

Grace Messenger

January 2023



PASTOR'S REFLECTION

It might be far too cliché to start this new year with the old “new year, new beginning” mantra, but in many ways that is incredibly true for us at Grace this year. It is a new year, and this is a new beginning.

As your pastor I have felt as if these past 3½ years since the retirement of Pastor Powell have been one long-extended transition, filled with uncertainty and unanswered questions. When will we have an associate pastor? Will we have an intern to assist us? How do we navigate through a pandemic? It has been hard to see what lies out in front of us, hasn't it?

Uncertainty is always a challenge for me. I am a planner. I like to know where I am going and how I am going to get there. So these past months have been a time of learning again how to trust God for today and leaving tomorrow completely in His hands.

But the 3½ year fog is lifting. God has positioned us wonderfully so that we can fulfill His call to all those in the Body of Christ. 2023 will be a year in which this congregation is able to completely unleash the laity to do the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12). You will see members of this congregation serving in ways you may have expected your pastors to serve in the past. You will see new ministries launched, new faces serving in worship, different people facilitating Bible studies and small groups. Welcome to 2023!

NEW LITURGY SETTING STARTING ASH WEDNESDAY

Starting Ash Wednesday (February 22, 2023), Grace will use a different setting for the liturgy during our worship services. The new liturgy will be Setting Two in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). You can find that beginning on page 78.

“We have used the current setting from With One Voice for at least five years now,” notes Pastor Tom Brodbeck. “It is a nice, energetic setting that has served us well.” The new setting will be introduced at the beginning of each worship service the first three Sundays of February so that when it is fully implemented, we will all be accustomed to it.

Pastor Tom added “I have been reluctant to make this change before now, given the uncertainty in our pastoral staff. But now that our forward direction is clear, it is time to make the change, and the Lenten season is the perfect time to do it.”

STAFF TRANSITIONS

January is the start of a new era for the leadership of Grace Church. We welcome two new members to the staff, both of whom come into their positions as well-known and respected members of the congregation.

Sandy Thompson joins in the newly created role of "Executive Director." She leaves her position as a physical therapist at Mercy Health to take on this new role. God has been challenging her for a number of years to more closely align what she does as a career with her faith. That challenge has in previous years led her to serve as president of the Grace congregation and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Marriage Enrichment Center, as well as to participate in three Grace-sponsored mission trips. Her new role will work closely with Pastor Brodbeck on the administrative parts of his current load so that he can focus more intently on the preaching, teaching and care ministries.

Leslie McKinney also moves into a newly created role as Director of Children's Ministries. This part-time position will work with children and families through grade six, developing curriculum and other activities to build a strong children's ministry. Leslie joins the staff after 37 years in the education field, teaching primarily students with hearing impairments. She always felt that her retirement years might bring with it working on the Grace staff, and now God has made that possible.

The addition of these two staff members will bring an end to the work Pastor Emeritus Dan Powell has been doing as our interim Minister of Congregational Care. He has been the primary contact for individuals in our congregation who are ill, hospitalized, grieving or experiencing other Christian care needs. Those duties now return to Pastor Brodbeck. We thank him for his 27 months of "temporary" duty.

The search continues for our next Director of Youth and Family ministries. Keep praying, and stay tuned.
-Pastor Brodbeck

HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Grace family,

Steve and I want to thank you for the cards and prayers we have received as he recovers from extensive back surgery and I recover from my accident that continues to affect my hearing. We are both improving but your thoughts and prayers do sustain us. We very much appreciate your care and concern. – Steve and Kris Culp

Dear Grace family,

Our family would like to thank all who sent cards and prayers to Margo while she was sick and sympathy cards upon her passing.
Elenore Berry & family and the Simpson family

A big thank you goes to Mel Leonard and her daughter for donating the final 3 coats that were needed to complete the coat drive in November. We appreciate your willingness and generosity!!

JANUARY OUTREACH CORNER

Mark your calendar: Sunday, January 8 during the Sunday school hour Kermit Rowe, Habitat for Humanity Dayton Chapter, will present information and updates on what their ministry is doing here in Springfield and how you can support their work. Plan to join us.

For the month of January, we will be collecting our spare change to support the Habitat for Humanity's annual Home for the Holidays campaign. Please pick up a blue bank, fill it with your spare change, and return to Grace by Sunday, January 29, 2023. See Sandy Thompson for more information.



NALC DISASTER RESPONSE MEETING

Category 4 Hurricane Ian ripped through southern Florida this past September. It left many people homeless and needing help to rebuild. The NALC Disaster Response is putting together a team going to Port Charlotte, FL area February 12-24, 2023. A local Church will host volunteers coming to the area. The work will be a wide range of reconstruction and repair. Team members with some experience in home improvement would be an advantage.

Please come to an informational meeting in the Grace parlor on December 29, 2022 at 7PM. Grace is looking for participation and contributions to support this effort. Would you like to volunteer to help? Please call Steven Schumacher at 937-624-7074 if you cannot attend the informational meeting December 29, 2022.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

2023 offering envelopes are available in the narthex to be picked up. If you do not find a set of envelopes with your name, please contact Darla Kalifoot (399-6257 ext. 102). If you use leftover 2022 offering envelopes, please scratch out the offering envelope number, as your 2023 envelope number has changed. For 2022 tax credit, your offering must be received in the Grace office by noon on December 30, 2022, or postmarked December 31, 2022.

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.

