



## Meetings and Gatherings

**Bible Study, “One Story That Leads to Jesus”:** Wednesdays, starting Feb. 15, 7 PM at Murphysboro UMC.

**Children’s Church:** Every Sunday after Children’s Message in Worship

**Choir Rehearsal:** Mondays, 5:15 PM

**Hands of Hope Crafters:** Mondays at 6:30 PM

**Learning in Retirement:** February 15, 9:30 AM

**MaTT Club:** February 5 and 19 at 4 PM

**Praise & Prayer Small Group:** Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Reality (Victory Dream Center Youth):** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

**Staff Meeting:** February 7 and 21, 9:00 AM

**Toddlers and More Class:** Each Sunday during Children’s Church.

**Trustees:** Will not meet February 12. A new date will be scheduled.

**United Methodist Men:** Saturday, February 11, 7:30 a.m. Murphysboro UMC fellowship hall

**Women’s Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30 AM



# Grace Notes

News from Grace United Methodist Church  
Carbondale, Illinois 618-457-8785

Web site: [www.carbondalegrace.org](http://www.carbondalegrace.org)

E-mail: [carbondalegraceinfo@gmail.com](mailto:carbondalegraceinfo@gmail.com)

Veronica McMichael: Pastor of Christian Education & Discipleship

Michelle Parker-Clark: Pastor of Congregational Care

Marty McMichael: Sr. Pastor

## AN INVITATION FOR A NEW BEGINNING

Christ is many things to the church, dynamic in presentation. His dynamic nature saves us alive; establishing our eternity, structuring our present, and molding our emotional state through character enrichment nestled in correction and encouragement. In all of this He has a prevailing component which most overlook. Christ is invitational!

*<sup>28</sup>Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Mt 11:28-30)*

As we witness our world slowly crumble into a cesspool of debaucheries, our church declining as it cannot collectively determine what God says, and few able to bravely articulate God’s Word in love, I want to be invitational to you whom I am responsible for. I invite those who would profess to be Republicans and conservative in their theology to truly embrace holiness and let the **Word of God** define sin and how to deal with it. For He is the author of holiness. I invite those who would profess to be Democrats and liberal in their theology to truly embrace Justice and let the **Word of God** define sin and how to deal with it. For He is the author of Justice.

My invitation is to both sides is to understand that you are always on the wrong side until you get on God’s side. This is the lesson an embattled Joshua had to learn.

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(Pastor's Pen continued from page 1)

*<sup>13</sup> And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?<sup>14</sup> And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant?*

The word 'NAY' is best translated as "No, neither..." Church we cannot afford to be on the side of a political party, a social justice group, or any sociopolitical organization. We serve the Captain of the Hosts of the Lord's army! We need to hear from Him and Him alone! The invitation I want to offer is the opportunity to allow God to create in you a clean heart, and to renew a right spirit within you. It's an invitation to a new beginning for you. Not some other group, not some other person, but the only one you can control; yourself!

I invite you to journey with me in a collective Bible Study called; ***"One Story That Leads To Jesus"***. Because of my limited time allotment at Grace, and because I perceive God calling Murphysboro and Carbondale Grace into some form of collective ministry; I am asking that we engage this Bible Study together. I know this is different. But we cannot get new outcomes doing the same old thing. Will you trust in this move of God and learn of the Lord, so that we might know what He is calling us into. Amen.

Sincerely yours,  
Marty McMichael



### HELP NEEDED!

The church choir needs SOPRANOS! If you or anyone you know enjoys singing, this is a blessed opportunity! For most pieces, this means singing the melody.

### February Birthdays

2/1 Mavis Williams  
2/6 Kay Deffley  
2/8 Marjorie Blessing  
2/8 Violet Fager  
2/9 Mary Ann Ruph  
2/13 Randy Stark  
2/16 Elijah Moore  
2/19 Jill Booker  
2/22 Janice Lambert  
2/23 Roger Smith III  
2/24 Joyce Craven  
2/25 Moon-Chan Bae  
2/25 Debbie Meador  
2/29 Alivia Berkel



### February Anniversaries

2/14 Robert & Cynthia Oetjen

### Early March Birthdays

3/4 Jean Paratore  
3/4 Timothy Park  
3/9 Jooyoung Lee



**Join Us for  
In-Person Worship or  
Online**

**Worship on Sundays 10:30AM**

To watch the recorded service through Facebook video visit our website at <https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleGraceUMC/>.

### Grace Mission Statement

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



Dear GUMC,  
Thank you for your many years of support of Boy Scout Troop 133. We appreciate the facilities, guidance, and hospitality you have provided us.  
Sincerely,  
*Troop 133*

Connie Steudel would like to thank Grace Church for their prayers and support during Rick's health issue. He is doing very well now.

