



GRACE NEWS & NOTES

September 1, 2018

Pastor Bill had no knowledge that Bishop Frank Beard of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference would issue the challenge printed below before he started his 4-part series on generosity. Perhaps this is a challenge to all of us to see what we can do—not what we have already done.

(An email sent August 27, 2018.)

AN IGRC CHALLENGE FROM THE BISHOP

John Wesley is often quoted as saying, “**Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.**”

That my friends, is the “spirit of Methodism!” United Methodists are gracious, caring and giving people. We support a variety of ministries that touch lives and offer support and help to an assortment of needs. Our commitment to generosity is one of the strengths of our denomination.

Allow me to issue a challenge to each of the IGRC churches. I invite you to host a special Sunday between now and the end of the year dedicated to helping community ministries. You pick the Sunday, you choose the project, you collect and distribute what is gathered.

Some of you will want to collect can goods to help stock a food pantry, some will want to collect blankets to be used by first responders, some will choose to collect back packs, and others will want to gather items that can be used to comfort someone that is grieving or sick. Of course, you can always bring items and funds for the OCOK campaign. The list of possibilities is endless.

My suggestion is to advertise what you are doing, set a realistic goal, invite folks to bring their items to worship, bless and consecrate the items on the altar, and then distribute them to the places that have been selected.

I look forward to hearing that your church took the challenge. If you need ideas just call the Midwest Distribution Center. There are many ways to let folks know that we care.

Generosity is contagious, let's start an epidemic!

Bishop Beard

When the church
acts with generosity
to serve others,
it is a clear picture
of Christ.

Coming up at Grace UMC:

Sunday, September 2

Week 3: Acts 20:32-38

“I Thought I was Generous But.....Then There is a Blessing”

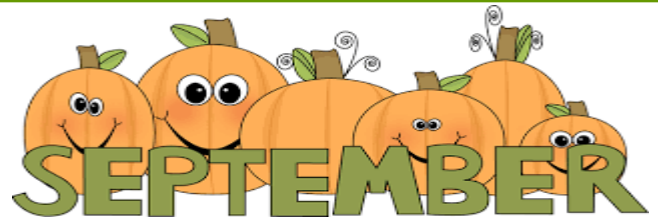
Sunday, September 9

Week 4: Acts 4:32-37

“I Thought I was Generous But.....God is Looking for a Family Resemblance”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 2** Prayer Group-8:30 am
No youth groups this evening.
- 3** Office Closed for Labor Day
- 4** Book Club at Little Nashville-9:00 am
Church Council meets to approve
2019 budget & nominations-7:00 pm
- 5** Financial Mgmt. Class-6:00-7:30 pm
Choir-7:30 pm
- 8** Sr. High clean up at Wash. County
Vocational Workshop-8:00 am-noon
- 9** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Kid's Club-5:00-6:00 pm
Snupper-6:00-6:30 pm
Bridge-6:30 pm-8:00 pm
- 11** Happy Days Board-6:00 pm
- 12** Financial Mgmt. Class-6:00-7:30 pm
Choir-7:30 pm
- 16** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Youth Groups (*see Sept. 9 for times*)
Bible Study-5:00 pm (pre-register by
September 9)
- 17** Charge Conference at New Athens
UMC-6:00 pm
- 19** Financial Mgmt. Class-6:00-7:30 pm
Choir-7:30 pm
- 20** Education-6:45 pm
- 21** Homecoming Parade (Happy Days
will have their 2 wagons)
- 23** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Sr. High Youth Group-5:00 pm
Bible Study-5:00 pm
- 24** Trustees-6:30 pm
- 26** Financial Mgmt. Class-6:00-7:30 pm
Choir-7:30 pm
- 28-29** Nashville Fall Festival (Grace UMC
Youth will have the pie stand)
- 30** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Mission/Youth Sunday-10:15 am
Youth Groups (*see Sept. 9 for times*)
Bible Study-5:00 pm



BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 2** Robin Heck
- 6** Brock Styninger
- 8** Caleb Simonton
- 10** Gayla Brown
- 11** Phyllis Dintelman
Isabelle Kennedy
- 12** Patrick Weathers
- 13** Kelly Hawkins
- 14** George Heckert
Levi Kirsch
Erik Meade
- 16** Dakota Garlich
- 18** Earlene Rench
- 20** Joey Hackstadt
- 22** Brad Fischer
- 23** Bud Meade
- 27** Len Campbell
- 30** Gerry Dintelman

ANNIVERSARIES

- Sept. 3** John & Becky Hallock
- 13** Cliff & Amie 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.

