

# Grace and Peace

A Newsletter from Grace Methodist Church (*The Miracle Church*)  
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**Grace Methodist Church where people gather to celebrate, serve and grow in Christ.**

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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIP YOUNGER

Greetings Church Family! It was Wednesday, July the 24th around 6:00 AM. I was leaving the house to attend the men's prayer/breakfast gathering at church. I climbed into my car, started it up. The mighty turbocharged, four-cylinder beast ROARED TO LIFE! WHOO - HOO! I was on my way! Suddenly, and without any prior notice, the clutch moved outward just enough to engage the tranny. This ever so slight clutch movement propelled the car forward with a surprisingly quick surge. The aluminum folding table that used to sit in front of the car had to be taken to the dump and disposed of. It was impossible to bend the crushed table back into anything that would be the least useful. And if the cheap, junky, totally inadequate plastic leg on the shelving unit that also sat in front of the car hadn't broken in two, then nothing from the shelving would have fallen onto the hood of the car! Much to my relief there was only one very minor dent in the hood and a few scratches. Not to be discouraged, I continued on my way to church. As I was cruising west bound on Hwy 44, I suddenly heard a loud "alarm" sound. I looked down and noticed that the tire air pressure indicator was screaming at me. The rear passenger's side tire had only twenty-four pounds of pressure. Not knowing if it would continue to drop, I had to slow down until I could stop and refill the tire. With the tire refilled I continued on to church. After prayer and breakfast, I arrived home and fixed the shelving unit, cleaned up all the debris from the garage floor and proceeded to jack up the rear of the car to look for a reason as to why the air escaped. There it was, the tiniest little nail you could imagine. Off to the tire repair shop downtown. As I was putting up the jack and jack stands, my cell phone belt clip holder, complete with phone, fell to the floor. There was the unmistakable sound of breaking plastic. Sure enough, the plastic clip on the phone hold-

er which secured the phone in place, broke off and the phone, belt clip and broken plastic piece went sliding across the garage floor. Later, while at the gym trying to work off some of the day's stress, I noticed that according to my watch, it had been 1:32 pm for almost an hour. Upon closer inspection, it became obvious that the battery had died. I remounted the repaired rear tire when I returned home and lowered the car to the floor. Imagine my surprise when a few hours later, getting ready to put the garage door down, that somehow the car had managed to roll backwards until the rear tires rolled up to and against the aluminum weather stripping pan. Apparently, someone had left the car in neutral and had failed to secure the emergency brake. I was saved from finding the car in the driveway. I was so glad that it was nearly time to go to bed and put this day behind me! In the Book of Isaiah (43:2) God attempts to reassure the prophet with these words: "When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." The message seems simple: when things seem to be getting out of control God is with us. God already knew what would happen on that Wednesday. He was more than ready to walk with me through it all, and indeed he did. By Friday all the irritating things had been taken care of. In the big picture, God continues to reveal his loving presence in each of our lives. Dented and scratched cars, smashed tables, broken plastic shelving, leaking tires, dead batteries, broken phone holders and yes, even rolling cars are not too much for our God! Blessings, Pastor Kip

## **THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM**

### **Learning to Praise God**

Jan Wise

"I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips". (Psalm 34:1) These words from David, written in a time of hardship, always made me wonder how I could ever do that. I had difficulty remembering to praise the Lord in normal times--but in times of adversity? Then I remembered the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:24--"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like the wise man who built his house on a rock". It continues to say that when the storms of life come the house will not fall because it has been built on the words of Jesus, built on "the rock".

How do you always practice praising? I started with small things, like when our son spilled his grape juice on our new carpet, praising God it was a small glass, an easily cleaned-up type of carpet and a little boy's accident. I graduated to larger "accidents", the biggest test coming when I stubbed my toe on the rocking chair. Bare big toe, large rocker, two small boys laughing at their mom hopping around the room, holding my toe and saying, "I will praise you, Lord; I will praise you." Sounds foolish, I know, but I was set on practicing this praising at all times until it became natural. The boys were learning, too, because at dinner time when the toasted-cheese sandwiches burned one of the boys inquired, "Aren't you going to say, 'Praise the Lord', Mom". Tears of frustration were followed by laughter and then real praise for the fact I had enough raw material to make another batch because a neighbor was coming for supper. I practiced; I learned!

The "big spiritual storm" came the night of our son's motorcycle accident. I was very excited to be co-teaching my first retreat weekend. Then the phone call came, and I needed to go home. I went upstairs to repack my suitcase, but before I could do anything, God said, "Praise me". And I could! I had learned how to keep my spiritual house "on the rock" even in a storm because I had practiced and practiced, and God was faithful to his Word. The next couple of weeks were full of God's miraculous presence as I kept praising and he kept blessing. God

spoke to me as I asked him if Brad was safe with him. He said, "I have your son and you have mine".

