

# WE ARE THE CHURCH



I love the hymn called, "We Are the Church." It is number 558 in our United Methodist Hymnal. The refrain and first verse go like this, "I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the Church together! The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple, the Church is not a resting place, the Church is a people." For most of my 20 years of ministry, the words I have used to greet the people in the pews, and now add the people worshiping virtually, are, "Good morning, Church!" Our English word, church, is how we translate the Greek word ekklesia which means, "the called out ones." We are "the called out ones" because we follow Jesus together. We have been called out to follow him; to be like him; to love like him. The Church, or Ekklesia, is how we refer to the community of faithful followers of Jesus who have come together for the purpose of spreading the Gospel message.

The Grace United Methodist Church (Ekklesia) has an even more specific purpose for gathering, it's our mission, "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." That is what we believe we are "called out" to do. That is why we say we exist as a church. Each one of us has a special part to play in that mission too. Some of you serve in leadership through Church Council, Trustees, the Finance Committee or the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Some of you lead bible studies for children, youth or adults. Some of you have specific staff positions. Some of you help with the Paper Pantry or are involved in the other areas of outreach we offer here at Grace. Some of you are committed to pray for each other and our world. Some of you are called out to visit the sick or the imprisoned. Some of you do important work behind the scenes; work that matters but doesn't get seen or celebrated. Some of you are called out to support others in

various different ways. And some of you are called out for things only you and God know about.

I want to thank all of you for being the called out ones here at Grace UMC. And I want you to know you are important; you matter and the part you play, whatever it is, makes us who we are as a church. My prayer for our church is that we will recognize and live into the fact that we are the Church together. No part is more important than another. Together, with all of the people, all of the parts, all of the passions...We are the church. Megan and I are so glad to be part of that we. Thank you for inviting us and welcoming us. And thank you for being the Church together.

Peace,  
Pastor Jim

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## LUNCHEON AT ST. PAUL'S

Our members that live at St. Paul's have been enjoying their monthly luncheons with Pastor Jim. Once a month, everyone gets together for food and fellowship in the main dining hall. It's a great time for catching up and connecting for all. We have a few extra chairs at the table and would love to invite other Grace church members to fellowship with these friends. Our next luncheon will be Thursday, March 23 at 11:30AM. Please contact the office at 574-288-4789 by March 19 if you can join us.

## GRACE CARES

We are expanding our Grace Cares Team and are looking for people who like to write cards, make phone calls, make meals or go on visits. We meet every other month and communicate mostly through email or phone. If you are interested, please talk with either Pastor Jim or Melodie.



## CALLING ALL 1ST-5TH GRADERS!

The Winter retreat this year is March 18-19 at Camp Tecumseh. Pastor Jim and Melodie are looking forward to spending the weekend having fun and getting to know each other. There will be candle making, archery, rock climbing, horseback riding and much more! The cost is \$40 per child, with scholarships available if needed. We want everyone to go! We do need chaperones, and you are free! Pick up your forms either at the Welcome Center or on the board outside the Great Hall. Any questions, contact Melodie at children@gracemethodist.org or at 574-288-4789.





## LIFE SAVING DEVICE IN THE WELCOME CENTER

We now have an AED system hanging on the wall in the Welcome Center. To watch a tutorial on how to use it effectively, please visit our YouTube Channel (SBGraceUMC).

## THANK YOU...

... for your donation to Our Lady of the Road. To learn more about this organization, please visit [olrsb.org](http://olrsb.org).

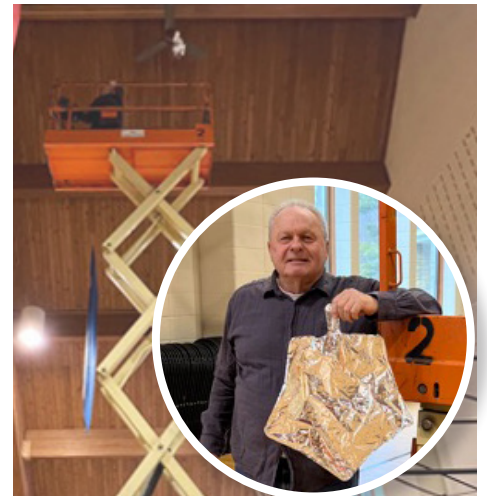
... for your donation to Sr. Maura Brannick, CSC, Health Center.

## BLOOD DRIVE TEAM

After many years of helping organize the Blood Drives at Grace by herself, Ruth Pavich could really use some help. We are looking for a small team of volunteers that would be willing to help Ruth get flyers up and make a few phone calls. If you are interested in this ministry, please let the Church office know, 574-288-4789.

## LIGHT BULBS CONVERTED TO LED IN THE GREAT HALL

During the month of January, a dedicated group from the Board of Trustees arranged for the rental of a lift, and were able to convert the lighting system in the Great Hall to LED. While at the top of the lift, Harry Yocum untangled a balloon that has been caught on the ceiling fan for several years.



# 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

- 7PM Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAYS

- 7:30PM A.A.

### MARCH 7

- Amazing Grace Submission Deadline

### MARCH 11

- 10AM Paper Pantry

### MARCH 18-19

- Children's Winter Retreat

### MARCH 28

- 6:30PM Graceful Friends Meeting

### MARCH 31

- 6PM Youth & Family Marial Arts Event: Demo & Self-Defense

# AMAZING GRACE NEWSLETTER

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3012 South Twyckenham Drive  
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[www.gracemethodist.org](http://www.gracemethodist.org)  
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

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, MARCH 7