



Grace

United Methodist Church
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The people of The United Methodist Church®

The Grace Connection

Vol. 5, Issue 27
January 31, 2012

RETHINK
CHURCH

open minds
open hearts
open doors



Our Mission:

SEEK God and his direction for our lives.
SERVE God and our community through worship and acts of Charity.
SHARE Christ with all who do not know His loving grace.



Come see what it's all about! The next meeting is Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Ignite Grace. It's a good thing for your church!

DAYS of GRACE

Thursday, February 2—Grandhog Day!

5:00 pm Children's Choirs of S.W. Missouri

Friday, February 3

12:00 pm Brown Bag Bible Study

Saturday, February 4

10:00 am Knitting for Kids

Sunday, February 5

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am Celebration of Worship

Tuesday, February 7

10:00 am United Methodist Women

5:00 pm Children's Choirs of S.W. Missouri

6:30 pm Trustees

CONNECT with GRACE

600 S. Jefferson, Springfield, MO 65806
Phone (417) 869-0765
Website: www.YourGracePlace.org
Email: GraceUMCoffice@sbcglobal.net
Office Hours : 9-4 Monday & Tuesday
9-1 Wednesday & Thursday



UMW NEWS & VIEWS

A reminder that United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday February 7th at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our hostesses are Betty Meacham and Edna Faye Miller.

Don't forget to bring your Bible verse for our word Servant. Come and join in the fun and fellowship. All women are welcome.

~Suzy McArthur, President

The Grace Youth did an exemplary job of hosting our 4th Sunday Fellowship Dinner last Sunday. The checked tablecloths, napkins and centerpieces made for a fun atmosphere. The baked potato bar was delish.



Grace has an **OUTSTANDING** music program! Kudos to our Chancel Choir, Thomas Strong, Richard Honea, Aaron Bywater, our guest guitarist, Paula Patterson and Daniel Hancock. You had people standing up and clapping last Sunday. It was joyful worship!



The Grace youth had a guest at their United Methodist Youth Fellowship Pizza and Movie Night last Friday. They extend a welcome to Patcheli and hope to see her at LOTS of UMYF activities in the future!

This Sunday is SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY!

Don't have a Sunday School class? This is the perfect time to get connected!

TWO NEW CLASSES Sunday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m.

A class for the young and young at heart. Co-facilitated by Julie Cook and Pastor Diana, the first topic will be "Peter's Journey and Us."

See you in Room 300 on the Hawkins Hall balcony!

Kids, Get your cool glasses and your C.O.O.L. Kid tote this Sunday so everyone will know you are a C.O.O.L. kid! You will learn about how God made the world and it was good! Meet your teachers Cindy Woodworth and Hannah Cook at the C.O.O.L. Corner, Room 305 Hawkins Hall balcony.

More Great Opportunities!

Sharing Today adult class is led by Bette Holmes and meets on the first floor of Hawkins Hall in room 204.

Believers, an adult class led by Daniel Hancock, meets in room 303, on the Hawkins Hall balcony.

Young Believers, a youth-age class, is at home in the Fellowship Hall worship area in the basement. Lynlee Burlison is class facilitator.

Your generous giving in support of Grace ministries is a blessing. Year-end statements were mailed Monday prior to the mandated January 31 postmark. If you have questions, or corrections, please contact the church office.



Sharing the Bread & Cup

This Sunday February 5 10:30 a.m.

Grace celebrates Holy Communion, also known as Eucharist or the Lord's Supper, the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome!

United Methodists believe that the table of Holy Communion is Christ's table. It is not the table of the United Methodist Church or of Grace Church. It is the Lord's Supper, not ours, and it is Christ who invites you. As our ritual puts it: "Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another." We do not refuse any who present themselves desiring to receive. The table is open to anyone who seeks to respond to Christ's love and seeks to lead a new life of peace and love. ~www.UMC.org

This Sunday is **SUPER BOWL** and **SOUPER BOWL** Sunday! The Grace youth will be collecting cans of soup to help tackle hunger. If you care to donate, you can put your soup in the tub of your favorite team. Let's see which team reigns supreme at Grace!

