



# The Grace Church Visitor

Grace United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 67, 624 Elm Ave.  
Story City, IA 50248-0067

515-733-4712

[www.grace-umc.com](http://www.grace-umc.com)

**Pastor Fred Darbonne**  
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DECEMBER 2017

Vol. 69 No. 6



Cathy Hermanson, Secretary  
[office@grace-umc.com](mailto:office@grace-umc.com)

**Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

## Children & Youth learning and sharing at Grace!

Pictures shared by Loretta Parker and Sharla Mander



The Visitor is a monthly publication of  
Grace UMC, Story City.

If you would like to

\* add, change or remove your name from  
our mailing or e-mailing list

\*correct your address

\*submit news to be published in  
*The Visitor...*

Mail us the information  
Grace UMC; 624 Elm Ave.

P.O. Box 67 OR

call us

(515) 733-4712 OR

email us:

[office@grace-umc.com](mailto:office@grace-umc.com)

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*Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense*

## December Birthdays



Melissa Brown	12-6
Brent Larson	12-7
Rayneil Wolf	12-8
Vicki Kepley	12-9
Ron Cook	12-9
Linda Larson	12-10
Hubert Bickelhaupt	12-10
Camille Hubert	12-16
Alyce Wirth	12-17
Kurt Carlson	12-20
Jolene Wolf	12-24
Dan Webster	12-26
Joan Barrett	12-27
Dale Henricks	12-28
Erica Watts	12-28
Tony Blue	12-30

*If we're missing a birthday please accept our apologies and let us know so we can update our records!*

## December Lectionary

### December 3

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

### December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;  
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

### December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55;  
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38  
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;  
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

### December 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148;  
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40;  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8;  
Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46

**Deadline for submitting Visitor information is the 20th of each month. Information for the weekly bulletin and *This Week at Grace* is due in the office by noon on Wednesdays.**

## From Our Pastor

Fred Darbonne

December 2017

As I write on Thanksgiving weekend I can't help feeling like the holidays have been hijacked. "Black Friday," for instance, is only a recent invention. I remember our family looking forward for weeks to Thanksgiving weekend. At the beginning of that short week I almost couldn't contain myself as I anticipated a day where my family either hosted, or were hosted by, our family friends. Dad and I would always go rabbit hunting early on Thanksgiving morning, and on the walk back we would pick the persimmons that grew wildly on the back of our property. Later I would go to my room and read books while the others watched football games or the Thanksgiving Day parades. Bliss, I tell you. That Friday, like most Saturdays, was special - just hanging with the family, doing things around the house or going on errands with my Dad.



Now retailers have created "Black Friday," hoping to cash in. The title to a front page article in yesterday's *USA Today* said it all: "Retailers hope Black Friday starts \$1T holiday season." So much for the season of peace on earth and goodwill to humankind. Or a Thanksgiving Day without making plans for efficient shopping that evening. I do admit to taking advantage of two or three specials from a couple of online retailers I buy from regularly. Not only do I like the discounts on something I've already saved in my watch lists, but I just love free shipping. Just a few clicks on Friday afternoon, and I was done. All from the comfort of my favorite chair.

As we now prepare for Advent and Christmas, I wonder if it is possible to treat the congregation like Black Friday. We wait for a special reason to attend, like holiday services and celebrations, to take advantage of benefits like a warm feeling with our families doing a traditional thing. Yet unlike Black Friday, the benefits are available to us all year round, through all the seasons of worship, and these neglected blessings can be like gifts unopened. Thinking of this I am filled with gratitude that God is always there for us, who continually blesses us in ways we don't realize or even ask for, simply because God is good and loves us. Emmanuel - God with us. Thanks be to God.

*Unto Us  
a Child is Born*



## G.R.A.C.E. Teams



With only four teams, G.R.A.C.E. Teams share the month of December to give us balance the rest of the year. During the month of December each of our four G.R.A.C.E. Teams will be responsible for one Sunday. Team E will provide ushers and greeters on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Team A will take Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and Team G will cover Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. Team C will provide greeters and ushers for both the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Thank You!



I want to thank everyone for all the prayers and gifts! Both the prayers and gifts have made a big difference in my life. I am lucky and glad to have such a wonderful church family during this very difficult time for myself and my family. Please know how appreciative I am of each and every one of you.

