

# Grace and Peace

A Newsletter from Grace Methodist Church  
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## In this Issue

- A Word from Pastor Bill Farmer
- Donation
- Prayer Chain
- Anniversary vows renewed
- Song Books are Here!
- Children's Sunday School
- Testimonials
- Jan's Wise Words...Kingdom Living
- Dates to Save
- Bible Studies & Prayer Groups

## A message from Pastor Bill Farmer

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of our pilgrimage toward Easter. I anticipate much will be happening during this time.

Each Sunday's theme will have a Lenten dimension. We will walk with Jesus through the 40 days he spent in the wilderness of Judea, and we will experience God's touch on his Beloved Son. We will struggle with why the wilderness experience is necessary. We will feel the anguish as Jesus deals with temptations. We will see the rebuke of Satan through Scripture. We will experience the thrill of victory over temptations.

In addition, each Sunday will have a teaching element to prepare us for membership in the Global Methodist Denomination. We will look closely to the Nicene Creed and our belief in the Triune God, is Scripture relevant, do we really need the church, and we will examine the Grace that leads to salvation. I expect I will ignite some questions during the worship and sermon times. Therefore, I plan to stay up front following each service to enter into discussions about the topic of the day. I want all members to know what they believe and be able to trust that their eternal future is secure.

I would like for **Easter Sunday to be Membership Sunday**. I will need to know the week before who wants to become a member of Grace Methodist Church. Some will be transferring and some will have new member status.

*May the Grace of God fill your life to overflowing with Peace,*

*Pastor Bill Farmer*

## Donation

A special "thank you" to June Kirschbaum for the donation of a piano to Grace Methodist Church. Our church has so many wonderful, giving, and caring people and the sky is the limit for the future of our church. Also, a big "thank you" to Donna Tripp for funding the move of the piano. These two ladies are **awesome**.

## Prayer Chain Beginning

Jan Metcalf is starting a prayer chain for Grace Methodist Church; therefore, if you would like to be part of the prayer chain, please send Jan Metcalf at [janmetcalf7@gmail.com](mailto:janmetcalf7@gmail.com) your name and e-mail address, and she will make you a part of the prayer chain.



Grace Methodist Church's first wedding vows renewal. Celebrating their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary, Neil & Karen Kline, renewed their wedding vows with Pastor Kip Younger officiating. Congratulations and many more years to celebrate.

## Song Books are Here!

Grace Methodist Church has purchased new song books, "Our Great Redeemer's Praise," at a cost of \$35 per book. If you wish to purchase a book in memory of, in honor, or purchased by, please complete the card with correct information and include the cost of \$35 per book purchased. Thank you for your continued support of our great church.

## Children's Church

Children's Sunday School will be coming soon. Ms. Laurie Painter anticipates starting a new Sunday school class at Grace Methodist in March. If you have children, grandchildren, or neighbor children, please invite them to join Ms. Laurie as she is the best children's Sunday school teacher anywhere.

## Thank YOU

"Thank you" to all for the prayers, cards, calls that have surrounded us during this time. Words cannot express how much we love our church. God has touched us in a way we cannot express. As the old hymn says "to God be the glory." Can't wait to see you all...Carol & Bob MacKenzie

# Testimonials

## **MY HEART IS FULL OF JOY...by Karen Stone**

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-30*

In the Fall of 2022, I was dealing with a lot of anxiety. I know the bible verse, *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."* 1 Peter 5:7. I tried. It seemed no matter where I turned laterally and upwardly, I could not find peace. I stopped attending Sunday School and church in November, 2022. Not because I turned my back on Jesus. Unfortunately, I found walking through the UMC church doors boosted my anxiety exponentially. In the past I would turn to my church to fellowship with other Christians, hear more Biblical teachings, and to get some of my weekly spiritual renewal. The world was in turmoil, my personal life was in turmoil and most sadly my church was in turmoil.

I was so hoping that as of January 22, 2023, my anxiety would go away. That date was so important in my mind because it was the day of a church vote. This vote would determine whether or not "my" United Methodist Church would remain UMC or leave. Why leave? Because of the progressive leanings of the UMC.

Many have asked, "did you win the vote"? And my answer has been a very loud YES. Not in human terms did we win but in the hearts of those who have done much discernment and research regarding the UMC. We all knew we needed to leave one way or another. So here we are today, we each personally followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit, leaned on Jesus's teachings and stayed true to our God. Although I may no longer be in the church building I supported for many, many years, God has a better plan for me. The excitement and joy being felt while participating in the building of a new church cannot be described in mere human words. My heart is so full of joy I can hardly contain it. I want to *"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.... Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."* Psalm 100 1-5.

Even though we are still facing challenges here and there at Grace Methodist Church that doesn't matter. God is with us. We know it. We feel it. We can hear him saying "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful ..." Matthew 25:23.

## **Staying Continually Grounded in the Word.....Sue Pagano**

As a newcomer to bible study in 2019, I immediately wanted to stay continually grounded in the Word. However, this was easier said than done. Why?

## Staying Continually Grounded in the Word....continued

- I love Jesus; but I always had a problem staying focused on textbooks in school. Now I have trouble staying awake after 9 p.m. Sometimes, I do better with multi-media than books.
- I love Jesus; and bible study taught me that there were no big or small sins. I needed to stop rationalizing which meant I had to be constantly reminded of God's Word.
- I love Jesus; but I'm a girl on the go. How could I take the Word with me?
- I love Jesus; but I enjoy TV and movies, so many of which do not align with God's teachings.

