



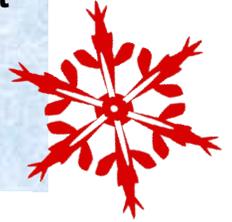
GRACE CONGREGATIONAL United Church of Christ

2801 Garfield St., Two Rivers, 920-553-1222

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 AM * CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 9:15 AM

WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG / unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com

Pastor Kim khenning1956@gmail.com Pastor Colie pastorcolie@gmail.com



JANUARY 2020

"Christmas by Candlelight" Christmas Eve, Dec 24

4pm - Family Christmas Service / 6:30pm - Song & Story

10:30pm - The Holiest of Nights

Christmas Fund: Assists Disabled and Retired Clergy

What If? Foundation: Food and Education in Port au Prince, Haiti

Reflecting Together

Kim M. Henning

WORDS OF SIMEON.....

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel.' Luke 2:29-32

A Christmas Prayer.....O Lord, you gave us a gift of immeasurable worth; a gift we are not worthy to receive. Like the Magi who said not a word in the presence of Jesus, we too are silent. Who are we to be loved by the Divine? Who are we that we have been taken notice of?

During this season of great holiness, we bring to you our prayer, O Lord: that you would prune us and shape us as your own beloved children. As a gardener cuts back a plant so it might become stronger and bear more fruit, we too avail ourselves to you. Cause us, O God, to not think too highly of ourselves, for pride leads to gloated egos and pride creates great distance between us and others.

Cause us to practice as the highest act of devotion, humility. We come as empty, clay vessels needing to be filled. Save us, O Lord, from wrongful desires that cause heartache to us and others. Be for us a bulwark that is able to stand firm and resist the lures of temptation.

Open our eyes, we pray, to behold your glory at the dawning of each day. We pray for eyesight to recognize your image in those we are prone to hate. We would desire within us a heart born of your Holy Spirit. We would hope in some small pray to practice your presence in this agitated and disturbed world.

We confess that our human eyes do not see as you see. And we would confess that we know only scantily the way of your kingdom. But with you, O God, we trust and believe that we can be molded into ones who in some small way witness to that presence of suffering love we behold on the cross.

Be born among us that we might dare to be a community of compassion and togetherness. Our thoughts alone are prone to self-righteousness; but together we learn the religious art of dependency and love.

Be born within us that we may better pay attention to your still-speaking voice and that we may bear tidings of your birth to a world that dies for lack of love. We offer this prayer to you in the name of the One who suffered, and died, and rose again----Jesus, our Lord. Amen.



(Prayer Concerns: khenning1956@gmail.com or 920-553-1222 or 920-553-2888)

Sabbatical time.... from Pastor Colie

Rev. Howard-John Wesley, pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia (right outside of Washington D.C.) made news in early December when he announced to his congregation that for the first time, he was going on Sabbatical. Rev. Wesley is 47 years old and has been pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church for 11 years. Every weekend, he leads 4 worship services, for an average of 4,500 worshipers present and an additional 50,000 viewing online. He has never previously taken a sabbatical or had any extended amount of time when he wasn't on call 24/7.

He announced his Sabbatical in a sermon he preached on Dec 1. He said, "Now I want you to hear me clearly, I am not exhausted, I'm tired, there's a difference. Exhausted is right before burn out, and burn out is when you don't want to do what you gotta do anymore. Hear me, I am not burned out. I'm still excited about this job. I love this calling... I love wrestling with God and standing before you.... I love pastoring this church and I am excited about these next years, about what God has called us to do and to build, but in order to lead it, I need to be refilled..... I'm tired. And I need you to know secondly, I feel very distant from God."

Seeing some of Pastor Howard-John Wesley's remarks (his sermon is available online if you do a search for his name) made me all the more grateful for this church in granting to myself and Pastor Kim sabbatical time. Time to step away from the weight of this calling. Like Pastor Wesley, I love this work. I am excited not just for worship and "happy times" like births and weddings – I also love the day to day moments when people pop into the office to say hello. I enjoy the meetings when we are planning ways to build our community both inside and outside of these walls. I love spending time with our children, encouraging their questions and helping them grow in faith. I so appreciate every time I sit down with someone and we open our Bibles to study together. I am excited by meeting with visitors and potential new members to hear about their journey in faith and what led them to this place. I feel so honored to attend to families in the midst of grief or crisis. Even when those calls come in the middle of the night, I am glad to know that members of this church feel they can count on the church to support them.