The soup will be divided equally between Crosslines and the Well of Life Food Pantry.

Youth Valentine Party Friday, February 10, 7-11 p.m. in the Star Room

Music. Food, Chillaxin. Lynlee's AMAZING devotional. Bring friends!



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

Wednesday, February 8

Cook : Pastor Diana

Speaker: Daniel Hancock

Homemade Ham & Pea Soup. Bread, Fruit, Dessert

Knitting News



We had a great group last Saturday as we gathered again for knitting lessons. Everyone was so proud of their newly found talent and what they had accomplished since last week! We'll be knitting hats and scarves for children in need before you know it!

It's never too late to get started with this group. It doesn't matter if you don't even know what a knitting needle is, or if you are an accomplished knitter, come join this fun group of people. Well continue to meet each Saturday morning at 10.



~Cindy Woodworth

CENTER CITY CHRISTIAN OUTREACH, INC.
Springfield, Missouri

Dear Grace United Methodist Church,
Thank you for your generous \$1,2000.00 contribution to Center City Christian Outreach, Inc. (Well of Life). The Board of Directors, the volunteers, and especially those served have been touched by your kindness. Your contribution, combined with contributions received from others, allowed us to serve over 2,300 families this past year.

~Janet Weld, Treasurer

sorry Ashlee Piacentini's birthday was inadvertently left of this month's birthday list! Please add Ashlee's February 23 birthday to your list.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Matthew Showalter, Bob and Dottie Miller's grandson, was one of 11 major scholarship winners from a field of 350 at Wichita State where he is enrolled for the 2012-13 year. He will graduate from high school in Lincoln, Nebraska in May.

Gerald <i>The Grace Mailman</i>	<p>Prayer Chain</p>	Steve <i>Friend of</i> Nikki Underwood
Vergie Harmon & Colleen Bureman		Evie Tropp
Ruth Holmes		Nikki Underwood
Jessica <i>Steve Yoder's Daughter</i>		Marsha Weeks <i>Friend of Dan Henderson</i>
Chuck Loveland		Those in positions of earthly authority— doctors, judges and teachers
Rod Mammah		Southeastern U.S. Tornado Victims
Sabrina Mammah		The jobless and those seeking employment
Jim Morris		The new Sunday School classes at Grace
Betty Prather		
Ann Shackelford		
Ron Shepherd <i>Genella's Nephew</i>		

Ashlee Piacentini offers praise and glory for the Grace Congregation and particularly for those who participate in our Wednesday Night ministry.

Our Attendance and Gifts

Sunday, January 29	82
Sunday School	32
Wednesday, January 25	28
Ministry Offering	\$1892.48
Other Donations & Income	\$ 393.99

In Loving Memory

Jamie Smith	
Emma Lee	Choir Fund
Aunt Versa	
Wanda Young	Choir Fund

Brown Bag Bible Study
Ruth 2

Sanctuary Flowers
There was an inquiry in the office the other day about sanctuary flowers so maybe a refresher course is in order.
If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday service, whether it be a large arrangement or two smaller ones for the pedestals, it is easy, easy to do! Just give the church office a call. Flowers will be ordered per your specifications and delivered. Voila! Gorgeous flowers for worship! You can just mail or drop a check in the offering plate



"Long before [God] laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son."

