GRACECONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2801 GARFIELD ST. TWO RIVERS

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 AM ~ ADULT STUDY 9:30 AM 920-553-1222 WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG

unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com Pastor Kim khenning1956@gmail.com Pastor Colie pastorcolie@gmail.com



MARCH 2019

Reflecting Together

Kim M. Henning

"New Growth!"

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you..." Ephesians 1:17-18

Beside my computer is a green plant with five stalks that has been with me 12 years. Each Friday I give it a cup of water. Occasionally I'll add some fertilizer. But otherwise, that plant is pretty much on its own.

Back in December I was pouring a cup of water onto that plant when I noticed a new green sprout poking its way through the ground. I was excited. For twelve years nothing much has changed with that plant. Occasionally a new leaf would appear or I'd break off a dying one. But there before my eyes a new stalk was breaking through the soil. It was beautiful to behold.

When Paul wrote a letter to the church years ago, he prayed that 'the eyes of their hearts may be enlightened.' I have been pondering those words, "I pray..... that the eyes of your hearts may be enlightened."

Years ago, someone (Ecclesiastes!) described this world as being a place where there is nothing new under the sun. I suppose for some that is true: "Once a Democrat, always a Democrat"; or "once a Republican, always a Republican" or "Once an unbeliever, always an unbeliever."

Some are convinced that things will never change. Always, they say, we will have violence and kidnappings. Always, they say, people will harbor prejudice, hatred, and anger. Always we will have death and taxes and......

The church thinks differently. Years ago Paul prayed for that those people in the early church would have the eyes of their hearts enlightened." Paul expected change and enlightenment from those early believers. Isn't that beautiful! Paul's prayer was that they would see what ordinary eyes do not see. Paul's hope was that with eyes of faith they would be hopeful instead of despairing; loving instead of hateful; believing, instead of saying, 'no, no, no.'

For twelve years I watered a plant and saw nothing noticeably new. But then one day, a new green stem pushed through the black soil. It was stunning; it was unexpected; it was beautiful!

In last Sunday's adult study class, we had a wonderful discussion about the virtue of the Christian Church. The church, we agreed, is that community where empathy is grown. In church, we talk and listen and we strive to understand the lives of others. The church is a place where we challenge each other to grow; we challenge each other to forgive and love; we challenge each other to behold God's beauty.

The church is that place where our lives are first broken open by the power of God's Holy Spirit and then we find ourselves caring and loving individuals we thought we could live without. Where else but the church? Have you noticed any green plants sprouting in your lives?

Gifts of Healing

MAR 13 GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UCC 6:30PM REV. TOM REYNEBEAU, PREACHER healing of the nations

MAR 20 5:15 SOUP 6:30 WORSHIP CALVARY LUTHERAN ELCA REV. DAN BORCHERS, PREACHER healing of the care-giver

6:30PM REV. KIM HENNING, PREACHER healing of relationships

APR 3 6:30PM

ZION UMC, MISHICOT REV. JULIE BARGER, PREACHER healing of commuity

APR 10 6:30PM

ST PETER, THE FISHERMAN REV. JANE SOMMERS, PREACHER healing of humanity

Healer of Every Suffering Body, fill us with courage to touch and heal.....

Healer of Every Doubting Spirit, inspire us with faith to trust and believe.....

Healer of Every Aching Soul, anoint us with assurance of your everlasting peace.....

Thoughts from Pastor Colie

When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they had been waiting for him. A man named Jairus, who was a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet. He pleaded with Jesus to come to his house because his only daughter, a twelve-year-old, was dying.

As Jesus moved forward, he faced smothering crowds. A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. She had spent her entire livelihood on doctors, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the hem of his clothes, and at once her bleeding stopped.

"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When everyone denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds are surrounding you and pressing in on you!"

But Jesus said, "Someone touched me. I know that power has gone out from me."

When the woman saw that she couldn't escape notice, she came trembling and fell before Jesus. In front of everyone, she explained why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed.

"Daughter, your faith has healed you," Jesus said. "Go in peace."

(Luke 8:40-48, Common English Bible)

It doesn't take long into Jesus's ministry of teaching and healing before word begins to spread about him. Claiming God's authority, Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, lifted up the poor, spoke up for the oppressed, loved the forgotten, forgave the sinful – and taught that we should use our lives to do the same. Soon, he and the disciples are no longer inconspicuous. Crowds gather everywhere he goes, hoping to catch a word or encouragement or inspiration. High society and common folk alike approach in desperate pleas for help and healing.