All of these things (and so many more aspects of what makes this ministry work what it is) is a great joy to me. I truly love what I do. And even so, after a while it adds up to be more tiring than joyful. Sometimes it hits a point where it becomes more stressful than exciting. And so I am so, so grateful for time away.

In the Gospels, we frequently hear that Jesus needed to take moments to escape the crowds, to get away by himself for times of rest and prayer. Even Jesus needed this time away to ready himself for ministry. So why should we be any different?

In an interview that Pastor Wesley had after he announced his sabbatical, he recounted this story: "When I started, I was working seven days a week. A member of the church at the time — an older lady — said, 'Why do you work every day?' I said, 'The devil doesn't take a day off.' She said, 'Why is the devil your role model?' Jesus models that we need to rest."

Later in this newsletter you will find a letter from my Pastor/Parish Committee about my upcoming sabbatical time. As you may know, I was on sabbatical last summer in June and July, but I was granted 3 months total. I am taking the third month now, in January, so you won't see me around! I will be finishing my Doctoral dissertation work and will return in February. See you then!

TWO GIFTS FROM OUR MONDAY STUDY CLASSES

1---At our Christmas Eve worship services, young children will be given brown bags as they depart for home. 100 brown bags are being filled by those who weekly gather to study well-written books and discuss our personal insights. We extend our gratitude for their generosity in presenting these gifts to our children.

2---At our class on December 10, the following was shared. I was asked to share this with you.

The Train, by Daniel Bovino

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life.

However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum. Some, however, will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats.

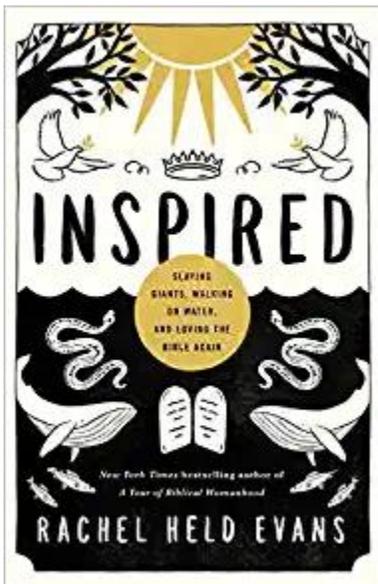
This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down.

We, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

"From the fig tree learn its lesson; as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." Matthew 24:32-35



Monday Adult Study Class 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Beginning January 13, 2020

Mid-way through our last study class using Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "Holy Envy," the class was asked about its interests for future classes. Someone immediately asked, 'how did the Bible come into being? Let's study something about that.' So that's what we're going to do.

First off, Dr. Karl Kuhn teaches religion classes at Lakeland University, and spends class sessions teach this very topic. So, on a date(s) yet to be decided in early Winter, Dr. Kuhn will spend one or two sessions on this very topic.

The second resource we will use is Rachel Held Evans' book, "Inspired." As you may know, Rachel Held Evans was a rising writer and scholar of the Christian faith who died on May 4 at the age of 37. Rachel Held Evans was raised in Conservative Church environment that she came to struggle with. She found her way into the Episcopal

Church where she surrounded herself with thinkers and believers who came at faith in a different sort of way.

On the back of her book, we read, "If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she began a quest to better understand what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. What she discovered changed her--and it will change you.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF GRACE,

We (the Pastor/Parish Committee for Pastor Colie) are sharing a reminder that Pastor Colie will be completing her paper for her Doctor of Ministry degree during the month of January 2020. She used 2 months of her sabbatical to work on it in June and July 2019. Grace Congregational UCC offers our pastors this important growth and restoring time as part of their compensation and it is common in most denominations

This sabbatical is not an extended vacation but a time of focus and renewal and in this instance compiling her research for a final paper to be submitted to the Seminary Board in Pennsylvania. The majority of time Pastor Colie and her family will be in Two Rivers, but hope to travel most weekends.

Pastor Colie will NOT be answering her phone, emails or Facebook messages in an effort to disengage and focus on the paper. She will not be attending worship at Grace during this time. You may see her in a store or around town. Feel free to say hi, but please do not discuss our church life. Please do not "drop by" as her days and time have a special purpose and flow during the sabbatical.

