

Grace United Methodist Church  
601 N. 4th St. Pekin, IL. 61554



# GRACE NOTES

Volume 50, Issue 1

January 24, 2012



February  
2012

11 AM-  
12:30 PM

Menu: dessert. drink.

Menu subject to change.

Food pantry will be open February 16, from 4-5:30 PM

Grace food pantry is asking for donations of Jelly. We thank you for your continued support.

## Inside this issue:

Prayer Concerns

Holy Habits

Birthdays/calendar

UWM News

## Altar Flowers 2012

The 2012 Altar Flower Chart is up.

### There are several weeks open.

Please sign up on the flower chart displayed in the Chapel area near the elevator door.

### Securing a date on the flower chart is on a "first come...first served" basis - only one name per Sunday please.

On occasion we may have memorial flowers following a funeral; we will use these flowers in other locations of the church.

The only flowers on the altar will be for the reason designated on the flower chart. A written statement will appear in the bulletin highlighting the occasion.

## Education Director

Hello! I just wanted to briefly introduce myself and let you know how excited I am to be working with your children.

My name is Cassie Koehler, and I officially became your new Director of Christian Education at the start of the new year.

Most of you probably already know who I am as I have attended this church for the majority of my life, but you may not recognize my last name. I used to be Cassie Hawley until I married my husband Christopher in 2009. I have a

Jan Kriegsman is our Flower Chairperson. She will contact you prior to your Sunday to verify what you want printed in the bulletin and if you have a particular flower choice or color.

Flowers for each week cost \$25.00. You may pre-pay the church, or the office will remind you if you should forget.

You are welcome to take the flowers with you following the 10:45 worship service.



bachelor's degree from Bradley University in Religious Studies and plenty of experience working with children, youth, and even adults.

I look forward to working with all of you and cannot wait to see all of the exciting places that God is going to take our church.

God Bless,  
Cassie Koehler

# Pastor's Note

## *Just What Do United Methodists Believe?*

A fair question and one I often find difficult to readily answer because Methodism is more of a discipleship movement within Christianity and not a theological set of doctrines. However, here are some essential truths about our beliefs which you may find helpful in your own thinking.

United Methodists share a common heritage with all Christians. According to our foundational statement of beliefs in The Book of Discipline, we share the following basic affirmations in common with all Christian communities:

### • **Trinity**

We describe God in three persons. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are commonly used to refer to the threefold nature of God. Sometimes we use other terms, such as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We believe in one God, who created the world and all that is in it.  
We believe that God is sovereign; that is, God is the ruler of the universe.  
We believe that God is loving. We can experience God's love and grace.

### • **Jesus**

We believe that Jesus was human. He lived as a man and died when he was crucified.  
We believe that Jesus is divine. He is the Son of God.  
We believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and that the risen Christ lives today. (Christ and messiah mean the same thing—God's anointed.)  
We believe that Jesus is our Savior. In Christ we receive abundant life and forgiveness of sins.  
We believe that Jesus is our Lord and that we are called to pattern our lives after his living.

### • **The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God with us.  
We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when we are in need and convicts us when we stray from God.  
We believe that the Holy Spirit awakens us to God's will and empowers us to live obediently.

### • **Human Beings**

We believe that God created human beings in God's image.  
We believe that humans can choose to accept or reject a relationship with God.  
We believe that all humans need to be in relationship with God in order to be fully human.

### • **The Church**

We believe that the church is the body of Christ, an extension of Christ's life and ministry in the world today.  
We believe that the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.  
We believe that the church is "the communion of saints," a community made up of all past, present, and future disciples of Christ.  
We believe that the church is called to worship God and to support those who participate in its life as they grow in faith.

### • **The Bible**

We believe that the Bible is God's Word.  
We believe that the Bible is the primary authority for our faith and practice.  
We believe that Christians need to know and study the Old Testament and the New Testament (the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Scriptures).

*Continued on next page*

### • The Reign of God

We believe that the kingdom or reign of God is both a present reality and future hope.

We believe that wherever God's will is done, the kingdom or reign of God is present. It was present in Jesus' ministry, and it is also present in our world whenever persons and communities experience reconciliation, restoration, and healing.

We believe that although the fulfillment of God's kingdom--the complete restoration of creation--is still to come.

We believe that the church is called to be both witness to the vision of what God's kingdom will be like and a participant in helping to bring it to completion.

We believe that the reign of God is both personal and social. Personally, we display the kingdom of God as our hearts and minds are transformed and we become more Christ-like. Socially, God's vision for the kingdom includes the restoration and transformation of all of creation.

