

# Grace Notes

January 2024  
"Come Home to Grace"

Dear Grace Church,

Happy New Year and blessings for a wonderful 2024! It should be a great year to grow closer to the Lord and to celebrate many special occasions as we offer ourselves in service to our church and community. I look forward to the surprises 2024 has in store for us.

This month in my Lay Ministry Training Program (LMTP), we are embracing Spiritual Disciplines. This means that every day throughout the month of January, we are committing to prayer at least 10 minutes every day, bible reading every day and some kind of service to others each day (act of kindness, gift giving, helping those in need). I am excited to do this work and to engage in discipline that can be developed no other way than practicing.

In coordination with my LMTP I am also disciplining myself to get regular exercise this January. I am very active when I can be outside walking, biking, swimming or kayaking during the late spring, summer and fall, but the winter is hard to get motivated. So, I decided since I am doing Spiritual Disciplines, I should also do health benefit disciplines. If I am successful, by the end of the month, there should be a new me. I pray! In thinking about how we discipline ourselves, we need to plan for the time to do the work. I think the same thing is true in church. If we are going to get more active in our church, we need to be intentional in what we plan to do. Have you considered offering your time and talent to Grace Church? Are you able to sing in the choir? Are you able to attend GRO meetings? Are you able to be a part of coffee hour discussions at *Generations* on Tuesday mornings? Maybe you have even considered being a part of the next bible and book study? Or maybe, you would like to lead a bible or book study? Maybe you could sign up to be a liturgist? Perhaps you could host a cookie hour after worship on Sunday? Perhaps you would like to do a "Children's Moment" during the Sunday service. Or maybe, you have a completely new idea for Grace Church and want to try to make a difference.

Whatever you decide to do this year, if you make an investment in your time and talent towards God's kingdom, it will always be a blessing. For as it says in John 4:36-38, "Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows, and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored and you have entered into their labors."

Consider how your "sowing and reaping" can make a difference in Grace Church in 2024.

Blessings, Lisa



January

GRO

will host a Baked Potato Bar

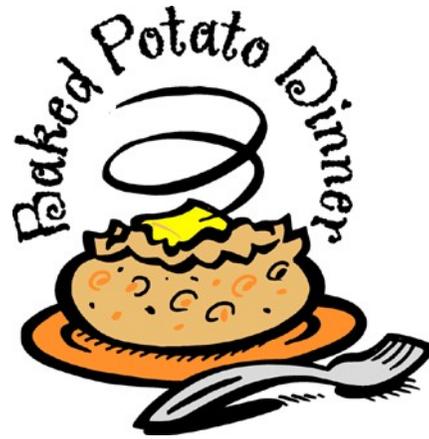
Sunday, January 28th

after worship.

Create your own version

of the loaded potato!

More details to come!



Choir practice will resume on January 7, (this Sunday), at 8:30 a.m. in the choir room. We are in dire need of choir members this winter season. The choir is losing two altos, one bass and a soprano due to vacation/snow birds and surgeries during the winter months. If you could help out during this time, it would help us tremendously!

Ray Wagner  
Music Director

**December 2023 Consistory Minutes**

Members Present: Matt Bell, Chris Eisenbraun, Gary Scullion, Tim Reeser, Leslie Eisenbraun, Ann Gustafson, and Steve Barnett. Guests: Jerry Hughes, Bill Greenawalt, and Diane Greenawalt

Excused: Sharon Frost, Diane Barnes, Jim Brinker, and Debbie Rohm

**I. Devotions** – December: Diane Barnes

**II. Duties** – December Usher: Tim Reeser Elevator: Diane Barnes

**Communion:** 12/24 Christmas Eve (Tim Reeser).

**Consistory Terms**

2022 – 2024: Diane Barnes, Matt Bell, Jim Brinker, Sharon Frost

2023 – 2025: Debbie Rohm, Ann Gustafson, Tim Reeser, Gary Scullion

2024 – 2026: Mark Frost, Bill Greenawalt, Diane Greenawalt

**III. Informal Discussion/Goal Setting:**

-Jerry Hughes gave an update of the Search Committee.

-Leslie welcomed Bill and Diane to the meeting and to Consistory.

An email was sent by Leslie Eisenbraun:

*If you all approve of the wording and placement of this amendment, we can go forward with getting copies made for the congregational meeting. If not, we can arrange for a special meeting. Please let me know by replying either "I approve of the amendment as written in the attached document" or "I do not approve of the amendment as written in the attached document." Leslie replied that this was approved.*

**IV. Communications:** A letter from Diane Barnes was distributed for the members to read.

**V. Approval of Minutes:** November minutes reviewed, 1<sup>st</sup> by Chris Eisenbraun to approve the minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Reeser, motion passes.

**VI. Financial Secretary Report (M. Bell):**

November Current Fund income: \$9,970.37. Budget monthly income \$13,570.00, \$3,599.63 under budget. Annual 80% received, \$19,694.31 under budget. The Current Fund is in the black \$2,451.33.

November Current Fund expense: \$10,464.77. Budget monthly expense \$13,570.00, \$3,105.23 under budget. Annual 83% expensed, \$14,269.83 under budget.

Motion to accept the report. 1<sup>st</sup> Jack Sitler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Gustafson, motion carries.

