

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
500 BUSINESS 23 W
PAYNESVILLE, MN 56362



2023

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Regular Sunday Worship Service Time: 9:30 AM

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am-3pm

Church Doors Open: 8-5 Mon-Fri, Sat 9-5 **Church Website:** www.paynesvillegrace.org

Grace Church Office: graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org Phone: 320-243-3601

Pastor Jill Meents: jill@paynesvillegrace.org Cell: 612-867-1979

Kari Schaefer, Youth Ministry: kari@paynesvillegrace.org Cell: 701-866-7365

Nancy Hoelt, Office: nancy@paynesvillegrace.org Cell: 320-249-9616

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

A New Year's Promise from God

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." – Isaiah 40:31

The friends and family of Grace Church have done great ministry work this year. Through the leadership of both pastors, much has been accomplished.

Now we are called to do more. Hoping in the Lord is expecting that his promise of strength will help us to rise above life's distractions and difficulties. Even the strongest people get tired at times, but God's power and strength never diminish. God is never too tired or too busy to help and to listen. God's strength is our source of strength. When we feel tired, we will remember that we can call on God to renew our strength.

We have more ministry work to do; personal ministry work and Grace Church work. I pray that God will give each and every one of us discernment and wisdom as we prepare to do our personal and collective ministry work.

Let's Give God our Best!!

Blessings to you, your family, and friends as we begin a New Year together following, worshipping, and professing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Pastor Jill

JANUARY SERMONS

01/01/23	John 15: 1-10 NLT	New Year
01/08/23	Matthew 2: 1-12 NIV	Epiphany
01/15/23	Colossians 3:12-17 NIV	Our Methodist Heritage
01/22/23	2 Timothy 3: 16-17 NLT	Wesley's quadrilateral
01/29/23	Matthew 26:26-30;Acts 2: 38-42 Message	Methodists sacraments

2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY

The new 2023 Church Directory will be available for pickup in the Gathering Space sometime in early January. If you notice any errors or changes that need to be made, let Nancy know in the office right away so that corrections can be made. Thank you.



HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be served on January 1st (New Year's Day) at the 9:30AM service. Please come and partake in the elements.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you haven't had a chance to pick up your offering envelopes for 2023, they are available in the Gathering Space. The church doors are open from 8-5 on weekdays and 9-5 on Saturdays.



MEMORIAL SERVICES WITH COMMUNION

Memorial services with Communion will be held at Koronis Place at 2:15PM and Paynesville Care Center at 3:00PM on January 24th. All are welcome to join us.



TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

We will be taking down Christmas decorations on Wednesday, Jan. 11th, starting at 8:30am. Anyone who wishes to help is welcome to come!

Grace Youth News



Greetings!

Our youth finished 2022 with a bang! We had an amazing month of December; and we also had a lot of rescheduling due to poor weather. Our "Grace Kids" did a fantastic job telling the story of Jesus' birth in "Wee Three Kings". We had 28 of our Elementary-age kiddos be a part of this performance. The weather didn't cooperate for all our practices, but we made the best of it, & the kids did a great job. I'm so proud of all of them. We held our Christmas Bake Sale for our mission trip & raised \$875. This is a great number, & we are so thankful to everyone who bought our yummy treats. Unfortunately, the weather also didn't cooperate for our Youth Christmas Party, & it had to be postponed. This was so disappointing as it is a favorite for all of us! However, don't fear, as we have a backup plan. We'll hold our party on Wednesday, January 4th. Please watch your email & Facebook for more details on this event.

As we roll into 2023, we will ease back into our routine of weekly lessons, music, games & crafts. We will continue to have fun, learn Bible stories & lessons & strengthen our relationship with God and each other. We have many more fun things planned in 2023, including our summer mission trip to Kentucky. We are excited to see where God takes us this year.

Finally, I know the winter months are unpredictable, but we have quite a few kids/families attending on Wednesdays & are in need of meals. If you would like to help prepare/serve a meal, please see me for more details or there is a signup sheet on my door.