Grace Church,  
We are grateful for all your contributions throughout the 2022 year. We've had a lot of changes due to the increasing grocery costs and we're so happy to have had your support. We wish you a 2023 full of good health and joy.  
*Megan Austin*  
Murphysboro Food Pantry

Dear Grace United Methodist,  
The Saluki Food Pantry would like to thank you for your donation. We appreciate all you have given to our students. Have a wonderful New Year.  
Best,  
*Monica Spiegel*

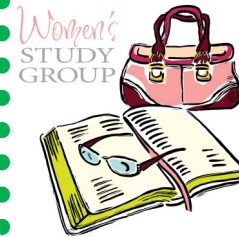
Thank you acknowledgements and letter of thanks have also been received from:  
Survivor Empowerment Center, Habitat for Humanity Victory Dream Center, Good Samaritan Ministries, Carbondale Warming Center, UMCOR US Disaster Relief and Response, Got You Covered Diaper Program.

**Please have articles for the March 2023 Grace Notes newsletter to the church office by February 20.**



### SMALL GROUP NOTES

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20



**Women's STUDY GROUP**  
\* Wednesday Morning Ladies Study Group  
At 9:30 A.M. in the children's area, the ladies' group will begin a Bible study of the book of Hebrews. This will be an 8 weeks session. All are welcome to join! A short video and discussion questions will accompany each session. Guides for each chapter will be provided with no cost. Park and use the back door by the children's area. Part of the small group time will be spent in prayer request time. For more information, contact Rosemary Hubenthal.

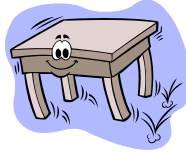
\* Hands of Hope craft group  
Join Hands of Hope on Monday nights at 6:30 P.M. in the conference room at church. The group is making items for the congregation to take to those needing a word of encouragement and hope. A new simple project has begun that anyone can do! For more information, contact Roberta Williams or Flossie Langin.



The Murphysboro United Methodist Men would like to invite the men of Grace United Methodist Church to join them for their monthly meeting. The MUMC UMM meet the second Saturday of each month at 7:30 am in the Church Fellowship Hall for breakfast and a time of fellowship and discussion of future activities. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 11. Men of all ages are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there.

## MaTT Club

*a place for kids and adults to gather with friends,  
old and new, at the table with Jesus*



In January Jesus gathered his disciples and attended a wedding. On Jan 8 we played some fishy games. The children collected parts of our memory verse, printed on fish, and lined up to put the words in order. We then played tag, first round with one person trying to catch everyone else. For the second round when the 'fisherman' caught a fish that fish became another fisherman and helped the first one catch more. We talked about how much easier it is to do something with some helpers. We finished game time by tossing beanbag fish from a net into a basket.

After hearing the story of Jesus calling then 12 men we talked about why Jesus chose these particular men. We also asked "What does it mean to be a "fisher of people?" I explained that instead of catching fish we catch people. We catch their interest. **We tell people about Jesus so that they are interested and want to follow him too. So they want to live a life of love and acceptance and kindness.** We brainstormed ways the children can be "fishers of people" and recorded them in their binder books.

During craft time the children made 'bait buckets'. They cut out worms with the names of the disciples, to put in their buckets.

On Jan 15 we learned about weddings and friendship. The people who's wedding Jesus attended were friends and Jesus didn't want them to be shamed by running out of wine for their guests. The focus I chose was on friendship and ways we can make our friends feel loved and cared about.

After a round of 4 Corners we dropped grapes into a water jug. We also played Hot Wedding Ring; like Hot Potato but with a wedding ring. We added a water bottle and if you got caught with both the wedding ring and the water bottle you were out.

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## MaTT Club continued

After hearing the story we marked the town of Cana on their maps. During craft time the children made clay pots, like the water jugs in the story.

Happy January birthday, Siena.

Thank you Kay, Kierra and Merit for helping in January.  
Thank you, Renee and Kay for providing snacks.

In February we will hear about Jesus healing some people and Jesus stilling a storm.

*Flossie*

### NOTES OF APPRECIATION



\* Thank you to everyone who came early to church on January 15 to take down and put away Christmas decorations. Your efforts to care for our church facilities are appreciated!

\* Thank you to Pastor Marty for the positive, hopeful church meeting after worship on January 15. Special gratitude to Roberta and Jeff Williams who arranged for the lunch for all and to the ladies who brought special dishes to share, too.

\* Thank you to Alice Berry for inspiring all with the Christmas music and cantata in December and for using her talents weekly in God's service!



Our deepest sympathy is given to the family and friends of Donna Stoodley. Donna passed away January 3.