The story of the bleeding woman in Luke 8 (also found in Mark 5 and Matthew 9) is one that has always resonated with me. It's a bit mysterious because we don't know for sure what her "bleeding" is, though most scholars agree it was some type of uterine hemorrhaging. I imagine the pain she must have been in, both physical and emotional. She spent years – and all of her money – seeing doctor after doctor, desperately hoping that the next could do *something* to help her, but no one could. Out of money and out options, she hears about this man, Jesus of Nazareth, who seems to have God on his side. She takes the risk of going to seek him out. In the end, all she has to do is touch the bottom of his robe.

"Daughter," Jesus says to her kindly, "your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

What hurt do you need to be healed from? What pain have you been carrying around inside you? Through faith, we too can reach out to Jesus. And while we may not always be *cured* – for there are some things we just cannot be cured from in this life – I believe we can find healing.

As a woman, I know that there is particular pain – both physical and spiritual – associated with reproductive choices and infertility, as the woman in the story was suffering from. If this is pain you too are familiar with, know this:

If you became pregnant when you did not want to be, God sees you and loves you. If you always desired a child of your own but it just didn't happen, God sees you and loves you. If you suffered the pain of miscarriage or infertility, God sees you and loves you. If you had to choose the path of abortion, God sees you and loves you. If you chose to be childless and felt that others did not understand your decision, God sees you and loves you. If you wanted to be a parent, but parenting turned out much more trying than you expected, God sees you and loves you. If you suffer from endometriosis or other conditions that cause you pain and embarrassment, God sees you and knows you.

God sees you. God loves you. There is enough healing for us all.



DEAR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION STUDENTS,

I am very excited to announce the 2019 spring musical for Grace Congregational Church UCC, **"Faith News"!** To listen to the music and read about the musical, go to https://wordchoralclub.com/faith-news.html?SID=. You can also search *Faith News Musical* in YouTube to preview the show.

Practices begin in March and we will present the musical to the congregation on **May 5 at the 10:30 service.**

We will practice the music during the opening for Sunday School. If your child would like a role/speaking part, there will be Saturday practices from 10:00am-11:00am (see schedule below). I understand how busy families are! Everyone is welcome, regardless of how many rehearsals you can attend. If you are interested, we will find a place for you!

<u>Thank you so much for helping continue this Grace UCC tradition!</u> It is a fun and memorable way to dig deep into Christ's teachings!

God Bless,

Andrea Allington

920-242-6240 or romsosa@yahoo.com or romsosa96@gmail.com

Musical Schedule

All rehearsals are from 10:00am-11:00am at Grace Church.

March 23

March 30

April 6

April 13

April 20 NO PRACTICE

April 27

May 4 Dress Rehearsal from 10am-Noon

Sunday, May 5 present musical at 10:30am service

Please fill out this portion if you are interested and return to Grace UCC. Or you may contact Andrea by phone or e-mail.

Student Name	
am interested in a speaking/acting part. Yes N	Го
Parent/Guardian names and phone numbers	
Family e-mail	

Please list any conflicts you have with the practices and I will do my best to find a part in the musical that best fits your schedule.

CONFIRMATION UPDATES

PLEASE NOTE: Starting in March, the class time changes to begin at 5pm! This is to accommodate the Wednesday evening services for Lent. Youth need to attend 2 of the ecumenical services with their mentor. If the scheduling is a problem, please see Pastor Colie.

March 6: ASH WEDNESDAY (All students meet at 5pm-7:20). Assist with worship at 6:30pm

March 13 (Class: 5:00-6:10): SACRAMENTS AND CONFESSION – Confession

Before class, read: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

March 20(Class: 5:00-6:10): Mentor Night. SACRAMENTS AND CONFESSION – Vocation

Before class, read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

March 27(*Class: 5:00-6:10*): Catch up/recap

KIDS UCC - Sunday, March 24

Our newest Sunday School project is called KIDS UCC! KIDS UCC is a worship service designed specifically for our children to learn more about worship through direct participation and leadership! These services will take place on the 4th Sunday of every month during the Sunday School time (9:15-10:15 am). The worship will mirror our "regular" services, but with a slower speed and more intentionality to explain the hows and whys of different parts of worship. Our children and youth will serve in leadership roles such as scripture readers, prayer leaders, ushers, greeters, acolytes (candle lighters), and TAC time (Time After Church) hosts. Members of the congregation are always welcome and encouraged to come too!! You can attend this service as a way to support our kids as they grow their faith and their leadership skills.... And you will probably learn more about worship along the way!