Much Love,
Kari Schaefer



JANUARY YOUTH EVENTS

Wednesday, January 4th:

(Rescheduled) Youth Christmas Party
All Ages (K-12)
5:30-8:00 pm

More details to come....please watch your email & Facebook

Wednesday, January 11th:

Grace Kids: Simply Loved Unit 3/Lesson 4
Grace Youth: TBD
Confirmation: "Hitting the Mark: Sin & Grace"
Mission Trip Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the Youth Room

Wednesday, January 18th:

Grace Kids: Simply Loved Unit 1/Lesson 1
Grace Youth: TBD
Confirmation: "Two Natures, One Man: Who is Jesus?"

Wednesday, January 25th:

Grace Kids: Simply Loved Unit 1/Lesson 2
Grace Youth: TBD
Confirmation: "What is Salvation"

Sunday, January 29th: GUMppets Perform @ 9:30 am



ONLINE CHURCH SERVICE VIDEOS

The weekly service will be posted on our website, as well as on Facebook, by noon on Sundays. You can also watch the video on the Paynesville Cable Station on Channel 8 on Fridays at 2 & 7 PM.

To get to it on our website, go to www.paynesvillegrace.org and click on 'Videos of Service' button on the home page.

To get to our Facebook page, just open Facebook and search "Grace United Methodist Church Paynesville."



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Grace Church, the Youth, and the Uzone all have Facebook pages. Go into your Facebook account and add us to your friend list so you can keep up to date on activities going on at church.

Grace Church Page: Grace United Methodist Church

Grace Youth Page: Grace Youth

Uzone Page: Uzone Drop-In and Tutoring Center

Be sure to 'like' the pages and share with your friends to get our presence out there in the community and beyond.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE



If you ever have a question about schedules or happenings at church, go to our church website, and you will likely find what you are looking for. Our bulletin, monthly newsletter (Grace Notes), videos of the services, online giving, the church calendar, upcoming events, and Service Team schedules can all be found there. Be sure to go online and check it out at: www.paynesvillegrace.org or just Google 'Grace Church, Paynesville, MN' to find us.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in orchestrating the "Hanging of the Greens" service in December. I have never been a part of such a beautiful services. What a delight to have so many church members involved in the creation of our fully decorated worship space. The information provided about each area that was being decorated was so interesting. I know there were many hands that created such a wonderful service. Thank you for time and creativity. I was truly moved by the experience and I pray the experience blessed you and everyone in our Church Family. In Christ's Love, Patty Herzberg

Thank you to those who brought in Poinsettias for the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one! They add so much to beauty of the Worship Space!

Thank you to those that helped decorate the church for the Christmas season! Also, to all those that helped make the ornaments! It was so amazingly beautiful!

Thank you to all those that lit the Advent Wreath candles, and to all those that participated in the Advent and Christmas services! Thank you, especially, to all the musicians and singers for the beautiful music!

A BIG thank you to all my helpers for their help in putting on the Youth Christmas program. It is no small task to make this all run smoothly. Thank you to Gretchen O'Fallon & Jim & Betty Freilinger for helping to create the set, to Gretchen O'Fallon, Betty Freilinger & Ann Peterson for helping with the costumes, to Faye Paster for playing the piano, to David Herzberg for doing the sound & video, to Vicky Frank, Jim & Betty Freilinger, Gretchen O'Fallon, Deb Thomsen, Mike & Peyton Hemmesch for getting the kids out on stage when they needed to be and to the parents for working with their children on memorizing their lines & getting them to the practices. Finally, thank you to the children. You all worked so hard to memorize your lines & YOU made this program amazing. I'm so proud of you! Much Love, Kari Schaefer

Thank you to all of you who supported the Youth Bake Sale on Sunday, December 18th. With your help we raised \$875.00. All of these funds will help those going on the mission trip to Kentucky in July 2023.