In His Joyous Service,

Gary+

## From The Director's Chair

Over the past couple of months you may have noticed a page in your *Grace Notes* detailing CORE Groups. They are an exciting new opportunity for our congregation here at Grace UMC. Small groups are a vital part to any church's growth, both spiritually and numerically. I would love to see Grace make a commitment to meeting in small groups the last Sunday of the month through January 2012-October 2012. They will meet from 6-7:30 and will involve three key events each month: Bible Study, Fellowship, and Outreach.

My vision is for these groups to bring families and church members together of different generations. I see the group sharing the responsibilities of leading, food, and planning the evening. The Bible Study materials will be provided for the group.

We currently have four families who are willing to be hosts. Thank you so much! Now we just need to get families assigned to their groups. Over the next few weeks, make sure and let me know if you are interested in participating.

This coming Sunday our CORE groups will begin. We will continue to add groups as more become interested.

It's Super Bowl time! Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be making our SuperSubs to benefit the youth mission trips for the summer. We will be hosting a kids club at the housing authority and taking a trip in July to Birmingham, AL, with YouthWorks.

Sub order sheets are in the bulletin; you can place your order on one of those, and we will have them ready for you on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.



*Sean*



## UPDATE

January 21, 2012

Dear Church Family and Friends,

In an effort to keep the congregation informed on the progress of Growing God's Grace, please find our first update for 2012 below.

We have now collected \$403,725 in pledges and/or contributions for Growing God's Grace from 173 different households as of December 31st. We are very encouraged to have surpassed our 1 million dollar campaign goal by more than \$100,000 and are truly grateful for the positive affirmation of this effort by the congregation. People have given willingly and sacrificially.

Additionally, we are pleased to report that on November 28<sup>th</sup>, we received unanimous permission from the Illinois River District Board of Church Location and Building to proceed with our building addition. A copy of their report is available from any Building Task Force member.

Our next task is to seek the approval of our preliminary plans and cost estimates at a church conference to be held on Sunday, January 29th at the church. With a successful vote we will then interview three to four architects to seek detailed construction plans. The selected architect will receive the comments, recommendations and suggestions received from the congregation at the two open houses held in December for proper consideration as detailed drawings are developed.

The approval of the detailed construction plans, costs and a financial plan for payment of costs will then be by a second church conference (an all church meeting) held at a future date to be announced.

In the meantime, the Building Task Force is working diligently and thoughtfully as we work through the building plan steps as set out by the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. We covet your continued prayers and support.

If you haven't participated in Growing God's Grace to date, it's not too late to participate! The greater the amount raised in commitments now means fewer dollars and commitments that will be needed later to retire debt. Feel free to contact Buster or Joely Hanley to learn how.

As always, please feel free to approach any member of the Building Task Force with questions or for more information.

The Building Task Force includes: Jenni Schulze, Chairperson; Chris Booher; Mike Danner; Chuck Evans; Gary Ford, Pastor; Ryan Graves; Buster Hanley; Sean Masterson, DFM; Randy McDaniels; Lisa McKenzie; Brenda Nelson, and Ryan Plunkett.

Submitted by Buster and Joely Hanley  
Growing God's Grace Co-Chairs



# Grace United Methodist Women



## Calendar of Events

- Feb. 2:** 1:00 Executive Meeting
- Feb. 10:** 10:00 General Meeting
- Feb 12:** Miriam Bake Sale
- Feb. 23:** Circle Day
- Feb. 24 & 25:** Spiritual Retreat, Springfield



## Circle Meetings

- Miriam:** Wednesday February 15, 12:00  
Our Inn Place
- Lydia:** Thursday, February 23 at the home of Barbara Berardi.
- Rachel/ Sarah:** Thursday, February 23, 11:30 AM Lunch at our Inn Place
- Susannah:** Thursday, February 23, 9:00 AM . Fellowship Hall.

Circle Chairpersons please call (346-1298) or e-mail ([cdjack@itv-3.com](mailto:cdjack@itv-3.com)) Carolyn Jackson with any information for your circles or the newsletter. **All March information should be**

## GENERAL MEETING:

Feb. 9, 2011, 12:00 PM  
Luncheon Meeting.  
Food provided. Cost \$6.00

**Program: "Come As You Are",**  
the transforming power of prayer  
by Rev. Dick Seed.

Offering for the call to Prayer and Self Denial

## Bake Sale

## February 12

**In the Fellowship Hall following the First Service and 2<sup>nd</sup> service if any left. All donations accepted**

**Proceeds for Bags and Books used by the Kindergartens at CB Smith School Sponsored by Miriam Circle**

**PURPOSE OF  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

To add news to the UMW page: 1) bring news to the Executive Committee Meeting on the First Thursday of the month; 2) e-mail news to [cdjack@itv-s.com](mailto:cdjack@itv-s.com); or take to any UMW officer, 3) phone Carolyn -346-1298  
How about a digital picture??