JANUARY EVENTS



Sunday, January 1
9:30 am Epiphany Worship

Monday, January 2
Grace office closed

Tuesday, January 3
8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
6:00 pm Executive committee

Wednesday, January 4
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 5
11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Service Quilt Guild

Friday, January 6

Saturday, January 7
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, January 8
8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all
10:45 am Contemporary Worship

Monday, January 9
6:00 pm Women's Bible study
6:30 pm GriefShare
7:00 pm Agape Guild

Tuesday, January 10
8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
2:00 pm Joy Guild

Wednesday, January 11
10:00 am Hope Guild
1:30 pm Charity Guild
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 12
11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Service Quilt Guild

Friday, January 13

Saturday, January 14

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Grace Council Retreat

Sunday, January 15
8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for youth
10:45 am Worship

Monday, January 16
10:00 am Essence of Grace rehearsal
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team
6:00 pm Women's Bible study
6:30 pm GriefShare

Tuesday, January 17
8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed

Wednesday, January 18
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 19
11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, January 20

Saturday, January 21
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, January 22
8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for youth
10:45 am Worship

Monday, January 23
6:00 pm Women's Bible study
6:30 pm GriefShare

Tuesday, January 24
8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed

Wednesday, January 25
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 26
11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, January 27

Saturday, January 28
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, January 29
8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for youth
10:45 am Worship

Monday, January 30
6:00 pm Women's Bible study
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry C.E.
6:30 pm GriefShare

Tuesday, January 31
8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed



WHEN TO BEGIN

You are welcome to begin attending our GriefShare group at any point. Each session is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will be able to pick up any sessions you missed in our next 13-week cycle.

Meeting in the Grace parlor Mondays 6:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 9— April 3, 2023

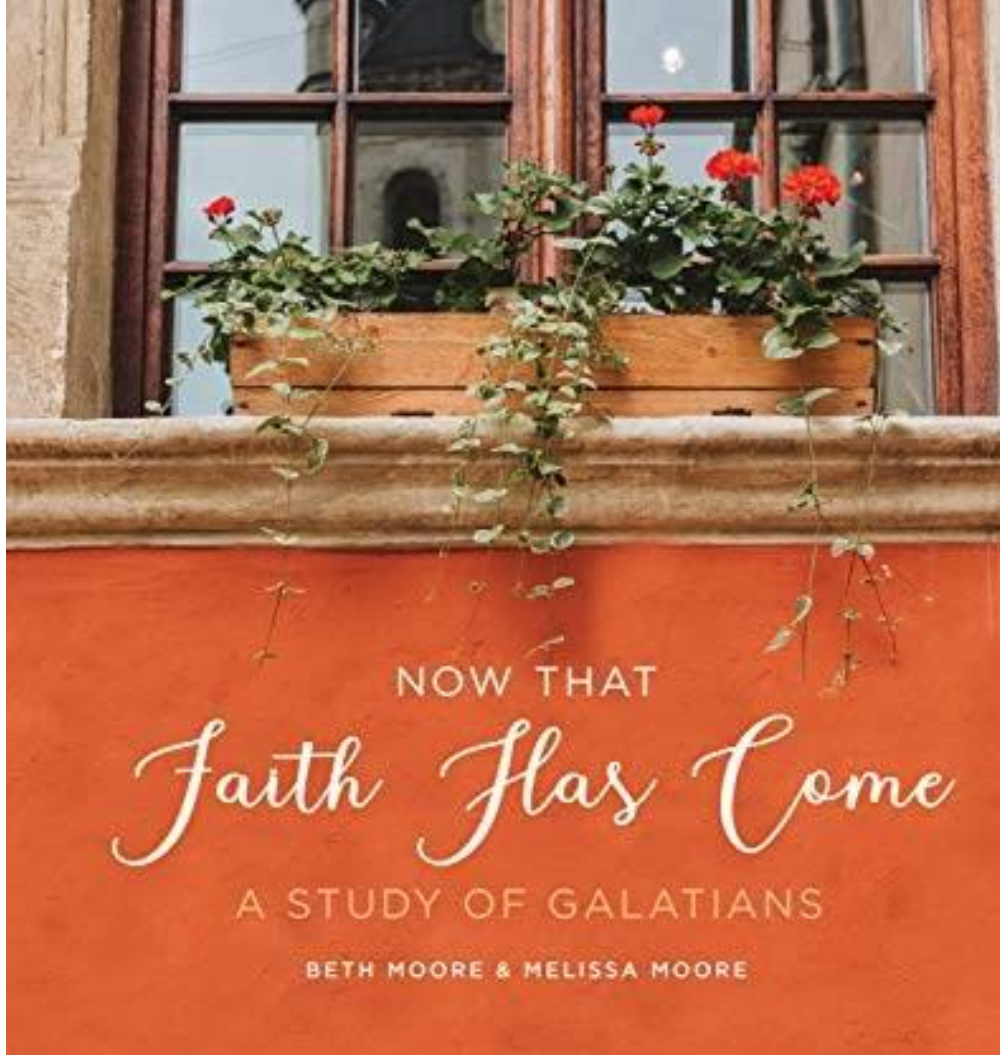
January Topics:

Jan. 9—Is This Normal?

Jan. 16—Challenges of Grief

Jan. 23—Journey of Grief I

Jan. 30— Journey of Grief II



**WOMEN'S' MONDAY NIGHT
BIBLE STUDY**

JAN. 9—FEB. 13, 2023

6:00-8:00 P.M.

Facilitated by Kristi Leeth

Beth and Melissa Moore lead you on a 6-week excursion to Galatia to learn more about the community that inspired Paul's impassioned letter! Faced with the challenge of remaining true to the gospel of Jesus Christ instead of submitting to the yoke of slavery again, they needed to hear this message then---as we do today.

Register on the Grace app or call Janet Rice, 937-399-6257, ext. 104

Books are \$15

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