Julie Jacobson

## New Address



Lois Johnson has moved back to Story City! Here is her new address:

Lois Johnson  
610 Story St. Apt 2  
Story City, IA

## 2017 Charge Conference

Eight members of our church family traveled to Boone First UMC on Sunday afternoon, November 5<sup>th</sup> to attend the annual Charge Conference. D.S. Harlan Gillespie led the worship service (complete with Communion) and the Conference meeting for representatives for the churches of the southern tier of the North Central District. Our annual report booklet was submitted – if you would like a copy, let the office know and we'll get you one!

Those representing our church family included: Pastor Fred Darbonne, Terry Gustason, Jim & Shelley Hassebrock, Cathy Hermanson, Kevin & Candi Holm, Loretta Parker.

## December Volunteers

### Sunday, December 3

- Liturgist** – Cathy Hermanson  
**Advent** – Alyssa Loots/Shannon Doise family  
**Greeters** – Tep & Louis Reeder  
Melissa Brown  
**Ushers** – Mike & Patsy Jensen  
Craig & Savannah Jensen, with  
Kurt Carlson, Communion help

### Sunday, December 10

- Liturgist** – George Janvrin  
**Advent** - Dave & Linda McVicker  
Gene & Erma Schaeffer  
**Greeters** – Warwick family  
**Ushers** – David & Linda McVicker

### Sunday, December 17

- Liturgist** – Terry Gustason  
**Advent** – Dan & Marilyn Webster  
**Greeters** – Lorijo Lounsberry, Vivian Whitmore  
Sheri Allen  
**Ushers** – Kevin & Candi Holm  
Hubert & Rae Bickelhaupt

### **Sunday Brunch –**

Cheryl Semler, Gini Michel  
Tori Fournier

### Sunday, December 24

- Liturgist** – Gloria Sampson  
**Advent** – LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson  
**Greeters** – Sharene Lykins, Terry Gustason  
**Ushers** – Welke family

### **Candlelight Service**

- Ushers** – Dale & Lynn Henricks  
**Advent** – Chuck Semler, Charlie Fournier,  
Tori Fournier, Eric Dowe

### Sunday, December 31

- Liturgist** – Cheryl Semler  
**Greeters** – David & Mary Loupee  
**Ushers** – Becky & David Barclay, George Janvrin

**Bulletin and Newsletter folders** – Gini Michel (Dec 1 & 8),

## Decorating for Christmas



The first Sunday in Advent is the first Sunday in December (the 3<sup>rd</sup>) this year. You're invited to help with "hanging the greens" at the church after worship that day. Come and help prepare the sanctuary and other areas of the church in anticipation and celebration of the Christ Child's birth!

## Our Prayers

Family of Al Rau; Natalie Tryon; Julie Jacobson; Denny Michel; Sara Dappen; Ray Hults; Lois Johnson; Rich Iverson; Carolyn Bostwick; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa

## Our Presence

**Attendance Nov 5 – Nov 26:**  
Worship: 426 Total – 107 avg  
S. School: 129 Total – 32 avg

## Our Gifts

**Offering – Nov 5 – Nov 26:**  
**\$18,949.05**

## Our Service



Thank you to all the volunteers who took care of various projects outside our church home on our work days in November. People who came to work include: Owen Sampson, Grace & Rick Welke, Duane Matson, Kurt Carlson, George Janvrin, Dave Doolittle, Jim Hassebrock, Kevin Holm, Fred Darbonne.



A belated thank you to Judy Brekke who provided both a kettle of soup and a pan of bars for our October Worship Committee sponsored soup supper. Judy's name was inadvertently left off the list in last month's *Visitor*.



Thank you to volunteers who took a turn delivering Meals on Wheels in November. Thanks to Terry Gustason, Dale & Lynn Henricks, Mike & Patsy Jensen, Priscilla Johnson & Linda Larson, Dave & Linda McVicker, Gini Michel, Loretta Parker, Claudia Pauk, Owen & Gloria Sampson, Gene & Erma Schaeffer, Chuck & Cheryl Semler

## Our Witness



We appreciate our Nov. liturgists Gloria Sampson, Terry Gustason, Cathy Hermanson, Claudia Pauk



Thank you to Owen & Gloria Sampson for delivering the health kits to the Ingathering on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>!

## UMW News



The United Methodist Women met for their regular meeting November 8 at 1:30 p.m. Our verse for November is Hebrews 12:14. 13 members repeated the UMW purpose.