—Ephesians 1: 4-6 (The Message)

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's that time of year again—when we are invaded by cupids and hearts and roses—yes, Valentine's Day is coming. February 14 has been celebrated as the feast day of St. Valentine since the fifth century, but of him little is known except that he was buried at the Via Flaminia (a road north of Rome) on February 14, presumably the site of his martyrdom. The medieval book, *Legenda Aurea*, says that Valentinus was martyred for refusing to deny Christ before the Emperor Claudius II in the year 270. According to the legend, before his head was cut off, this Valentine restored sight and hearing to the daughter of his jailer. Unfortunately, little else is known about him. The *Legenda Aurea* does not contain anything about hearts and last notes signed "from your Valentine", as is sometimes suggested. Many of the current legends surrounding St. Valentine appear in the late Middle Ages in France and England, when the feast day of February 14 became associated with romantic love. In honor of Valentine's Day, I thought it might be a good time to consider what love means in the context of our relationship with God and with one another.

Ancient Greek has four distinct words for love: *agápe*, *éros*, *philia*, and *storgē*. Only two of them, *agape* and *philia*, are used in the New Testament. The other two, *éros*, sexual love, and *storgē*, the love of a child for a parent, are not used. *Philia*, affectionate love, is most common to us in the name Philadelphia, City of Brotherly/Sisterly Love. The Greek philosopher Aristotle developed the concept of *philia* as a virtuous affection for friends, family, and community. *Agápe* is the word used by Paul in 1 Corinthians 14, that in older translations is translated as "charity." It refers primarily in the New Testament to the selfless love of God for creation, and the kind of love that Christians are to practice to friend and enemy alike. Unlike the Aristotelian understanding of *philia* affection, Christian *agape* love is not primarily an emotion, but a way of treating others with the same kindness that God has treated us. When Jesus says, "love your enemies," he doesn't mean to try to feel love for them, but to treat them with love.

In his article, "Opening Ourselves to Grace: The Basics of Christian Discipleship," Steven Manskar asks the question: "Have you ever fallen in love? Do you remember what it was like? Your beloved consumed your every waking thought. You could not wait until you were able to embrace this person and express your love and devotion. When you were with your beloved, you felt complete and fully alive. . . . As time went by, you sought each day to become more like your beloved. Your love was all-consuming. It affected every aspect of your life. Your relationship with the beloved became part of you and formed your identity. Christian discipleship is a relationship with Jesus Christ not unlike that which you share with the one with whom you fell in love." *Copyright General Board of Discipleship. www.GBOD.org Used by permission.*

"Love" is not just a word for romance, but the very being of the God who created us and draws us into relationship with God and our neighbor through Jesus Christ, and who wants to grow us into a fuller and fuller expression of perfect love.

Grace and peace . . . and love,

Pastor Diana

YOU SAY:	GOD SAYS:	BIBLE VERSES
"It's impossible"	"All things are possible"	Luke 18:27
"I'm too tired"	"I will give you rest"	Matthew 11:28-30
"Nobody really loves me"	"I love you"	John 3:16 & John 3:34
"I can't go on"	"My grace is sufficient"	II Cor 12:9 & Psalm 91:15
"I can't figure things out"	"I will direct your steps"	Proverbs 3:5-6
"I can't do it"	"You can do all things"	Philippians 4:13
"I'm not able"	"I am able"	II Corinthians 9:8
"It's not worth it"	"It will be worth it"	Romans 8:28
"I can't forgive myself"	"I forgive you"	I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1
"I'm afraid"	"I have not given you a spirit of fear"	II Timothy 1:7
"I'm always worried and frustrated"	"Cast all your cares on ME"	I Peter 5:7
"I'm not smart enough"	"I give you wisdom"	I Corinthians 1:30
"I feel all alone"	"I will never leave you nor forsake you"	Hebrews 13:5
"I can't manage"	"I will supply all your needs"	Philippians 4:19

Thanks to Ashlee Piacentini for sharing!

Grace was honored last Saturday to serve as the meeting site as 70 pastors gathered in Fellowship Hall for a Sacraments Class offered by the Ozarks North and South Districts. Many thanks to Sandra and Eron Ellis who served as hosts on behalf of Grace!



- NEW -

Join Ashlee Piacentini in Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. WELCOME!