

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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January

2025

Newsletter January 2025

Revelation 21:5:

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”

Isaiah 43:19:

“Behold, I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the dessert.”

2nd Corinthians:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.”

What does “making all things new” mean? These scriptures call us to face the world and New Year in a stance of optimism and open heartedness. Making all new is a call to action. The word “behold” found in these scriptures calls us to wake-up, open our eyes, and behold. In other words, see what is right before you. I think the most important thing we can do as individuals and as a church is to believe in God’s ability, willingness, and power to make all things new.

The beauty of something being made new is anything new is exciting and usually fresh. Something new is the opposite of the same old thing. As Grace Church we are entering a very exciting time. We are looking to God and believing that God will send the very best pastor available here to Grace Church. We are not lacking confidence because our confidence is not based on the amount of money in Grace Church’s General Fund or Edward Jones account. No indeed, Grace Church learned when our truss system failed that God can make a way when we can’t see or fathom the path forward.

The most important thing we can do as a church during the next six months is to pray everyday for God to continue to bless Grace Church and to send the right person to shepherd the church. It has been my great honor to be your pastor. I promise to do all I can in prayer and action to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

It will be so exciting to see what God will do with us as we pray and wait expectantly for the Holy Spirit to move. Come, Holy Spirit, and make it so.

Paster Vicki Downing

Contemplation of the New Year

In busy or stressful times, when old things end or new things begin, when we are thinking about the future, it is important to take time to pray and be open.

Contemplative Prayer, according to St. Teresa of Avila, “is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us.”

“One does not undertake contemplative prayer only when one has time: one makes time for the Lord, with the firm determination not to give up, no matter what trials and dryness one may encounter.”

Contemplation is a great act of love. We desire God as God desires us. We give our hearts to God, and it is within our hearts that we encounter God in his Son through the promptings of the Holy Spirit. A person puts aside the self—the “me”—and sees everything in terms of the gospel and the unconditional compassion of Jesus Christ. It requires few if any words, a model we are not used to everyday life.

A suggested model of contemplative prayer :

Start by taking a small amount of time (5-20 minutes). This can be done before the blessed sacrament, by placing a picture of Jesus in front of you, or just in a space you choose with quiet. You may find instrumental music helpful.

- Settle into a comfortable position, taking slow, deep breaths to help quiet yourself.
- Focus your attention on the image of Jesus.
- Acknowledge the things that are trying to get your attention---thoughts, worries, plans, aches and pains, sights and sounds around you. Slowly let these things go. If you feel distracted during this prayer, just quietly bring yourself back to your reflection.
- In your silence and stillness, let God’s Spirit within you make itself known.
- Do not expect anything to “happen”; put yourself in God’s hands.



At Grace:

January Fellowship Hour

Sunday, January 12th, will be the next **Fellowship Hour** at Grace! Please join us in the Wesley Room after Sunday Worship Service to mingle and chat with the members of our community.



Everyone is invited to bring something to share, such as a casserole, salad, or dessert. This is a great time to meet new friends and learn more about your fellow Grace members.



Snyder Park Elementary School

A big thank you to everyone who helped make cookies and donated scarves, gloves, and hats. Our partnership with Snyder Park Elementary School continues to be productive, joyful, and a positive force in the world.



Choir Cantata

Thank you to our wonderful Choir! There's no better way to get into the holiday spirit than listening to the beautiful Cantata, written by Jayme Tatro and performed by our choir.

January Scriptures

Jan. 1 Psalm 24:9
Jan. 2 Psalm 3:3
Jan. 3 Psalm 10:12
Jan. 4 John 12:32
Jan. 5 Hebrews 12:12-13
Jan. 6 Psalm 86:4
Jan. 7 Psalm 121:1
Jan. 8 Psalm 123:1
Jan. 9 Psalm 134:2
Jan. 10 Psalm 143:8
Jan. 11 Isaiah 40:9
Jan. 12 Isaiah 42:11
Jan. 13 Lamentations 3:41
Jan. 14 Isaiah 62:10
Jan. 15 Psalm 68:4
Jan. 16 Numbers 6:26
Jan. 17 Jeremiah 33:15
Jan. 18 Psalm 27:8
Jan. 19 Psalm 34:10
Jan. 20 Psalm 63:1-4
Jan. 21 Psalm 70:4-5
Jan. 22 Psalm 130:5
Jan. 23 Psalm 119:82
Jan. 24 Psalm 143:6
Jan. 25 Psalm 80:2-3
Jan. 26 Romans 13:11
Jan. 27 Luke 1:52
Jan. 28 Luke 1:78
Jan. 29 John 1:29
Jan. 30 James 1:17
Jan. 31 Matthew 1:21

