



GRACE NEWS & NOTES



November 1, 2019

Present Tense



After "turkey day" came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not "How was your Thanksgiving?" but "How *is* your Thanksgiving?" After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn't always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand*, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? "Sometimes I'm just grateful I have arms." That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being "thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice." So ... how *is* your Thanksgiving?

Grace UMC Church Conference Set for Sunday, November 20, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Plan to attend our local charge conference on **Wednesday, November 20, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.** Our new District Superintendent, Rev. Allynn Walker, meets with our church members at that time to receive reports from the different committees and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council.

Prior to the conference, the Endowment Board will be **hosting** "Sharing Grace" at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Simultaneously, Rev. Walker will meet with just the members of the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPR) at 5:00 p.m. to get to know our church and its ministries.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. All church members vote on our 2020 appointed committees and our 2020 local church budget.

Opportunities to Serve at Grace UMC

Currently our church is in need of volunteers to help in the following areas:

- Communion stewards
- Greeters at the church doors on Sundays
- Youth volunteers (*youth activities and trips, chaperoning Sr. High 5th Quarters, Children's Church on Sunday mornings, etc.*)
- Church van drivers on Sunday mornings

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help in any of these areas. Thank you!



Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck November 24, 2019, 12:00 p.m. (following worship service)

Please bring side dishes and desserts!



This year, the Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at Trinity St. John's Lutheran Church in Nashville the evening of November 24th at 7:00 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 3** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Worship-10:15 am
- Christmas Program Practice-4:30 pm
Small Group Study-5:30 pm
Food Fight at St. Paul's UCC-6:00 pm
- 4** Small Group Study (K. Hake)-7:00 pm
- 5** Small Group Study-12:00 pm
- 6** **"Sharing Grace"** (Missions hosts)-
5:30 pm
Small Group Study-6:30 pm
Choir-7:30 pm
- 7** Sr. High students meet with Dan at
Bonnie Café for breakfast-8:00 am
- Small Group Study-6:30 pm
- 10** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Worship-10:15 am
- Christmas Program Practice-5:00 pm
Small Group Study-5:30 pm
- 11** Church Office Closed for Veterans Day
- Missions-6:00 pm
Small Group Study (K. Hake)-7:00 pm
- 12** Small Group Study-12:00 pm
Happy Days Board-6:00 pm
- 13** Small Group Study-6:30 pm
Choir-6:30 pm
- 14** Breakfast Club meets at Little
Nashville-9:00 am
- Small Group Study-6:30 pm
- 17** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Worship-10:15 am
- Small Group Study-5:30 pm
Youth Groups-5:00 pm
Christmas Program Practice-6:30 pm
- 18** Small Group Study-7:00 pm
- 19** Small Group Study-12:00 pm
Education-6:45 pm
- 20** **"Sharing Grace"** (Endowment Board
hosts)-5:00 pm
Church Conference-6:00 pm (SPPR
meets with DS at 5:00 pm)
Choir-7:30 pm
- 21** Sr. High students meet with Dan at
Bonnie Café for breakfast-8:00 am
Small Group Study-6:30 pm

- Nov. 24** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Worship-10:15 am *(followed by
Thanksgiving Potluck dinner)*

Youth Groups-5:00 pm
Christmas Program Practice-
6:30 pm
Community Thanksgiving
Service at TSJ-7:00 pm

- 25** Trustees-6:30 pm

- 28** Church Office Closed for
Thanksgiving Day



BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 2** Jordan Ceglinski
- 4** Amie Hake
Sandy Smith
- 5** Bonnie Phillips
- 6** Laura Garlich
- 7** Tim Staley
Elley Szopinski
- 11** Sandy Turner
- 13** Lindsey Pingsterhaus
- 16** Crystal Curtis Seeger
Jenny Heckert Stateler
Sarah Summers Mann
- 19** John Kennedy, Jr.
- 22** Helen Poirot
- 24** William Bunnage
Betty Tumbaga
- 25** Ashley Kolweier
Rachael Staley

ANNIVERSARIES

- Nov. 24** Mike & Sandra Curtis
- 30** Gary & Teresa Hake

*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.*

From Me to You

Psalm 100 - Shout with joy to the Lord,
all the earth!

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the Lord is God!

He made us, and we are his.

We are his people,

the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love continues forever,

and his faithfulness continues to each
generation.

As more years are added to my life journey, I've come to appreciate more and more that thanksgiving is not just a seasonal thing. Many years ago now Thanksgiving really lost its appeal as a holiday. It has become a springboard for jumping into the secular Christmas season.

