

DECEMBER 2022  
Volume 3, Issue 11

# Amazing Grace

Grace United Methodist Church, 55 Albright Drive

To the beloved of Grace Church,

I greet you in name of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 9:2 tells us “the people walking in darkness have seen a great light.” The season of Advent is a recognition by the church that we live in expectation of Christ’s second coming, the final return to our world to bring about the fullness of the heavenly kingdom. Isaiah writes to the people Israel just before The Great Diaspora or exile to Babylon. The present tense used in the writing makes it clear that the people are going through a dark time. There is suffering, hardship, and sorrow; Isaiah is naming the lived reality of the people. It is easy to focus on the darkness in the hardest of circumstances. I am reminded of a scene between Gandalf and Frodo in The Lord of The Rings. During the long arduous journey Frodo states to Gandalf “I wish none of this had ever happened, I wish the ring had never come to me.” Gandalf, affirms Frodo’s feelings of bleakness but also offers a challenge “So do all who live to see such times but that is not for them to decide, all we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.” It makes the statement more powerful when we realize that Tolkien lived during two great wars and served in WWI. Tolkien sights his faith is what gave him the strength to get through the darkest of nights.

The prophet Isaiah gives the second emphasis that even though there is darkness now there is a great light and that light is the promise of God’s salvation and it is assured. Dear ones, our church needs this message today. The upheaval and turmoil going on in our world and within the United Methodist Church has many including myself in a point of

grief and frustration. However, life is not without grief, we are not promised days without storms but we are promised that God is working for our good. There is hope because of who God is and what God has done through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the promise to which Christians cling and for good reason. This knowledge gives us the strength to continue the journey no matter the darkness because there is always Light. We have an opportunity at Grace Church in December to give voice to our future here at Grace. It is important that as we vote on the matter of disaffiliation that no matter how the vote goes God is still sovereign, God still has a plan, God is still working in our midst and through us.

I believe The Bible is our best and most potent message of how God works through the most sorrowful of times to bring light and joy. The prophet Jeremiah writes to the people after their exile that God has a plan “Not to harm you but to give you hope and a future” Aliens in a foreign land, the prophet brings God’s promise that in the end, it is about God and what God is doing. God is doing a great work here at Grace Church and I believe we have been anointed for “such a time as this” Let us not lose heart and keep the faith. Our faith is the most precious gift that we have for out of it comes everything else. And we will work to share that faith to our surrounding community. This Advent season as we look to receive Christmas let us receive it whether in joy or sorrow, hardship or plenty, peace or conflict, excitement or disappointment, but never the less let us receive it.

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**For Sale** – Brunswick Bowling Bag (for balls and shoes) men's bowling shoes. Size 10 ½ M. (all like new) \$75.00 or best offer. Call Charlotte Mullinix 717-630-0515.



- 12-1 Nico DeSantis
- 12-2 Macy Miller
- 12-3 Olivia Kuntz  
Trevor Kuntz
- 12-4 Shirley Yingling
- 12-6 Rosie Kaltreider  
Ronald Yingling
- 12-12 Zack Arnold
- 12-13 John Dehoff
- 12-15 Paul Hnatkowicz  
Shirley Masenheimer  
Andrew Myers
- 12-19 Wayne Frock
- 12-21 Michelle Sullivan
- 12-22 Karen Ward
- 12-23 Caryl Hollinger
- 12-25 Stephanie Parker
- 12-26 Cathy Ferree  
Robert Masenheimer
- 12-28 Dennis Blum
- 12-30 Lisa Lalbeharry  
Mackenzie Dehoff



Thank you to everyone who helped make Operation Christmas Child a success. We were able to fill and send off 64 boxes.





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

**CHRISTMAS**  
*Open House*

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD, 4PM TO 7PM**

*Grace Church*

**55 ALBRIGHT DRIVE, HANOVER PA 17331**

**717-637-3100**

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INDOOR NATIVITY WALK  
BAKE GOOD AND COOKIE SALE  
FREE COOKIE AND DRINK  
OPEN KITCHEN  
TRAIN DISPLAY  
LIVE MUSIC  
LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE







# PATH YOUTH



We are still looking for a new staff member to join the Children's Ministry team in the Rainbow Room. Sunday mornings 8:30-12:30. Plus special events. Please see Anna Mae Terry if you know of anyone interested.