Grace United Methodist Women  
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UMW READING PROGRAM



**Reading Program –**

Begin reading now. Books are available on the bookshelf in the corner of the stage downstairs in the fellowship hall. Take time to learn about missions around the world, educate yourself on some world problem or find a spiritual study to revive your soul.

More tips for you.

**Oh! No! I sealed the envelope but didn't put the check in it. Put it in the freezer for a few hours. Slide knife under the flap. Insert check. Reseal.**



**Service Projects-Caring Connections**

We are inviting members of all ages of our congregation to volunteer to be a part of Caring Connections. **Purpose:** to bring a connection to members of our church who are unable to participate actively with us. We want them to know they are not forgotten. Our volunteers are encouraged to choose a person, then send cards, make phone calls, visit from time to time, and take an Upper Room to them. If you are willing to be a connection for one of these church members, please contact Barb Hill at 346-5564 or [dubahill@grics.net](mailto:dubahill@grics.net)



We will use this corner to share news and needs of service Projects. If you have something for this corner, e-mail [cdjack@itv-3.com](mailto:cdjack@itv-3.com)



## GRACE CAFÉ

Grace Café began in 2005. We began serving a meal on the last Saturday of each month. Only about 6 people came for the first one, and that included volunteers. We now serve close to 200 meals at the Grace Café and give a sack of groceries to families attending.

About six months later, we began the Grace Food Pantry. We started with food in the back room on three shelving units and in two freezers. When people came to the pantry, they would come one at a time in the back room to get one or two sacks of food. Since that time, we have built several shelving units, added two freezers, and have painted the pantry walls twice. We now give out multiple sacks of groceries to approximately 125-150 families representing about 400 people each month at the Food Pantry.

**None of it can be done without VOLUNTEERS to share the work.**

### PREPARATION:

First Sunday/Monday of each month:

**Volunteer** Brenda Nelson purchases items online from Peoria Area Food Bank for both the Pantry and Café.

Every Wednesday she and another **volunteer** drive to Peoria Area Food Bank to pick up the ordered items and any other extras available that day.

They return to church to unload the van and stock the shelves of the Pantry.

### PANTRY DAY:

100- gallons of milk are purchased with donated funds and brought back in a **volunteer's** pickup truck to the Fellowship Hall and put into the refrigerator until 4:00 (Think of the weight being loaded, hauled, unloaded with the help of **volunteers!**).

The large church van, Hanley's van, and Dave Kelley's personal van are used to drive to the Midwest Food Bank in Peoria to load up with food.

About 2:00 **volunteers** begin arriving at the Fellowship Hall to begin the preparation of the Pantry. Food is brought out into the Hall for the give-a-way. Tables are organized; food is arranged; boxes are discarded—all by **volunteers**.

About 3:00 the three loaded vans arrive back at the church. **Volunteers** unload the vans and bring the food down the elevator and arrange on tables. Many items come in bulk (pasta, chips, candy, eggs, apples, potatoes, breads) and must be packaged into smaller quantities by the **volunteers**.

Prior to the doors opening to the clients, **volunteers** get some brief training on distribution.

At 4:00 the Pantry doors open. (The line typically begins forming at approximately 10:00 a.m.) Each family registers and is given a number. **Volunteers** accompany the clients through the tables and distribute items according to the size of the family. Another **volunteer** then escorts the client with their family and food bags to the parking lot and loads their car.

At 5:30 when all the clients have been served, **volunteers** finish tearing down the boxes and stack them for recycling. All unclaimed items are then returned to the pantry room.

**Average number of volunteers each pantry day: 35**

**Average number of clients receiving food: 400**

Continued on next page

## GRACE PANTRY

**Volunteer** coordinators prepare menus for the year.

Joely Hanley and Karen Jennings shop for groceries and get everything organized for the meal during the week prior to the Grace Café day.

About 8 a.m.

A team of cooks (about 3-5) come in and begin cooking.

Also at that time 2 **volunteers** set and decorate the tables.

At 9:00 a.m.

A team of 5-7 **volunteers** come in and fill approximately 100 sacks of groceries to be given away that day.