Prayers Needed:

Cindy & Jack Yeager
Phyllis & Larry Garber
John Shough
Janet Blazer
Ron Stevens
Jeann Powell



Shower of Blessings

Recipient for January:

Barbara & Dave Sheehan
11360 Gerlaugh Rd
PO Box 4
Medway OH, 45341





January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI-DAY	SAT-URDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 7pm NA Meeting	6 6pm Men's Bible Study	7 11am Soap Making 7pm NA Meeting	8 6:30pm Choir Practice	9	10	11
12 Fellowship Hour after Service 7pm NA Meeting	13 6pm Men's Bible Study	14 7pm NA Meeting	15 6:30pm Choir Practice	16	17	18
19 7pm NA Meeting	20 6pm Men's Bible Study	21 12pm Women of Faith 7pm NA Meeting	22 6:30pm Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 7pm NA Meeting	27 4:30 Soup Kitchen 6pm Men's Bible Study	28 7pm NA Meeting	29 6:30pm Choir Practice	30	31	

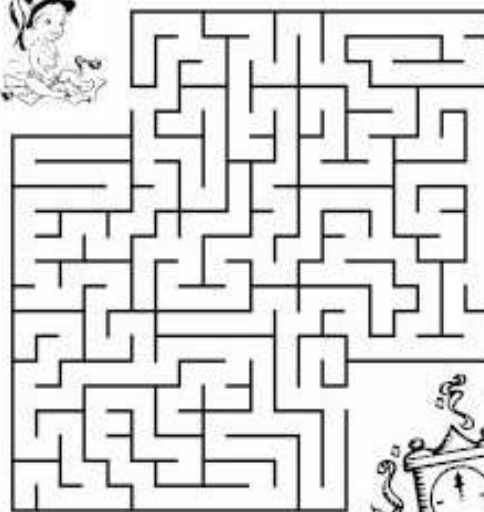
JAN

<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
Acolyte	Jan	Larry Campbell
Communion Set-up	Jan 5	Pastor Vicki
Communion Servers	Jan 5	Deb & Ken Cooke Bruce Eckler & Connie Mitchell
Communion Clean-up	Jan 5	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	Jan 5, 12 Jan 19, 26	Donna Myers & Kim Stehle Mary Olmstead & Larry Campbell
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	Jan 5, 12 Jan 19, 26	Donna Layne & Pam Smith Marilyn & Tom Martin
Liturgist	Jan 5, 12 Jan 19, 26	Barb McCoy Bruce Eckler
Ushers	Jan 5, 12 Jan 19, 26	Larry Campbell & Dave Speas Donna Layne & Greg Hosier

<u>Counters</u>		<u>Special Music</u>	
Jan 6	Marilyn Martin & Pam Smith	Jan 5	Choir
Jan 13	Mary Ahlborn & Jackie Gregory	Jan 12	Jim Mayhugh
Jan 20	Kim Stehle & Deb Cooke	Jan 19	Jayne Tatro
Jan 27	Connie Mitchell & Mary Ahlborn	Jan 26	Becky Frantz

Happy New Year!

C R T S R I F F K R V H Y U N
 D A Y Z V J T J E C A L M W O
 X D H Z T M A S Y P O Y E L I
 U N L E W Y O N P R W L N P S
 Z E H P T L P Y U O D R C T E
 F L Y Y U A A L M A A F D Z M
 W A W T S K R O W E R I F T A
 X C I V D W O B H K S Y H P K
 J O N Z E J L K E G X G B A E
 N C O N F E T T I L I L W R R
 G U E D E Y X H Y N E K O A P
 I I U F X O J T D O A C R D Y
 N G J T S B B I W E J J A E Q
 C K B D B E M X H N F V E S W
 G Z W X E M U H P T V V Y G E



How many words can you make from the letters of the words:

Happy New Year

CALENDAR
 CELEBRATE
 CLOCK
 CONFETTI
 HAPPY
 NEW

FIREWORKS
 FIRST
 JANUARY
 MIDNIGHT
 NOISEMAKER
 PARADES
 YEAR

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |
| 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8. |
| 9. | 10. |
| 11. | 12. |
| 13. | 14. |
| 15. | 16. |
| 17. | 18. |
| 19. | 20. |
| 21. | 22. |