

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1333 FREEPORT ROAD
NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA 15065
Address Service Requested
DATED MATERIAL
October 2018

Especially for



Community Events

Allegheny Valley Hospital launched an electronic health record that impacts our current process of obtaining lists of your congregation members who are patients. Please advise the church if you or your family or friends are in the hospital.

Highland High School musical needs choir members for an ensemble for the musical The Hunchback of Notre Dame. If you are interested in being in the spring musical contact Mr. Michael Zeiler at mzeiler@goldenrams.com by November 21st.

DID YOU KNOW that joining Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union is open to any member of the church? Services range from free checking accounts to IRAs to mortgage and car loans, and a whole lot more.



GRACE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

November
2018

NEWS from the Pews

Pastor's Ponderings

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In two months, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior, God's Anointed One. Most of us probably welcome it as a time of joyous and winsome tradition and increased spiritual sensitivity. I wonder, though, if we have lost sight of the profundity and purpose of the occasion. I once preached a Christmas Eve sermon on the birth of Christ from the perspective of the book of Revelation, only to hear later that some folks said they would never come back if I did not stick with the traditional story in Luke 2. How can followers of Jesus Christ not want to explore the full meaning of his birth?

The horror of a mass shooting of Jewish worshipers in Squirrel Hill is fresh as I am composing this letter. I wish I could find meaning in it, but I know evil never makes sense. I also know evil abounds, and every human being has the capacity for evil. Indeed, when we recognize that evil includes anything contrary to God's will, we are forced to accept that every human being is basically evil. We are sinful to the core. We rebel against God every day. As Wesleyan Christians, we believe any good human beings do comes only from God's prevenient grace (God's grace given to all prior to saving grace). We soothe ourselves by narrowing the definition of evil to thoughts and actions which are particularly cruel or destructive, but "all sin and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Yet God does not turn his back on us. He loves us so much he sent us his Son. But this is precisely where we may miss the point of Christ's birth. As beautiful a moment and as filled with emotion as it may be, the Messiah entered the human condition to deal with human evil. He came because we could not and cannot deal with our own sinful nature, because we could not and cannot turn to God on our own. God himself had to provide a death adequate to deal with sin's guilt; God himself had to break sin's power over us; God himself had to conquer death. Only God can overcome evil. And the only way God could do these things was to enter into the human condition personally to act on our behalf. Christmas is an invasion. God invaded the realm of evil to conquer it.

We reel in the face of senseless violence and cry out to God for action, but God has acted. God himself came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ. And God has a timetable for full and final removal of all evil. In the meantime, we rest in God's power and grace. Evil continues, but God has already gained the victory. "The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9, NRSV). God wants to break the power of sin/evil in every person, no matter how horrible he or she may be. And God calls us to proclaim that Good News.

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Andy

SERVING THE LORD

COMMUNION STEWARD

November ~ Joanne Maeder
December ~ Susan Parker

COUNTERS

Date	Volunteer
11/4	Helen Shumaker/Carolyn Rutkowski
11/11	Sue Herman/ Justin Tinnemeyer
11/18	Lois Gigler/Susan Parker
11/25	Jamie Tinnemeyer/Diane Schrecengost

LAY READERS

Date	Volunteer
11/4	Howard Russell
11/11	Linda Schaefers
11/18	Rich Caugherty
11/25	Joanne Maeder

Acolytes

Date	Volunteer
11/4	Skylar Brown
11/11	Sierra Brown
11/18	Haiden Ball
11/25	Ariel Rhine

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Date	Volunteer
11/4	No Sunday School
11/11	Jamie Tinnemeyer
11/18	Carol Peters
11/25	Linda Schaefers

ANNIVERSARIES

11/11 - Bill and Diane Faix
11/13 - Patricia and Ray Nowikowski (Pugh)
11/15 - Charlie and Patricia Crowe

