



Grace

United Methodist Church
600 South Jefferson Avenue
Springfield, MO 65806-3108

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fast melting snow
spring's symphony warms up
steady drip from the rooftop
icicles giving way to their true nature
robins know, long before us
off in the distance, rebirth draws near

~Don Iannone

DAYS of GRACE

- Daily**
12:00 pm Ala-non Family Support Group-Room 22
- Wednesday, February 16**
5:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 pm Prayer Service
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, February 17**
5:30 pm Children's Choirs of Southwest MO Rehearsal
6:30 pm Grandparents as Parents Support Group
- Friday, February 18**
12:00 pm Brown Bag Bible Study
- Saturday, February 19**
8:30 pm Depart for Small Church Workshop
- Sunday, February 20**
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 pm Coffee Fellowship
10:30 am Celebration of Worship
- Tuesday, February 22—No Church Council**
10:00 am Sew 'n' Sews
6:15 pm Children's Choirs of S.W. Missouri Rehearsal



Poor Melted Snowman!

www.YourGracePlace.org

Do you use the new Grace Church website? It's a great way to keep up on what's going on at Grace. Check out the **Resources Tab**. There you will find:

Newsletters

Each week's newsletter is available online before it is even mailed. At least a month's worth of past newsletters are available.

Calendar

All events associated with Grace Church are on this calendar. Running your cursor across the event listing will show you event details. In some cases, you will be prompted to click on the event listing. Doing so will take you to the event's website if one is available.

News and Events

Announcements will appear on this page. There will be a title with a few details listed. Clicking on the title will bring more information and in some cases, a link to a website associated with the event.

Pastor's Blog

Pastor Diana periodically posts articles on her Blog. Clicking on the title will bring the entire article into view. There is a space for you to post your comments.

The Grace Connection

Vol. 4, Issue 29
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The people of The United Methodist Church®

RETHINK
CHURCH

open minds
open hearts
open doors



yours free: An everyday Bible for real life from



We'll be honest: you've probably heard a lot of junk about the Bible. One group thinks it says one thing, another group thinks it says another. What gets lost in the battle is the invaluable guidance the Bible provides – to everyone – for life's ups and downs.

Those ups and downs are highlighted by subject in a Bible that we'd like to give to you or a friend. Feeling hurt? There are specific Bible sections to give you comfort. Have a broken heart? There's guidance on that, too. And for the first time, it's in easy-to-understand, everyday English – a Common English Bible (New Testament).

We do not offer you this Bible with an agenda. Rather, we simply want to make this everyday Bible and its relevant index available to you for the times when answers aren't clear. Like many people, you might be surprised to discover that those answers are often revealed through inspiring stories and commentary – not through lists of do's and don't's. And as United Methodists, we encourage and empower you to consider its guidance in relation to the other pillars that inform our faith: tradition, experience, and reason.

~United Methodist Communications

If you would like a free Bible, visit www.rethinkchurch.org.
If you do not have internet access, please contact the Grace office.

WHO are United Methodists?

- At the risk of stating the obvious, **we're Christians.**
- There are **8 million** of us in the United States and another **3.5 million** in countries around the world. You can help that number grow.
- Our congregations are **deeply involved** in their own communities and in outreach far from home.
- Both women and men are our clergy/pastors. **We believe we are all in ministry together.** Our decision-making bodies always include clergy and lay church members.
- **We have two sacraments** – baptism and communion – and our communion table is open to all. *(Yes, that really means everyone.)*
- We believe that many of the things that separate people from each other are more important to them than they are to God.
- **Our name, Methodist**, at first was a term meant to poke fun at our theological founder, John Wesley. *(He was an interesting character!)*

~Rethinkchurch.org



DUST OFF YOUR GREEN AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Annual St. Pat's Corned Beef and Cabbage Feast is coming March 16!





Each Wednesday
Dinner 5:00-6:00 and Prayer Service 6:00-6:30

February 16

Speaker: Daniel Hancock

Cooks: Hannah Cook & Friends with Betty Meacham

Loaded Baked Potatoes, Vegetables, Fruit and Dessert

February 23

Speaker: Larry Herring

Cooks: Pastor Diana and Joe Smith

Pot Roast

March 2

Speaker: Frank Moran

Cook: Debbie Lovell

Meatloaf

March 9

Speaker: Beverly Sanders

Cooks: Tina & Joe McCracken

Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread, Brownies

March 16

Speaker: Bette Holmes

Cooks: Beverly & Don Sanders

Corned Beef, Cabbage and all the trimmings



Despite the cold temperature, 50 families; 131 individuals were served at the Crosslines Food Pantry this past Thursday.

A big thanks to Jeanette Kennemer for her help as well as our Messiah Lutheran friends, Jane, Sue and Linda. As always, a special thank you to you, dear Grace family, for your generous support of such a needy project.

~The Mission Committee



The frigid snowy weather has hit us all HARD!

Attendance has been understandably low, but when the snow piles up, the bills continue to do the same and the utility bills soar!

