

January Birthdays

1/2 Chris Smith
 1/3 Holly Chamness
 1/4 Kevin Frailey
 1/8 Tom Berry
 1/9 Sunhee Park
 1/9 Spencer Vineyard
 1/10 Dave Fisher
 1/12 Bong Choul Hwang
 1/12 Mike Long
 1/14 Kenny Fisher
 1/14 Charles Vale
 1/15 Lynanne Parrish
 1/18 Vernon Gerber
 1/21 Gail Ayala
 1/24 Marcia Hand
 1/28 Barb Dunlap-Berg
 1/28 Soo-Jin Edwards

**Early February Birthdays**

Feb. 1 Mary Ellen Searcy
 Feb. 6 Kay Deffley

**January Anniversaries**

January 17 Steve & Paula Arthur

Please have articles for the February Grace Notes newsletter to the church office by January 20. Thank you.

**Grace UMC Mission Statement**

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



Grace Notes

News from Grace United Methodist Church
 Carbondale, Illinois 618-457-8785
 Pastor cell: 1-309-224-6420
 Web site: www.carbondalegrace.org
 E-mail: carbondalegraceinfo@gmail.com



Many of us share a common goal of getting out of the COVID factor of 2020 - fear, worry and stress. What we need is a new start, a new heart, in a new year. How about a new you? Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "... anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" A new you... spiritually, physically, emotionally, financially, and relationally, is what we need to overcome the past and be refreshed, renewed, refocused in 2021.

A new you starts from making intentional choices. One entrepreneur shared that he hates taking a cold shower in the early morning, but he does it to kick start the day, stay healthy and be motivated. Charles Duhigg (The Power of Habit) says that one intentional choice at the beginning of the day, like making your bed, affects the whole day, and makes your life organized, productive and more successful. Intentionally organizing our spiritual, physical and emotional, and our finances and relationship choices will help escape the 2020, and rebuild in 2021. I invite you to join us in our new sermon series on the New You in January. See the instructions in the newsletter on how you can join us online.

"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Let's encourage one another to be a "New You" in 2021!

Pastor Rhee

January Covid-19 Updates @ Grace

We are still in the "tier 3" phase of the pandemic mitigation plan in Southern IL. Along with the state's recommended guidelines, the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the U.M.C. recommends that we suspend our in door gatherings or in door services, have the church building closed, and staff should work from home except for essential business until further notice. Updates at:

www.igrc.org

<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan>

Can we meet at church? No. The church will remain closed, and all gatherings are suspended.

How about Sunday worship? We will continue to worship online for the time being. Follow the "how to connect" guideline in the newsletter to join online or via teleconference call.

Pray, connect, and contact. Pray for one another, connect via online, text, phone or mail, and contact fellow Christians and "just chat," and do holy conferencing!

I pray for in person meeting soon, because I really miss you all!
Pastor Rhee

Join Us Live Online:

Worship on Sundays 10:30AM

&

Prayer Calls on Thursdays 10:00AM

To join via...

- 1) **Teleconference Call:** Dial in at 425-436-6385, enter access code 305542# (* this is a long-distance call. Replay available at 11:30AM)
- 2) **Facebook Live video:** visit our website at <https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleGraceUMC/Live>
(You will need a Facebook account to log in. Video will be available for a week after the live session has ended.)



United Methodist Women

Grace United Methodist Women is pleased to announce its mission giving--\$2,000 for this year, 2020.

We were able to contribute \$100 each to the following organizations: Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Carbondale Women's Center, Murphysboro Food Pantry, Wesley Foundation, Spero Family Services (Murphysboro), Newman Center (Thanksgiving Meal), and Dr. Fasa.

\$200 each was given to the following: Carbondale Senior Services, Victory Dream Center Food Pantry, UMCOR—World Hunger, Feed My Sheep, Good Samaritan—Soup Kitchen, and Carbondale Warming Center.

This would not have been possible without the wonderful support we received from our congregation. You truly have been a blessing to us and these 14 missions.

Medical Missions



Thank you for your donations. In early December, the church was able, to wire \$3,060 to Fasa, medical missionary in Indonesia. Below is the email Joyce received from Fasa.

Dear Mrs. Joyce Fligor,

Thank you so much, the money has arrived. Again thank you so much for your continued support and prayers. Your support means so much to us. Thank you so much to all of your generous friends for your support. God bless you always.

Much love and thanks.