COMMUNION EDUCATION CLASSES

In March, we begin this year's children's Communion Education classes. We invite you to consider if you would like your child enrolled in them. These classes are often used to prepare children to take their First Communion, but children who have already been taking communion at church are also welcome to come and learning more about what we do in church and why. There is no specific age requirement for this class – it is up to parents to decide what they think is best. This year, we are offering 2 different classroom options: a class for children 6 years and older, and a class for children 5 years and younger.

Not sure if your child is ready? Please call the church or email Pastor Colie (pastorcolie@gmail.com) to find a time to talk about it. I would love to have the conversation with you. Also know that there is more information available in the Sunday School hallway.

CHURCH CABINET

Moderator, Don DeBruyn Treasurer, Linda Justema Clerk, Rein Elias Financial Sec, Chris Blimel Trustee Chair, Todd Moolenaar Diaconate Chair, Brian VanElls
Board of Christian Ed Chair, Katie Ver Haagh
Mission & Outreach Chair, Doug Charles
Pastor Kim-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jeff Harding
Pastor Colie-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jim Miller

Stewardship Corner for Grace Congregational United Church of Christ:

Total 2018 Expected Pledges \$364,100
Total 2018 Received Pledges \$368,036
Other Income: \$21,203
Total 2018 Expense \$402,059

Please Note: Our constitution prohibits us from using any proceeds from our Endowment Fund to support our day to day ministry at Grace Congregational Church. It is our church's expectation that our members are responsible for the support of this church's ministry as an act of faithfulness to God.

Notes From the Trustees:

We paid our entire OCWM commitment of \$41,820
To lessen the 2018 deficit, we paid \$5,000 to the Campital Campaign (instead of \$15,000)
The Trustees are presenting a 2019 budget that lessens the gap between income and expenses

United Church Camps, Incorporated CAMPital Campaign

Grace Congregational Church has been invited to contribute \$300,000 towards a major capital fund campaign for the upkeep and improvement of our two church camps, Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center. We are grateful to individuals who voluntarily contribute to this campaign. Through December of 2018, our records show that individuals have made contributions totaling \$97,493.

ABOVE AND BEYOND....

Individuals and friends of Grace Congregational Church gave the following gifts in 2018 (above our budget.....)

\$19,504 – to the Campital Campaign (Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center) \$8,691 – to Neighbors in Need; One Great Hour of Sharing; Strengthen the Church; Christmas Fund; \$1,833 – to the Two Rivers Ecumenical Pantry;

> \$942 – Habitat for Humanity \$701 - The Crossing \$2,203 - The Haven

\$2,203 – Missionary Support for Lesotho

\$737 -- Hope House

\$2,605 - What IF? Foundation (Haiti)

\$395 – Eden Theological Seminary

\$370 - Moon Beach Church Camp

\$40 - InCourage

\$250 - Global Ministries

\$140 - to a family for adoption

A Total of \$40,614!

NEWS FROM THE CABINET

This month the people newly elected to Boards and committees of the church will begin serving. The regularly scheduled meeting times of these groups are listed below. Please mark your calendar with the time that applies to you.

Diaconate: first Monday of the month at 6 pm

Board of Christian Education: second Monday at 5 pm

Trustees: second Tuesday at 4:30 pm

Board of Mission & Outreach: second Tuesday at 5 pm

Cabinet: second Tuesday at 6 pm

Other committees will meet at times determined by their chairperson, who is responsible to notify their committee.

Plans for Inclement Weather

In case of bad weather, please use your judgment as to your safety before venturing out to church. On Sundays, we will decide by 7 am whether to hold worship services. You may check the church Facebook page or local radio and TV stations regarding closings. For weekday events, you may receive a phone call or email from the church or leader of your meeting about whether it will be held as scheduled.

Sunday Supper

The next opportunity for Grace to prepare and serve the Sunday Supper is March 10th. The meal will be served at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish at 4:30 p.m. We will need volunteers to help setup, serve, and cleanup after the meal. There will also be a need for donations of desserts. This opportunity for service will need a commitment of about two hours of your time. A sign-up sheet will be located at the information desk on March 3rd. We have always had a great group of volunteers who are wonderful to work with. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Charlene Dresang at 920-645-1014 after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays or email her at csdresang@gmail.com.

Pastor Parish Committee Notes

Several topics were discussed at the last Pastor/Parish meeting.

Book Study is going well with challenging and fun materials.

The upcoming adult trip to St. Louis was discussed.

Another important topic was the ongoing campaign to assist Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center.

Please contact a committee member if you have any concerns. Thanks!

