

AMAZING GRACE

DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER

2022



## WELCOME REV. MARY!



By now I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet many of you – and can promise, it is unlikely I will remember your name. It's not that I don't care – it's that there are a lot of you and very few of me. So, please help me, help one another (who may have forgotten your name after one introduction years ago), help visitors, and come January, help our new Pastor, Jim Clark; wear your nametag. And if you have misplaced it, the office would be happy to order you another one.

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**CUSTODIANS:**  
Christopher Mann  
Robert Russell  
Angel Soto

Methodists don't usually do interims, but here we are. Pastor Stacee went in a different direction after giving of herself here, and Pastor Jim can't come until he has traveled with his current church through Christmas. So here I am.

I've served several churches here in South Bend; five years at St. Paul's Memorial United Methodist, ten years at Central United Methodist, twelve years at First United Methodist. And I had a challenging and wonderful experience recently being an Interim Pastor at Coalbush United Methodist in Mishawaka. I've done a number of years in Social Services, leading programs that extend beyond our area, and served other Methodist churches in northern Indiana. It's quite remarkable, since I am only thirty years old. (For any of you without a sense of humor, that was a joke. Just wait until you see me.)

We have a wonderful season ahead of us, Thanksgiving through Christmas, and I am honored to be traveling it with you.

Come and worship in person. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, said "There is no such thing as a solitary Christian." We need each other, to challenge, to stimulate – to both rejoice and mourn with. Don't let this hiccup in pastoral leadership dissuade you from coming to worship. Come and grow, come and deepen your spiritual life, come and get your rough edges rubbed off by contact with people who are on the same journey as you – a deeper walk with Jesus. And – it can be fun!

Please introduce yourself when you see me – several times. And perhaps before I leave, I will know you by name! It's a good thing.

# WELCOME TO OUR STAFF!



JOVAN HILL

Jovan Hill is the new Youth Director here at Grace United Methodist Church. He and his family are from St. Clair Shores, MI. They enjoy the fall season and lake areas of Michiana.

Jovan's experiences of working with the youth have involved the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, various church denominations both within and outside the United Methodist Church, and K-12 and higher education institutions around the United States.

Jovan is excited to see how God will continue to move upon the youth and the church to be Jesus' Disciples.



CHRISTOPHER MANN

Christopher Mann is the new Building Staff at Grace. He is from South Bend where he attended Adams High School, graduating in 2005. Christopher has three daughters; Asata, Ginaiyah and Jersei. He enjoys basketball, eating out at new places and visiting the city of Chicago. He thanks all of the church staff and members of the congregation for welcoming him. He's happy to be aboard!



ROBERT RUSSELL

Robert grew up in a Baptist Church in New Lisbon, WI where the fundamentals of Christianity were instilled in him. After high school he attended a Lutheran School of Arts in Kenosha, WI where he earned a degree in Theatre. Life kept him in Kenosha for a while, and eventually he met his bride-to-be (ask him about that sometime...) and they were married at Wesley United Methodist Church. Soon, with two young boys (Joey and Robby), they moved to her hometown area of South Bend and transferred their membership to Grace United Methodist Church. He currently does sales and finance at Fay's Marina and he's excited to add GUMC Building Staff to his resume. Please feel free to let him know if you need anything for Sunday Coffee and Donut time. God Bless!



## IT'S TIME TO START WEARING OUR NAMETAGS!

As we make staff transitions over the next couple of months, as well as combining both worship services during Advent, it is very important that we all wear our nametags. Nametags will make it so much easier for us to get to know one another! If you have lost your nametag, or need a new one, please contact the church office.



# advent

DECEMBER 4 | 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
SERMON: "The Present versus the Perfect"  
SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12

DECEMBER 11 | 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY  
SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11

DECEMBER 18 | 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
SERMON: "God With Us"  
SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25



## CHRISTMAS EVE

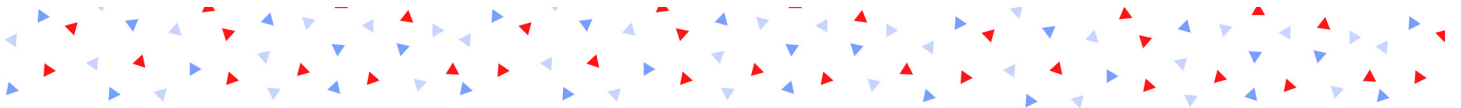
7PM FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
10PM LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

# NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Children's Christmas Sunday is December 11. We will meet for practice on Saturday morning, December 10 at 9AM.



## RAGGEDY ANN PRESCHOOL

Our little elves at Raggedy Ann Preschool are going to be very busy this next month!



First, I would like to thank Jeff and Heidi Deethardt for all of the work they put in on building our wonderful free library!

We will be having a dedication / ribbon cutting ceremony for it on Tuesday, December 6 at 11AM. RAPS would like to invite the members of the

congregation to join us in officially opening our little library!

### BOOK DRIVE

If you would like to donate any gently used children's books that are no longer being read, please leave them in our donation box in front of Ms. Kim's main door.

### HAT & GLOVE DRIVE

Raggedy Ann friends will also be collecting new hats and gloves for Lincoln Elementary School. If you would like to donate a set, we will have a Christmas

Tree by the children's Advent display. We will be collecting from November 28-December 12.

Also on December 12, we will be welcoming Donna Frisinger, a local Christian children's author to Raggedy Ann Preschool to read her new book, "Bink and Slinky's Christmas Adventure!"



