

December 2018



*"Called To Share God's Grace"*  
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Volume 117, Issue 11



## Grace Presbyterian Christmas Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018, 9:30 AM

GRACE ADULT VOCAL CHOIR. Directed by Cheryl Zeman

ACCOMPANIST, Kristie Estervig



### CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP

#### AT GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Sunday, December 16: 9:30a - Children & Youth*

*Christmas Program, Cookie Reception & Giving Tree Wrapping party! Bring your favorite cookies or treats to share!*

*December 23, 4th Sunday in Advent: 9:30a*

*Christmas Eve Worship: 5:00p Worship with Children's Moment: 7:00p Lessons & Carols*

**JOIN US!**



### Dear Friends -

What does Christmas mean to you? For some, Christmas is about being together with family and friends. Others look upon Christmas as a deeply spiritual time of singing carols and attending worship. There are those of us who get caught up in the frantic chaos and preparation of the season. Sadly, there are those who approach the Christmas season enshrouded in darkness and loneliness. Children view Christmas as a time to give and receive gifts. Christmas means many things to many people.

### What does Christmas mean?

As people of faith Christmas is about...Great Joy! Emmanuel - God with us! Christmas is about God sending God's son to live among us - to enter into our very lives. Through the birth of Jesus, we as humanity will be given a glimpse of what the kingdom of God will look like. Christmas is about hope and anticipation of unconditional love.

I encourage you this Christmas season to attend worship each Sunday at 9:30. On the 9th the Choir will lead us. On the 16th young people will lead us. On Thursday, the 20th we will gather for a special Blue Christmas Service. And, on Christmas Eve we will gather at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Both services will have communion and candle light. The 7:00 pm service is our Annual Lessons and Carols Service.

If you are away from Grace Church, I still encourage you to attend worship on Christmas Eve. On Sunday, the 30th, I invite you to attend worship where we will sing beloved carols and hymns of the season. And, even though January 6th seems like a long time away, we will celebrate Epiphany - the day in which those traveling from afar arrive at the manger!

During this season of Christmas, may you allow yourself to enter into the familiar story. May you live with joy and peace! May you come to know love that only God can reveal!

Merry Christmas and Peace to you all!  
Pastor Chris

### Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting

During December worship, our youth will light the Advent candles as a sign of the coming of the light of Christ: December 2, 9, 16, 23 and Christmas Eve, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.





Blue Christmas Service

Dec. 20, 2018

7:00pm

The session of Advent and Christmas is a time of expectation, waiting, and celebration. Parties and “merriment” are the “norm.” Yet, not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. For some, the season of Christmas is not the most wonderful time of the year. Many within our congregation are dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations. This is a blue time of year - a time of feeling out of sorts and disconnected. With this in mind you are invited to join us in the sanctuary on December 20th at 7:00pm for a time of reflection, prayer, readings, and listening. This will be a time of “being with each other in a sacred space.” All are welcome.

## Christmas Brunch Potluck and Caroling

*Sunday, December 9*



Christmas Brunch

**Update!!**

Please join our Grace family for a **Christmas Brunch** after worship, before we set out for caroling at Charleston House, Stone Terrace and Hillside Manor at 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee is providing pizza, and we ask that you bring a “brunchy” entrée or dessert. Something for everyone! Items can be dropped off at our kitchen the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> for reheating and serving. Thank you!



## Grace Giving Tree & Gift Wrapping & Cookie Reception



Giving Tree

*December 16*

Choose from ornaments requesting specific gifts for area needful children and families. Join together after worship on **December 16** to wrap gifts and share in a holiday Cookie Reception! Please drop off your treats in the kitchen the morning of December 16.

**ATTENTION Grace Bakers!!!** - Please drop off your cookie, candy or snack donations in the Grace kitchen from December 12-16 to share at our Cookie Reception and gift-wrapping!

## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



*December 16 during worship*

Sunday schoolers, teachers and music director Kristie are busy preparing for our Christmas Program **December 16** during worship. We'll be rehearsing during Sunday School **December 2 and 9 with our final dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 15 at 1 p.m.**, in the Sanctuary. We'd love for all Grace children and youth to take part... acting and music skills not necessary!



### SECOND TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 9 AM in the room across from the kitchen. Join us some time. For more information, call Ann Peck.

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.