Generation G / Appalachia Service Project

The Appalachia Service Project (ASP group) will be meeting at Grace Congregational UCC March 18 at 6:30pm. We changed the date due to Spring break. We will have Stephanie Kahlenberg joining us to go over safe sanctuary policy and our accountability agreements, so there will be forms to sign at the meeting.

April 8 @ 6:30 will be a mandatory meeting, youth under 18 please bring your parents to help fill out forms and a copy of your insurance. Our practice build is tentatively May 11th, so please block off the day

Equal Exchange - GOOD News, BAD News, GOOD News!

The GOOD news is that you have been great at purchasing delicious coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts and more these past few months when sales are normally slow.

The BAD news is that the costs to us have gone up on most items, so we need to pass that increase on to you.

The GOOD NEWS is that the price of chocolate bars will stay the same.

AND through your faithful purchases, the farmers providing the products receive a living wage for their hard work, and we can continue supplying and drinking great coffee during TAC Time.

Mission and Outreach (M & O) thank you for your support.

GENERATION G

Generation G (Gen G) will be selling Seroogy Easter candy in the month of March! You will be able to order boxed sets, coffee, bunnies and lambs to fill Easter baskets, to give as gifts or just to enjoy at home! The money raised will go into the Generation G account to help cover sending mail to our college and military youth at Christmas and retreats we go on. The chocolate will be at church Palm Sunday. We will also be hosting our annual Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday from 9:00-10:15am! Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, milk, juice and coffee will be available.

On our regularly scheduled Wednesday nights, we are meeting in the high school youth room (off the fellowship hall) from 7-8pm. We have been reading and discussing the book of Matthew, chapter by chapter, before ending the evening with prayer. Thank you to our youth who come week after week, the parents who bring and encourage them, and those who pray and support our high school youth. Peace to you, Nicole Herda nlherda@yahoo.com

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Derek Linzmeier
- 2 Hannah Sosnosky Alexia Laurin
- 3 Mary Sosnosky Lizzy Price Blayce Heimerl Kathy Hirvela Amy Peters
- 4 Helen Ertman Chase Collins Nancee Rysticken
- 5 Sally Jo Grant
- 6 Alyssa Mainwaring
- 7 Jacob LaFleur Becky Price
- 8 Chad Stodola Eric Waniger Dora Sommers Dylan Schuh
- 9 Wayne Taylor Elijah Antoniewicz

- 11 Robin Bergman
- 12 Kevin Krizek Jack Powalisz Kaye Katke Travis Bohman
- 13 Robert Stephens Jacob Schuh Heather Krueger Lucy Griffin
- 14 Jacob Veleke
- 16 Barbara Krueger
- 17 Rosie Jones Kenna Stodola
- 18 Nathan Heuer
- 19 Gail Schanilec
- 20 Connie Bruse
- 21 Ken Bergman
- 22 Mat Sosnosky
- 23 Zoe Edinger Andrew Willis
- 24 Gary Burnstad Steven Dresang

- Claire Price Gabriella Hilke
- 26 Mike Price Josh Stradal
- 27 Brian Boomgarden Brooke O'Connor Colleen Inman Pat Wichlacz
- 30 Lillian Pasek
- 31 Stephanie Kahlenberg Alex LeGreve Mary Wiegert

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Tony and Joan Taddy
- 15 Tod and Taybee Pauly
- 22 Brian and Ginger Van Ells
- 30 Aaron and Heidi Springstube

" A Senior Get-Together at Grace Congregational Church"



Where: Grace Church Fellowship Hall

When: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 1:30 to 3:00 pm

On May 7, 2019 there will be a Senior Luncheon at 12:30 & Bingo from 1:30-3:00.

Hope to See You! Any Questions / Need Transportation?

Call 553-4051(Marsha Heuer)

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

HOSPITALIZED

Florence Shekoski was recently hospitalized at Aurora Medical Center. She is back at Northland Lodge.

Trenton Bohman is hospitalized at Children's Hospital in Milwaukee. He was admitted a week ago Wednesday, and came home on Wednesday, January 9.

Jim Rasmus was hospitalized at Holy Family Memorial Hospital in Manitowoc.

OUR SYMPATHY

A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, December 27 for the family of Chris Shimulunas. Chris died on Sunday, December 16, and is survived by his daughters, Kacie and Kelsie; his parents, Bucky and Jill Shimulunas; and his brothers, Cory and Paula Shimulunas, and Chad and Kathy Shimulunas

A Memorial Service was held on Friday, December 28 for the family of Norma Schoss. Norma died on Friday, December 21, and is survived by her daughters, Peggy and Mike Mueller, and Lori and Joe Brandt; her brother, Alan Spearbraker; and her Grandchildren, Nicholas and Rebekah Mueller, Tyler and Kourtney Brandt, and Jenna Brandt.