FINANCE UPDATE



Amount needed in November: \$5263 per week

Budget Offering for November: \$18,979

Harvest Offering: \$19,720

\$38,699

Expenses in November: \$-23,171

Profit in November : \$15,528

SHORT FOR JAN-NOV: \$18,960

November Missions: Paynesville Community Service Center \$1370
Uzone Gift: \$137

The 2023 budget is \$280,807 (which is \$5400 per week). Please keep the church finances in your prayers as inflation has impacted all of our church bills and expenses. Thank you for giving!

Neil Herzberg – Finance Chair



PRAYER CANDLES IN THE GATHERING SPACE

Have you noticed the prayer candles in the gathering space near the elevator? These are for you to light if you have a prayer intention for somebody that needs prayer. A lit candle represents an outward sign of an inward prayer. You may light them during the service on Sunday or if you come into church to pray. Please remember to extinguish the candle when you leave. We will, of course, check to see that none are left burning after the services.

DONATING TO YOUR IRA OR 401K MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION TO CHARITY

A Qualified Charitable Distribution is a distribution from a Traditional IRA or 401k made directly to a qualified charitable organization by the trustee of the account. The owner of the account must be age 70 ½ or older to make this distribution.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution can also be done when an owner of an account reaches 72. A Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) must be taken, up to \$100,000.

Qualified Charities include all religious institutions. Making a qualified charitable donation provides an opportunity to make a charitable donation that you may have otherwise not been able to make, and you will also receive a tax benefit.

The best news is, the money that you donate to a religious institution is exempt for your taxable income; therefore, you won't have to pay tax on your IRA or 401k distribution.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 320-243-3085.

Thank you and Happy Giving in 2023!

Neil Herzberg, Finance Chair



GRACE SINGERS

The Grace Singers will practice on January 5th, 12th, and 19th. They will sing for the January 8 & January 22nd services at 9:30AM.

CHRISTMAS PHOTO CARDS

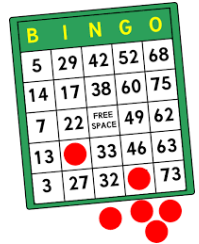
If you brought in a Christmas Photo Card to share on our board, you may pick it up in the office if you would like it back. Thank you to all that participated! It's fun to see all the church families!

RUTH CIRCLE

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on January 10 at NOON in the Fireside Room for our belated Christmas Potluck. Ramona Frank will have devotions, and Mary Beek and Helen Olsen will be hostesses. Please bring a dish to share. As always, if school is 2 hours late or closed, we will not have a meeting that day.

Also, if you can help out, we will take down the Ruth Circle Christmas tree on Tuesday morning, January 3 at 9:30AM.

Ruth Circle is also in charge of Bingo every Thursday at 2:00PM in January at the Paynesville Care Center in the Dining Room.



JANUARY GROUPS

Adult Sunday School	10:30 AM	Jan 8, 15, 22, 29 (not 1 st)
Tuesday Bible Study	11:00 AM	Every Tuesday
Needlework Class	3-5 PM	Jan. 12, 19, 26
Ruth Circle Potluck	NOON	Jan. 10
Ruth Circle Bingo @ PCC	2:00 pm	Every Thursday in Jan.
Choir Practice	6:00 PM	Jan. 5, 12, 19
Choir Sings	9:30 AM	Jan. 8 & 22

JANUARY MEETINGS

January 10	6:00PM	SPRC Mtg. – Fireside Room
January 11	6:30PM	Youth Mission Trip Mtg.
January 17	6:00 PM	Leadership Mtg. – Fireside Room

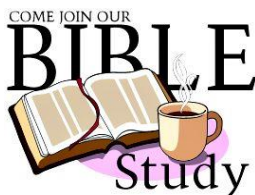


NEW BABY

Congratulations to Brad and Amy Person on the birth of their daughter, Harlow Kenna on November 23rd, 2022! May God bless this family!

