

Grace Messenger

January 2022



PASTOR'S REFLECTION

In 1 Samuel 7 the children of Israel were engaged in a fierce battle with their primary enemy, the Philistines. This battle would determine where the ark of the covenant would reside. It had been in the hands of those nasty Philistines for a long time, and God's people wanted it back. Under the leadership of Samuel and through the mighty power of God the battle was won and the ark returned home.

In celebration Samuel took a stone and set it up on the battle field. He gave that stone a name: Ebenezer, which means "Thus far the Lord has helped us." In other words, God brought us this far, and He will continue to go with us.

A new year brings a new beginning, along with a chance to reflect and grow ... and to make whatever changes those reflections may prompt. For me, the turn of the calendar is always associated with dreaming new dreams and setting new goals, for myself and for our church.

But before I do that, I must always reflect on what has been accomplished in the recently completed year. It is always amazing to me what to review what God has done. I look forward to those days in early January when I get to look both ways: backward and forward. In short January is Ebenezer time.

Before you re-engage with all the post-holiday busy-ness of life, I encourage you to pause and set up your own personal Ebenezer. What has God done for you in 2021? Where is He taking you in 2022?

INTERNSHIP UPDATE

As you know, our congregation has been waiting in anticipation for the arrival of an intern over the last year. We have been assured by the denomination that we are "at the top of the list" as an internship site, so our expectations have been well justified. But once again, we have learned that no intern will be coming in the immediate future.

Therefore, the council has determined that we will form a Call Committee for the purpose of finding an associate pastor to assist Pastor Brodbeck in the leadership responsibilities for this congregation. Over the next few months the council will begin to form that Call Committee and it will begin to implement the procedures outlined in the denomination's guidelines for such a process.

You will get periodic updates from that team so you know what progress is being made. Ultimately the decision to call a pastor rests with the congregation, so at some point in the future you will get to meet, observe and vote on whether or not to extend that call.

Meanwhile each member of Grace is encouraged to pray for the process, and especially right now to pray for the council as the Call Committee is formed. Questions about the process can be directed to any member of council or to Pastor Brodbeck.

CELEBRATE 2022

The December 2021 Messenger featured an article written by Janet Rice, Director of Lay Ministries, suggesting we adopt the theme of "Celebrating Grace" for 2022. What a great path to follow and embrace after two long years of social distancing, isolation from one another because of Covid. The Grace Worship Ministry team invites you to *celebrate* worship in 2022 with gladness and joy. We worship a God who defies all attempts of putting HIM in a box. Our celebration and worship of HIM is a much bigger concept - taking on many expressions, forms and styles. Throughout the bible, worship is full of loud and cheerful moments of praise without ignoring the personal quiet moments we set aside to celebrate HIM. Psalm 150: 5-6 says, "Praise Him with a clash of cymbals; praise Him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!" (NLT)

However, celebration isn't just about a party with a loud band with a bunch of hip worship songs. It's an expression of a grateful heart towards God. It is an acknowledgement that we owe everything to HIM who loves us so deeply. It is the result of our personal relationship with HIM. The closer we know HIM, the more enthusiastic our worship of HIM becomes when we come together celebrating our greatest joys and our hardest challenges. To truly celebrate God, we are encouraged to bring everything to HIM, allowing HIM to remind us of His presence in all of life's situations. When we do that, He fills us with His Spirit, with an assurance that goes beyond anything we could find anywhere else. How exciting and inspiring to hear what the Lord is doing in and throughout Grace. It provides us with a strong foundation to come together to worship in celebration of HIM.

Embracing the concept of worship as a celebration has a profound effect on our worship lives. How liberating it is to let go of our doubts and become filled with joy. It is a conscious choice to celebrate God simply because of who He is and because we have the joy of knowing HIM. Let's raise the level of celebration in our worship times, experiencing how awesome our God truly is as He moves among us. We all know how important it is to be in God's Word throughout the week. Let our Sunday worship time together be reflected every day for the next 365 days as we celebrate HIM through continuous worship and praise.

Please join the entire Worship Ministry team, from acolytes to ushers and everyone in between, to commit in 2022 to celebrate HIM by praying for Grace, each other, our leadership, and our community. God knows we are in this party together. In short... **Let the Celebration Begin!**

Carol Carpenter, Worship Ministry Area Coordinator

OUTREACH CORNER

Outreach Breakfast Break

Mark your Calendar! Sunday, January 9th, Carin Ronk from Safe Harbor House will be here during the Sunday School hour. Safe Harbor is a 24/7 residential and Christ-centered program that empowers women toward healing and equips them with life skills for quality living. Enjoy delicious breakfast items while learning more about this ministry.

In January, we will be collecting supplies for Safe Harbor House.

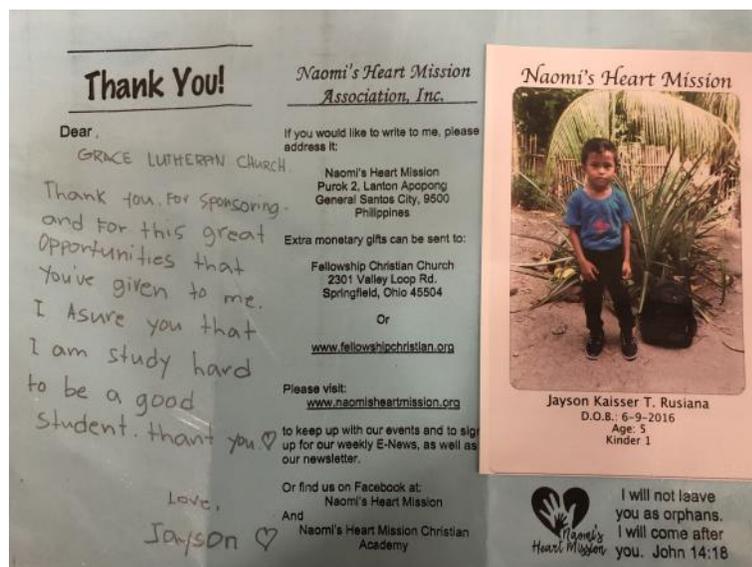
The best way to see what their needs are is to go to their website: <https://www.safeharborhouse.org/get-involved> and scroll down to their Walmart or Amazon needs list. A sampling of these items will be listed and left in the Narthex also. See Sandy Thompson with any questions. Please turn in all items by January 30th 2022.



