

Grace Notes

News from Grace United Methodist Church
 Carbondale, Illinois 618-457-8785
 Web site: www.carbondalegrace.org
 E-mail: carbondalegraceinfo@gmail.com

Church Office Hours : M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Pastor's Office Hours: M-W 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

2018 Christmas at Grace U.M.C.

Dec. 2, Sunday, 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

The Purpose of Christmas #1 - "A Time for Celebration"

Dec. 4, Tuesday

The Spirit of Christmas Gift Pick-up

Dec. 8, Saturday, 3:30 p.m.

"Walking in the Light"

Southern Illinois Children's Choir, Annual Christmas Concert

Dec. 9, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Combined Service

Christmas Cantata - "Arise, Arise, Shine!"

Dec. 16, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Combined Service

The Purpose of Christmas #2 - "A Time for Salvation"

Dec. 23, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Combined Service

Children's Christmas Presentation - "A Shepherd's Christmas"

Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve

Communion & Candle Light

The Purpose of Christmas #3 - "A Time for Reconciliation"

Dec. 30, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Combined Service

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

December



A few weeks ago, I was driving towards the east side of Carbondale. And as I passed a few traffic lights, I asked myself, "Why am I heading this way?" That's when I realized, I was supposed to get some fresh produce at the Murdale grocery store. I was habitually driving towards Dunkin Donuts without thinking. My love for sugar got me again that day! Habitually doing certain activities sometimes make us lose focus, and only when we redirect ourselves by figuring out the purpose then we'll come back to the right track.

Christmas has become one of those seasons that distracts us or makes us habitually pass by. And we need to refocus to the true meaning of Christmas, and find the true reason for the season. Pastor Rick Warren said that the purpose of Christmas is three fold: a time for celebration, a time for salvation, and a time for reconciliation. I'm very thankful for spiritual giants like pastor Rick who helps us refocus ourselves to our spiritual north in this season - Jesus Christ. And I'll share more of this through our sermon series based on pastor Rick's book "The Purpose of Christmas."

Along with it, we'll have wonderful musicals and plays available during this season, so hop along, bring your friends and family, enjoy and celebrate Christmas together. Check out our Christmas at Grace program flyer for upcoming events, and be sure to mark on your calendar that we'll have our services combined at 10:30am beginning Dec. 9th till the end of this year - so that all of us can worship together in this Advent/Christmas season.

I've heard of our wonderful traditions during this time of the year as well. One of which is to gather canned goods for the food pantry. And you may do so during the Dec. 9th, musical program. And also we'll have an opportunity to make a Christmas offering to support them as well. Again, your love and generosity goes beyond our previous *Christmas Yard and Bake Sale* and *The Spirit of Christmas*.

May we all find the true purpose of Christmas, and let us continue to love God, love people, and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Yours,
Pastor Rhee



The Southern Illinois Children's Choir presents "Walking in Light and Love" at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 8, in Grace Sanctuary. The program will feature Pre-K through eighth grade children. The concert is free and all are welcome. A reception will follow.

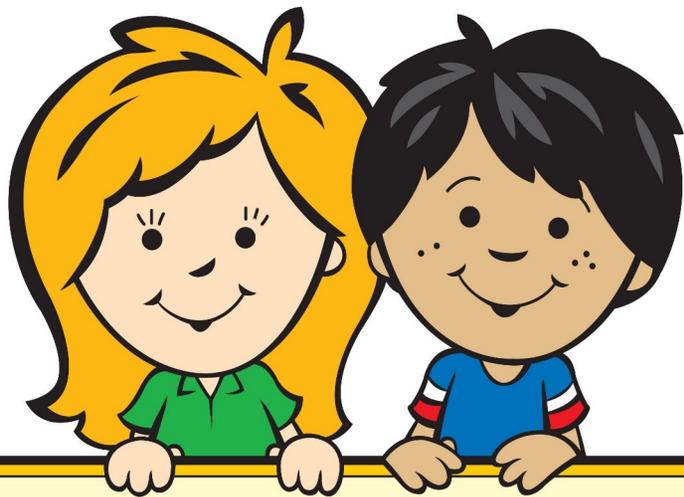


Grace Church will celebrate a special Christmas Music Service on Sunday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m. in the Auditorium. The Praise Team, Grace Choir, Handbell Choir, Grace Children, and Emily and Cuty Jung will present the musical message "*Arise, Arise and Shine!*". The program will be narrated by Jeff Williams. Please join us and invite your family and friends to celebrate with us.

