

“No matter who you are or where you’re from, you are welcome here”

MESSENGER

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00a-3:00p
Closed Fridays, Holidays and Fort Zumwalt No School Days

Sunday Worship: Traditional Service-8:45 am
Contemporary Service-11:15 am

Community Outreach Programs:
Cub Pack 576 and Scout Troop 576
N.A.M.I. (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) Meetings are held on the 3rd
Tuesday of the month

Grace Preschool: 2 years-Pre-K (Please call 636-240-5856 for details!)

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8326 Mexico Road

O’FALLON, Missouri 63376

Phone: 636-240-7621

Website: www.wearegraceucc.com

E-Mail: graceuccoffice@gmail.com



OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIS LOVE KNOWN TO ALL



Facebook.com/graceuccofallon



O’Fallon@WeAreGraceUCC

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

Paul's Crew, Romans, and Shared Leadership

As I continue to get to know the community of Grace UCC, I keep getting blown away by the way that leadership works in this church. There are so many leaders (lay AND clergy) who have real ownership of their ministries. You really live a collaborative, power-sharing model together. This is very countercultural, and it makes me think of the early "Jesus movement."

We often learn about Paul as a lone ranger leader of the early church. And yet if we look closely, we find out that he had a huge crew of co-workers that he was surrounded by. In Romans 16, Paul mentions 29 specific people! That's a heck of a lot of leaders! Verse 1 says "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae." Phoebe and others were trained to deliver and animate the letter to the whole community as a live performance, all at once. It was a communal experience, and Paul relied upon certain co-workers like Phoebe to convey the true spirit of the message in their performance.

I had the chance to sit with the adult Sunday school class and listen in on the beginning of their study of Paul via the Book of Romans. I noticed in myself and in those around me the same confusion and anxiety about this book. There are so many passages that don't make sense. You have to wade through layers of culture clash and conflict between the Gentile/Greek churches in Rome and their Jewish members. Plus, parts of Romans are considered a "clobber text" against the LGBTQIA+ community. I admire the Sunday school leaders and class for taking on such a challenging book!

One of my teachers, Dr. Deb Krause, recently posed the question: What if our focus on Romans started with Chapter 16? It would shift the way we look at the whole book!

In Numbers 11:29, Moses says "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

I am grateful to you for teaching me about shared leadership. I think it's ridiculously important that church is a place where we learn to be together in community in ways that resist hierarchy and domination.

If you want to continue the conversation, I invite you to share with me your experiences. What has your experience with shared power been? Do you think it's a good thing, and why or why not? Please feel free to talk to me about this in person or to email me your thoughts at agirresch@eden.edu. And yes, this is a shameless plug for Sunday school!

In Jesus,
Annie

Council Corner

Your council has had a very busy year, trying to be good Steward of our property, yet consider our budget at every turn. This is realized in all the maintenance issues we have had for 2019.

Here is a summary of the building maintenance items for 2019: July-Grade and Lay rock at parsonage \$775.00, July-Parsonage Sewer Repair \$4,600.00, August-Cleaning of basement floors \$375.00, August-Repair Urinal and cutoff valve in bathroom \$521.00, August-New HVAC in preschool area \$5,890.00, August-New Front Doors installed \$6,382.00 (this was paid with Memorial Funds), September-Upgrade internet service in office \$500.15, October-New HVAC in another preschool area \$5,890.00. **Total Expenses for Building Maintenance = \$24,933.00.**

Your council wants all congregants to know of these important expenses during the month of our Stewardship Drive so everyone is aware of the responsibilities to be "good stewards." We urge everyone to prayerfully consider these expenses when asked to make your pledge to our stewardship drive. When giving weekly, if using the green envelopes, you will notice that there are four lines to where you want your donation applied. There is a special line for "building maintenance" in addition to the general fund and the capital campaign and other. If you find it in your heart to help with our building maintenance needs, you can always designate some of your giving to this special program. And we thank you in advance for any and all donations you can make!

ATTENDANCE AND FUNDRAISING

JANUARY: 236

JULY: 305

FEBRUARY: 246

AUGUST: 306

MARCH: 349

SEPTEMBER: 461

(not including Wednesday Lenten Services)

APRIL: 406

OCTOBER: 275 as of 10/20

MAY: 300

NOVEMBER: 361

JUNE: 450

DECEMBER: 622

Scrip Announcements!

In September \$10 was donated to Evangelism and \$10 was donated to the Capital Campaign. \$30 was spent on a Custodian gifts. A profit of \$43.44 was made in September. Don't forget to pick up your gift cards! Shop with scrip - www.shopwithscrip.com

Amazon Smiles 😊

You can designate Grace as your charity to receive a percentage of the amount you purchase at Amazon. Copy this link into the browser <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-098919>

Culver's Fundraising Nights

The next Culver's fundraiser will be on Tuesday, December 3 from 5p-9p.

