Plan". Please call the church office and ask for our bookkeeper, Paula Bartelt, to get started.

Thank you to those who have already returned your Pledge and Time & Talent Sheets!



stewardship

Why Pledge?

Pledging gives the church a priority in our lives. It is part of our covenant of faith. Since, as Christians, we believe that God gave us the greatest gift possible in God's Son, Jesus, our response to God should be first, not last.

Making a commitment in the form of a pledge helps us to be regular and systematic in our giving and lets our congregation know that it can count on our financial support barring any unusual circumstances. Our commitment becomes planned and not just a part of what is left over after all our other pledges have been met.



OFFICE HOURS DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 2:

December 26 - office closed

December 27 - 29, office hours 7-12noon

January 1 - office closed

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.



8th Annual Red Kettle Concert

Sunday December 4, 4:00p at the Beaver Dam High School

Free concert to benefit the Dodge County Salvation Army. Donations accepted. The money raised at the concert stays in Dodge County. Featuring: Church vocal choirs, handbell choirs, Community Choir, instrumental group & special guest musicians!

Grace Presbyterian Church

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016



Grace Adult Vocal Choir

Directed by Cheryl Zeman

Accompanist - Karyssa Dittman

Two Opportunities!



9:30 AM during Sunday Worship & 7:00 PM

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

The next Courier newsletter will be published mid-December for January. Please have any and all submissions in by Monday December 12. Thanks!

Silica is again offering their Pay It Forward Event

From December 2 thru December 11, all purchases made at *Silica For Your Home* could benefit Grace Church. For purchases made, YOU will receive 5% off appliances & electronics and 10% off furniture and bedding. Then, an additional 5% of the purchase (pre-tax) will be donated to a charity (Grace Church!) of your choice! If you have been thinking of purchasing appliances, electronics, a quality gas grill, furniture or bedding, don't miss this opportunity. Save now and donate to Grace Church at the same time!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 - Jeff Braun

4 - Tracy Haucke

7 - Kathi Gallus, Archer Schlagel, Molly Wissell

8 - Dan Bird, Jenny Wolc

10 - Jeremy Slayton

12 - Stacy Beaudry

13 - David Walter, Jr.

14 - Jessica Soblewski

16 - Shirley Bird, Mackenzie Schraufnagel

17 - Ashley Bird, Sheila DaValt, Charlene Kikkert, Shirley Maas

18 - Ted Meekma, James Schultz, Joe Wilson

20 - Holly Bartholmai, Rick Eckes, Rebecca Schultz

21 - Norm Klug, Brandon LeBeau, Richard McMahon

23 - Craig Hummelmeier, Susan Janssen, Barb Rheingans

24 - Joy Kikkert

25 - Ava Henriksen, William Snell

26 - Mya Gartland, Norman Horn

27 - Ronda Schuett

29 - Brylee Quiring, Tom Willihnganz

31 - Doug Mathison, Liz Wilson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	2 Office Closed 5-8p Parent's Night Out – Youth Babysitting Fundraiser	3
4 8:45a Choir 9:30a Worship - Communion 10:30a Christian Education 4:00p Red Kettle Concert at High School	5 6:00p Worship Committee 6:30p Reading Reflection Group- <i>The Year Without a Purchase</i>	6 9:00a Mom's Group 9:30a Senior Coffee	7 8:45a Meditation 5:30p Stewardship Committee	8 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	9 Office Closed	10 10-12a Choir Rehearsal
11  8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Choir Christmas Worship 10:30a Christian Education 7:00p Choir Concert	Don't Miss the DEADLINE! 12 January Newsletter Deadline! 6:30p Reading Reflection Group- <i>The Year Without a Purchase</i>	13 9:00a Mom's Group 9:00a 2 nd Tuesday Book Club 9:30a Senior Coffee 6:00p Personnel Committee	14 8:45a Meditation 6:00p Session Meeting	15 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	16 Office Closed	17 9-11a Children & Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal
18  Giving Tree Gifts Due 9:30a Children & Youth Led Christmas Worship 10:30a All Church Fellowship –Cookies & Giving Tree Gift Wrapping	19 DEC./JAN. COURIER 1:30p Hillside Manor Communion 6:30p Reading Reflection Group- <i>The Year Without a Purchase</i>	20 9:00a Mom's Group 9:30a Senior Coffee	21 8:45a Meditation 6-6:30p 3 rd Wednesday Worship 	22 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	23 Office Closed	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00p Christmas Worship 7:15p Choir Rehearsal 8:00p Christmas Worship
 25  9:30a Worship No Christian Ed today-Holiday Break	26 Office Closed Today	27 9:00a Mom's Group 9:30a Senior Coffee Office Hours 7-12	28 8:45a Meditation Office Hours 7-12	29 Office Hours 7-12	30 Office Closed	31 