Marilyn Webster led the meeting. Secretary and treasurers' reports read and approved.

Terp led the mission moment with a Thank Offering worship and collection.

### Business:

Claudia purchased a United Methodist church apron at a recent meeting she attended. She said it was really nice to be able to instantly recognize the members at the function. Would we be interested in this idea? After much discussion, Erma made a motion to buy 10 aprons, Priscilla made a second, motion carried.

Terry made a motion that we purchase three new books from the 2018 reading program list, Sharla seconded, motion carried. Gloria will make the purchase.

A list of current Grace church members at Bethany Life was created. Gloria made a motion that we give each resident a \$10.00 Tom and Stevie's Bistro gift card to be used at Bethany Life as a Christmas gift, Erma second. Motion carried. Patsy will take care of this purchase.

The UMW will be servers for the month of December at congregational meals. Two workers per week needed. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

101 health kits valued at \$1212.00 and \$303 dollars were delivered to the in-gathering November. Gloria reported the total to be \$1515.00.

Sharla reported we have \$1300.00 profit from the pie and ice cream social/bake sale that can now be given to selected missions. Missions and amounts selected:

**Women at the Well: \$100**

**Angel Tree: \$100**

**YSS: \$100**

**Bidwell: \$300**

**Good Neighbor: \$100**

**Loaves and Fishes: \$250**

**ACCESS: \$100**

**Taylor Family: \$250**

Members are asked to bring 2 dozen cookies to our next meeting December 13 for a cookie exchange. We will also box up containers of cookies and deliver them that afternoon to 12 members at Bethany Life, Cedar Place, Timberland or homebound.

Marilyn introduced guest speaker Margaret Aiseayew. Margaret and Dorothy Appelgate share a beautiful set of plates called the Twelve Days of Christmas. Margaret described the theological meaning behind each of the twelve days of Christmas found on the plates; a very interesting and enlightening program.

Nancy Uran served as hostess.

## Christmas Program



Our 2017 Sunday school children's Christmas program, **Make a Joyful Noise, will be presented in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Erma Schaeffer penned this program which tells a delightful story of the commotion in heaven as the angels prepare for a big announcement from the Almighty.

The cast for this program includes all the children in Early Childhood through 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes, with some special appearances from other members of the congregation.

Please plan to attend the presentation of *Make a Joyful Noise* after the December Sunday Brunch!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Brunch



Our November Sunday Brunch was enjoyed by a crowd of 66 people. Sharla Mander, Cheryl Semler, Gini Michel, and G.R.A.C.E. Team E members hosted this month. Just over \$185.74 was raised for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry! Please join us December 17<sup>th</sup> when Sharla's team and members of Team G will serve biscuits and gravy and proceeds will go to Jerry Spencer's pursuit of an education in ministry.

## Candlelight Service



You are invited to join us for our traditional **Candlelight Worship service at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.** We'll add the Christ Candle as we light all the candles on our Advent wreath. We'll listen to scripture, sing beloved Christmas hymns, celebrate Communion, listen as the choir shares their beautiful Christmas music, and receive Pastor Fred's Christmas message. At the close of the service, we'll each light a candle as we sing "Silent Night" in thanks for all the wonderful blessings we enjoy because of Jesus, God's own son.

## Poinsettias for Remembrance



Let's fill the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettia flowers for the Advent Season. You are invited to bring in a poinsettia plant beginning Sunday, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> for the remainder of the holiday season. Story City

Floral & Garden is selling the plants for \$20 and will deliver them to the church if you ask them. *We will not be placing orders through the church office this year.* If you'd prefer, you may bring a poinsettia of your own. If you want to pay tribute to loved ones either as a memorial for those who have passed or in honor for those who are still with us, simply fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, or you may deliver it to the church office. **NOTE: Do NOT include money with this form. If ordering your plant through the local florist, please call (515)733-2760 and deal with them directly.**

My name \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Angel Tree



Over two dozen slips of Christmas wishes were picked up by members of the congregation on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Soon local children in need will be receiving special gifts on Christmas morning. Please remember to wrap your gifts and attach the wish slip to the package so it is delivered to the intended child. **All gifts are due at Immanuel Church by Monday morning, December 11<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you for helping to make a child's Christmas wishes come true!

