



# Grace to You

Quarterly Newsletter of Grace United Methodist Church



Beloved in Christ,

What a year we have all endured! Pandemic, protests and politics. We have isolated, washed our hands till they are raw, hidden our faces with masks and kept social distance. We have done so because we love each other and want to keep each other and our families safe. It has been a challenge. A friend of mine recently commented that because we have not been able to touch – no hugs, no handshakes – we are skin deprived.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas remind us that there is an antidote for skin deprivation and that is the Incarnation. In the fullness of time, the Bible tells us, God sent his Son into the world. God became one of us – God put on flesh to enter fully into our world. God did so in order to know our suffering and sin and to offer a solution to our human situation. God came to us as a baby in Bethlehem – our Savior to remind us that pandemics, protests and politics are not all there is to life. There is hope, peace, joy and love. There is mercy and grace abounding.

We have seen God this year – in the faces of hospital workers who have sacrificed so much to care for the critically ill. We have seen God – in the work of researchers racing for cures and vaccines. We have seen God – in our neighbors and friends who drop off groceries or baked goods. We have seen God – in our worship, even if it is virtual. There is no doubt, that even in this strange year we have lived through, God is here. Emmanuel – God with us – is present.

One of my devotions is from the Church of Scotland. Here is a prayer they shared recently that I believe is appropriate to our current situation.

Even if we cannot gather in person, Emmanuel, God is with us.

Even if some Christmas traditions have had to go, Emmanuel, God is with us.

Even if we might not be able to hug family and friends, Emmanuel, God is with us.

Even if we cannot sing carols beside each other, Emmanuel, God is with us.

Even if Christmas cheer is harder this year, Emmanuel, God is with us.

Hear the Good News this season of our lives, God in Jesus Christ is with us.

I pray you each have a meaningful Christmas and may receive the Good News with great joy.

Blessings,  
Pastor Margaret





*We extend our sincere sympathy to family and friends who have recently lost loved ones.*

*Douglas (Doug) Hollar 09-19-2020*

*Virginia Susan Bentz 09-21-2020*

*Sommer (Ebersole) Kretzinger 10-10-2020*

*Pamela Sue (Gettel) Perrott 10-16-2020*

*Nancy (Fuller) Kline 10-18-2020*

*Don Barree Eichelberger 10-21-2020*

*Helen Louise (Hurd) Myers 10-24-2020*

### *Prayers are needed---*

Please keep our congregation in your prayers. We have many on the prayer list and we also have had several in the hospital or at home with COVID-19 or has tested positive or has been exposed to COVID-19. Also there are some who have upcoming surgeries or are recuperating from surgeries and we pray for healing for them. Please remember our health care workers and all front line workers during this pandemic.



**Please stay safe**



possible and sharing the Gospel with needy children all over the world.

Patty and Cordy Leonard

Thanks to all of our church families for packing a "Christmas Shoebox". Special blessings to everyone for helping make this Mission

# *Gifts*



## *Improvement Fund*

In loving memory of **Marjorie Peters:**  
Sandy Kendall

In loving memory of **Ragan H. R. Shaw, Jr:**  
Sandy Kendall

In loving memory of **Ecile and Ragan Shaw:** Dan and JoAnn Litten

In loving memory of **Douglas S. Hollar:**  
Earlene Johnson

In loving memory of **Susan Virginia Bentz:**  
James Failor, the James Fleming family

In loving memory of **Helen Louise Myers:**  
Daisy Wolfensberger, Steven Wolfensberger, Jerry and Rose Shank, Nancy Rouse, Patricia Reeder, Susan Reeder, David and Doris Baker, William and Betty Lou Amrhein, Leroy and Sandra Burtner, Maugansville Ruritan Club, Washington County Teachers Federal Credit Union, Joyce and Robert Fritz, Roy and Donna Shoop, Gary and Carole Clark



Thanks for all the prayers, cards and phone calls that I received this year after moving to Brookdale in December of 2019. May God bless you and all my Grace Church family –*Vergie Smith*

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and phone calls that I have received over this past year during the COVID 19 pandemic. Wishing all of my friends and church family a very blessed Christmas.- *Virginia Kline*

## GRACE GIVING BOX

Recently, a Giving Box was placed at the steps of the church by the handicap access. Please feel free to put items inside if your heart wishes! Any non-perishable food items – health and beauty products –



toiletries – diapers, etc. Debbie Tritsch is monitoring the box every few days and so far there have been items taken and items left so, the word about the Box is getting out to our neighborhood. If you would like to donate and are unable to get out – or if you take something and there is no room to place the items inside the Box, please call Debbie at 301-582-8442 – she is more than happy to pick up your donation and make sure it gets added as there is room available! This is a meager way to continue our Food Pantry ministry and every little



Deb Tritsch, Dave Hollar, Tom Tritsch

helping hand is appreciated. As a footnote, many thanks to Dave Hollar for the time he put into the construction!

-----Debbie Tritsch

The Reach Cold Weather Shelter opened the end of October, and Grace will be responsible for the third week in

January. Linn said if people don't feel comfortable being there in person, he understands.



Linn Davison,  
Grace Shelter Coordinator



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

This is to remind you that all contributions used for income tax purposes must be in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2020 in order to be included on this year's statement. Any contributions received after the 31<sup>st</sup> of December will appear on your 2021 statement.

*L. Marie Rogers,*  
*Financial Secretary*

## Christmas Organ Concert

The next concert of the Music at Grace Concert Series will be streamed online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Christmas Concert will be on Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 pm with Jonathan Leonard, Nathan Strite, and Will Miller participating.



Our website is [graceumchag.org](http://graceumchag.org)