If you still feel the need to share with or contact Pastor Colie please contact the chair of this committee, Jim Miller at 684-4862 or jim.susie.miller@gmail.com instead. He will either provide an answer or direct the concern or information to Pastor Kim or the correct committee chair.

Please include Pastor Colie in your prayers. Pray that she experiences the inspiration to complete her Doctor of Ministry project during her sabbatical.

Sincerely yours,

Grace Congregational UCC, Associate Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

Jim Miller, Chair, Renee Anderson, Cheryl Barneson, Kathy Peterson, Larry Peterson, Paul Schmid

PASTOR PARISH MEETING FOR Pastor KIM

Most of our discussion was on becoming an Open and Affirming Congregation

We want to expand to all people and be inclusive to all.

Our call to members to contribute \$100.00 is going well. Thank you!

Please contact Pastor/Parish members with any concerns.

**Praise the Lord with the lyre;
Make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
Sing to him a new son;
Play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
For the word of the Lord is upright,
And all his work is done in faithfulness. Psalm 33:2-4**



NAME

Steve & Charlene Dresang
 John & Mary Wallace
 Chad & Laurel Stodola
 Gary & Patty Heise

Lloyd & Aleda Clarksen, Lynne & Ron Krizek
 Scott & Lana Linzmeier
 Jeff & Laura Jasper
 Ginny Matthews
 Lori, David, Eric & Deanna Waniger
 Capt. Al & Diane Nelson
 Marlene Behrendt
 Kacie & Kelcie Shimulonas & Lucas Dewitt
 Pat & Bonnie Wichlacz
 Paul & Joan Schmid
 Clare Schuette
 Lucy Zeldenrust(from friends of Jenny)
 Chris Blimel

Chris & Frank Bauknecht

Jeanne, Bill, Amanda & Donny Heinsohn
 Amy LeGreve

Al & Deb Augustine

Marsha Heuer

Pat and Patricia Day
 Betty Becker

Sue & Keith Shaw

Casey & Becky O'Connor
 Marcia Donlon
 Keith & Cheryl Barneson

Bruce & Donna Fehrman
 Nan Jagemann
 Tracy Smith
 Mary Bergene
 Cheyenne & Mike Neville

GIVEN IN HONOR OR MEMORY

Memory of Elroy & Gertrude Fischer & Francis Dresang
 Memory of our parents
 Memory of Kelly Stodola Reszczynski
 Memory of Ralph & Betty Ammerman, and
 Ralph & Betty Heise
 Memory of Lois & Henry Freed, Lowell & Lee Clarksen

Memory of Daniel & Rose Meissner
 Memory of Ed & Barbara Bottger
 Memory of Randy Waniger, & Rod Malfroid
 Memory of Randy Waniger
 Memory of Darryl Behrendt
 Memory of Chris Shimulonas
 Memory of Loved Ones
 In Honor & Memory of our parents
 Memory of our son –Rob
 Memory of Jenny Van Bramer
 Memory of Mom Shirley Anderson,
 Brother George Anderson
 Memory of our parents, Floyd & Betty Bauknecht, Bob
 & Barb Smith, and sister Marcia Bergene
 Memory of parents & grandparents
 Memory of Alex LeGreve, Robert & Marilyn
 Henrickson
 Memory of Milton & Lucille Augustine, and
 Dolores & Pete VanEss
 In Thankfulness for the elderly of our church who
 provide such great leadership.
 Memory of Pat & Alice Day
 Memory of Elaine Lintereur, Jeanette Becker,
 Jill Cavanaugh
 Memory of Bernard & Ruth Shaw, Frank & Virginia
 Tussila
 Memory of our Grandparents & Jeremiah Oestreich
 Memory of my Aunt Marilyn Grover
 Memory of Clarice & Carol Carey, & Don & Nancy
 Barneson
 Memory of Jack & Shirley Fehrman, Ralph & Hilde Sieracki
 Memory of Paul Jagemann & Lloyd Bursek
 Nancy & Dave Smidle
 Memory of Jerry Bergene
 Memory of all our lost loved ones

