



**W**e moved our things into the parsonage across the parking lot just two weeks ago. Many of the boxes still haven't been unpacked. We are not sure where all of our furniture will end up just yet. The house is great, but we're not quite settled into it. My books and pictures have been unpacked in the church office. The books are on the shelves, but everything else is just leaned against the wall waiting to be hung or placed in a final destination. I am learning the flow of the office and slowly understanding the leadership teams and other groups that are vital to the life of this church. I have had one formal staff meeting and I'm beginning to get to know the staff. They're wonderful by the way! I have met many of you in the office already. I look forward to seeing you on Sundays too.

Before long we'll know each other well. We'll share our stories, we'll

pray together, we'll do ministry and become important parts of each other's faith journey. But for now, we're just getting started with this new thing. We're at the very beginning and there's so much to do, so much to learn. To me that's exciting and scary all at once.

Change is like that, exciting and scary. When I find myself in the midst of change, especially a change like this one, I remember the words of Isaiah 43:19. When the Israelites were in the midst of a major change, God encouraged them saying,

*"See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not  
perceive it? I am making a way  
in the wilderness and streams in  
the wasteland."*

It comforts me to know God is with me, and my family, and the people of Grace UMC, as we enter into this new season of ministry. God is with us. God is doing a new

thing here. I know it is going to be a good thing. I know God has amazing plans for us. I am excited to get to be a part of all of them with all of you.

In time our boxes will be unpacked, our furniture will be arranged, our pictures will be hung on the walls. In time, I'll be familiar with the flow of the office and enjoy deep relationships with our staff and leaders. And sooner rather than later, I hope to have the opportunity to get to know you, and for you to get to know me. I'm not scared about that at all, only excited.

Thank you again for welcoming me and my family into your church and your lives. We are so glad to be here.

See you soon!

Peace,  
Pastor Jim

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## RAGGEDY ANN PRESCHOOL ENJOYS VOLUNTEER READERS

Our students have really been enjoying their story time with our guest readers from the church! They LOVE to be read to and to meet new "friends!" If you'd like to come read to our Raggedy Ann classes, please contact Kim Holder at kringler4@gmail.com or 574-288-4789.



## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT IS IN PROCESS OF PLANNING WINTER RETREAT

The leaders of Children's Ministry are in the process of planning a Children's Retreat at Camp Tecumseh. The date is to-be-determined, so please stay alert for more information.

## UPCOMING YOUTH SUNDAY

The Youth will lead both worship services on Sunday, January 29.

Youth-Please let Jovan know what part of the service in which you would like to participate. Rehearsal for Youth Sunday will be held at Noon on Saturday, January 28.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT, DR. MARTI LUNDY

We are declaring that Sunday, February 12 be the "Super Bowl of Communications" so that we will win by improving our communications to those in leadership and to the people in the pews. Here is what we are encouraging:

- Like the North District page on Facebook. This is the MOST effective way we know to freely share all the great things God is doing throughout our District for those on Facebook.
- Sign up for the North District newsletter and emails. You can sign up at <https://www.inumc.org/subscribe/> by submitting your email and checking the box next to the North District under "District Newsletters." These newsletters come out monthly and have our most recent District news and information as well as what is going on throughout the Conference. There are a variety of other emails and newsletters that our Conference publishes and you can also sign up for any that interest you at this same link.

That's it! Do these 2 simple things in worship on February 12 so that we can win the Super Bowl of Communications!

Blessings,  
Superintendent Rev. Dr. Marti Lundy

## SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the friends and family of Jeff Jones.

## BLOOD DRIVE

Our next Blood Drive is Sunday, February 5 from 10AM-1PM in our Great Hall. Please register at [givebloodnow.com/donorportal/](http://givebloodnow.com/donorportal/).

## PAPER PANTRY

The Paper Pantry is always in need of laundry detergent. Forty-two ounce bottles may be available at the Dollar Tree.

# THANK YOU

Ron and I are so blessed to be part of the Grace family. We want to thank Pastor Mary for her visit, Bill White for bringing us Communion, and all the food, cards and prayers on my behalf. I was overjoyed to be in worship on January 8 after being ill for four months.

God Bless You All!

Judy Clady

Thank you for supporting the Angel Tree Prison Ministry by calling families, purchasing gifts, donating money, sorting the gifts, and delivering the gifts to these local children and families. We served 26 families and 56 children. A BIG thank you to the Angel Tree Committee and volunteers: Linda & Jim Clauson, Scott Dunham, Holly Easterbrook, Sandy Fackson, Cheri Kucela, Joyce Kuehl, Mike Kummeth, Karen Messersmith, Denise Pitts, Neal Burd and the Boy Scouts Troop, Jennifer Robinett and Bob Messersmith. We could not have done this without all of your support and willingness to share Jesus's love with others. Thank you so much for supporting this wonderful ministry!

Teresa Jodway, Angel Tree Coordinator

...for your gift of \$25 to Ray Bird Ministries

...for your gift of \$125 to A Rosie Place for Children

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SUNDAYS

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

### MONDAYS

1PM Pilgrimage Healing (by appt.)  
7PM A.A.

### TUESDAYS

5:30PM Get Better Basketball

### WEDNESDAYS

7:30AM Bible Study

### THURSDAYS

5PM Baller Opportunities  
7PM Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAYS

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

### FEBRUARY 5

10AM Blood Drive

### FEBRUARY 8

10AM Gathering at St. Paul's

### FEBRUARY 11

10AM Paper Pantry

### FEBRUARY 1

6PM Board of Trustees Meeting

### FEBRUARY 8

7PM Finance Committee Meeting

# AMAZING GRACE NEWSLETTER

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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PHONE | 574-288-4789 WEBSITE | [gracemethodist.org](http://gracemethodist.org)  
FACEBOOK | [sbgraceumc](https://www.facebook.com/sbgraceumc) YOUTUBE | [SBGraceUMC](https://www.youtube.com/SBGraceUMC)

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES (beginning January 8)  
9AM (Livestream & In-Person) & 10:30AM (In-Person)

## ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION CALENDAR

If you would like to celebrate or memorialize a loved one or event by dedicating flowers for the altar, please sign up at [signupgenius.com/go/70a084eadae2aa4f94-altar](https://signupgenius.com/go/70a084eadae2aa4f94-altar).

## THE MORE WE KNOW, THE BETTER WE CAN CARE!

If you or anyone in your life needs care, love, prayer and support, please contact Melodie at 574-288-4789 or email the Grace Cares confidential email address at [gracecares@gracemethodist.org](mailto:gracecares@gracemethodist.org). Grace Cares about you!



## MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO GRACE UMC

If you would like to contribute, please scan the QR Code or text 574-444-3044 and follow the prompts. Please remember Grace United Methodist Church when doing your estate planning.

NEXT AMAZING GRACE SUBMISSION DEADLINE | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7