August Report

Date	Attendance	Offering
08-05	89	\$2,582.10
08-08	Online (Vanco)	\$ 399.25
08-12	107	\$2,461.60
08-19	86	\$3,873.70
08-24	Online (Vanco)	\$ 300.00
08-26	88	\$2,921.95

From Me to You

For your information and preparation, our fall Charge/Church Conference will be at 6:00 p.m., Monday evening, September 17th, at the New Athens UMC. We will be a part of a group Charge Conference this fall. This means we must have all reports and forms completed by the end of the first week in September. So help me and Linda have this work completed on time!

Next, I want to talk about an important date. **October 26-28** will be our **STEP UP** weekend. There will be a team of people here for those three days to listen to you, both individually and as a group, share your thoughts, vision and dreams concerning Grace church and the community where we live. Not everyone will be interviewed individually, but several of you will—adults and youth. Plus on Saturday, there will be some training for the church.

Saturday evening, this team will put together a report to be presented to us on Sunday morning. They will do that as part of the worship service, which they will lead. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** This will be a very important weekend in the life of Grace UMC now and for the future.

As I receive more details concerning the weekend I will keep you informed. And again I ask you to be praying for God to open doors of new possibilities and that we will be open to live accordingly.

In my work through the Pastor's group training of STEP UP, I was asked to meet with a group here this past month to talk about our disciple-making system at Grace and my role as pastor in this system.

I've come to realize that our system is probably not much different than lots and lots of other churches. But are we really helping you grow in Christ-likeness each day or each week?

Discipleship is not a Destination. It is a direction! Key Concepts for discipleship is bearing fruit and spiritual discipline.

Fruit might look like our actions, service, devotion or whole life disposition. Is this fruit in my/your life? This fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Every disciple must bear this fruit.

Spiritual disciplines include but are not limited to prayer, Bible reading and study—both alone and in small groups, witnessing, fasting, Holy Communion, and outreach to others.

How important is relationship with others? Brian McLaren is the first one I heard say, "Faith is personal but never private!"

2 Timothy 2:2 NRSV "... what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well."

I am thinking that what we are really lacking is a discipleship-making culture; we have a system, not a culture. In a discipleship culture, everyone is being disciplined by someone. In other words, we should always have a mentor and at the same time be mentoring others. I will be talking more about this soon.

Keep Being Faithful! Pastor Bill



And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own...

2 Corinthians 8:1-3

YOUTH Activities

...for September

September 9, 16 and 30: 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

September 8, 8:00 a.m.-noon: Sr. High Clean-Up at Washington County Vocational Workshop

September 23, 5:00-6:30 p.m.: Sr. High Youth Only

September 28-29: Fall Festival Pie Stand

September 28: Deadline to sign up for "SuperStart" on October 12-13.

October 5: Deadline to sign up for "Ignition Middle School Conference" on October 27.

For more information on any of these youth activities, please see Mike Savard, Director of Children & Teen Ministries.

Happy Days Preschool Fundraiser at Bonnie Café



Monday, October 1, 2018

5:00-8:00 p.m.

Bonnie Café will donate a percentage of the sales that evening to Happy Days Preschool. Teachers and school board members will be helping to clean tables and take drink orders.

Balloon artist, Cole Hermann, will be joining us from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Youth Annual Pie Stand

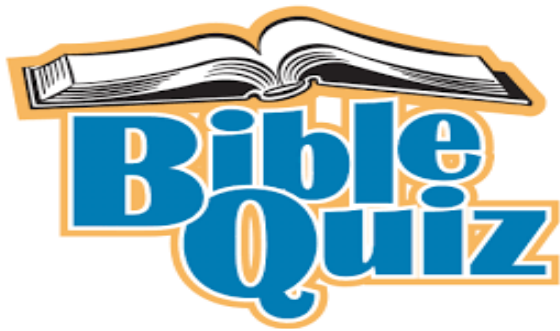


Once again it is time for the Annual Youth Pie Stand at the Nashville Fall Fest. Each year we receive extremely generous donations of fruit pies from members of our congregation. The youth use pie stand profits to support three children through Holt International, purchase gifts for children on the Giving Tree, and make donations for the needy. Your support of this portion of our youth ministry is vitally important and I thank God for your generosity.

— Mike Savard

**Happy Days
Preschool
starts a new
school year!**





The United Methodist Bible Quiz

Answers on page 7 of this newsletter.

1. Who were Adam's children?

- ☐ Cain and Abel
- ☐ Cain, Abel, and Seth
- ☐ Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- ☐ Cain, Abel, Seth and other sons and daughters

2. Which son of Abraham's name means "laughter"?

- ☐ Ishmael
- ☐ Isaac
- ☐ Esau
- ☐ Elmo

3. Does The United Methodist Church have an official translation of the Bible?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. In a Protestant Bible, how many books are in the Old and New Testaments?