Many of you already know what a few more will come to discover this year. Thanksgiving is not a season but an attitude of gratitude. It is not just a once a year date that we mark on the calendar to gather with family and friends so we can overeat and watch football on TV. No, it is much more than that.

It is being grateful for each day you are alive and for the opportunities to spend precious time with family and friends.

It is a time to offer God thanks for the relationships we have made over the past year and for those relationships with friends, family members, and neighbors we see no more because they have quietly joined those in eternity.

Thanksgiving is what we do when new life is birthed into our world. Our family is extremely thankful for God giving our son and daughter-in-law a new daughter and us a new grand-baby.

God is good, all the time. We have another one coming in a few weeks. Our daughter, Kimberly, is expecting her third one.

God is deserving of our thanksgivings each and everyday. If we will just stop our busyness for a few minutes each day to offer God the thanks that is due God, then we will notice a change in our Thanksgiving attitude. Not only will we be different, but our world, the little part of the bigger world where we live, will be made different, too. We will be less cynical, we will have more joy in our life, and our hope that comes from Jesus Christ will be more helpful and healing. Not just for you but for your whole sphere of influence.

Give Thanks in All Things!

Keep Being Faithful!

Pastor Bill

Counting Blessings

Numbered lists grab our attention. In the checkout aisle or on the internet, we gravitate toward headings such as "10 ways to lose weight by summer!" or "3 simple steps to acing that test!"

Ancient Jewish sages urged people to count out and speak at least 100 blessings, or statements of gratitude, each day. What would happen if we intentionally listed 100 blessings daily? Can you imagine?!

What if the first blessing we counted was simply the day itself? "Thank you, God, for this brand new day!" "Bless my use of this day, Lord, that I might glorify you." Scripture encourages such awareness and promises an additional blessing in return: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12, NIV).
—Heidi Mann

YOUTH Activities

...for
November

Christmas Program Practice Schedule



Program Practice

November 3, 4:30 p.m.

November 10, 5:00 p.m.

November 17, 6:30 p.m.

November 24, 6:30 p.m.

November 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: Food Fight
at St. Paul's UCC

November 7 and 21, 8:00 a.m.: Senior
High students are
invited to come and
have breakfast with
Dan Simonton at
the Bonnie Café
(church treat)



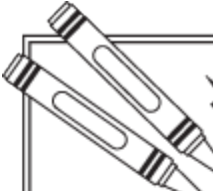
November 17 and 24: The following youth
groups will meet (with Christmas Program
practice scheduled afterwards):

5:00-6:00 p.m., Kids' Club and
Bridge

6:00-6:30 p.m., Snupper

***If there is an event you are interested in
helping with, please contact Daniel
Simonton, Associate Minister of Family,
Children & Youth Ministry.
(Church office: 327-8407).**


Thank you, God, for the "great cloud of
witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1, NIV) who have
gone before us in faith. Empower us, in
turn, to share our faith with others.



PUZZLE

A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's
people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3	Hannah
"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47	David
"He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2	Mary
"My heart rejoices in the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:1	Paul
"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30	Moses

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses; 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David

Youth Food Fight

**Sunday, November 3
6:00-8:00 p.m.**



The youth from several
area churches will be
meeting at St. Paul UCC to combine their
church's donated items and help make holiday
baskets for the Irvington Food Pantry. Some
items will also be shared with Grace's Little
Food Pantry.

Members of Grace UMC are welcome to leave
any food items they might have at the church
and our youth will take them over to St. Paul's
church. Double point items include pumpkin,
yams, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, corn, green
beans, mashed potatoes and gravy.

All donated items are due at our church by
November 3rd.



Teachers, board members and parents participated in the Happy Days Fundraiser at the Bonnie Café on October 21, 2019. The preschool made about \$600 from sales that evening, plus an additional \$150 in donations. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this a successful fundraiser!



Some of our Happy Days Preschool children singing in church on Preschool Sunday, October 20, 2019.



Operation Christmas Child
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Once again, Grace UMC will be a local drop-off point for those wishing to participate in Operation Christmas Child. By packing and donating a box of Christmas surprises, you will be helping to make Christmas a very special day for needy children around the world. We are supplying empty pre-printed shoeboxes for those who would like to use them. Please deliver all donations to the church by **November 17, 2019**. Later in the week, they will be transported to a regional collection center.



O' What a Pumpkin Carving It Was!

