



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1333 FREEPORT ROAD
NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA 15065
Address Service Requested
DATED MATERIAL

Especially for



NEWS from the Pews

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For several months, I have been participating in a clergy group focusing on the first year of ministry in a new appointment. Our most recent session had us discussing disciple-making. We discovered a shared frustration regarding this topic: We never seem to define what a disciple is, so how do we know we are accomplishing the task?

You may recall that I have chosen to use the following definition of discipleship:

Discipleship is the process of learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus of Nazareth by intentional engagement in the following itself. It is the process of discovering 1) who Jesus is; 2) who his followers must therefore be; and 3) the nature and content of God's Good News as announced by Jesus and expounded by his earliest disciples.

As our group talked, though, we came to a rather simple conclusion. *We know we are accomplishing our mission to make disciples when we see people becoming more like Christ.* We must recognize first that the Holy Spirit of God alone causes this "becoming." Human beings, no matter how pious or dedicated, are powerless to bring about this transformation. Nevertheless, each follower of Jesus must make space in his or her own life for the Spirit to work—that is, he or she must cooperate with God's gracious work. Here is the place to talk about disciple-making, and thankfully, we already have the tools for the job.

How do we make space for the Spirit's transforming grace? We commit more and more to following Christ intentionally, disciplining ourselves using tried and true "recipes" inherited from those who have journeyed with Christ before us. Indeed, the name Methodist was thrust upon us precisely because we followed such a recipe, the foundation of which is seen in *The General Rules of the United Societies*:

There is one only condition previously required in those who desire admission into these societies—a desire "to flee from the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins:" But wherever this is really fixed in the soul, it will be shown by its fruits. It is therefore expected of all who continue therein, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, **First, by doing no harm**, by avoiding evil in every kind... **Secondly, by doing good**, by being in every kind, merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as is possible, to all men... **Thirdly, by attending upon all the ordinances of God** [prayer (in worship and in private), searching the scriptures (in worship and in private), Holy Communion, fasting/abstinence, and holy conferencing (fellowship of believers)].

These three rules will help each of you to engage intentionally in following Jesus Christ. Let us commit to them as we begin to reclaim our call to make disciples of our Lord.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Andy

January
2019

1333 Freeport Road, Natrona Heights, PA 15065
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724-224-7663

<https://www.gracechurch-today.org/>

METHODIST CHURCH

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

COMMUNION STEWARD

January 2019 ~ Jamie Tinnemeyer

February ~ Walter Rutkowski

COUNTERS

Date	Volunteer
1/06	Schrecengost/ Walter Rutkowski
1/13	Carolyn Rutkowski/Joyce Euler
1/20	Sue Herman/ Justin Tinnemeyer
1/27	Lois Gigler/Susan Parker

LAY READERS

Date	Volunteer
1/06	George Reese
1/13	Howard Russell
1/20	Linda Schaefers
1/27	Joanne Maeder

Acolytes

Date	Volunteer
1/06	Skylar Brown
1/13	Sierra Brown
1/20	Haiden Ball
1/27	Ariel Rhine

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Date	Volunteer
1/06	No Sunday School
1/13	Linda Schaefers
1/20	Carol Peters
1/27	Jamie Tinnemeyer

ANNIVERSARIES

Joel and Peggy Helgert 01/01

BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Davis 01/03
 Laura Ciuchta 01/04
 Sandra Capo 01/07
 Gavin Nist 01/11
 William Menhart 01/12
 Marjorie Rider 01/12
 Man Ann Selfridge 01/15
 Kris Ekas 01/17
 Gay Dequinze 01/18
 Nancy Thompson 01/21
 Mary Lou Schott 01/31

**If we did not include your birthday or anniversary, it is because we do not have the date on file. If you want your birthday and anniversary published, be sure that the office is informed.

GRACE EVENTS

- **Administrative Council Meeting** – January 22, 2019 at 6:30pm
- **Just Lunch** – Will return in January (Look for announcement in the bulletin and on the calendar online www.gracechurch-today.org)
- **AUTO GIVE** – This is away you can assure your donations to the church are received even when you are not able to attend service. If you have questions or would like to set up auto give see Grace UMC chair of Finance, Linda Schaefers.

MEMBERS AT HOME

Find time to send a card/letter or visit these members of our church family.

Date	Name and Address
1/13	Vivian Watts 327 Red Pump Road Bel Aire, MD 21014
1/20	Vie Riemer 522 Cumberland Woods Village Allison Park, PA 15101
1/27	Lucy Croker 598 Parker Road Sarver PA 16055
	Maxine Kish 1330 Twelfth Avenue Natrona Heights PA 15065
	Margaret Jezik 100 Vernon Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15228
1/6	Sherry and Gary Cullen 139 Clarendon Avenue Lower Burrell PA 15068
1/13	William Murdock 214 Vista Drive Apollo, PA 15613
1/20	Lois Gaskell 2503 Buchman Street Natrona Heights, PA 15065
	Deborah Davidowski 1456 Donnellville Road Natrona Heights, PA 15065
	Elizabeth Johns 1514 Neely Street Natrona Heights, PA 15065
	Gay Dequinze 200 Sylvan Drive, Apt. 415 Lower Burrell, PA 15068
	Keith and Norma Henry 207 Norman Drive Lower Burrell, PA 15068
1/6	Lenora Reese 460 Monroe Road Sarver PA 16055
	Betty Jean Gray 139 Clarendon Avenue Lower Burrell PA 15068
1/27	Dorothy Freehling 1330 Broadview Boulevard Natrona Heights, PA 15065
	Pat Nowikowski 1521 Third Street Natrona Heights, PA 15065

FINANCE REPORT

Effective 12/26/2018

Starting Balance	\$17,171.39	
	Credit	Debit
General Fund	\$6,205.41	\$379.84
Building Fund	\$1,612.00	\$2,384.87
Connectional Apportionment	\$188.00	\$500.00
Utility	\$345.00	\$1,744.95
Parsonage	\$3,800.00	\$1,231.00 \$189.92
Thrift Shop	\$516.71	
GL Scrip	\$150.00	\$271.27
Special Offering	\$1,240.00	
Other	\$3,217.27	\$763.90
Pastoral Salary		\$2,014.88
Pastor Reimbursement		\$130.67
Salary/Payroll Tax		\$1,847.94
Summer Lunch		\$100.00
Office Expenses		\$1,263.83
Totals	\$17,274.39	\$12,823.07
Ending Balance	\$21,622.71	
Funds that are designated	\$18,045.40	
Remaining in General Fund	\$3,577.31	