Thank you for all the folks who have volunteered their time to help in the rainbow room.

Volunteers from 10:30am-12:30pm on most Sundays are still needed. Please prayerfully consider giving your time to help. If you are interested please stop by the hospitality desk on Sunday morning or contact Anna Mae Terry at [annamaeterry@comcast.net](mailto:annamaeterry@comcast.net).

## Did You Know?

Did you know that our Children's Ministry adopted a child through Compassion International? His name is Je and he lives in Indonesia. His birthday is May, 7, 2012. Please check out the donation box in the Rainbow Room if you would like to help Je.



**12/3/22 Christmas Open House:** The Church will be holding its first Christmas Open House this year on 12/3/22 from 4pm-7pm. There will be an indoor nativity walk, baked goods and cookies sales, free cookies and drinks, kitchen for food, a train display, live music, and will end with a Christmas tree lighting. There are still many opportunities to volunteer for the event. Please reach out to a leader and we can get you involved. We'd love to see everyone there, whether volunteering or just being a participant.

**12/9/22 Winter Parents' Night Out (PNO):** We will be hosting our Winter Parents' Night Out on 12/9/22 from 6pm-9pm. This is an opportunity for parents to drop off their kids and have a couple hours kid-free. We will have different activities for the kids that will need youth volunteers to manage. Youth members need to be at the church at 5:45pm to be ready to help. Please let a leader know if you are able or not able to volunteer.

**12/18/22 Church Christmas Caroling:** The Church will be going Christmas Caroling on 12/18/22 meeting at the church at 3:30pm. We will then travel around Hanover to carol to our shut-in members of our Church. Please let a leader know if you are able to make it!

**Updates for 2023:** The Path Youth Group leaders got together this past Sunday, 11/13/22 to discuss plans and changes for the Spring. We have decided to try out changing The Path Youth Group meeting nights from Sunday evenings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 6pm-8pm. If anyone, parents or members, have any questions, comments, or ideas, please email me.

## Congregational Care Home Visits

When Phyllis Walker was asked, "What could we bring you?" She humbly said, "I would love to have a Big Max." Her dreams came true. She enjoyed every bite. Besides eating burgers, Phyllis loves watching Nascar races and ice hockey. Also she is probably Elvis's number one fan.



We had the pleasure of visiting Charlotte Yingling. Her home is filled with much love and many family photos. All of which she is proudly ready to show you. In her spare time she enjoys Word Search Puzzle books. We presented her with a beautiful scrapbook that Ethel Caudill made. Charlotte's smile says it all.



### Congregation Care News

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @9:30am Come join us for the Christmas service project for the shut-ins. There will be music, reflective readings and light refreshments.

### CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

**Chair:** Linda Mixer

**Members:** Denny Blum, Ron Carter, Pastor Todd Christine, Karen Coons, Ed Davis, Duane Myers, Amanda Myers, Amber Quance, Brian Jenkins

#### November Highlights

- Giving for the General Fund and Benevolence Fund is down from last year.
- Council approved to remove line item “Susquehanna Camps and Retreats” from the benevolence budget.
- Council approved the purchase of a \$1,000.00 Sunday School curriculum for children’s Sunday School.
- There will be a Special Church Conference to vote on Disaffiliation Dec. 11th at 4:00 pm at Grace Church. Any member wishing to participate must be signed in by 4:00 pm. Attendees will not be able to sign in after 4pm and therefore will be unable to vote.
- A motion was made by the Navigation committee that the Church Council recommend disaffiliation from the UMC. Motion passed unanimously.

### Year-end reminder to Retirees

**Take required minimum distributions (RMDs):** If you are over age 72, you must take

Minimum distributions from your tax-deferred retirement accounts by the end of the year.

If you miss the deadline, you could be subject to a 50% penalty on the portion of your RMD

you failed to withdraw.

(if you turned 72 in 2022, you have until April 1, 2023, to take your first RMD.)