Naomi's Heart Mission



If you haven't already seen the display in the fellowship hall from Naomi's Heart Mission, please check it out. Naomi's Heart Mission was given one of the grants that Grace awarded as a result of our surplus dollars from the 2020 ministry plan, saved due to Covid, and used that money to sponsor 10 children. Each child that was sponsored, sent us a letter and information about him/her self. The pictures and thank you's are heartwarming. You will enjoy seeing them. Please pray about continuing to sponsor one of these children individually or as a household for 2022.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUEL RESUMES JANUARY 12

We are pleased to announce that Wednesday night Fuel will resume on January 12 and will continue through February 23 (a total of seven weeks). This will include our Grace Family Table meal at 6 p.m. and a Bible Study that follows at 7 p.m. All of the normal schedule of music rehearsals will occur as well. This series leads us up to the Lenten season.

The Bible Study is called "Walking With God in the Desert." Our primary resource will be the Ray Vander Laan videos "That the World May Know." These seven sessions are filmed entirely on location in the deserts of South Sinai, Egypt and Israel, and focus on how to live when the hard times come. During such "desert times" it is easy to think that God has disappeared. Instead, you will discover that it is only when we are totally dependent on Him that we find Him closer than ever and experience His amazing grace and provision. The class will be held in N108 and is open to all.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning January 16, and continuing until Palm Sunday, the Adult Sunday School class will focus on Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God* series. Through examination of biblical and contemporary illustrations, participants will understand and apply seven realities of experiencing God. Churches will be helped to better function as the body of Christ, as members understand how to experience God as a church. Topics include Knowing God's Will, Adjusting Your Life to God, and Experiencing God in Your Daily Life.

The class uses a combination of video teaching and small group interactions, along with many opportunities to go deeper during the week in between Sunday morning classes. A participant's guide will be available for purchase for \$15. A Kindle version is also available through Amazon.

God is inviting Christians today to experience Him in an intimate love relationship through which He reveals His will, His Ways and His work. Join in as we learn how to recognize where God is working and discover how to join Him in what He is doing.

Churches all across Clark County are being encouraged to use this classic study as we prepare for and pray for a movement of revival in 2022. Don't miss out!

LAY MINISTRY FUN CORNER

Answers to December Crossword Puzzle.

Across	Down
3. Gabriel	1. Paris
7. Randy	2. Westward
8. Nazareth	4. Birth
9. Herod	5. England
10. Germany	6. Ebenezer
11. Austria	12. Sixth
13. Swans a swimming	14. Macys

OFFERING ENVELOPES

2022 offering envelopes are available in the narthex. If you do not find your set of envelopes, please contact Darla Kalifoot (399-6257 ext. 102). If using leftover 2021 offering envelopes, please scratch out the offering envelope #, as your 2022 envelope # has changed. For 2021 tax credit, your offering must be received in the Grace office by noon or postmarked by 12/31/2021.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The policy for how and when Grace worship and/or other ministries might be closed or cancelled due to inclement weather is as follows: Pastor Brodbeck will contact at least two members of the executive committee for consultation and assistance. If they decide to cancel activities or worship, we will use the One Call Now service that allows each of our households to receive a phone call when we cancel services. Television station WHIO channel 7 will also be alerted. A post will be made on the Grace Facebook page, a notification will be sent out on the Grace APP and a response message will be placed on our telephone answering machine system at Grace.

Another option for receiving notification is through the WHIO channel 7 web site, by registering to be notified via e-mail if Grace is closed or worship cancelled. For more information, go to www.whio.com.

HEARTFELT THANKS

I want to thank the members of Grace's Card Ministry Team for the support you recently provided to me and to my family members. I am so deeply grateful for your prayers and the wonderful cards sent to my brother-in-law, Lee, during his illness and then to his wife, Debi, (my sister), and to Tom and me when Lee passed forward in early fall. We are all so deeply touched by your kindness, Christian love and sympathy during our time of loss. Thank you again and may God bless each of you. Donna Stelzer

I can't tell you what your card ministry meant to me. I cry thinking about how each one was so special to me. I have praised that ministry to all I talk to. Just to know that so many people would pray for me, so many friends from here and elsewhere, was humbling. I would like to personally thank each person who sent me a card. I am just now finding time to look back at them again. I was and am so blessed. God is good. Thank you so much for your caring and your prayers! Sandy Olson

I am Donna Stelzer's sister and I just want you to know how much I appreciated all the get-well cards to Lee and then the sympathy cards after his passing. Each one is incredible with the message of Jesus Christ and their caring for someone they have never met. I cannot put into words how blessed I feel for this part of your church. Again, thank you and Merry Christmas! Deb Correll

OUTREACH BREAKFAST BREAK

January 9, 2022 9:15 a.m.

Grace Fellowship Hall



Safe Harbor is a 24/7 residential and Christ-centered program that empowers women toward healing and equips them with life skills for quality living. Enjoy delicious breakfast items while learning more about this ministry.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



www.grace-nalc.org 937.399.6257

Springfield, OH 45504

1801 St. Paris Pike

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Springfield, OH
Permit #158