### Gracie's Closet



*Update re: Grace Clothes Closet at Second Harvest*

Second Harvest Food Pantry has moved from the Dodge County Fairgrounds to Moraine Park Technical College. Grace Clothes Closet has been moved to our Rec Room at Grace Church in the CE Wing and is open every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 8:30-11:30am, beginning December 8. All help is appreciated at MPTC or Gracie's Closet!!



**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		October Expenses	
Offering Envelopes	\$ 13,851.00	Missions	\$ 903.33
Loose Offerings	\$ 358.02	Session	\$ 576.27
Per Capita	\$ 0.00	Worship	\$ 2,829.38
Building Rental	\$ 0.00	Christian Education	\$ 2,873.49
Housing Allowance	\$ 500.00	Administration	\$ 8,786.47
Scrip Program	\$ 533.78	Property	\$ 2,199.14
Fellowship	\$ 94.46	Deacon	\$ 3.79
Peacemaking	\$ 280.00	Pastoral	\$ 7,340.88
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 15,617.26</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$25,512.75</b>



### TIME & TALENT and PLEDGE CARDS "Called to Share God's Grace"



The 2019 Time & Talent and Pledge cards were mailed out last month. We have 56% returned leaving 44% still out. The Stewardship Committee is asking that you prayerfully fill out and return these forms to the church as soon as possible so we can finalize the budgeting process with the most accurate information.

Through pledging and giving of your "Time and Talents", 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.

**Thank you to those who have returned your Pledge card and Time & Talent Sheets.**

#### 2019 Pledge Summary @ 11/26/18

	# Units	Total Pledged	
Pledge cards NOT returned	89	\$0.00	43.6%
Returned card with \$0 Pledge	8	\$0.00	3.9%
\$1 - \$1,040	53	\$23,849.00	26%
\$1,041 - \$3,120	37	\$71,864.00	18.1%
\$3,121 - \$5,200	7	\$30,520.00	3.4%
\$5,201 - & up	10	\$110,118.00	4.9%
<b>Total Pledge Units</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>\$236,351.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Family of Grace Fund

The Family of Grace Fund was established by Session in 1999 after a recommendation from the Mission Chair to provide emergency financial needs of members or parishioners of Grace Presbyterian Church. The church developed this fund through special contributions for the sole purpose of providing emergency financial aid to members and parishioners who are unfortunate enough to need help.

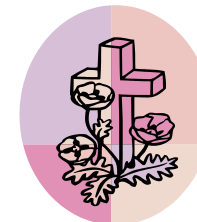
We recognized that unexpected events can result in a financial burden. Often, expenses cannot be met in the usual manner and no alternatives are available. The circumstance behind the need is not as important as the need itself. What is important, is that Grace Church provides help to our "family."

Throughout the years, we have assisted 34 individuals/families with over \$30,000 in financial aid for a variety of things such as: medical bills, dental, pharmacy, energy bills, rent, gas and food. Some of these individuals have repaid what they could even though it is considered a gift and not a loan.

As a congregation we are called to share God's grace. Sometimes this even means sharing God's grace within our own "family." Since we believe this fund is vital both to our church and the spiritual growth of our members we have decided to remind our members that this Mission is primarily funded by our generous members and has ongoing needs to keep it funded.

Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to the *Family of Grace Fund*. Your gift directly assists those in need within our own church family. Every gift is appreciated and no amount is too small to make a difference.

### Memorials Received



Gifts to the church are a wonderful way of honoring the memory of those we love and cherish. The family may direct these gifts to a specific or unrestricted fund.

Grace Presbyterian Church recently received cash memorial gifts in Memory of **Bill Reifsnider**. We are very grateful for these gifts in memory of loved ones.



**ShopWithScrip®**  
Powered by Great Lakes Scrip Center

**Great  
Christmas  
Gifts!**

Everyone needs gas and groceries, and this time of year **Christmas gifts!** 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](http://www.bdgracechurch.org). Thank you to all who support Grace Presbyterian Church by purchasing Scrip!

## Qualified Charitable Distributions For Charitable Giving

***Due to the tax law changes this year, why not consider making a contribution to Grace Presbyterian Church through a Qualified Charitable Distribution.***

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. A QCD can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions for the year.

In addition to the benefits of giving to Grace Church, this distribution excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may generate other income tax benefits.

QCDs don't require that you itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving. One of the requirements is that you must be 70 ½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.

If a QCD would seem right for you, contact your financial advisor for more information.

## Let's Make your Busy Life Easier!

Consider using our  
**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.