Many young people responded to the invitation given by our pastor at Brad's funeral, a new Bible study was started, and, years later, a young woman asked me to pray with her to receive Jesus because she had seen how God kept me at peace during the "storm". At that time and today, I praise a worthy God at all times because praise opens the pathway to his presence and his blessings.

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY MOMENT**

### **Unloading Your Backpack**

I recently saw a bumper sticker that said simply yet eloquently: "Life Happens." How true that is! Life happens. Everyday life.

Sure, some of us may have devastating hardships that hit us unexpectedly at times, and these can be difficult to deal with. But most of us have lots of other burdens and concerns—less devastating, but no less difficult for all that we carry around with us from day to day and week to week.

This reminds me of what happens when we watched our children get ready for school. They pack their backpacks with books, lunches, and sometimes a favorite possession, they head off for the day's activities. At the end of the day, the backpacks are emptied and the evening tasks get underway. In much the same way, we adults pack up our burdens and concerns each morning and carry them around on our backs throughout our daily routines. Unlike our children, we do not take off our backpacks at the end of the day and unpack them. We may take them off and set them in the corner for the evening, but the next day we pick them up again still full of the day before, and sometimes with a new item or two. We do this week after week, until one day we realize that our backpacks have gotten so full and so heavy that we can no longer carry them.

Then I heard about Stephen Ministers who will meet with me almost every week and help carry my load. Some weeks, it was harder than others to open that backpack and look inside, but a Stephen Minister will always be ready to listen to whatever I am willing to share. Having someone who will listen can be a tremendous relief. Daily challenges may no longer be burdens that need to be carried. Having someone who is willing to share the load is a blessing...

Your backpack can become much lighter and it may never seem to be as full. A Stephen Minister can remind you to unpack it now and then. Our Stephen Ministers are here for you.

Call, anyone of our Stephen Leaders, Karen Kline, 382-7263 , Carol MacKenzie, 382-8926,

## **GRACE PLACE: NEWS FROM THE LADIES OF GRACE (L.O.G)**

### **Eirinn Abu Concert on September 8th**

The Ladies of Grace are hosting a performance by the gifted musician Eirinn Abu on Sunday, September 8 at Grace Methodist Church. Church members have been *amazing* in buying tickets; *but now we encourage everyone to invite friends and neighbors to attend*. Don't be shy -Eirinn's music and message are so worth it. (Coincidentally, he will be doing another concert in the area in August and tickets for that venue are \$25. We're giving people a deal! )

This is a unique opportunity to share our joyful church with the community. Eirinn has been called the instrumental version of Josh Groban or Andrea Bocelli. He has collaborated with Dolly Parton on her recording of "I Will Always Love You", the Miami Sound Machine and toured with Lee Greenwood. Since 2010, he has recorded CDs of jazz, pop and Christian hits while leading Music for Life Ministries with his wife Brandy. He is an ordained pastor, a melting pot of scriptural lessons and worldly life and a Grammy member. Get ready for a wonderful concert and get ready for your friends to thank you for the experience. And remember, profits will be added to our church building fund. We want to thank Terry and Katherine Cornelius for their donation of the easel poster that announces the concert. It has been such a help.

### **Ladies Retreat focusing on Spiritual Gifts**

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Ladies of Grace will host a one-day retreat on "**Spiritual Gifts**" at our church. The \$20.00 fee includes materials, snacks and lunch. The goal of a retreat is to break away from routine, relax, refresh and focus on our relationship with God for just one day. The program is designed to deepen understanding of the gifts that we have received from God and how they can be used in our lives. The topic was chosen to highlight our group's signature scripture which is 1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms". We wanted to host the retreat because our mission goals include providing spiritual growth opportunities for women of our church. It will be a wonderful day filled with fellowship, food and fun. Every registrant will receive a special gift bag, a gift book and surprises. For details, ask any member of the Ladies of Grace. For confidential financial assistance, see Judy Chambliss or Sue Pagano. Register during the fellowship hour on Sundays.

#### **Speakers**

**Nancy Kennedy, "How God uses Our Brokenness for Good",**  
Religion writer, Citrus County Chronicle, Grace Notes/ Devotions.

**Elizabeth Cryst, "Living as a Christian Woman in Today's World"**  
GMC leader/speaker

## **NEWS FROM THE LADIES OF GRACE continued**

### **Hymnal Bookmarks**

It has been such a pleasure to use the bookmarks made by the Crafts & Chats group. No longer do we have to balance items while flipping pages. It is easy to read the music selections in the Sunday bulletin and mark the pages before the service begins.

The ladies Crafts & Chats group meet on the second Tuesday monthly at 10 am. Currently, they are bringing their own projects to work on.