Ink Jet Cartridge Recycling helps Camp MoVal Scholarship fund!

Any inkjet cartridge with a print head can be recycled, regardless of brand or type. Bring in your empty OEM inkjet cartridges (placed in the original box that you would have thrown away to keep it safe from spills and damages, or a Ziploc bag) to church (Note: Epson cartridges cannot be recycled – they don't have a print head.). We get paid up to \$4 per cartridge. For any questions, please contact Cindy Rose.

Grace's Backpack Program

Please consider donating individual serving sized boxes of cereal, individual cups of fruit, individual cups of vegetables, goober peanut butter & jelly in plastic jars, and basically anything that would fit in a backpack without breaking or getting smashed. If you prefer we did the shopping for you, we will happily take your money donation to do just that. Thank you so much for supporting these children. In this country no child should ever go to bed hungry!

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

Needed for October: Canned Pork and Beans, Ham/Spam, Pasta Sauce. THANK YOU!
Also, join us on November 16 from 10a-2p at St. Peter's UCC, 20 East 5th Street, Washington MO. Everyone is invited! AGING: Facing New Realities, Renewing our Faith. Learn about biblical perspectives, anticipating change, coping with loss, facing fears, reaching out. To register call Joyce, 314-409-2929 or joyce.bathke@yahoo.com. Lunch is included/Free-will offering.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

You will find a poinsettia order form in your bulletins on November 3. There will be extra order forms hanging on the Ministries Opportunities Board. We use these to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. Be watching for pricing and due date information as it becomes available. This is a perfect time to dedicate a plant in honor of or to remember someone special!

NOTE: Rev. Susan Shumway is a notary and is offering free notary services to church

Grace Opportunities

Every Child's Hope

The ECH Christmas Store is expanding! Introducing, hope Chest. Gifts will now be available all year long for our young peoples' giving needs-Mother's Day, Father's Day, Birthdays, Graduations...and Christmas too! Please see the flyer on the community board just outside the sanctuary for more information or contact Sarah Dewesse, Volunteer & Community Relations manager, 314-427-3755 x299 or sdewesse@echmail.org. Mark items "Store/Sarah" or "Hope Chest/Sarah." (Pick up is also available).

Re-Group

Re-Group will be meeting at Ethyls, 8505 Veterans Memorial Pkwy, O'Fallon, MO 63366 on 10 November at 2p. Please RSVP by using the signup sheet or by contacting Ana Kniesel by 8 November. **SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER** - Hey, folks! 'Tis the season to join us for our Re-Group, "Rob Your Neighbor" party! We'll be meeting in the church basement on Saturday, December 7 from 2p-4p. If you plan on participating in the "Rob Your Neighbor" game, a wrapped, "White Elephant" gift with a \$10 value limit is encouraged. Please bring homemade, holiday snacks to share! We'll be playing other games as well. Hope to see you all there!

Fun with Re-Group at Bemos in October!



National Alliance on Mental Illness

For more information, 314-962-4670 or www.namistl.org/programs-2/nami-family-to-family/

Mowing

We provide a push mower, an excellent 5' deck riding mower and a weed eater. You will need to purchase gas and will be reimbursed. It takes about 2 ½ hours each to mow and weed eat. There is a sign-up sheet on *Ministry Opportunities* board. Your help would be greatly appreciated. For training, please contact Sandy Silger.

Every Child's Hope Ladies Aid

In November ECH will be collecting for a Thanksgiving food drive for foster care families, Early Ed families, and youth in Steppingstone. For more information please call 314-427-3755.

TIME AND TALENTS

Volunteering, offering a donation of time or a talent that may assist in an event OR using your place of business as a resource are just some ways to give without having to use your personal funds. Many companies have a charitable program in the form of either matching funds for donations or volunteer hours. Please check with your personnel department or check out http://nnedv.org/downloads/Other/Matching_gifts_companies.pdf for a complete list.

Adult Sunday School

You may sign up on the Ministries Opportunities board or just show up. We meet in the church office at 10a.

Cleaning Up O'Fallon

Your next chance to help clean up O'Fallon will be Saturday November 9 at 10a.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Christmas Families

As in years past, we will be helping some needy children in our area by purchasing Christmas presents. Many of these families are served by H.O.P.E. Food Pantry in O'Fallon. In addition to presents for the children, **MONETARY DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED** to purchase turkeys and hams for the families over Thanksgiving and Christmas. We plan to have the children's wishes posted on our bulletin board on Sunday, November 17th, (plenty of time before Black Friday shopping). **PLEASE VISIT OUR DISPLAY TO SELECT A PRESENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE.** Take the paper bell with the child's wish and write your name next to that item on the list provided. **WRAPPED PRESENTS**, with the bell tag attached, should be brought to church by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th**. If you would rather not shop, monetary donations will be used to purchase any remaining presents that are not chosen.