- ☐ 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament
- ☐ 66 books: 27 in the Old Testament, 39 in the New Testament
- ☐ 73 books: 46 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament
- ☐ 73 books: 39 in the Old Testament, 34 in the New Testament

5. Which book of five poems was written in response to the capture and destruction of Judah?

- ☐ Exodus 1
- ☐ Chronicles
- ☐ 2 Chronicles
- ☐ Lamentations

6. Joseph was Jesus' earthly father. In Matthew's gospel, what was Joseph's father's name?

- ☐ Zechariah
- ☐ Joe Sr.
- ☐ Jacob
- ☐ Ezekiel

7. Which of the following words is used to describe a heavenly being in the Bible?

- ☐ Cherubim
- ☐ Seraphim
- ☐ Angel
- ☐ All of the above

8. Which angel visited Mary in Nazareth?

- ☐ Clarence
- ☐ Michael
- ☐ Malachi
- ☐ Gabriel

9. Which of these miracles is recorded in all four gospels?

- ☐ Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead
- ☐ Jesus feeds the multitude bread and fish
- ☐ Jesus walks on water
- ☐ Jesus turns water into wine

10. Which disciple said to Jesus, "No, you shall never wash my feet"?

- ☐ Thomas
- ☐ Judas
- ☐ Peter
- ☐ Ralph

Charge Conference

Monday, September 17, 2018

6:00 p.m.

**New Athens UMC
201 S. Clinton Street
New Athens, IL**

**All members of Grace UMC are invited
and encouraged to attend.**

*A Thank You from
Ron and Judy Brown...*

We want to sincerely thank you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, for the many expressions of sympathy, caring and prayers in our time of loss of our beloved son, Toby. Many of you were there as role models, Sunday School teachers, youth group leaders, etc. as he grew into a man, and much credit goes to you all who assisted him in accepting Christ and encouraged him to be the Christian man he became. For the 55 years we have been members, you all have been there for us and our family through many medical tests, surgeries, our loss of parents, etc. We couldn't have gone through it without your prayers. God Bless You!

Dear Congregation,

A HUGE thank you for the peanut butter donations! Thanks to Mike Savard and Vacation Bible School for having The Haiti School peanut butter program as their project. A big thanks to all of the "Peanut Butter Loaders" on Sunday!

Through your generosity, the children will receive a peanut butter sandwich each school day!

Thanks for making a difference!

Mission Committee



**Judi and Dean Waller sorting shoes for
the "Shoe Man" George Hutchings!**



Upcoming Bible Study



The Bible is intimidating. At over 800,000 words and being almost 2000 years old, it makes perfect sense why it's a hard book to approach. But since we call the Bible God's inspired Word, we should take it seriously.

Have you ever had questions about the Bible? Have you ever wanted to know more about the history and culture that the books of the Bible were written in? Have you ever thought about why there are a gazillion and a half different English translations and which one is best? This consists of three, six-week studies that will focus on the span of the Old and New Testaments and give you a bit more Biblical literacy and understand what God is saying to us through his Word.

Join us beginning **September 16 at 5:00!** Please preregister by September 9 by signing up at church or contacting the church office.

Answers: United Methodist Bible Quiz

1. **Who were Adam's children?** The correct answer is Cain, Abel, Seth and other sons and daughters.
2. **Which son of Abraham's name means "laughter"?** The correct answer is Isaac.
3. **Does The United Methodist Church have an official translation of the Bible?** The correct answer is no.
4. **In a Protestant Bible, how many books are in the Old and New Testaments?** The correct answer is 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
5. **Which book of five poems was written in response to the capture and destruction of Judah?** The correct answer is Lamentations.
6. **Joseph was Jesus' earthly father. In Matthew's gospel, what was Joseph's father's name?** The correct answer is Jacob.
7. **Which of the following words is used to describe a heavenly being in the Bible?** The correct answer is all of the above.
8. **Which angel visited Mary in Nazareth?** The correct answer is Gabriel.
9. **Which of these miracles is recorded in all four gospels?** The correct answer is Jesus feeds the multitude bread and fish.
10. **Which disciple said to Jesus, "No, you shall never wash my feet"?** The correct answer is Peter.

Kaskaskia River Brass Concert

Sunday, September 9, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
United Presbyterian Church of Oakdale
75 East Main Street, Oakdale, Illinois



Kaskaskia River Brass is a brass quintet with percussion!
This concert is open to the public. Free admission, but there will be a free-will offering.

For more information, contact Len Campbell
618-246-6954 or email togodbetheglory@frontier.com

Greeters:

September 2	Gary and Teresa Hake
September 9	Helen Dude
September 16	Suzanne Clark and Harper Roetemeyer
September 23	John & Jennifer Szopinski & Family
September 30	Dave and Julie Marshall