**VII. Financial Committee Report (M. Bell):** 2024 giving's envelopes are in the dining hall.

**VIII. Lay Leaders report: Lisa Bircher****Consistory December 4, 2023**

Sermons: 9 (since September 24)

Communion with John Bradley: 2 (October 1, World Communion Sunday, and November 19), John will also be here on December 24 (evening service). Do you want him to continue to offer his services in the new year?

Coffee Hours at Generations (Tuesday 10am): 7 meetings. Is this something you want me to continue doing?

Efforts to reach others: Don Reash (texting with Kathy), Herb Roble (texting), April Brinker (to visit Connor), Christal Bonsall (for her mom, Donna Rice).

Visitations: Connor Brinker (November 27), Shirley Beckham (December 4)

Newsflashes: 7 (Oct 19, 26, and November 1, 9, 16, 21, 30) Are these meeting your needs?

Grace Notes: Christmas poem in December Newsletter

Published an article in *The Congregationalist* (December issue). It is about the Chicken Dinner at Street Fair and implications it has for outreach opportunities for other churches. (I'm passing it around because we have not received the magazines yet).

Transfer of Membership Patricia Roy, I would like to do a new member reception on January 21. Patricia and Ray Wagner will sponsor cookie hour that Sunday.

December 6 visit arranged with Dr. Rev. Ashley Cleere, the Executive Director of NACCC (Round table discussion at 4:30pm, we have several people signed up. Then she will attend Women's Guild Christmas Party at 6pm. She is not doing a presentation; she is our guest and just wants to talk to us and engage in fellowship.

December 10 Christmas Pageant, I wrote the script. Alison Hoskinson contacted children and adults to include in the event, she is directing the play. If you are interested, we can still include you on Sunday, next practice 8:15 am?

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**IX. Unfinished Business:** Jack made a motion to approve the 2024 communion schedule, seconded by Chris motion passed.

**X. New Business:** Matt made a motion to approve the PTO requests by Marcy (Thursday's, December 7, 14. Tuesday, December 19. Wednesday, December 20. Christmas week - Tuesday and Wednesday, December 26, 27.

**XI. Committee Reports:**

**-Search Committee:** Jerry Hughes gave an update at the beginning of the meeting.

**-Team Grace - Evangelism (Leslie)** – working on the post-Christmas parade.

**-Worship Design and Music (Diane)** – Chris made a motion to accept Ray Wagner's suggestion to hire Melody Chabue as the Organist (including salary, vacation, lessons) pending background check and reference check, seconded by Ann. Motion carried.

**-GRO (Diane)** – Received 12 suggestions (8 charities) on disbursement for Street Fair income.

**-Endowment (Sharon/Matt)** – Made gave a report. Matt made a motion to move \$10,000 from Doris Ogle and \$30,000 from Carol Czarneski from the Memorial Fund to the trust to support the Current Fund, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.

**-Property (Chris)** – continuing to work on plaster ceiling repair. Cabinets will be hung soon. Gary thanked Herb, Greg, and Jack for setting up the nativity display.

**-Elders (Chris)** – Chris spoke on employee evaluations forms.

**-Women's Guild (Ann)** – Christmas party is this week.

**XII. Adjournment & The Lord's Prayer**

Next Meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7pm.

**PRAY MORE**  
*worry less*



- 1/1 Matt Jones
- 1/2 David McMaster
- 1/3 Jon Billings
- 1/4 Janis Sutherin  
Emma Gala
- 1/5 Don Reash
- 1/7 Geoff Barnes  
Quentin Barnes
- 1/8 Bonnie Sears  
Mike Perorazio
- 1/11 Beth Palette
- 1/12 Nicole McMaster
- 1/16 Gary Weber
- 1/17 Tim Reash  
Michael McMaster  
Seth Kollar  
Lexi Smith  
Alivia Bell  
Tyler Savage
- 1/18 Geri Whitfield
- 1/20 Becky Stearns
- 1/23 Sam Flynn
- 1/24 Alison Hoskinson
- 1/27 Katy Gala
- 1/31 Joyce McKee

★ Thank You! ★  
★ THANK YOU! ★

GRO would like to thank everyone for your donations throughout 2023. Without them we couldn't accomplish the many missions we were able to support such as The Way Station, The Lord's Blessing, The Bright Side Project, The Mission School of Hope, and recently, AKESO Health Care and the 4C's. We appreciate your generosity and look forward to a new year of missions!

Thank you to the men who put up (and take down) the manger scene each year. Greg Gustafson, Herb Roble, Gary Scullion and Jack Sitler. The manger scene is iconic to Grace Church, and is still beautiful. Thank you!

The project for the Missionary School of Hope has succeeded our goal of \$4,750.00 for the electric grid to be extended from the town to the school. The children will now see the world in a whole new way. Thank you so much for all your contributions.

Dear Grace Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250.00 to the Brightside Project in Salem. This gift is greatly appreciated and will be used to support our mission as we strive to help children in Columbiana County.

—Scott Lewis, Executive Director, The Brightside Project

## Those Ministering This Month:

### Liturgists:

1/7:  
1/14  
1/21:  
1/28:

**Usher:** Diane Greenawalt

**Elevator Attendant:** Bill Greenawalt

**Candles:** (no list posted yet)



# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

*Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.*

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			



- The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The last Monday \_ \_
- The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- One day before the 20th \_ \_
- The day before the first Friday \_ \_
- The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The day after the 20th \_ \_
- The day after 18th \_ \_
- The first day of the second weekend \_
- The last Sunday \_ \_ \_
- The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

Grace Notes

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