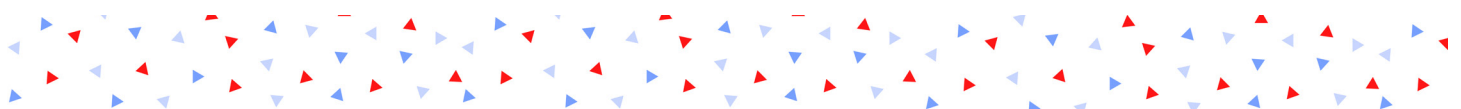
She will be in the Parlor at 10:30AM for her reading if you would like to join us.

Raggedy Ann would like to extend the invitation to read to our students to all of the members of the congregation! Please email Kim Holder at [kringler4@gmail.com](mailto:kringler4@gmail.com) if you would like to set up a time and date. We would love to have you!



### AMAZON WISHLIST

Raggedy Ann has put together a wish list of supplies, books and other fun items they can use in the classroom. If you would like to help, please check out the list by scanning the QR code.



## BLOOD DRIVE DECEMBER 11 | 10AM-1PM

Please register to give blood at our next Blood Drive at [givebloodnow.com/donorportal/](http://givebloodnow.com/donorportal/).

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### PAPER PANTRY

The Paper Pantry is in need of laundry soap. Please place donations in the grocery cart inside the main doors. Thank you!

### LINCOLN SCHOOL

We are collecting school supplies for Lincoln School. There are collection boxes in the Welcome Center and near the Great Hall.

### WEATHER AMNESTY

Warm clothing donations for Weather Amnesty are needed. Shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, pants, underwear, socks, hats, gloves, scarves, thermal tops and bottoms,

personal hygiene items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, deodorant are the most needed items. Please leave donations by the shopping carts near the office entrance.

### BROADWAY CHRISTIAN PARISH

Broadway Christian Parish is in need of many items such as, men's T-shirts, shorts, jeans, belts, women's shorts sizes 14-22, body wash, coffee, juice, dress pant hangers, toilet paper, canned meat, fruit, chili, peanut butter & jelly, pasta boxes; mac & cheese, granola bars, juice boxes, Pop Tarts and chips.

Congratulations, DayDay Harris! DayDay is the founder, mentor and instructor of Baller Opportunities, a program for young youth in the area. The children arrive at 5PM for an hour of homework and snacks in the Parlor, followed by an hour of basketball instruction in the Great Hall. Baller Opportunities meets on Thursday and Friday evenings at Grace UMC.

The ABA South Atlantic Crows recently announced that DayDay has been added to their team:

*"The ABA South Atlanta Crows are excited about the news of the addition of South Bend, Indiana, free agent prospect Dayantrinique (DayDay) Harris. He comes with 1 year of professional experience with the Chicago Rebels. A 5'11" 170 lb Point Guard. Team Player Development Coach, Dave*

## CONGRATULATIONS, DAYDAY!



*Jones stated, 'DayDay has nice court vision. Quick hands. Possesses a deep ball shot.' Coach Brian added, 'He has natural intangibles as a player; looks like a hooper.'"*

Congratulations, DayDay! We're rooting for you!

## SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the friends and family of Sue Brokaw.

## THANK YOU...

Please extend my thanks to the people of Grace UMC for the wonderful hospitality at the previous Charge Conference. I so appreciated all they did to make sure that the meeting was a success. You all are such a blessing to me!

~Marti Lundy, Conference Superintendent of the North District

Thank you so much for blessing us with your generous donation of \$550. It means the world to us and to our amazing campers! Please come for a tour, we'd love to show you around. Thank you again!

~Best wishes,

Diana Breden & Melissa Swank, Camp Millhouse

You just helped with your gift of \$1000 to UMCOR - Thank you!

~Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernades

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to Red Bird Mission, Inc.

~Your in Christ,

Tim Crawford

## OPEN MEETING CHURCH COUNCIL

**DECEMBER 15 @ 6:15PM in the Great Hall**

The gathering will begin with a brief Charge Conference Meeting, which will include an all-member vote for "Care of Members."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAYS

9:30AM | In-Person & Virtual Service  
10:30AM | Sunday School

### MONDAYS

1PM | Pilgrimage Healing (by appt.)  
5PM | Children's Dispensary  
7PM | A.A.

### TUESDAYS

5:30PM | Get Better Basketball

### WEDNESDAYS

7:30AM | Bible Study

### THURSDAYS

5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities  
7PM | Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAYS

5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities  
7:30PM | A.A.

### DECEMBER 1

1PM | UMW Christmas Tea

### DECEMBER 3

8AM | Men's Breakfast

### DECEMBER 5

6PM | Staff Parish Meeting

### DECEMBER 10

9AM | Children's Play Practice  
10AM | Paper Pantry

### DECEMBER 11

10AM | Blood Drive

### DECEMBER 12

6:30PM | Blue Star Mothers

### DECEMBER 14

6:30PM Finance Committee Meeting

### DECEMBER 15

6:15PM | Church Council Meeting

### DECEMBER 19

6PM | Board of Trustees Meeting

### DECEMBER 21

7PM | Candle Dance Rehearsal

### DECEMBER 23

7PM | Candle Dance Rehearsal

### DECEMBER 24

7PM | Family Christmas Eve Service

10PM | Lessons & Carols Service

### DECEMBER 25

9:30AM | Worship Service

To make an online contribution to Grace UMC, please visit [sbgrace.breezechms.com/give/online](http://sbgrace.breezechms.com/give/online). Please remember Grace United Methodist Church when doing your estate planning.



# AMAZING GRACE NEWSLETTER



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If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with a poinsettia, complete this form and return it to the church office. All poinsettias must be ordered by December 15. Poinsettias can be purchased for \$12 (payment due with order). Please make checks payable to Grace UMW. All remembrances will be noted in the Christmas bulletins and the Amazing Grace Newsletter.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

In honor or memory of *(please circle one)*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_