## For Your Information



When there is a weather-related early out at Roland-Story schools, all church activities for that day will also be cancelled. Worship services will NOT be cancelled in the case of inclement weather. You are urged to use your own good judgment as to whether or not you are able to attend the service when the weather is nasty, but there will be a service.

## 2018 Committees & Officers



Please find the roster of our 2018 Committee members and officers of the church in this mailing. Thank you to the Leadership Development team for their hard work. And thank you to all who said "yes" when asked to serve!

Special thanks to all who will be completing their committee service at the end of 2017. Your faithfulness and commitment have helped to put us in a good place in furthering our wishes and plans for our church family.

## Cookbook Amendment



Dorothy Appelgate and one of her daughters were doing some Thanksgiving food prep when they noticed Dorothy's recipe for Cranberry Salad needed some amending in the Grace Church Cookbook!

The recipe is on page 25 and should be amended to read

**2 cups cranberries**  
**½ cup sugar**

## A Note of Thanks

Dear Grace Church family,

I would like to thank you for your many words of encouragement and prayers these past few months for myself and my friend and neighbor Jordan Gertsen. I don't have to see the cardiologist for 4 months so I feel like I'm in pretty good shape with my pacemaker and heart. I have a little trouble with my hip and leg so I sit in the back during worship. My friend Jordan is coming along real good and moved back to his Florida home. If you'd like to send him a card you can contact me for his address - my contact

information is in the church directory. I feel privileged to be a part of the Grace Church family.

George Sellers

## Adventures in Confirmation



As a part of their studies, the Confirmation Class of 2018 recently visited a worship service and learned a bit about the Jewish faith at the Temple B'nai Jeshuran in Des Moines. They were accompanied by their instructors, Pastor Fred and Sharla Mander and a few family members.

Following the Friday night service, everyone enjoyed a meal at the Noah's Ark restaurant.



## November Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Loretta Parker and Sharla Mander

Some Grace Veterans,  
New Aprons, Daisy  
scouts plant tulips,  
Jingles for Julie, Bell  
Choir



**Grace UMC Council**  
**Unofficial Minutes November 27, 2017 meeting**

**Present:** Loretta Parker (Chair), Tim Tryon (Finance), Pastor Fred, Terry Gustason (Treasurer), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Gloria Sampson (Missions/UMW); Gini Michel (Education), Cathy Hermanson (Communications/rec. secretary)

**Loretta offered a prayer and opened the meeting.**

**Tim (Cheryl) moved the October minutes be accepted. Motion passed.**

**Finance:** Tim shared that we continue to do well financially – we are up to date with all expenses covered and looking good heading toward 2018. Pledge cards continue to come in, the response has been similar to previous recent years – three families filled out a card for the first time. Gloria (Cathy) moved the report be accepted. Motion passed.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Fred reported the Confirmation class and parents recently attended a Jewish worship service at a synagogue in Des Moines – everyone found it very interesting. Fred shared the Al Rau visitation and funeral information. He will be on vacation Dec. 6-12 with Jerry Spencer providing pulpit supply on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Fred will ask Jerry and Nate to be responsible for emergency pastoral care while he is away. He will also contact Linda Poore. Korbin Doise (Alyssa Loots) will be baptized on Dec. 3.

**Committee Reports: Ministry Areas**

**Worship:** Cheryl reported Al Rau's visit to Grace on his birthday (Oct 29) was appreciated by many. Electronic piano was sold with the money going to the Trustees. The Bell Choir robes will be cleaned over the Christmas break. The Choir Christmas party is on Dec. 17 and will be hosted by Denise and Kurt Carlson. The Candle light Christmas Eve service is at 5:00 p.m.

**Christian Education:** Gini Michel sent a report that Sunday school materials have been ordered for the spring semester. The Christmas program "Make a Joyful Noise" will be presented at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Missions:** Gloria reported \$345 was given to Angel Tree as a result of the October brunch. Slips for children's Christmas gifts were picked up on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The November brunch brought in nearly \$186 for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry + a healthy donation of food and paper products from Harvest Home Sunday. Grace manned the L&F on Nov 7 and served 43 people/14 families. Next service date is December 30<sup>th</sup>. The CROP Walk received \$730 in donations from Grace – 25% of that money stays local (Loaves & Fishes is one of the beneficiaries). We've been active in UMCOR special giving with donations of \$653 and 14 health kits (value - \$496). 43 prayer shawls were made this year with 34 of them already shared. 101 health kits + \$303 to cover shipping were delivered to the Thanksgiving Ingathering. 13 people volunteered and delivered meals for Meals on Wheels in November. Linda McVicker will share a Mission Moment on Dec. 10 about Wheelchair Ministry.