**Therefore, if you need to withdraw additional funds to avoid the penalty, please consider a QCD to your church.**

**Qualified charitable distribution (QCD):** If you’re 70 ½ or older, you can donate up to

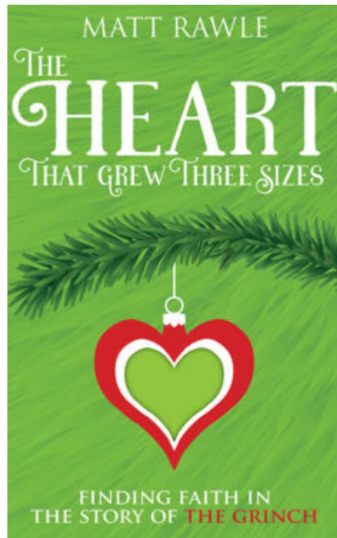
\$100,000 to a charity **directly** from your IRA using a QCD. You won’t receive a tax deduction

for the donation but the gifted amount can be used to satisfy all or part of your RMD **without**

adding to your taxable income.

Source: Charles Schwab, individuals should consult their financial and/or tax advisor)





*Rediscover the  
gift of Advent  
that comes without  
packages, ribbons,  
and bows.*

Throughout Advent, join us for a bible study that will take the weeks lessons from the Sermon and dig in a little deeper. We will be using the study written by Matt Rawle, and again the sermon series by Pastor Todd, and its all based on the story of the Grinch!!

We will meet Tuesdays at 630pm, starting November 29th, through December 20th.

Please sign up on the events board. Books are recommended but not required.

## The Night Before the Night Before Christmas

Friday, December 23rd @ 7:00pm



## Christmas Caroling



Our youth group will be hosting Christmas Caroling for our congregation care members or are home bound. We will meet here at the church on December 18th at 3:30 pm. Then we will travel around Hanover to visit those families. Please contact Darren Myer's if you are able to join us.

# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM





## THE ADVENT PROJECT

# Bible Reading Plan

### December

1st Isaiah 2.2-5  
 2nd Isaiah 9.1-7  
 3rd Isaiah 11:1-9  
 4th Isaiah 11.10-16  
 5th Isaiah 39.5-40.11  
 6th Isaiah 52.1-12  
 7th Isaiah 61.1-4  
 8th Galatians 4.4-6  
 9th 1 Thess 4.13-18  
 10th 1 Thess 5.1-11  
 11th 1 Cor 15.20-28  
 12th Colossians 1.15-20  
 13th 2 Peter 3.3-13  
 14th Mark 14.60-65  
 15th Jeremiah 33.14-17  
 16th Micah 5.2-5  
 17th Ezekiel 34.11-31

### December

18th Zechariah 8.1-8  
 19th Zephaniah 3.14-17  
 20th Isaiah 7.10-17  
 21st Matthew 1.11-17  
 22nd Luke 1.26-38  
 23rd Luke 1.39-56  
 24th Matthew 1.18-25

### Readings for the Sundays of Advent

First Romans 13.11-14  
 Second Romans 15.4-13  
 Third Matthew 11.2-10  
 Fourth Psalm 24

[theadventusproject.wordpress.com](http://theadventusproject.wordpress.com)

The Grace church council unanimously voted to request a Church Conference to vote on disaffiliation that will be held on **Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 4:00 pm here** in the sanctuary of Grace church. The date and time was set by the Susquehanna Conference and agreed upon by your church council. Only on-the-roll full members are able to vote and you must be present to vote. Associate and/or affiliate members are not eligible to vote. Voting is by ballot. **Please be present before or by 4:00 pm and no later. In fact, we HIGHLY recommend you be present and sitting in the sanctuary by at least 3:45 pm. Once it is 4:00 pm and NO LATER, the doors will be closed and you will not be able to vote.** If you are not confident in your membership status, now is the time to verify your membership. Call or go to the church office. If you show up to vote that afternoon and you are not on the roll as a member, you'll not be able to vote. That is very important to understand. The vote will only be a 'yes' or 'no' vote to disaffiliate from the UMC. Do not add anything to the ballot. The ballots will be distributed when you arrive for voting. Please contact any of the Grace Navigation Team (Linda Mixter, Ed Davis, Ron Carter, Brian Jenkins) with comments or questions. Thank you.

**Below is a sample vote ballot and the results of voting this position:**

Sample Ballot					Results of voting this position				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I vote YES for disaffiliation</b>				No change in Grace Church operation or leadership				
					Teachings would remain based on traditional beliefs and based on the Bible				
					Grace takes full ownership of all Church buildings and property				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I vote NO for disaffiliation</b>				Church leadership would change				
					Over time Church will become more progressive moving away from traditional values and the Bible				
					Church buildings and property remain with the United Methodist Church				