DOUG ALBRIGHT
ANDREA ALLINGTON
BETTY AMUZU
RENEE ANDERSON
AL & DEBBIE AUGUSTINE
KEITH & CHERYL BARNESON
CHAD & MINDY BAUKNECHT
FRANK & CHRIS BAUKNECHT
BETTY BECKER
MARLENE BEHRENDT
KAY BERO
TOBIN & COLIE BETTIVIA
DAN & CONNIE BLASHKA
RYAN BLASHKA
CHRIS BLIMEL
JIM & SHELBY BOHMAN
BRIAN BOOMGARDEN
JOE & LORI BRANDT
SUE BRULL
EUGENE & BONNIE BURMEISTER
GARY BURNSTAD
LAUREL CASTRO
DOUG & NANCY CHARLES
JOHN & MARY CHRISTIANSEN
SARAH COENEN
SUE CROWLEY
BUDDY & BARB DAVIDSON
DON & BRENDA DEBRUYN
SCOTT & JILL DEROSIER
AL & DIANE NELSON
KATHY NICHOLS
CASEY & BECKY O'CONNOR
KAY OLKER
MAX & COLISA ONDERBEKE
LARRY & KATHY PETERSON
DICK & BEV PETERSON
LINDA PETERSON
VIRGINIA POSNY
JACK & JEANNINE POWALISZ
BOB & SHELLY RANDERSON
ANITA RAPPE
JIM & MARTHA RASMUS
JIM REIF
MARK & DEBBIE RHEIN
JON & KELLY RUHBUSCH
TAMMY RICKS
JUDIE ROOT
BOB & SHARON RUDOLPH
TOM & LYNN RYSTICKEN

LUCAS DEWITT & KACIE SHIMULUNAS
STEVE & CHARLENE DRESANG
RON & DIANE EGGERS
HELEN ERTMAN
ANDRIANNE EWALD-PETERSON
BRUCE & DONNA FEHRMAN
KAY FENCL
BETH GAUTHIER
DAN & SALLY JO GRANT
BARRY & DIANE GRIMMER
BILL & CAROL GRUETZMACHER
JEFF HARDING
BILL & JEANNE HEINSOHN
GARY & PATTY HEISE
KIM & FAY HENNING
ISY HENRICKSON
ROB & NICOLE HERDA
BARB HERRMANN
MARSHA HEUER
JERRY & DOROTHY HOLSCHBACH
RICH & YVONNE HOLZER
BRUCE & LESLEY HUFFER
ROGER & MARIE HURDA
LYNN HUTTERER
WADE & MICHELE JUZA
KARL & STEPHANIE KAHLBERG
TOM & DEB KEERY
DIANE KIEFFER
ANN KLEMAN
SHAWN & JESSICA SAYESKI
JOHN & GAIL SCHANILEC
SANDY SCHEER
JEFF & CAREY SCHMID
PAUL & JOAN SCHMID
MARK SCHMITT
CLARE SCHUETTE
SARA SCHUETTE
SCOTT SCHROETER
KEITH & SUE SHAW
LOU ANN SMITH
TRACY SMITH
DEBBIE SPINDLER
SHIRLEY SPINDLER
HEIDI SPRINGSTUBE
NORETTE ST. PIERRE
BRADD & KIM STECKMESSER
CONNIE STEFFEN
CHAD & LAUREL STODOLA
DEAN STOEGER & LAURA-HAYES STOEGER

PATRICIA KOMOROSKI
JAMES & LINDA KONITZER-JUSTEMA
PAULETTE KOUBA
RON & LYNNE KRIZEK
GENE KRUEGER
LEAH KUETHER
CATHY LAMBRIES
LARRY & RITA LAMBRIES
RICH & LINDA LANGMAN
TOM & KIM LARSON
BARB LAURENT
AMY LEGREVE
JIM & BARBEE LESTER
DON & ELLEN LEWELLEN
HAL LEXOW
DAVE & AMY LOOMIS
CAL MACAULEY & TAYLOR LECHER
SCOTT & LANA LINZMEIER
JOYCE MARCELLE
BETSY MAROTZ
BRETT & JANET MARX
GINNY MATTHEWS
DORIS MATTIE
RON & JOAN MEISSNER
BILL & SANDY MONKA
TODD & MANDY MOOLENAAR
GREG MOREAU
MITCH MORET
MIKE & PEGGY MUELLER
JEFF & ROBIN BRYANT-STOEGER
JOSH & HEIDI STRADAL
BRUCE SUETTINGER
DICK SWADE
TONY & JOAN TADDY
KATHY TOLKSDORF
DAVE & BEV URBEN
BRIAN & GINGER VAN ELLS
KEITH & PAM VAN ESS
MICKEY VELEKE
JOHN & MARY WALLACE
LORI WANIGER
BRIAN & SANDY WAY
PAT & BONNIE WICHLACZ
MARY WIEGERT
MERRITT & JEANNE WILCOX
JANE WILLIAMS
RANDY WILSON
JEAN WONDRAH
LUCY ZELDENRUST