Please keep in mind that the presents you share may be the only presents that child will receive for Christmas, so your generosity will be joyfully received. Wishing you and your loved ones a very Blessed Holiday season!

October's Mission was Neighbors in Need. We collected \$216 for this ministry. Thank you for your generosity!

The Mission/Outreach Team

MUSIC MINISTRY

Thursday evening rehearsals: Choir meeting from 6p-7p and Risen from 7p-8p. Please watch your emails and the Weekly Update for changes. Choir will not meet every Thursday.

*Grace Choir wants YOU! If you are interested in joining the Choir, please contact our business office at graceuccoffice@gmail.com or talk to Jon Garrett after Sunday Worship Services. *

*Bass guitar player wanted. Auditioning sessions may be scheduled by contacting Jon Garrett at graceuccoffice@gmail.com or in person after Sunday Worship Services. *

Advent and Christmas 2019

Our theme this year is "Heaven and Nature Sing" because one of our beloved carols "Joy to the World" is 300 years old! We will have the normal format for worship at both of our worship times. However, we will light our Advent Wreath as we count down the weeks to Christmas Eve. Which reminds me, our Music Minister Jon Garrett will be hosting the SCC Combined Choir Concert on 7 December at 7:30p, Jon & Friends Winter Recital on 15 December at 7:30p, and the Christmas Cantata on 22 December at 8:45, all right here at Grace. Dan Birchen wanted to have a Grace family Christmas Party so we will have it on 7 December at 2p. Please save the date and plan to bring one wrapped gift to the party so we can play a fun game. You'll read more about that later. After the party whoever would like to, may go to dinner together and return back in time for Jon's concert. On Sunday, 22 December our Grace Musicians will present the Christmas Cantata at our 8:45 worship. We will have a Christmas Brunch in between worship for fellowship time. Then, at 11:15a, our Sunday School Children and Youth will be presenting "The Friendly Beasts." Christmas Eve is on Tuesday, 24 December. Children Focused Family Worship will be at 5p with carols and candles. Carols, communion, and candles follow at 11p Worship. **ALL PEOPLE ARE INVITED TO EITHER OR BOTH** worship times because we will have a reason to be singing "Joy to the World" as we celebrate the good news of great joy again this year!

Kid Stuff



Check out the Tower of Babel that Levi built in Sunday School!

Christmas Program

Save the date for the Children's Christmas program which is Dec. 22 at second service. Jesus is the reason for that season and we would love to see your child in Sunday School at ten o'clock that month for rehearsals.

Safe Church Child Protection Policy

Grace has a document, updated and approved by the Church Council, which details the procedures in place to keep everyone safe. Just a reminder that during the ten o'clock hour on Sundays, only trained volunteers, students, and their parents should be in the youth area on the east side of the lower level.

SCUMY

1 November – Bonfire at Moscow Mills – You are invited! We will be leaving Grace at 5:30 p and returning to Grace around 10:30p. Friedens Moscow Mills will be hosting us and food will be provided. Along with the bonfire there will be indoor and outdoor games. Please contact Susan Shumway or sign-up on the Ministries Opportunities board.

22-24 November – CMSE (6-8)

NURSERY

There is a trained teen at second service each Sunday to care for the children in the nursery. All the Nursery Attendant workers were confirmed at Grace and each has been qualified in the Safe Church Boundary Training. The Nursery Staff includes Lexi Hagl, Mollie Garrett, Alexandria Fuehrer, Mariah Mattox & Melissa Megathlin. Look for their picture and biographies hanging on the Nursery door each Sunday. In accordance with Grace UCC's Safe Child Church Policy, we are requiring that **ONLY ADULTS** pick up children from the Nursery. Children/Parents are assigned a number that is used in the pick-up procedure.

Annual Year End Reports

This is a reminder for ministry team and committee leaders to start preparing your annual year end reports. These reports are due **NO LATER** than January 6. Thank you!