Fasa and family

BOOK REVIEW

by Kay Eckiss

Between Heaven and the Real World: My Story

by Stephen Curtis Chapman
with Ken Abraham

Growing up as an average boy in Paducah, Kentucky, Stephen Curtis Chapman never imagined the depth of life he would experience and where faith would lead him. From a supportive but not perfect family, he developed a passion for expressing his faith through music. His story at first tells of his boyhood and teen years, then leads to his path to success as a Dove and Grammy-winning musician.

His life as a husband and father is clearly an important part of his story. He plainly describes the joys and trials of family life and the disappointments or imperfections that strain our relationships and faith. Some of his joys have had international-reaching effects. Then unseen tragedy that seemed unshakeable enveloped his family. Despite belief in Christ, the brokenness of life can be a real threat to faith, he discovered.

"Living with the brokenness is not easy..sometimes it seems impossible." This quote near the end of Chapman's mostly uplifting but realistic autobiography reflects the physical, emotional, or spiritual challenges which each of us can face. He shows us how our faith in Christ can make the difference between helping us to SEE our way to light vs. allowing such challenges to destroy us.



**COLLEGE
MINISTRY**

Carbondale Grace,

Thank you so much for your donation to support the ministry of the Wesley Foundation. Partnering with local churches is key to our ministry. Thank you for touching the lives of SIU students. We appreciate your prayers and partnership. Merry Christmas and Thank you -

Sherry Smedhammer

Director, SIUC Wesley Foundation



Our Church Family

CONNECTING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Renew, reinforce, and enrich your faith by staying connected with the Grace Church family! Believe it or not, there are some groups that continue to meet in altered or cautious conditions. Even if you are not venturing out of your home, we can contact you or provide materials to be a part of a small group. Here are a few of the opportunities so far:

+Monday nights, 6:30 P.M. **Hands of Hope.** This group is meeting remotely for fellowship and sharing. To be included in the Zoom meeting, you can email Jaci McDole or Flossie Langin to receive the link.

jacimcdole@gmail.com flangin57@yahoo.com

+**United Methodist Men**, contact Greg Kupiec

+**United Methodist Women**, 1:30 P.M. First Monday of each month contact Shirley Smith

+**Wednesday Morning Women's Bible/Book Study**, 9:30 A.M., meeting depends on current circumstances. Lesson materials are available, whether we are able to meet or not (masks required). contact, Kay Eckiss (618) 521-9895

+**Thursday Prayer**, 10:00-10:30 A.M. contact Pastor Rhee This group meets by phone conference (425) 436-6385, then 305542#

+**MaTT Club for kids**, First and third Sundays of the month. Activities, Bible stories, crafts, lessons, fun are available for kids through 5th grade. This group meets remotely by Zoom. To be included, contact Flossie Langin, flangin57@yahoo.com

+**Children's Sunday School for K-5th grades.** We are not currently meeting, but Sunday school materials are mailed out about once a month. Contact Kay Eckiss if you know a child who would like to be included, (618) 521-9895 or reckiss@gmail.com

MaTT Club

a place for kids and adults to gather with friends, old and new, at the table with Jesus
**Meet me at The (Computer) Table,
 we're Zooming with Jesus!**



Zooming just doesn't compare with our normal MaTT Club Christmas party, but we made the best of things. We began the evening by reviewing the Bible books that we've learned already - Books of Law and Books of History of Israel. Then we added Books of Poetry and Wisdom. The children added this category, along with pictures and an acronym to their BOBBY books. After prayer time we made a couple of Christmas crafts. We also played Christmas Quick Draw and had a Christmas Scavenger Hunt.

We had a few extra technical glitches this time. The kids were very patient when my computer crashed and were still there and waiting for me when I got back up and working! A couple of the kids had audio problems. But we are still grateful and thank God for modern technology so that we can meet at all.

Happy January birthday to Jooah.

In January we will be learning about the books of the Major and Minor prophets. We'll also learn about what to do when friends disappoint you.

May everyone have a blessed Christmas, however you celebrate this year.

Flossie Langin



Announcing...

Previously the church had use for donations of plastic grocery bags, we have met and exceeded the need. Thank you for your donations, but at this time, we no longer need the donations of plastic grocery bags.



Grace UMC sanctuary during Advent.

ALWAYS A BLESSING!

Being able to worship with the church has been important during this time of partial quarantine. It has been such a blessing to have the music in the worship service with Pastor Rhee's message! Thank you for your efforts and gifts shared in the name of the Lord: Alice, Jamal, Diamond, Jacob, Toby, Seung-Hee, Cuty, and Emily.

THANK
you.

Thank you for your generous gift! May God bless you as together we work to show His love as the hands, feet, and heart of Christ.
 In His service,
Chantel Corrie
 Midwest Distribution Center