Two **volunteers** go to Schnucks and are given carts of breads and desserts to be given away.

There is a group of 3 or 4 women who prepare desserts and drinks for serving.

At 10:00 a.m.

3-4 **volunteers** come in to wash/dry dishes.

Other **volunteers** come to assist the clients with their meals.

**Volunteers** also stay to clean up, often not leaving until about 1:30.

Our **volunteer** van driver delivers meals and groceries to those who are unable to come to the church. In addition, we provide transportation to people who are in need of it. Meals are also delivered to the Center for Prevention of Abuse, and any food that is left over is taken to the Rust Center.

Average number of **volunteers** at each Grace Café meal: 30

Average number of meals served at each Grace Café: 200

DO YOU SEE A **VOLUNTEER** AREA YOU'D LIKE TO TRY?

COME AND **VOLUNTEER** AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE AS YOU WISH.



## Healing Prayer Service Beginning in March

Make a note on your calendar that on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning in March, (Tuesday, March 6, 2012) at 11 AM in the Chapel there will be a Healing Prayer service.

We will begin with an Order of Morning Prayer and then conclude with opportunities for specific healing prayers, optional anointing with oil and other traditional Christian resources of wholeness/wellness. Invite friends to share in this new ministry venture at Grace UMC.

(More details will be available in the March Grace Notes—see Rev. Ford if you have questions.)

## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

The Friendship Club welcomes all to come and break bread with us at noon on the first Monday of each month in Fellowship Hall, Grace United Methodist Church, Pekin, Illinois.



Last month the program was a photo show of flowers in the Netherlands by Margarete & Jack Hall. Our next meeting will be at **noon on Monday, February 6, 2012 in Fellowship Hall** for a meal prepared by Roy Johnson and Eileen Barbour.

You only need to bring yourself and some friends and enjoy the food and fellowship. The program is photos of the Holy Land Trip by Carolyn and Don Jackson.. We invite you and your friends to come for great fellowship and an excellent meal and program. If you would like a ride, please call the church office at 347-7131 or Ron Trimble 346-6361.



## **HOLY HABITS: Intentional Spiritual Development**

Listed below are the next five weeks of scripture selections for your daily consideration in our Holy Habits intentional spiritual development. We are working on the "Attributes of God". Remember, you only need to spend about 7 minutes each day Monday through Saturday reading praying and contemplating the daily reading. On Sunday (or Saturday evening) make it your habit to attend worship.

### January 30-February 4: "God is Just"

Zephaniah 3:5 II Thessalonians 1:5-7 Psalm 9:7-10  
Psalm 145:17 John 5:30 Revelation 15:3-4

### February 6-11: "God is Wise"

I Chronicles 28:9 Proverbs 2:6 Isaiah 55:8-9  
Romans 16:27 Psalm 92:5 Proverbs 3:19-20

### February 13-18: "God is Wise"

Daniel 2:20-22 Colossians 2:2-3 Psalm 147:5  
Isaiah 28:29 Romans 11:33-34 James 3:17

### February 20-25: "God is Eternal"

Exodus 3:14-15/John 8:58 Nehemiah 9:5b Psalm 93:2  
Romans 1:20 Exodus 15:18 Psalm 45:6

### February 27-March 3: "God is Eternal"

Isaiah 26:4 I Timothy 1:17 Deuteronomy 33:27  
Psalm 90:1-2 Jeremiah 31:3 Revelation 1:8,18



## 2012 Confirmation Class

Confirmation for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will begin with a parent/student meeting Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 9:30 AM in the Mason Building room 107.

Pastor Ford will outline the course and distribute materials at that time. We have attempted to contact all current eligible students; however, we have room for more students.

If you know of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders who may have been overlooked, please contact the church office.

### Notice of Church Conference: Sunday, January 29, 2012 9:30 AM

District Superintendent, Rev. Dan Harry will preside at a Church Conference meeting beginning at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 29, 2012. The purpose of this special meeting is to vote on a motion from the Building Committee seeking approval to move forward with detailed construction drawings for the proposed addition, based on the preliminary design.

The preliminary design plan and finance proposal for the addition have been approved by the District Board of Church Location and Buildings. Therefore, we need approval from the congregation to get '*Detailed Construction Plans*' from an architect. This will be the only item considered at this Church Conference. If approval is granted, after the detailed plans and construction estimates are received a third and final Church Conference will be set for final approval to complete the project.

At a Church Conference all full members of the church may vote.

## Attention Ladies:

It is time to begin a new Tuesday morning Bible Study again!