## Communication Please ☺

Church items are going missing! If you are plan on borrowing anything from the church please contact the church office before you freely take what you need. Items such as tables, chairs, kitchen supplies, yes even vacuum cleaners, are being taken without prior knowledge. Life is much easier when we know where things are!!

## THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING December 23

"Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15



The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus, the truly indescribable gift, and also celebrates our church leaders – past, present and future.

### Did you know?

- The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's.
- Half the offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to give critical financial help to church workers and their families in time of need.
- Half the offering supports Presbyterian-related schools to provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

During Advent worship services, there will be bulletin inserts about the Joy Offering. You will read about church workers receiving the generosity of the church and students whose lives are changed due to educational opportunities.

Thank you for your support of this life-changing offering.

Mission Committee

## 2018 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE KIOSKS.

### DO YOU SING OR PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?



We would like to compile a list of people who have musical talents and would be willing to share their gifts during worship services. All ages, instruments, and musical abilities are encouraged to participate. As music is planned throughout the year, this will help us find musicians to complement our music ministry. Please email Worship Coordinator, Kristie Estervig, at [kristie608@gmail.com](mailto:kristie608@gmail.com) for more information and to get signed up.

# Lessons & Carols

You are invited to the **Wayland Academy 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols** on Sunday, December 9 at 4:00pm and 7:00pm in Kimberly Chapel on the Wayland Academy campus in Beaver Dam. Lessons and Carols is a service celebrating the birth of Jesus. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of

Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. The service is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Andrew Estervig at 920-356-2120 x254 or [aestervig@wayland.org](mailto:aestervig@wayland.org).



- 1 - Chris Cole
- 3 - Jeff Braun
- 4 - Tracy Haucke
- 7 - Kathi Gallus, Archer Schlagel, Molly Wissell
- 8 - Dan Bird, Jenny Wolc
- 10 - Jeremy Slayton
- 11 - Violet Buchda
- 12 - Stacy Beaudry, Rita Schram
- 13 - David Walter, Jr.
- 14 - Jessica Soblewski
- 16 - Shirley Bird, Mackenzie Schraufnagel
- 17 - Ashley Bird, Sheila DaValt, Shirley Maas
- 18 - Ted Meekma, James Schultz, Joe Wilson
- 19 - Marty Magalsky, Evelyn Westergaard
- 20 - Holly Bartholmai, Rick Eckes
- 21 - Norm Klug, Brandon LeBeau, Richard McMahon
- 23 - Craig Hummelmeier, Susan Janssen, Barb Rheingans
- 24 - Joy Kikkert
- 25 - Peter Brodzeller, Ava Henriksen, William Snell
- 26 - Mya Gartland
- 27 - Ronda Schuett
- 29 - Brylee Quiring, Tom Willihnganz
- 31 - Doug Mathison, Liz Wilson



## CAN YOU HELP WITH SNOW REMOVAL?

The Property Committee is looking for volunteers for 1 inch of snow or less. K & B will be taking care of amounts more than an inch. An inch or less we need help with sidewalk snow removal & salting. This includes all sidewalks around the building.

Please sign up for a week at a time, for a period beginning on Sunday, 6am and ending on Saturday 8pm. Tractor w/blade, snow blower, salt and shovels are in the garage. Any questions, please call Rich @ 920-210-6779. Thank you!



## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Kettle Concert

Free Concert to benefit the Dodge County Salvation Army

Donations will be accepted

*Sunday December 2 @ 4:00*

Beaver Dam High School Auditorium

Featuring Church Vocal Choirs, Handbell Choirs, Community Choir, Instrumental Groups. Special guests: Connor Klavekoske and John Landdeck.



A thank you was received from **PAVE** for the donation of food and household items that Grace Church donated to the food pantry in Beaver Dam in the month of August.



**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MONDAY DECEMBER 10 FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE OF THE COURIER.**



## OFFICE HOURS DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 1:

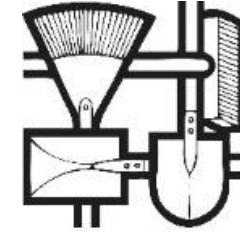
- December 25 - office closed
- December 26 - office closed
- December 27 - office hours 7-12
- December 31 - office hours 7- 12
- January 1 - office closed