## **LATEST RUMMAGE SALE SCOOP!!**

### Leadership Team

Dale/Sharon Miller – 352-382-1540  
Ronnie/Katie Snowberger – 352-516-2563  
Andy/Priscilla Frederick – 352-212-4037

### Save the Dates

Friday, October 25 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Saturday, October 26 – 9 a.m. to noon

### Donation Dates

Saturdays – August 3, September 7, October 5  
Fellowship Hall – 9 a.m. to noon  
(Bring items in boxes when possible)

## **RITUAL OR RELATIONSHIP**

Karen Stone

While summering in MI I attend the Lake City Christian Reformed Church with my family. Recently I heard a thought-provoking sermon by a visiting pastor, Rod Kamrath, entitled, "Ritual or Relationship". The Bible text for this sermon was Mark 7:1-19. In his sermon he discussed ceremonial washings that originated in the Old Testament. They were intended as a sign of coming to God with pure hands and a clean heart. However, the intent of these washings got lost in the details. Such rituals became roadblocks to God. He stated that cleaning hands with ceremonial water won't create a clean heart. He further stated that we must be careful of rituals replacing relationships. There are many, many "rituals" that are good when done with the right heart. One such is prayer before meals...if they are authentic. In other words, is the prayer authentically one of thankfulness or a prayer of repetition. When you worship are you meeting God in worship or simply attending church because it is Sunday a.m. and that is what you are supposed to do? He gave several other examples then closed with a suggestion for us to evaluate our lives. Are the things we do for the Lord done out of ritual requirements or are we truly seeking to create a deeper and deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior? Something to ponder!!!

# HISTORY OF THE DOXOLOGY

## Worship Committee

**Author Robert Morgan has compiled an anthology of the origins of many beloved hymns in Then Sings My Soul. The Worship Committee will occasionally share them in the monthly newsletter.**

*The first sharing is about **The Doxology** which we sing each week at Grace Methodist when the offering is brought to the altar.*

Pastor Thomas Ken is known as England's first composer of hymns. He was born in 1637 outside of London. After his parents died, he was raised by his sister and her husband who enrolled him in Winchester College, a prestigious boys' academy. He became an ordained pastor and later returned to Winchester College as chaplain. To develop and encourage devotional habits of academy students, Ken wrote three hymns in 1674 that were to be sung each day by students in their rooms. Prior to this only psalms had been sung in public, so his compositions were revolutionary. One hymn was to be sung upon waking, another at bedtime and a third at midnight, just in case the students had not fallen asleep.

The morning hymn began with the words: Awake my soul, and with the sun thy daily stage of duty run; Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise, to pay thy morning sacrifice.

The evening hymn included this verse: All praise to Thee, my God, this night, for all the blessing of the light! Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, beneath Thine own almighty wings.

**All three hymns ended with the same stanzas, the lines we know as The Doxology today: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

In 1680, Pastor Ken was appointed chaplain to England's King Charles II. It was a difficult job as the king kept several mistresses and rebuked his chaplain's ministerial counsel. During the reign of the next king, James II, Ken was imprisoned at the Tower of London for his Protestant convictions. After his release, he retired to the home of a wealthy friend where he died in 1711. He was buried at sunrise and the Doxology was sung.

## CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Do you want to know the decisions being made by our Administrative Board? All are welcomed to attend the monthly Administrative Board meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Grace Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be on August 14. See you there!!!

## BIBLE STUDIES, PRAYER GROUPS & OTHER MEETINGS

MON	1:00 pm	Memory Lane Support Group & Respite
TUES	9:00 am	Weight Accountability Group (men & women)
WED	7:00 am	Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
WED	5:00 pm	Choir Practice (newcomers are welcome) led by Katherine Cornellius
THR	10:00 am	S.O.A.P. Bible Study led by Jan Wise
THR	11:30 am	Women's Lunch Bunch Bible Study led by Sharon Miller
FRI	10:00 am	Wise Bible Study led by Jan Wise (10-11 Prayer concerns, joys, & fellowship, 11-12 Bible Study)
FRI	10:15 am	Bible study led by Pastor Farmer, Meadowcrest Clubhouse

## SPECIAL EVENTS

August 3, 9 - noon	Rummage Sale Donations
August 4, 10 a.m.	Communion Sunday
August 14, 9 a.m.	Grace Administrative Board Meeting
August 8, 2 p.m.	Women of Worship (W.O.W.)
August 18, 11:30 a.m.	Ladies of Grace (LOG)
Sept 7, 9 - noon	Rummage Sale Donations
Sept 8, 3 p.m.	Elrinn Abu Concert
Sept 11, 9 a.m.	Grace Administrative Board Meeting
Sept 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.	First Annual Ladies' Retreat sponsored by Ladies of Grace (L.O.G.)
Sept 29	Blood Drive
Oct 5, 9 - noon	Rummage Sale Donations (Last Day to Donate)
Oct 25 - 26	Grace Rummage Sale
Dec 8	Blood Drive

*We all have moments in which God has been evident in our lives.  
We would love to hear about them.  
Please consider submitting your testimony for the next newsletter.*

**Attention.....Articles for the September newsletter should be submitted to Alice Trusley at [atrusley@pantherbranch.com](mailto:atrusley@pantherbranch.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of August. Thank you for your contributions.**

Grace Methodist Church is a member of the