Who - All who are interested

When - 9:30am on Tuesday mornings

Where - Fellowship Hall

What – Either Beth Moore's "Daniel" study or her "Patriarchs" study

Come and meet for a time of fellowship on February 14<sup>th</sup> to look over the materials and pick the Bible Study that reaches out to you the most. Childcare can be provided if you let us know ahead of time.

Please contact Cassie Koehler at 347-7131 if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Jesus' Birthday Party

On Wednesday, December 14 our JAM TIME Kids gathered in Fellowship Hall to celebrate our Savior's birth.

Upon arriving Judy Brown served the kids Nativity Snacks and drink. After enjoying these at the decorated tables, each boy and girl created a special Christmas bag assisted by Carolyn Jackson and Carol Schultz.

Then it was time to make their own individual pizzas. Kim Fields and her pizza mascot led the group in making their favorite pizza. We appreciate Kim's donation from Papa Murphy's Pizza. She made this a fun activity.

While the pizzas baked, Michelle Bishop led games that related to the season and the reason for Christmas. Everyone won a prize and had a lot of fun.

After eating their delicious pizza creations, the JAM TIME kids gathered around the table of lighted cupcakes and sang "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

The celebration ended by gathering around the piano and singing Christmas songs. Kathy Towne and Claire Ford led the children. Cassie Koehler read the Christmas story from Luke to all that were present. We are very thankful for God's gift of love!



## JAM Time

Dear Friends,

During the months of January, February, and March we will be having a contest to see which Jam Time class can bring in the most toiletries to donate to the food pantry and the Grace Cafe.

The class that brings in the most items to donate will receive a special treat.

The children will be making special bags at Jam Time to put the toiletries in to be passed out at the Grace Cafe in March.

All of the children will be invited to come to Grace

Cafe that morning to pass the bags out themselves if they would like.

This would be a wonderful experience for them and I encourage all who are willing to come and help out that day.

Suggested Items to include: shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, etc.

Donations will be accepted now through March 14th. Thank you for your support in this ministry!

God Bless,  
Cassie Koehler



Please keep the following Grace members and friends in your prayers: Joanne Miller, Esther Nierstheimer, Bob Robinson, Louise Fabry.

**Thanks....**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the thoughtful parting gift. God has been so good to me and blessing me with a wonderful family as well as a loving, caring, church family.

May you experience all the joy he gives us daily as His grace grows at Grace UMC and reaches out to others.

A friend in Jesus, Jeanie.

Thank you for the outpouring of love at the passing of my mother. It helps so much to know that others care.

Blessings, Jeanie Farris

**CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS**

Sound interesting? This is a program presented on DVD by Focus on the Family. It is a twelve week course to be held at the Miller Center on Sunday evenings at 6pm. Each session is one hour long. The Miller Center requires \$2.00 per person each week. Much of the program is filmed in a college classroom setting. Four years ago Judy Streid and the Crawford's attended. It is non-denominational. For more information check "thetruthproject.org/about". For more information contact Kenny Crawford. 309-606-4254. (Sessions are to begin February 12<sup>th</sup>)

**Lenten Study "Final Words from the Cross"**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will offer the latest Adam Hamilton study "Final Words from the Cross"; a six week study of the last things Jesus said before he died on the cross. Books will be available for \$10.00 each from the church office. This will be a "Soup & Study" group. We will plan to meet at noon on Tuesday's during in Lent beginning on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Keep this on your calendar and plan to attend.

**VITAL STATS**

*~~ Were You There?~~*

January 1	174
January 7/8	304
January 14/15	312
January 21/22	285

*~~When You Share~~*

Over 40 years Grace UMC has done a live broadcast of our Sunday morning worship, "The Hour of Grace". During these four decades the radio station has changed names, call letters, and ownership several times, yet, we have remained on air, knowing the broadcast connects many folks to our service. The current station is WVLE, 1140 AM. This station is located in Peoria near the Riverside Sports complex at the foot of the Murray Baker Bridge. A weekly broadcast is \$105.00 for one hour of on air time. Plus, the cost of the required telephone call, approximately \$10.00 per week.

Presently our Radio Endowment Fund established by a generous gift many years ago, stands at about \$95,000.00. With low interest rates the income does not cover our annual costs. Many folks from our congregation support this ministry with special contributions, often in honor of a person or some date such as an anniversary. Please contact the church office if you would like to consider supporting this ongoing ministry, with a second mile contribution.

*(Next month watch this space for information about our Television ministry.)*