Save the Date

Holly Berry Fair Saturday, November 2 9a-3p, 945 Wolfrum Rd. At Hwy 94 South in Weldon Spring; One mile south of Mid Rivers Mall Dr. on Hwy 94 (See Flyer on community board)

November 9, 2019 at 6p
Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County
19th Annual CELEBRATION OF TREES
Ameristar Casino Resort
R.S.V.P HFHGALA.ORG

Habitat for Humanity Builds homes, communities, & Hope

SCUMY -15 December at 12:30p – ECH Christmas Store & Wrapping Presents

Join us on Sunday, November 24 at Grace for ONE Worship service at 10a and our annual Hanging of the Green's and Chili Cookoff! You don't want to miss this ☺ (mark your dishes clearly so they don't end up in our spring rummage sale)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S
Please Welcome



**PROJECTED CALENDAR FOR
NOVEMBER**

NOVEMBER – Mission of Month:

**Christmas Families & Turkey/Hams Hope
Food Pantry**

- 1: All Saints Day
- 2: Men's Group 8a – Install Celebration of

Lights

**Sunday 3: Daylight Savings Time Ends – Fall Back (Stewardship Campaign 4) &
Birthdays**

- 4: Preschool-No Classes (fall break), Grace Life 7p
- 5: National Election Day, Preschool-No Classes (fall break)
- 6: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p
- 7: Crafty Corner 9a, Conference Youth Ministry Meeting 10a, Choir Practice 6p-7p, Band Practice 7p-8p, Pack 576 Wolf den meeting 6:30p
- 8:
- 9: Adopt a Street Clean Up 10a, Tammy & Eva Wedding & Cake Reception 3p

Sunday 10: Recognize Veterans, Re-Group meet @ Ethyl's 2p

- 11: OFFICE CLOSED - Veterans Day, Pack 576 Den mtg. 6p, Worship Design 7p
- 12: SCUM 12:30p
- 13: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p
- 14: Crafty Corner 9a, Choir Practice 6p-7p, Band Practice 7p-8p, Pack 576 Bear den meeting 6:30p
- 15:
- 16:

Sunday 17: MESSENGER DEADLINE

- 18:
- 19: Council 7p, NAMI 7p
- 20: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p
- 21: Crafty Corner 9a, Community of Practice 9a, Choir Practice 6p-7p, Band Practice 7p-8p
- 22:
- 23: Chili Cookoff set up

Sunday 24th: One Worship Service @ 10a, Hanging of the Greens/Chili Cook-Off 12:30p

25:

26: Preschool-No Classes (Thanksgiving Break)

27: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p

28: OFFICE CLOSED – Happy Thanksgiving!

29:

30:

THANK YOU

Thank You! Words, that I know of, cannot express how humble my family feels right now. The amazing generosity from Christian strangers has been nothing short of a true life changing experience! God bless every one of you! (full letter may be requested from church office). William Vallier and Family (Missy Schnarre's brother, after the outpour of Christian love while recovering from a house fire)

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! It means so much to me that my hard work is noticed and appreciated. Thanks again for such a wonderful celebration. (card may be viewed on the board next to the Weekly Update). Love, Angie Hinzpeter

Thank you Gina and Shaughn Uebinger for hosting a wonderful Fall Family Festival, those in attendance loved it!

A mighty thank you to all those who joined us for CROP Walk 2019! People are helping to end hunger by participating in the C.R.O.P. Walk, Church World Services, Festival of Sharing-Sharefest Ferguson, Heifer Project, H.O.P.E. Food Pantry, Operation Backpack, and 30 Hour Famine. I am thankful God provides for us and gives us ways to share what we have been given. We are helping our Neighbor's in Need!! ~Carol Miller



Thank You Bob Penn for donating new Keurig machines to Grace! These will definitely lighten the load of those serving in Hospitality.

Thank you Pastor Polly for being such a wonderful pastor to this congregation, for all your hard work, for your prayers and caring heart. You are greatly appreciated and loved by your Grace Family!

CONGRATULATIONS KRIS & MANDY!



Prayer List

The Adams Family, Autumn, Pastor Bebe, Harold Boldt, Liz Clemensen, Sheila Dunn, S Franz, Friend of Christy Stahlman, Sandy Harris, Sharon Husmann, Ian Ives, Art & Dot Johnston, Junghans Family, Mary Kastigar, Lindsay Kendall, Amy Kraushaar, Baby Lorili, MaryBelle & Mike, Pete Kuntz, Gayle McHugh, Mariah Mattox, The family of Nikki, Sheila Nirk, Rich, Gregg & Janice Saling, Scott, Marilyn Shaikewitz, Jerry Slavik & Family, Kim Smith, Tammy Smith, Janna Stevenson, William Vallier & Family, Vienna the Dog, Willie Vogle, Avery Willbanks, Nicole Whiteley, Kelsy Wong, Kids that are ill, Families with School Aged Youth, Prayers of Thanksgiving, Those homeless, Our Military Men, Women & Families, Kids who are bullied, Government Leaders & all Americans, Those who have no prayers offered for them.

In Care

Betty Bauer, Liz Birchen, Jan Sutton, Bernice Watson