Stewardship Pledges Made for 2020

CHURCH CABINET

Moderator, Don DeBruyn **Treasurer**, Linda Justema **Clerk**, Rein Elias
Financial Sec, Chris Blimel **Trustee Chair**, Todd Moolenaar
Diaconate Chair, Zachary Peterson
Board of Christian Ed Chair, Katie Ver Haagh
Mission & Outreach Chair, Joe DeGroot
Pastor Kim-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jeff Harding
Pastor Colie-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jim Miller
Members-at-Large, Brianna Brixius & Joe DeGroot

Stewardship Corner for Grace Congregational United Church of Christ

November, 2019

Total 2019 Expected Pledges	\$374,054
Pledge Income Received during November	\$34,694
Pledge Income Needed (on average) to balance the budget	\$31,171
Loose Offering Received during November	\$784
Sunday School Offerings During November	\$23

Please Note: Our constitution prohibits us from using any proceeds from our Endowment Fund to support our day to day ministry at Grace Congregational Church. It is our church's expectation that our members are responsible for the support of this church's ministry as an act of faithfulness to God.

November Bills Above and Beyond.....

Church Mutual---Commercial \$5950; Umbrella \$350
Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ---\$3,500
Pension Boards---\$1609.47
Snow Removal---\$790
Wisconsin Public Service---\$394.89
Lunch for the Gospellers----\$247.60

A note from your Trustees:

In our Sunday bulletin, we posted our church's need for a new custodian to clean the building (not maintenance, cleaning). By the end of the year, we hope to introduce you to a new custodian. We have been served for the last 20 years or so by Michelle Slaby. We are grateful for her behind-the-scenes service to us.

BUDGET CONCERN....

In early November, our Trustees explained a budget concern that surfaced back in February when we experienced a \$10,000 shortfall. In conversation, we kept returning to three situations. 1—February of 2019 was a heavy snow month. Worship attendance slipped. Contributions slipped. 2---Because of the heavy snow, we needed the snow to removed sometimes several times a week. This was more than we had budgeted for. 3---In conversation with our Financial Secretary, we learned financial plateaus in the giving of some. Though inflation of 1-3% occurs each year, some have maintained the same contribution year after year. This year this seemed to catch up with us.

The hope of the Trustees was to have an end-of-year balanced budget. To this end, they requested that 100 individuals contribute \$100. As of this writing, 60 individuals have contributed a total of \$7600. **Thank you.**

GRACE CHURCH IS HIRING!

Grace is looking for a part time cleaning person for the church. This position is up to 10 hours a week and requires evenings and weekends. The position will start the first of the year. A letter of interest can be emailed to: chadbauknecht75@gmail.com by December 23rd.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SCREWS ARE LOOSE

After 15 years of use, we have notice that the screws on our cushioned, wooden chairs are loosening. We need one or more volunteers to check and tighten the screws on the chairs that can be found throughout our building; chairs that are used by the choir, chairs at end of each pew and in the back of our sanctuary, chairs in the Gathering Area, and chairs in the Adult Study. Interested? Contact Pastor Kim Henning or Todd Moolenaar.

CARE FOR OUR SENIORS.....

On Tuesday, December 31, our church offers two worship services; one at Meadow View (1:15) and a second at Wisteria (2:00). Our pastor leads a brief worship service at each of these locations. Our need is to have individuals show-up; help with bringing people from their rooms; talking; singing; and sharing hospitality. Interested? Meet us at Meadow View or Wisteria or both!

GRIEF IN 2019

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still water, he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me.....”

In 2019, your pastors officiated at a number of funerals; some were dearly loved members of our community and some were from outside our community. As we approach the end of 2019, we hold family and friends in prayer....