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - November 2018

- Communion Report: October 7 worship – 89, October 10 Charleston House Communion, 3 were served with Jim Campbell assisting. October 15 Hillside Manor Communion, 5 were served.
  - Presby 202 will be happening in the near future.
  - Giving Tree is set up with thanks to Pete and Cheri Brodzellar. Fellowship Cookie Reception and Gift Wrapping will take place on December 16 after worship.
  - There will be Christmas caroling at The Charleston House and Hillside Manor/Stone Terrace.
  - Advent candle lighting will be presented by the youth and children, December 2 – 23/24.
  - Children, youth and family Christmas program will be December 16 during worship.
  - Fellowship Committee is in need of new members. If interested, please contact Tracy Hauke.
  - Please return your pledge cards. If it is a \$0 pledge or a \$20,000 pledge, the church needs to know for budget purposes.
  - Nancy Notion's will rent space for their sewing weekend May 1 – 4, 2019.
  - Social Hall renovation plans have been finalized and we are next in line with the contractor.
  - A \$2,000 donation to Grace was made by a member family to be used towards clean up and landscaping of the north side of the building.
  - 11/18 – JP Kastner will be sharing his faith story of hiking the Pacific Crest Trail.
  - 11/25 – Christ the King Sunday will be led by Pat Lyon.
- Christmas at Grace**
- 12/2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
  - 12/9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – choir led service
  - 12/16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – children led service
  - 12/20 – “Blue Christmas Service” @ 7 pm.
  - 12/23 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
  - 12/24 – Christmas Eve Services with communion.
    - 5 pm Children's Moment led by Jacqueline Davis.
    - 7 pm Lessons and Carols
  - 12/25 – Christmas Day (no service)
  - 12/30 – Hymn Sing

*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.*



## Property Workday

Thank you for all  
your help!!

We couldn't do it  
without you!







## Poinsettia ORDERS

The Worship Committee is coordinating the purchase of Christmas poinsettias for sanctuary decoration and as memorials for our loved ones.

If you would like a memorial poinsettia, please mark your donation (\$13.00) for "Christmas Poinsettia" including the name(s) of the person(s) to be listed in memory.

Or you may purchase your own poinsettia and bring it to the church.

Be sure to fill out this form with the name(s) of the person(s) to be remembered or honored and return it to the office.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_





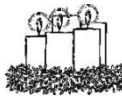







Please check one below:

- ☐ I am purchasing a plant through the Church, attached is \$13.00
- ☐ I am purchasing my own plant and will bring it to church.
- ☐ I will take my plant home after the holidays.
- ☐ Give my plant to a shut-in after the holidays.

***Please turn in your donation and this form to the church office no later than Sunday, Dec. 2.***



# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship – Communion 10:45a Sunday Classes <b>4:00p Red Kettle Concert at BDHS</b> 	3 3:00p Men's Study Group 5:00p Community Meal at Watermark	4 9:30a Senior Coffee 6:00p Worship Committee	5 8:45a Meditation	6 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	7 Office Closed	8 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Pantry at Moraine Park Technical College <b>Gracie's Closet here at Grace Church</b>
 9 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a <b>Choir Christmas Concert</b> 10:30a <b>Christmas Potluck Brunch</b> 10:45a Sunday Classes 12:30p <b>Christmas Caroling!</b> 	10 <b>Newsletter deadline</b> 3:00p Men's Study Group - Last 5:00p Stewardship Committee	11 9:00a Second Tuesday Book Club 9:30a Senior Coffee 6:00p Personnel Committee	12 8:45a Meditation 1:30p Charleston House Communion 6:00p Session Meeting	13 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	14 Office Closed	15 1:00p Christmas Program Rehearsal 
 16 9:30a <b>Children, Youth &amp; Family Christmas Program</b> 10:45a <b>Giving Tree Celebration &amp; Cookie Reception</b> 	17 1:30p Hillside Manor Communion 5:00p Community Meal at Watermark	18 <b>Courier</b> 9:30a Senior Coffee	19 8:45a Meditation	20 7:00p Choir Rehearsal  <b>Blue Christmas</b> <b>7:00p Blue Christmas Worship Service</b>	21  <b>First Day of Winter</b> Office Closed	22
23 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 10:45a Sunday Classes 	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5:00p Christmas Eve Worship 7:00p Lessons & Carols Christmas Eve Worship 	25  <b>Merry Christmas</b>	26 Office Closed	27 Office Hours 7-12	28 Office Closed	29
30 9:30a Worship – Hymn Sing 	31 3:00p Abby Klodowski/Nick Schulz <b>Wedding</b>					<div>2018</div>