Fortunately, I discovered many helpful resources on radio, TV, IPAD and cell phone.

### RADIO - at home, on the phone, on the IPAD and in the car

- **Moody Radio** has 24-7 inspirational programming. It is found at 91.9 on the FM dial. Daytime hosts are leaders of the Moody Bible Institute, David Jeremiah, Tony Evans, Alistair Begg, Coin Smith, Dana Groesch and others. From 6-10 a.m., it's a talk show by Kurt and Kate with interesting and fun guests.
- **I-Heart Radio-FREE-** Download the free app on your phone or IPAD to find many radio shows and podcasts by Christian leaders.

### TELEVISION - can also be watched on cell phones and IPADS

- **Christian Cinema-FREE. Download the app.** By far, this has the largest and most diverse collection of movies for all ages. Great for grandparents and visiting grandchildren.
- **GAC Family Channel- FREE. Download the app** - A Christian network of movies meant to inspire. Where did your favorite Hallmark Channel stars go? They went to GAC!
- **Redeem TV- Free. Download the app** a collection of adult and children's movies, biographies, historical and documentary programs. Requires that you download the app onto your TV.
- **TBN- FREE. Download the app** - A Christian network devoted to inspirational programming by such folks as Mike Huckabee. Watch talk shows, movies and interviews.
- **PureFlex-**A network devoted to inspirational movies such as The War Room, Mercy and God Is Not Dead. The monthly charge is \$7.99 or the annual fee is \$85.00. It is on Spectrum Channel 94.

### IPAD and iPhone

- Remember, all of these resources can be downloaded on the IPAD and iPhone- Christian Cinema, GAC, Redeem TV, PureFlex, TBN, I Heart Radio, Moody Radio, TBD.
- **Patterns of Evidence** is an interesting series of shows that explore the scientific and archaeological validation of biblical events such as the Exodus, Nehemiah's Tunnels or Mount Sinai.

### MOVIES

- Christian Cinema, GAC, Redeem TV, TBN and PureFlex are wonderful resources.

If you need help downloading apps, please contact me at [suepagano@verizon.net](mailto:suepagano@verizon.net)

# KINGDOM LIVING.....Jan Wise

Do you remember the Sunday we all enthusiastically sang, "Standing on the promises, I'm standing on the promises of God"? We were in the new church, excited about all God had done to make this day possible and confident he would continue to unfold his blessings.

Paul writes of a truth many of us don't understand and so tend to ignore it. In Ephesians 6:10-18, Paul describes the spiritual warfare involved to obtain and then hold the blessings of God. He explains how "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of the dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms". As Christians, having received the Holy Spirit of Christ, we are spiritual beings of light and perfect targets for the dark forces wanting to dim or extinguish the light...or destroy a fledgling church.

Paul lists the protective armor we have been given, and he urges us to wear and/or use it. One weapon he describes is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God". A swords-man needs to be sure-footed and skilled with his weapon. Are we learning to be confident "standing" on the Word of God, on his promises? For instance, there are times when you feel lonely, no one calls or texts, and you feel left out of the loop. What does God say? "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5b) Sometimes on a "lonely" day, I walk around the house declaring, "I am not alone because you are here, Lord. You promised never to leave nor forsake me, so I know you're right here with me even if I don't feel your presence". The more I proclaim this truth, the more I stand on his promise, the lighter the dark day become, and I have won the battle against the forces of darkness for this time.

When I am afraid, one of God's promises I stand on is Isaiah 41:13, "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you". As I repeat the promise, I remind God of his promise to help me.

As I close this sharing, one of my weakness's surfaces--will this make sense to a reader? God promises, "...so is my word that goes out from my mouth, it will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and will achieve the purpose for which I sent it". Believe me, I'm standing on this promise from God!

## Dates to Save

February 22 Ash Wednesday @ Noon  
February 23 @ 4:00 Grace Board Meeting  
April 1 Children's Day @ Grace Methodist Church  
April 2 Palm Sunday  
April 6 First Day of Passover  
April 7 Good Friday  
April 9 Easter Sunday

## Fellowship Hour



If you are enjoying fellowship hour and would like it to continue, a sign-up sheet has been placed in the kitchen for volunteers to bring cakes, cookies, cupcakes, or any type of breakfast snack items you would like to contribute. Please locate the sign-up sheet and volunteer. You will feel great doing something for God's glory.

## Bible Studies & Prayer Groups

- 7:00 am WED...Men's Prayer Group – meeting at Grace Church and then to breakfast
- 10:00 am THR.....S.O.A.P. led by Jan Wise meeting at Grace Church
- 11:30 am THR.....Lunch Bunch Bible Study meeting at Grace Church
- 5:00 pm THR.....Choir Practice
- 10:00 am FRI.....Wise Bible Study meeting at Grace Church  
(10-11 Prayer concerns, joys, & fellowship followed by bible study at 11:00)
- 10:15 am FRI.....Meadowcrest Bible study @ Meadowcrest Clubhouse

## Articles for Future Newsletters

Articles for future newsletters may be sent to Alice Trusley by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month at [atrusley@pantherbranch.com](mailto:atrusley@pantherbranch.com) Thank you for your contributions to this newsletter.