We started out well in January, however as of now, our expenses have exceeded our income by approximately \$2,900.00.

The weather is warming up, so hope to see you in church! Please give our deficit your prayers and consideration. The giving of Grace Church is amazing!



Prayer Chain

John Bristol
Friend of
Ashlee Piacentini

Bonnie Crawford

Gary
Friend of Wanda Young

Grieving Family of
Crystal Gentry
Friend of

Amanda Langsford

Carol Langsford
Breck Langsford's Mother

Trey & Austin Lee

Debbie Lovell

Angel McCracken

John Moore

Joe Venturoni

Betty Wilson

Friend of Sandy Stout

Mercy for those traveling

Egypt and the Middle East



We offer our prayers and condolences to Georgian Wellonen and family on the passing of her mother last Thursday in California.



Little Kyra is home from the hospital!

Beverly Sanders has a praise for loving friends who brought a treat for her mother just when she needed it most.

Our Attendance and Gifts

Sunday, February 13	74
Sunday School	28
Wednesday, February 9	Snow Cancellation
Ministry Offering	\$ 2936.00
Other Donations & Income	\$ 210.00

Next Sunday's Childcare

Megan Rogers and Jessica Staples

This Friday's Brown Bag Bible Study

Isaiah 38

Sunday's Lessons

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 ; Matthew 5: 38-48



The group attending the Ozarks District Small Church Workshop with Pastor Diana will depart from the East Parking Lot this Saturday, February 19 at 8:30 a.m.

Questions? Contact Pastor Diana.

“Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God. Do you know how God lays his command upon them, and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine? Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of the one whose knowledge is perfect, you whose garments are hot when the earth is still because of the south wind? Can you, like him, spread out the skies, unyielding as a cast mirror?” –Job 37:14-18 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union, after an intense debate (which in some quarters is still going on) determined that Pluto, discovered in 1930 after ninety years of searching for what was termed Planet X, was not really a planet but a planetoid, for a number of good reasons that I don't pretend to understand (one introductory course in astronomy thirty years ago). Suddenly, we have eight planets instead of nine, and “My Very Earnest Mother Just Served Us Nine Pickles” is outdated as a mnemonic device to remember the order of the planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto).

This morning, however, I read an article that suggested that there is now a possibility of a new ninth planet. Scientists hope to be able to confirm that a previously undetected gas giant, now called Tyche, is 15,000 times farther from the sun than the earth, lying in the Oort Cloud, a band of asteroids in our outer solar system. The subtle gravitational effect of something on comets as they move through our solar system leads astronomers to speculate on the possibility of another planet. The article ended with the question, “If we've missed a planet in our own solar system for this long, what else are we missing?”

An excellent question. I don't think that he meant it as a theological question, but it seems to me that the more I learn about the intricate workings of nature, the more I marvel at the infinite goodness and care of God for all of creation, and the more I marvel at the intricate workings of our own small corner of that creation. It's a good reminder to me: if a heavenly body so far away can have a discernible effect on other bodies, how much more do we affect the lives of others in subtle ways, and how important it is to be careful how we affect others.

In the *Divine Comedy*, Dante describes the journey of the poet through hell, purgatory, and finally, heaven. The Paradiso ends with an ecstatic vision of Christ as the center around whom the entire universe revolves. Even the great poet falls silent in awe and wonder in the contemplation of Christ, the “Love that moves the sun and the other stars.” We could do with more joyful awe and wonder!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Diana



Dear Grace,

I am contacting you because you are an affiliate church of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks. I am with **Ambassadors for Children** which is a ministry of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks and we have some current volunteer opportunities for church congregations, small groups and individuals. I was wondering if Grace United Methodist Church would be interesting in getting involved.

Volunteer Tutors: Work one-on-one with a local foster child in a public setting (public library) approximately 1 hour per week. No experience required & free training is provided. You can specify what subjects & age levels you are comfortable working with. Tutors must be 21 years old and pass a Child Abuse/Neglect and Highway Patrol background checks (no fee for these).

Adopt-a-Caseworker Partners: We need groups (church groups, classes, groups of friends, businesses) to adopt a Greene County child protective services Caseworker. We still have 25 workers waiting to be adopted. Once a group is matched with a Caseworker, the Caseworker shares the specific needs of the children on their caseload and the group fulfills those needs as they are able. Each group has a Primary & Secondary contact person who volunteers to communicate regularly with the Caseworker and coordinate dates/times for the worker to pick up donated items.

Pack-a-Bag Drive Volunteers: We need volunteers to coordinate a drive at their workplace, church, etc... to collect duffel bags filled with pajamas, hygiene and overnight items for children who are placed into foster care from Greene County. The bags are donated to us and we distribute them for the children—approximately 42 children are taken into foster care each month from our county and many of them have to carry their belongings in trash bags. This program provides them some sense of self-worth and dignity. It's also a great project for a youth group, etc...

Please contact your church office if your group, Sunday School class, youth, etc, are interested.

~Katelind Rohde