



⁹So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the Levitical priests, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel. ¹⁰Then Moses commanded them: “At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Festival of Tabernacles, ¹¹when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing. ¹²Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. ¹³Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.” (Deuteronomy 31:9-13)

Renewing Our Covenant

One of the traditions of the Methodist movement is a yearly renewal of our covenant with God. I will let the words from a portion of the renewal service speak for themselves:

“Brothers and sisters in Christ,
the Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God.
Through baptism, we have entered this life
and have been admitted into the new covenant
of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator.
He sealed it with his own blood, that it might last for ever.
On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ,
the Source and Perfecter of our faith.
On the other side, we are pledged
to live no more for ourselves but only for Jesus Christ,
who loved us and gave himself for us.
From time to time we renew our covenant with God,
especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant
and gather at the Lord's table.”

As we prepare to begin a new year together let us renew our covenant between ourselves and God. Let us be joined together by our common faith and vision as we seek to love God, love our neighbors, and love ourselves.

In Christ,

Pastor Jared

AMAZING GRACE SENIORS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Twenty six Amazing Grace Seniors gathered at the church on December 5th for their annual Christmas Dinner. The group enjoyed a remarkable lunch served by Creative Catering. Then Gale Spatafore led us in a story of The Night Before Christmas with gifts being passed around every time she said the word “the”. Gifts were items from home that you no longer wanted. A great time was had by all present.



Our January meeting will be held at Scrambler Maries in Belden Village on January 2, 2020

Happening at Grace

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Come and join us on **Sunday, January 19, 2020 10:15 - 10:45am** in the Youth Room (Café Grace, room 103) for Coffee, Cookies and Fellowship. **Everyone is welcome!**

This is an ongoing event and is usually the 3rd Sunday of each month unless otherwise advertised. Please join us and get to know other members of the church. Please see Amanda de Fays or Diane Spencer if you have any questions or would like to get involved.



To the Congregation at Grace United Methodist Church,

I want to thank all of you so much for the Thanksgiving Basket. It was so thoughtful and very much appreciated.

Thank you,
Rebecca Walker

A BIG Thank you

Have you seen the big new sign in front of the church? It was installed on Saturday, December 21st and lit on Monday December 23rd. We would like to thank the following people for donating to purchase the sign. \$20,000 was donated by this group. Not one cent came from the church finances.

Those we thank are Sandra Lutz, Alex Cucerzan, Leland and Diane Spencer, Mel and Louise Lindberg, The Legacy Fund and the Kiehl Fund. We thank Lorrie Harbert for getting in working in time for Christmas.

We pray that this will attract the attention of the community and they will stop in and visit with us on Sunday mornings.

Missions

Rides for Church

We have 2 to 4 people who are residents of The Inn at Whitewood Village who would love to come to our 10:45 Service on Sundays to worship with us. If there is anyone who would be able to give them a ride on Sunday mornings, even if it is just occasionally, please call the church office at 330-499-2330. We would love to be able to arrange rides for these individuals who are unable to drive for themselves.

A SPECIAL LETTER FROM A FRIEND

Greetings,

Sometimes church members feel unimportant and decide to quit the church because people don't appreciate them. A homely story illustrates the unchristian nature of "quitting":

A new church building had been built. People came from near and far to see it. They admired the beauty of the windows, the fancy woodworking throughout, the beautiful carpet on the floor. The preachers admired the handsome pulpit with its Bible prominently displayed.

Up on the roof a little nail held a shingle down. The little nail heard the people praising everything; but no one said a word about it; no one seemed to realize the little nail even existed. It was jealous and angry and said, "If I am insignificant, nobody will miss me if I quit..."

So the little nail pulled out of the shingle and fell to the ground. One night a storm came, blew the shingle off the roof and came through one of the stained-glass windows. The blowing rain leaked through the roof where the shingle had been, causing plaster to fall and stain the nice carpet. Even the Bible was ruined by the leak in the roof caused by the missing shingle that wasn't held in place by the little nail. Much of the church building was ruined because one nail felt its job wasn't important enough or recognized enough, so it quit.

And what about the nail? While in the shingle it was obscure. But useful. Buried in the mud it was just as obscure, but useless and was eventually eaten by rust.

The next time you hear of a church member quitting because of some slight or supposed neglect by others or because of disappointment in the church, tell them about the little nail. In Corinthians 12;14-27 the apostle Paul explains that every member of the body, no matter how insignificant they may seem, is necessary to the church, which is the body of Christ, purchased by His own blood.

See You Sunday

1/1 Scott Boli I
 1/1 Marcella Corzine
 1/1 Conner Heighton
 1/1 Raith Pendleton
 1/1 James Speakman
 1/2 Drew Kocher
 1/3 Daniel George
 1/5 David Allen
 1/6 Lindsay Bennett
 1/6 Doug Odegard
 1/6 Christopher Raskow
 1/7 Jane Crist
 1/7 Evan Hathaway
 1/8 Janell Gross
 1/8 Scott Malik
 1/8 Connor Powers
 1/8 Hunter Powers
 1/8 Daniel Soule
 1/9 Angie Hazen
 1/9 Lisa Kirkpatrick
 1/10 Erica Carl
 1/10 Judy Carl
 1/10 David Edwards
 1/11 Emily Burns
 1/11 Nancy Rouser
 1/12 Bert Alessandro
 1/12 Tyler Barker
 1/12 Lynne Figola
 1/12 Anissa Miller
 1/13 Donetta Weaver
 1/14 Mandy Daugherty
 1/16 Maxwell Ionno

1/16 William Lacy
 1/17 Joy Castle
 1/17 Shaun Fessler
 1/18 Becky Barnhart
 1/18 Zachary Brock
 1/18 Sharon French
 1/18 Betsy Immel
 1/18 Cooper Wick
 1/19 Emily Boli
 1/19 Scott Lexzczynski
 1/20 Mariah Bell
 1/20 Lanie Crawl
 1/20 Arthur Rondini
 1/21 Ron Barker
 1/21 Matthew McHenry
 1/21 Randy Schaffner
 1/21 Jodi Taylor
 1/22 Renee Casey
 1/22 Elena Guevara
 1/22 Halle Hatfield
 1/22 David Kocher
 1/23 Thomas Burke
 1/24 Andrew Cramer
 1/25 Leslie Haynam
 1/25 Era Lynn Tripp
 1/26 Ann Jones
 1/27 Drew Takacs
 1/28 Rosie Whipkey

PASTOR
Rev. Dr. Jared Williams

**CHOIR DIRECTOR &
 ORGANIST**
Matt Brown

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH
 MINISTRY**
Kelli Law

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Lorrie Harbert

MAILING COORDINATOR
Judy Carl

CUSTODIAN
Paula Blaine

**CONTEMPORARY
 WORSHIP LEADER**
Alex Evanoff

CHURCH COUNCIL
Diane Spencer

**STAFF PARISH
 RELATIONS**
Sandy Lutz

TRUSTEES
Lee Spencer

FINANCE
Bill Lacy

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OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

MISSION:

*The mission of Grace UMC is
to take the love of Jesus Christ
to all people.*

VISION:

*The vision of Grace UMC
is to love God, love our
neighbors, and love ourselves.*

SERVICE TIMES:

8:00 Traditional Service in the
Chapel

9:15 Contemporary Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:45 Traditional Service in the
Sanctuary