



GRACE NEWS & NOTES



January 1, 2019

Special Session of General Conference February 23-26, 2019 St. Louis, MO

Please commit to be in prayer for our United Methodist Church. Here in our district we have been asked by Rev. Roger Russell to take time, even if just a moment, to pray at 12 noon every day from now through a special called session of the General Conference. This will be held in St. Louis, February 23-26, 2019. The purpose is to vote on a plan which lays out a Way Forward. The main issue is inclusiveness of LGBT persons in ordination as clergy. You can go to our conference website, igrc.org, and read more about what is happening. You can also go to umc.org, the website for the United Methodist Church, and read much more each day about the events taking place. This special called session of General Conference may potentially have a big impact upon our denomination. Please commit to be in prayer!

Pastor Bill Bunnage

**I Was Broke.
Now I'm Not.**



**A 6-Sessions Class at
Grace United Methodist Church
250 N. Mill Street, Nashville, IL
on Monday nights beginning**

January 21, 2019

6:30-7:30 p.m.

*Sign up by January 14,
so materials can be ordered.*



**This course will help
free you from debt and
give you the freedom to
live the generous life
God desires you to live
— a fully funded life.**

**Develop a plan for your life,
prepare a budget that actually
works, calculate a debt freedom
date and the amount of money
needed for retirement and more!**

**Call the church office to sign up at
327-8407 or send an email to**

nashvillegraceumc@gmail.com

“SHARING GRACE” RETURNS TO GRACE UMC



“Sharing Grace” returns on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning January 9, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.

Church committees will take turns planning and hosting each event, including a simple meal and an activity or short program.

To prepare the meal, an approximate headcount is necessary prior to each event. There will be a clipboard on the credenza in the back of the church sanctuary, **or** you can indicate on the back of your church attendance slip, **or** you can call the church office at 327-8407.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 1 **New Year's Day**—Office Closed
- 2 **Choir-7:30 pm**
- 6 **Prayer Group-8:30 am**
Worship (Commissioning Service for 2019 Committees)-10:15 am
- Kid's Club-5:00-6:00 pm**
Snupper-6:00-6:30 pm
Bridge-6:30 pm-8:00 pm
- Bible Study-5:00 pm**
- 8 **Happy Days Board-6:00 pm**
- 9 **"Sharing Grace" (Evangelism hosts)-5:30 pm**
Endowment Board-6:30 pm
Choir-7:30 pm
- 10 **Breakfast Club at Little Nashville-9:00 am**
- 11 **Sr. High 5th Quarter-9:00-11:00 pm**
- 13 **Prayer Group-8:30 am**
Youth Groups (see Jan. 6 for times)
Bible Study-5:00 pm
- 16 **Evangelism-6:30 pm**
Choir-7:30 pm
- 17 **Education-6:45 pm**
- 20 **Prayer Group-8:30 am**
Youth Groups (see Jan. 6 for times)
Bible Study-5:00 pm
- 21 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**—Office Closed
- Financial Management Class, "I Was Broke. Not I'm Not" (1st session)-6:30 pm**
- 23 **"Sharing Grace" (Church Council hosts)-5:30 pm**
Choir-7:30 pm
- 25 **Sr. High 5th Quarter-9:00-11:00 pm**
- 26 **Youth go to Chucky Cheese-9:15 am**
- 27 **Prayer Group-8:30 am**
Youth go to Winter Jam-2:00 pm
Bible Study-5:00 pm
- 28 **Financial Management Class, "I Was Broke. Not I'm Not" (2nd session)-6:30 pm**
- 30 **Choir-7:30 pm**

JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 2 **Cynthia Cookson**
- 5 **Savanna Staley**
- 7 **Jamie Juenger**
- 10 **Greg Harre**
- 13 **Dan Summers**
- 15 **Georgine May**
- 17 **John Sallee**
- 19 **Rachael Curtis**
- 20 **Brad Kleiboeker**
- 24 **Linda Luessenheide**
Linda Summers
- 27 **Brooke Smith**
- 29 **Avery Meade**
Hannah Meade
- 30 **Tom Schroeder**

ANNIVERSARIES

- Jan. 18 **Ken and Bev Terveer**

Congratulations everyone on your milestones! If your name was not included in our list, please inform the office so that we can update our records.

December Report

Date	Attendance	Offering
12-02	88	\$17,660.75
12-09	200	\$4,235.95
12-10	<i>Online (Vanco)</i>	\$ 399.25
12-16	113	\$4,487.97
12-23	130	\$4,986.13
12-24	<i>Online (Vanco)</i>	\$ 300.00
12-24	162	\$3,924.18
<i>Christmas Offering (23 & 24)</i>		
12-30		<i>Not Yet Reported</i>

From Me to You

Philippians 3:12-16 contains words for us to live by as we enter this yet another new year. It doesn't matter what version you read from I think this passage is easy to understand but I do like the way it reads from The Message:

¹²⁻¹⁴ I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.