UMW Christmas Yard & Bake Sale Thank You

We appreciate each and everyone who contributed to the success of the Grace UMW Christmas Yard & Bake Sale on November 17. Thanks to all who gave their time to help organize the sale, donated various items and baked goods, and helped clean up and reset the auditorium after the sale. We especially thank those who made generous cash donations to the sale. Because of your help, we will be able to distribute more than \$2,000 to missions, especially local hunger relief agencies. Thank you all so much for supporting the Grace United Methodist Women.





CHILDREN'S NEWS

There is a new sound coming from the children's area-- the joyful sound of children's voices! May Rhee and Sunhee Park are working with children to teach them vocal music and to learn Christian songs. More than thirteen children have taken part in the activity so far. The children attend early worship service through the children's message, then they are led to the children's area for instruction. Children of varied ages are singing action songs, old favorites, songs with harmony, and even Christmas songs. We look forward to perhaps hearing them in worship in the upcoming weeks! Thank you for your commitment, May and Sunhee.



**December 9, 16, 23 and 30
Sunday School time
will be 9:30 a.m.**

**Please have articles for the January
Grace Notes to the church office by
December 17.**



MaTT Club is a place for kids and adults to gather with friends, old and new, at the table with Jesus.



In November MaTT Club continued with Fruit of the Spirit- Joy and Peace.

I chose an orange to represent Joy because each orange section looks like a little orange smile. Did you see our orange smiles picture on the church's facebook page?

During Bible Exploration each child poured a little "joy" into a tall glass that represented themselves. The cup filled up and began to overflow into a pan labeled "others". They understood that as they fill up with Joy from God, and from others led by God, they are able to overflow and fill other people with Joy.

By the end of the lesson the kids were able to see that God has given us the Fruit of **Joy**- the ability to not only feel happy ourselves but to make someone else feel happy. And the ability to know it's OK if we are sad or things aren't going our way, because God is still with us and soon things will get better.

I was in Louisville with granddaughter Kaitlyn on November 18 so Jennifer and Mary Louise ran the meeting for me. **Thank you ladies!** I chose grapes to represent Fruit of the Spirit-Peace because we often think of world peace when we hear the word peace, and grapes are round like the earth. The children played a game with grapes then several others themed around Thanksgiving. They talked about two kinds of peace; outer peace- living peacefully with others, and inner peace- trust God, do not be afraid, God will get you through this. We depend on God to help us have both kinds of peace.

We ran out of time, at both meetings, and weren't able to do a craft. But I'm learning how to manage timing for such a large group and everyone is having fun.

Thank you Aimee and Mary Louse for providing suppers in November.

Thank you Jennifer for taking photos.

Thank you Pastor Rhee for posting the pictures on facebook.

Happy November birthday to Gita, Marat, Mary Louise, Madeleine, Grace and Kenny.

There are no December birthdays.

We meet only once in December.

Happy holiday to all of you from all of us at MaTT Club.



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Trivia Night/Silent Auction Mission Trip Fundraiser a success.

Junior and Senior High Sunday school will meet together during the month of December.

Donations of small bags of chips and candy for our **high school students' finals bags** would be appreciated. The donations can be left in room 11.

The Table: All 6th-12th graders are invited to join Mike and Jaci Arthur at their home on the third Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and fun. The December dinner is on the 16th.

GUMC,
Thank you for your love and support during my graduation from SIU-C. Sending my love from Mississippi!
Best,
Hayden Schubert



Dear Pastor Rhee & Grace Church,
Thank you so much for the delicious food you provided. The students really enjoyed it, and it was a blessing that I could focus on ministry tasks since the meal was covered. Students from six countries were able to have good discussions about a passage in Luke.

You all are awesome!!!
For Christ and His Kingdom,
Rachel Edgar and Patrick Langon
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship



Office Hours

The church office will be closed on December 7, 14, 21, 25, 26, 31, January 1 and the afternoon of December 24. Messages can be left on the church answering machine.

December Birthdays (by date)

- 5- Michael Adams
- 7 - Raetta Blessing
- 8 - Laura Morthland
- 8 - Steve Shappard
- 11 - Adam Fager
- 11 - Alicia Joens
- 11 - Elsbeth Sanders
- 21 - Emory Kawashima-Liu
- 22 - Grace Park
- 27 - Martha Searcy
- 27 - Emma Williams
- 28 - Iris Vana
- 29 - Anna Schurz
- 30 - Gary Chamness
- 31 - Dwight Sanders



Early January

- 1/2 Chris Smith
- 1/3 Holly Chamness
- 1/4 Kevin Frailey



Dec. 23 Roy & Marianne Abrahamson

Grace United Methodist Church

- 9:00 a.m. Praise and Worship Service
- 10:10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Grace UMC Mission Statement

"Love God, love people, make disciples of Jesus Christ."