*Ann Suettinger, date of death: January 7, 2019

*Marilyn McCullough, date of death: January 19, 2019

Emil Kunstman, date of death, January 25, 2019

*Marilyn Henrickson, date of death, February 25, 2019

Thomas Wondrash, date of death, April 9, 2019

*Richard Ertman, date of death, April 17, 2019

Terri Sosnosky, date of death, April 28, 2019

*Tod Leiteritz, date of death, May 10, 2019

Mildred Doleysh, date of death, April 30, 2019

*Edward Rappe, date of death June 3, 2019

*Eldon Riha, date of death, June 9, 2019



Robert Brull, date of death, July 10, 2019

*Alan Spearbraker, date of death, July 13, 2019

Lee Bruechert, date of death, September 29, 2019

*Marlene Markowski, date of death, September 16, 2019

Gary Swoboda, date of death, October 9, 2019

Gerald Spragg, date of death, October 15, 2019

Darrell Knops, date of death, November 7, 2019

Ervin Krizek, date of death, November 7, 2019

*Alex LeGreve, date of death, November 9, 2019

*Wendy Smith, date of death, November 21, 2019

WOMEN OF GRACE NEWS AND NOTES

**Next Meeting: Saturday, March 14th, 2020 @ 9am in the Fellowship Hall
(please note the meeting will be held on the second Saturday of March)**

The Women Of Grace had a great time at their 4th Annual Christmas party! We had a Christmas Cookie and Socks Exchange. The cookies were delicious and the socks/gifts were fun to open/receive! Sixteen women attended this fun event! Thank you to all who participated!

As a Community Mission project, we voted to adopt the Hope House family that we helped out at Christmas throughout 2020. We will provide them with monetary gifts as needed such as special events like Easter, their birthdays, going back to school items, etc. It feels so good to help get a family back on their feet!

We bought a new ladder for the church as the old one was pretty rickety and now our congregation will feel safe using a new ladder.

We also voted on that we will not have a meeting in January and February. We all need a rest from the past couple of months when we were so busy doing our two major fundraisers!

At our next meeting on March 14th, we will discuss our plans for the Maundy Thursday soup supper which will be held on April 9th, 2020. **After the meeting, we will hold a wooden sign painting party with Donna Weier as our leader. Please attend as it sounds like so much fun! More information about this event will be announced at a future date. Remember, all women of Grace Church are members of Women Of Grace! Please join us and I promise you that you will make new friends and have a great time serving our Lord and His Church!**

**Remember, all women members of Grace Church are members of Women Of Grace!
Merry Christmas and Blessings, Amy LeGreve**

EQUAL EXCHANGE CHRISTMAS BASKETS

January 1, Equal Exchange will be raising their prices. It is not known at this time if some or all items will see an increase, but Mission & Outreach will also need to increase the selling prices. So....., you know what to do!



Your purchase of Equal Exchange products not only supports small farmers around the world, but also helps supply the coffee you enjoy during TAC and other meals at church. Thank you for your continued support of Equal Exchange products. Sincerely, *Mission & Outreach*

And Mary said, "My soul magnified the lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47

The Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14



THE WHAT IF? FOUNDATION
**PARTNERING TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF HAITIAN CHILDREN,
ONE MEAL, ONE LESSON, ONE STEP AT A TIME.**



On November 24, Pastor Fred Trost came into our midst and spoke about the children in Haiti and the way in which the What If? Foundation has chosen to address the education and food needs. An envelope was enclosed in December's newsletter and in the bulletin on December 15. Your contribution would be most appreciated.

TREP STATUS AS OF DECEMBER 2019

- 1) Thanks to the community's response, TREP is in a better place than in September this year.
- 2) The TREP Board was not able to be responsive to downturns when they were meeting only quarterly. Recognizing the variables of funding and expenses the board currently meets monthly.
- 3) The TREP Board recognized more action was required then could be completed in a one to two hour monthly meeting and established several sub-committees to revise goals, revise by-laws, review fund raising and work with the churches that make us ecumenical.
- 4) TREP was not prepared to provide potential supporters with the financial information they required. Our new treasurer has consolidated records, developed a working database and can provide the essential fiscal reports needed to satisfy the TREP Board and any person or organization wishing to support the pantry.
- 5) The community including generous businesses, schools, service groups, local foundations and individuals responded to TREP's urgent needs and continue to help with food and money.
- 6) The recent crisis for TREP is over. However, long term we are looking at increasing the pantry's presence in the community and creating a healthy reserve fund to help TREP through any future economic downturns.
- 7) You, your organization and your prayers have kept the local pantry viable. Thank You.
- 8) We always need more skills and help. If you have fund-raising experience or want to help by distributing food at the pantry, please contact TREP Coordinator, Lynn Skarvan at (920) 793-5364.

Did you know?

We are currently providing between 700-750 food insecure individuals with groceries at the Pantry.