BIRTHDAYS

11/4 - Cynthia Striker
11/11 - Jill Szish
11/12 - Margaret Jezik
11/12 - Craig Cullen
11/13 - Tanner Geahry
11/19 - Carol Stoner
11/23 - Dylan McGrath
11/26 - Andrew Capo
11/27 - Lois Gigler

**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

- **Gift Cards** - Place your gift card order today! Next order will be November 11th. Christmas gift giving is right around the corner. We will place orders every week of November for the upcoming holiday season. All proceeds benefit Grace UMC mission & outreach. **This fundraiser is in jeopardy of ending. We have lost a large contributor of this fundraiser. It will continue through the holidays when the council will make a decision on its future profitability. The shipping for the cards is between \$8.50 and \$13.50 each order.**
- **Bell Choir** to perform for Thanksgiving. Practice will be 11/4, 11/11 at 8:45 a.m. and 11/18 at 8:30 a.m. Performance on November 18th.
- **The Finance Committee** is looking to draw up the weekly Counter Schedule for 2019. We would greatly appreciate volunteers to work with a partner to count the offerings. The schedule will likely be once every 5 or 6 weeks. Please contact Linda Schaefers (724.295.9652 or linda1950@hotmail.com) with your willingness to serve in his capacity.
- **Administrative Council Meeting** - Tuesday, November 27th @ 6:30pm
- **Just Lunch** - Monday, November 26th 12 pm at Bird Dogs in Natrona Heights. Our friends from Freeport UMC will be joining us.
- **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
11/25	Vivian Watts 327 Red Pump Road Bel Aire, MD 21014
	Vie Riemer 522 Cumberland Woods Village Allison Park, PA 15101
	Helen Beers Sugar Creek Rest 120 Lakeside Drive Room 123 Worthington, PA 16262
	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
11/4	Jane Snebold 206 Boardwalk Drive Cranberry Twp. PA 16066
11/11	Sherry and Gary Cullen 139 Clarendon Avenue Lower Burrell PA 15068
11/18	William Murdock 214 Vista Drive Apollo, PA 15613
11/25	Lois Gaskell 2503 Buchman Street Natrona Heights, PA 15065
	Joyce Euler 1011 Montana Avenue 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
11/4	Kate Milles 1434 Third Street Natrona Heights PA 15065
11/11	Lenora Reese 460 Monroe Road Sarver PA 16055
11/18	Betty Jean Gray 139 Clarendon Avenue Lower Burrell PA 15068
	Dorothy Freehling 1330 Broadview Boulevard, Natrona Heights, PA 15065
	Pat Nowikowski 1521 Third Street, Natrona Heights, PA 15065

Grace Mission

AVAC Food Drive - Grace UMC annual Thanksgiving Food Bank Drive is underway. We will deliver all collected food to the food bank before the thanksgiving holiday so we provide in need families of community with the foods needed for a delicious dinner. Please support this mission by donating non-perishable foods to the church.

Foster Love Project Mission - we will collect and build Placement bags for Foster Love Project. Please be sure all items in your bag correspond with the same age/gender. Teen pj's = teen book, newborn pj's = same size diapers, boy pj's = boy blanket, etc. Because of the magnitude of donations, they only accept complete bags, but you are encouraged to pair up with a friend if needed to complete a bag!

Finance Reports

As of the end of October 2018

Starting Balance	\$25,944.40	
	<i>Credit</i>	<i>Debit</i>
General Fund	\$6,120.00	\$379.84
Building Fund	\$387.00	
Connectional Apportionment	\$163.00	\$693.00
Utility	\$85.00	\$466.69
Parsonage Rent	\$950.00	\$189.92
Thrift Shop	\$351.37	
GL Scrip	\$850.00	\$1,030.20
Other	\$252.51	\$195.00
Pastoral Salary		\$2,014.88
Pastoral Reimbursement		\$132.00
Other Salary/Payroll Tax		\$1,940.09
Summer Lunch		\$8.47
Office Expenses		\$427.02
Totals	\$9,158.88	\$7,477.11
Ending Balance	\$27,626.17	