WEDNESDAY MEAL VOLUNTEERS

Do you love to cook? Do you love to see our young people? Well, we have the perfect spot for you! We are looking for adults to prepare & serve a meal for our young people on Wednesday evenings. If you have never done it before, we'd be happy to partner you with someone else to show you the ropes. If you want more details, please talk to Kari. There is a sign up sheet on Kari's door with available open dates to fill. Thank you!

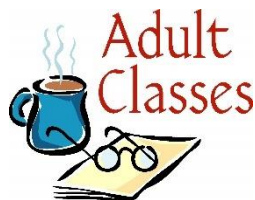


TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us each Tuesday from 11:00-Noon in the gathering space for Bible Study Class, led by Pastor Jill! Hope to see you there!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

You are all invited to Adult Sunday School every Sunday immediately following the 9:30 service. Grab a snack and a beverage from coffee hour and join us in the Sunday School room behind the Worship Space. **There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on New Year's Day, January 1st.**



NEEDLEWORK CLASS



The Needlework Class will resume meeting on Thursdays beginning January 12th, from **3-5PM** (note the time change). Bring your own needlework project to work on and share in a time of laughter and fun each week. We always welcome anyone who wants to join us!

NEW ONLINE GIVING

Grace Church has set up a new online giving account! This is a very simple way to give by using your credit card or bank account for either a one-time payment, or you may set up automatic scheduled payments at the frequency of your choice. Check it out!

There are 3 easy ways to do this:

1. Use the QR code to the right, choose the account you would like it to go into, and click on the 'Donate Now' button.
2. Copy and paste or type this link into your browser <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8QC/home>, choose the account you would like it to go into, and click on the 'Donate Now' button.
3. Go to our church website, go to the drop-down menu in the upper right, and select the 'Giving' page. Choose your method of giving.



UM HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Sunday, January 15th is Human Relations Sunday. This offering strengthens UM outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. You can use your special envelope in your offering box, or write "Human Relations Sunday" on the memo line of your check and drop it in the offering basket.

Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2023*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2023*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 8, 2023*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 16, 2023*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2023*





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January 2	Amy Winings, Gary Smith
January 3	Betty Freiling, Nathan Loso
January 4	Warren Theel
January 5	Patrick Utsch, Paul Larsen
January 7	Bob & Lena Block, Nicole Pelkey, Dave Holtz
January 12	Evelyn Moore, Randy & Linda Brink
January 14	Tony & Deb Bengtson, Ann Peterson, Brad & Amy Person, Jessica Karpinske
January 15	Josh Baker
January 17	Bob Lane
January 18	Roger Lang
January 21	Gene & Shelli Bast
January 24	Susan Arend, Elexa Frank
January 25	Debbie Schmidt
January 28	Steve Deadrick
January 30	Emma Braun
January 31	Diane Dittman

ASSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY

READERS:

9:30 AM

JAN. 1 Sue Jansen
JAN. 8 Deb Thomsen
JAN. 15 Leta Stafford
JAN. 22 Kari Schaefer
JAN. 29 Steph Hemmesch



GREETERS:

JAN. 1 Harlan & Mary Beek
JAN. 8 Terry & Deb Thomsen
JAN. 15 Scott & Kari Schaefer
JAN. 22 Betty Keller, Ramona Frank
JAN. 29 Mike & Steph Hemmesch

USHERS: JANUARY

HEAD USHER: Bill Hoeft 320-249-6581
Jim & Gene Schultz

COUNTERS:

JAN. 1 Gary Smith, Bonnie Schwartz
JAN. 8 Bill Hoeft, Sue Drager
JAN. 15 Mary Beek, Jane Burr
JAN. 22 Mike Nehring, Betty Freilinger
JAN. 29 Jim Elseth, Sue Drager

BANNER COMMITTEE: Gretchen O'Fallon

COMMUNION STEWARDS: Linda Johnson, Sue Korman