A Memorial Service will be held for the family of Kelly Stodola Reszczynski. Kelly died on Saturday, November 17, and is survived by her husband, Steve; her three children, Gabe, Timo and Nica; her parents, Joe and Dottie Stodola; and her siblings, Chad and Laurel Stodola, Joe and Lisa Stodola, Jerry and Sarah Stodola, and Kari and Tony Welnicke.

We offer our sympathy to Theo Lynn Hoffmann as she grieves the death of her mother, Margaret Mansfield. Margaret died on Sunday, December 2. A memorial service was held at First Presbyterian Church in Manitowoc on Saturday, January 5.

We extend our sympathy to Bill and Sandy Monka as they grieve the death of Bill's brother, Robert......

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Ann Suettinger as they grieve her death. Ann died on Monday, January 7 at the Manitowoc Health Care. A memorial service was held here at Grace Congregational Church on Friday, January 11, .

We extend our sympathy to Kathy and Jerry Nichols and Dean and Laura Hayes-Stoeger as they grieve the death of their aunt, Grace Stock.

Marilyn McCullough passed away on January 19. We offer our prayers and sympathy to her husband, Denny, and their children and grandchildren. Marilyn was a member of our church choir for many years.

BAPTISMS

Lucas Charles son of Shawn and Kristie Kaiser was baptized December 30. Lucas has two brothers, Levi and Lane. His grandparents are Jean & Arnold Wanek, Sue & Jerry Stanull and Mark & Lisa Wanek. Chosen as godparent for Lucas was Brittany Legois.

Levi Joseph son of Shawn and Kristie Kaiser was baptized December 30. Levi has two brothers, Lucas and Lane. His grandparents are Jean & Arnold Wanek, Sue & Jerry Stanull and Mark & Lisa Wanek. Joseph Kaiser was chosen as godparent for Levi.

Lane Louis son of Shawn and Kristie Kaiser was baptized December 30. Lane has two brothers, Lucas and Levi. His grandparents are Jean & Arnold Wanek, Sue & Jerry Stanull and Mark & Lisa Wanek. Kaelyn Koeser was chosen as godparent for Lane.



Hope House The **next host week is March 17 – March 24.** Looking for generous volunteers to help. Let me Thank You in advance for your continued dedication to this project.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON GROUP

We would like to invite ALL women of the church to our Women's Luncheon Group.

Announcements are usually in the bulletin and in the newsletter. If you need a ride we can usually provide it. February 12th we are going to be at Fork & Knife in Manitowoc at 11:30 a.m. Contact Chris Blimel at 793-2204 or Sandy Monka at 553-2047 if you will be going.



HABITAT SUPPORTER,

First Lutheran Church, located at 521 N. Eighth St. in Manitowoc, will host the Fifteenth Annual *Spring Chili Warm-up & Bake Sale* on Saturday, March 9, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Manitowoc County Habitat for Humanity.

This year, the menu will include chili, dessert and a beverage. Hot dogs will be available as a substitute for chili dinners. The price for tickets is \$6.00 for an adult and \$3.00 for children under 12. A one quart jar of chili for takeout will be available throughout the event and will sell for \$7.00.

Habitat, in partnership with First Lutheran Church, is also soliciting baked goods for this event. We are looking for sheet cakes, cookies and bars of all kinds to accompany dinner orders. Any other baked goods - bread, fruit pies, cupcakes, etc. (no cream desserts) -- will be sold in the Fireside Hall. If you can get a group of your members to provide baked goods it would be deeply appreciated. Baked goods can be dropped off at First Lutheran on Friday, March 8 between Noon and 3:00 p.m. or Saturday, March 9 after 8:30 a.m.

Again, thank you for all your cooperation and the efforts you will be putting forth. If you would like to help at the event or have any questions or suggestions, please call.

In Christian Partnership, Tove Alecksen. First Lutheran Church 686-3870---- Jean Wakefield, Manitowoc County Habitat, 683-8466

SPRING CHILI WARM-UP & BAKE SALE

Saturday, March 9, 2018 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



First Lutheran Church Fireside Room 521 N. 8th Street Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Adult: \$6.00 Children under 12: \$3.00 Includes chili, dessert and beverage Takeout (One quart): \$7.00