It is so easy to get sidetracked and believe you me there will be plenty of distractions this year as well. But here is what we know as we enter this New Year of 2019 as a congregation. We exist as the Church to praise and worship God. That is **our purpose**.

Our mission is actually a co-mission to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ. As GUM we concluded that we best do **our mission** by Reaching, Loving, Serving. This is how we can best fulfill the Great Co-Mission that Jesus gave to us.

So, this will be our focus moving forward throughout not only this year but the coming years as well. Through our work in STEP UP, we have even clarified this more. We are to Reach the Unconnected, Love Jesus, Serve People.

If we are to accomplish this, then we must be more conscience of what it means to be a member of GUM.

Membership vows are to be taken seriously, of course. When a person stands before the Church and God making vows to support our church through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, you are making a promise to do just what you said.

I'll have to admit, we as the Church have not been doing a good job holding you accountable to what you promised. But that is changing.

If you are a part of our congregation, my expectations and our church leaders expectations for you is that you will be in worship every week. We expect you to be tithing or at least moving toward tithing. We expect you to be involved in a small group, whether that be a Sunday School class, midweek Bible Study group, or a small group that meets on some kind of regular basis.

Our Education and Evangelism will be helping provide opportunities for you to get connected in this way. You will also have a purpose and place to invite your one to get connected, too. This will be one way to facilitate our mission to Reach, Love, Serve.

Let me say this again. We are to make disciples of Jesus Christ. That means we are to be making better disciples while at the same time making more disciples. This is what we are trying to accomplish. In February 2019, there will be a special called session of General Conference of the UMC. The purpose is to try and clarify a way forward in our UMC around the issues of ordination for self avowed gay clergy and whether clergy should/will perform wedding ceremonies for gay couples.

Keep this in prayer. Regardless of what happens, our mission is still to make better and more disciples right here in Nashville Grace.

Keep Being Faithful!

Pastor Bill



“Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see.”

—Roy T. Bennett



All District Training Event

Sunday, February 17, 2019
St. Matthew UMC, Belleville
2:00-4:30 p.m.

Attention:
Committee Members and Church Leadership

We will be having an all district training event on February 17, 2019. It will be held at St. Matthew UMC in Belleville and will run from 2:00-4:30 p.m. There will be four breakout sessions that include: Trustee Training, Finance Training, Church Growth, and The Importance of Prayer. We have great people from our conference and district communities coming in to educate, remind and inspire us on these important topics.

Please contact Pastor Bill or the church office at 327-8407, if you are interested in attending and would like to carpool.

YOUTH Activities

...for January

January 6, 13 and 20: The following youth groups will meet:

5:00-6:00 p.m., Kids' Club
6:00-6:30 p.m., Snupper
6:30-8:00 p.m., Bridge

January 11 and 25, 9:00-11:00 p.m.:
Sr. High 5th Quarter after NCHS home games

January 26, depart 9:15 am and return 2:00 pm: Youth go to Chucky Cheese

January 27, depart 2:00 pm: Winter Jam

For more information and to sign up for any of these youth activities, please see Mike Savard, Director of Children & Teen Ministries.

Book Club Changes Name

The Book Club, started by Suzanne Clark about 10 years ago, is changing its name to the Breakfast Club beginning January 10. This group will meet the second Thursday of each month at Little Nashville for breakfast and fellowship at 9:00 a.m.

Come join the group for lively conversation. Breakfast, of course, is on your own, but everyone is welcome to attend!



Live Nativity
December 18, 2018

*A letter from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference,
Spiritual Life Ministries Endowment Campaign,
dated October 21, 2018:*

Please extend our appreciation to Grace United Methodist Church for the generous \$10,000 contribution to the Our Conference, Our Kids Spiritual Life Ministries Endowment. We are deeply grateful for Grace's support through your prayers, as well as your financial gifts.

Endowing the spiritual life ministries of Spero Family Service (formerly the Mt. Vernon Children's Home), Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Cunningham Children's Home, Chaddock, and Baby Fold will enable them to continue "Sustaining Love's Embracing ARMS" by:

- 1) offering an opportunity for these children to know Christ,
- 2) providing a Christian atmosphere for their healing, and
- 3) imparting a sense of family where none existed before...

Grace's gift joined with those of others across our conference will help keep spiritual life ministries as a vital pillar in these agencies' holistic care for children and families, who come primarily from communities within the bounds of our conference!

I would welcome the opportunity to come to Grace to share our appreciation in person and to share further about Our Conference, Our Kids.

Appreciatively,
Rev. Dr. J. Keith Zimmerman, Chair
Our Conference, Our Kids Steering Team

Happy Days Preschool Sunday on December 9th was well attended by congregation members and visitors, including parents, relatives and friends of the children. The children sang several songs, led by Rhonda Bunnage. These are our future choir members!



Greeters:

January	6	Gary and Teresa Hake
January	13	Tim and Bernie Chambers
January	20	Ron and Linda Luessenheide
January	27	Rich and Marilyn Pingsterhaus