You can support a TREP family for \$ 28/month.

You can support a TREP family for \$ 335/year.

Current pantry needs are meals in a can (examples chili, ravioli, stews) and sufficient food for the children during the holidays who will not be receiving school breakfast and lunches.

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE—THANK YOU

Stewardship

A huge “thank you” to the “second-mile” givers who responded to the Trustee’s appeal for help in closing our anticipated shortfall for 2019. As of December 10, \$7200 has been contributed toward the estimated \$10,000 needed. Thanks also to those who have fulfilled their 2019 pledges. If December giving continues the November trend, we should finish the year close to having a balanced budget. And praises to the Stewardship committee for their work on this and the 2020 pledge campaign.

Nominating Committee

Thank you to the members of our Nominating Committee (Chris and Frank Bauknecht, Patty Komoroski, Linda Langman, and Maren Slickman) for contacting members and asking them to serve the church as officers, committee members, ushers and representatives to the wider church and Two Rivers Ecumenical Ministry. There are lots of positions to fill and it is not an easy task. We are grateful to those who said “yes” when called.

Advent and Christmas

We are blessed to have special activities like lighting Advent candles, Christmas caroling, a children’s Christmas pageant, the choir cantata and 3 worship services on Christmas Eve. Thanks to everyone who planned and participated in these many meaningful celebrations of our Savior’s coming to earth--your extra efforts are appreciated!

Sharing

In the true spirit of Christmas, we share with others so all may know of God’s love and care for them. Thank you for purchasing gifts for families who visit the food pantry and for clients of Ascend. Thanks also for supporting children in Haiti with food and education through the What If? Foundation. Thanks for helping retired clergy in need through the Christmas Fund offering. And thank you to all involved in serving the community dinner on Christmas Day.

GENERATION G

There will be **NO Generation G youth group December 25 or January 1** as many people will be with family, celebrating the holidays!

If you have any questions— please contact Nicole Herda at nlherda@yahoo.com or (920)242-8308. Merry Christmas!

CONFIRMATION – UPCOMING DATES

~~December 25:~~ **NO CLASS**

~~January 1:~~ **NO CLASS**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 – Kayla Johnson
2 - Derek Slickman
Parker Reif
Christopher Drew
3 - Chris Bauknecht
Tammy Ricks
Jordan Baeckman
Kevin Gulseth
4 - Addisyn Schanilec
5 - Ty Wichlacz
Ben Handl
Craig Rysticken
6 - Jeff Jasper
7 - Nancy Charles
8 - Max Onderbeke
Brian Van Ells
Susan Crowley
Barbra Lawrence
9 - Aaron Schanilec
Sara Schuette
10 - Peggy Mueller
Amber Bohman
Allison Bergman
11 - Kevin Wargin
12 - Kristy Sherrod
13 - Hannah Juza
15 - Judy Lango
Michele Juza
Lincoln Bettivia
David Waniger
Lori Waniger
17 – Ron Boudnik
Kay Olker
Mickey Veleke
18 - Tim Hirvela
Karen Tadych
Karen Loritz
19 - Karl Kahlenberg, Sr.
Logan Novitski
21 - Frank Bauknecht
Ron Krizek
Rich Langman
22 – Alaina Novitski

23 - Douglas Albright
Dominick Springstube
Carson Kintgen
Autumn Buchholz
24 - Jason Duvall
Keenie Evenson
25 – Diane Kieffer
26 - Jean Gunzel
30 - Paul Schmid
Kathy Peterson
Ashton Stein



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

16 – Michael and Heather Krueger
27 - Bill and Sandy Monka
29 - Richard and Roberta Ott
Keith and Sarah Coenen



Are you aware of anyone who would like to receive the sacrament of holy communion in the privacy of their home? Please contact Pastor Kim Henning.



TRIP TO SKI BRULE

On Monday, January 20th, youth in the Two Rivers School district have a day-off (records day---end of semester). In an effort to bring youth and adults together, we are hosting a simple trip to Ski Brule. Registration forms are at the Information Center. Typically, a lift tick alone can cost upwards of \$60 at a place like Granite Peak. To encourage snow skiing, Ski Brule offers us a discounted group rate. For \$30 will are able to offer a lift ticket, helmet, ski rental, ski lessons, transportation and lunch. In the past we have offered coach bus transportation which would have added about \$20/person. We need adults who are willing to drive, and also go through a safe sanctuary procedure.