On October 27th, we had a great time at the Church-wide Pumpkin Carving and Scavenger Hunt. There were 25 to 30 people from the church and community who came and had a great time decoding clues to their scavenger hunt locations, as well as carving pumpkins and roasting marshmallows and hotdogs. Plus, we have some pretty creative and talented people who carved up some amazing jack o'lanterns.

October Report

Date	Attendance	Offering
10-06	76	\$4,182.60
10-08	Online (Vanco)	\$ 399.25
10-13	75	\$2,354.94
10-16	Online (Vanco)	\$ 300.00
10-17	Online (Vanco)	\$ 289.05
10-18	Online (Vanco)	\$ 48.17
10-20	152	\$1,627.10
10-24	Online (Vanco)	\$ 300.00
10-27	83	\$2,995.60

Washington County Connects People with Jobs and Training

Located on the second floor of the Washington County Courthouse is the Southwestern Illinois WorkNet. This workforce center is a job placement, training and development center that offers services to both job seekers and those wanting to further their careers or education, as well as to local businesses looking to hire workers.

The center is funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and provides a variety of career services, such as helping with schooling costs, online applications and resume building. Federal funds go to the state and are then distributed to counties. Eligibility is based on federal income guidelines and is determined by a career specialist.

According to the center's brochure, the WIOA helps individuals access free information and orientation to the local labor market. Dislocated workers return to productivity, often at wages similar to what they earned prior to their layoff. Unemployed, underemployed or untrained workers enhance skills through job training that will help them succeed in the job market. Young people can also prepare for careers by participating in work readiness, work experience and job skill development.

For businesses, the WIOA can help owners with job postings, recruiting, training and labor market information. The local economy benefits as a whole as individuals are connected to job openings in their community.

For more information, contact WIOA Career Specialist, Danielle Valentine, at (618) 327-4191.



Grace Youth Ignite

On October 26th, Daniel and Charlotte Simonton brought Rachael Staley and Addison Stambaugh to Troy UMC to attend Harvest Ministry's Ignition Conference. After a slight issue with a flat tire, they learned about their unique ability to share and impact the world around them with a vibrant faith witness. They also were able to experience that through wonderful hospitality shone by Troy UMC members who ran games, lunch, and activities throughout the day. They had a good time; just look at those smiling faces.

Harvest Ministry Nights

Harvest Ministry Teams will have two worship nights scheduled in November:

- **Sherman UMC, Saturday, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Trenton First UMC, Sunday, Nov. 10, 6:00 p.m.**

These evenings are open to everyone! The event is free but a love offering will be received. Also there will be door prizes and giveaways so please come out and spend time in worship together!

More information at harvestministryteams.com.



A Season of Gratitude



"Gratitude is at the heart of the Christian faith," says the Rev. Kent Millard, president of United Theological Seminary. While every day should be a day of thanksgiving to God, the seven weeks encompassing the Thanksgiving (U.S.), Advent and Christmas seasons call for a special outpouring of gratitude. *(Only Week 1 will be included in this November newsletter. The December issue will include the weeks through Epiphany.)*

Use this calendar to engage in daily acts of gratitude and kindness. Most of them can either be done alone or with family or friends. Some require a bit of planning, so you may want to look ahead a few days, or make arrangements to do the actual activity a few days later.

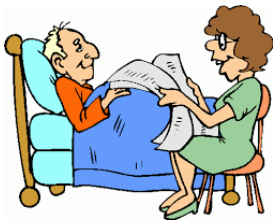
WEEK 1

Sunday, Nov. 24, United Methodist Student Day: Put a gratitude jar in the kitchen with scraps of paper. Encourage people daily to write down things for which they are grateful. Read them on Epiphany (Jan. 6).

Monday, Nov. 25: Smile and greet everyone you see throughout the day. Ask how they are - then LISTEN to what they say.



Tuesday, Nov. 26: Hand write and mail a note to someone you admire or appreciate in your life.



Wednesday, Nov. 27: Volunteer to read to nursing home residents.

Thursday, Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Day (U.S.): Read Psalm 100 to begin your time of everyone sharing blessings of the past year.

Friday, Nov. 29: Spend an hour taking a prayer walk through a natural area. Thank God for the earth and offer blessings for all of creation.

Saturday, Nov. 30: As a family, rake a neighbor's leaves.



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Greeters:

November	3	Dave and Ruth Fischer
November	10	The Reynolds' Family
November	17	Ron and Linda Luessenheide
November	24	Helen Dude





Grace United Methodist Church
250 North Mill Street
Nashville, IL 62263

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

We're on the Web
Nashvillegrace.net

Dated Material Do Not Delay