Ski Brule Trip Snow Skiing--Snow Boarding or Snow Tubing Monday, January 20, 2020

Grace Congregational Church is hosting a trip to Ski Brule on Monday, January 20, 2020. You may ski or snowboard. \$30 includes transportation, lift, helmet, ski rental, lessons, and lunch.

All participants go through the Snow How program. Experienced skiers will be signed-off by the instructor. Snow tubing is available for \$6 for 5 runs and will only be available if 20 participate. Poles may be rented for \$5. Snowboarders are required by Michigan law to have a snowboard leash. The Snow How Ski Program does not include lessons for snowboarding but can be booked at \$45/person, semi-private lesson.

We will depart from Grace Congregational Church at 6:00 a.m. We will return by 5:00 p.m. You must be on time for departure or forfeit \$8 for transportation. Additional food/drinks may be purchased in the lodge or you may bring your own snacks. Adults ski for same price.

- Check if you need to rent ski equipment. A rental contract will be sent you in advance.
- Check if you want to rent poles at \$5.
- Check if you are an adult willing to drive. Background check required. Gas will be paid.
- Check if you are a first-time skier.
- Check if you need a snowboard lesson. (\$45 extra)
- Check if you want to go snow tubing (\$6/5 runs)

Participants traveling alone must be in at least 7th grade. No disrespectful behavior is allowed. Younger children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. A child must be at least 6 to receive a group lesson. Plastic snow boards are not allowed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ (checks payable to Grace Congregational Church)

As parent/guardian of _____ I give my permission for him/her to participate in the trip to Ski Brule on January 20, 2020. In case of an emergency occasioned by illness, accident, or injury, I give the chaperons permission to grant consent for needed medical attention by the nearest physician and/or hospital.

Medical conditions a physician should be aware of: _____

Insurance Company _____ Insurance Identification # _____

Insurance Company Phone Number: _____

Other Vital Medical Information: _____

Father's Phone Number _____ Mother's Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Attach a copy of insurance card. Return to Grace Congregational Church by January 10)

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

HOSPITALIZED

Bonnie Wichlacz was a patient at Aurora Bay Care Hospital. She continues her recovery at home.

Paul Schmid has come home from his most recent stay at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee

Larry Peterson was a patient at Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay. Ann Klein, was a patient at Aurora Bay Care

OUR SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to Paul Smith and their family as they grieve the death Wendy. Wendy died on Thursday, November 21 and a memorial service was held here at Grace Congregational Church on Wednesday, November 27.

We offer our sympathy to Barbara and Richard Laurent as they grieve the death of their daughter-in-law, Alison Lee Laurent. Alison died on November 16.

We are grieved to learn that Donna Stoeger died on Tuesday, December 10. Funeral services are pending. Donna is the mother of Dean and Laura Hayes- Stoeger and Brenda Senovich. We offer our sympathy.

THANK YOU FOR

Thank you for the cards, visits, and prayers during my hospital visits. I needed them. I had an LVAD put in my heart to assist the heart in pumping. Hopefully, I am home now for good!
Paul Schmid

A CHILD IS BORN

Tim and Ann Klein are parents of a new born son, Talon, who was born on Wednesday, November 27. Talon has been welcomed home by her siblings, Alex and Katelyn. Talon's grandparents are Pastor Jim and Martha Rasmus.

THE BAPTISM OF AVYANNA JANE SKUBAL

Avyanna Jane daughter of Tanner Skubal and Jordan Baeckman was baptized. Avyanna has one brother, Cayden. Her grandparents are Stacy Baeckman, Michelle Skubal and Randy Skubal. Great-grandparents are Barb & Jerry Baeckman, Judy & Buddy Skubal and Jeanie Burkhart. Chosen as godparents for Avyanna were Katie Ver Haag, Alex Meyer, Makenna Skubal and Josh Stradal.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON GROUP

We would like to invite ALL women of the church to our Women's Luncheon Group.

Announcements are usually in the bulletin and in the newsletter. If you need a ride we can usually provide it. **January 14th 2020 @ WiscoTech Two Rivers 11:30 a.m.** Contact Chris Blimel at 793-2204 if you will be going.



Hope House
of Manitowoc County

Wish List

- Laundry Detergent
- Kid's Size Winter Gloves and/or Snow Pants
- Hand Soap
- Daily Planners by month (any size)
- Toilet Paper