**UMW:** See UMW News on page 4 for this report.

**Committee Reports: Administrative Area**

**SPRC:** Shelley H sent a report announcing a special conflict management workshop will be held on Feb. 17 for SPRC and other interested members. It will be held at the Fairview Lodge. Joan Barrett resigned from SPRC and Leadership Dev't recruited Malinda Warwick to fill the open position. A special announcement describing Story City and Grace Church's desires for a new minister was submitted to the Conference. Appointment Timeline: Dec. 1 pastors may ask for specific appointments until this date. Dec. 3 district superintendents retreat to begin matching process to fill Iowa vacancies. Feb-Mar – first appointments will be announced. May-June – all appointments will be completed. Gloria (Terry) moved Malinda be accepted as a new SPRC member. Motion carried.

**Trustees:** Loretta reported projects are being completed...the back steps, women's restroom radiator is being monitored for leaks, parsonage furnace repair. No bill has been received for recent carpet cleaning. Fall outdoor clean-up was successful – Andrea Jensen brought her Daisy scouts and Grace Welke gave them a lesson on tulip planting. Thank you to Sara Dappen for her generous donation. Trustees approved the expense of the restoration, framing and matting of the 1996 panoramic picture of the congregation at that time. Kurt Carlson and David Barclay will serve as co-chairs of the Trustees in 2018.

**Communications:** printed colored copies of the new brochures were sent out with the November *Visitor*. High quality brochures are available for visitors/prospective members.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

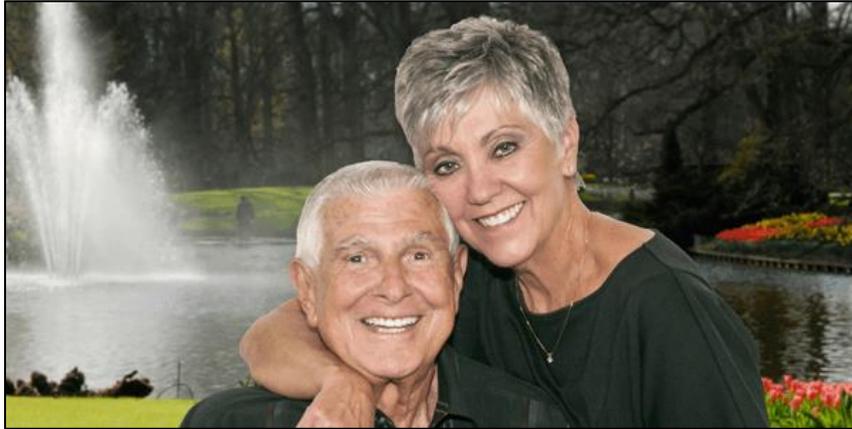
**Next meeting: Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Cathy Hermanson, Recording Secretary





## A BEQUEST TO FURTHER GOOD WORK -- CASE STUDY



Nancy and David were dedicated volunteers. Over the years, they had seen many individuals helped by the good work of their favorite charity. They wanted to create a legacy to provide future resources to continue its mission.

**Dave:** The work of our favorite charity was important to us and we provided support with current gifts, but wanted to do more. We received their newsletter and noted that we could make a gift from our estate and join the legacy society. We saw a picture of smiling people just like us and we wanted to be part of that group.

**Nancy:** We met with our lawyer to revise our wills and we each included a provision for a bequest. Our lawyer put language in the will that allows a percentage of our estate to go to our favorite charity. This was easy to arrange and permits us to still use our assets during our lives if we need them.

We told their gift planner about our decision and were excited when we were invited to a special event honoring us. We will continue to make gifts during our lives, but it feels good to know that our support will help in the future.

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**Grace's Endowment Committee encourages you to consider the various ways your giving can help to Endow Grace, preserving the future of our Church.**

Please contact the church office at 515-733-4712 or [office@grace-umc.com](mailto:office@grace-umc.com) or visit our website at <http://www.grace-umc.com/endowgrace.aspx> .

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You also may want to make it easy and convenient to have a bequest included in your will. The language below shows how a bequest can very easily be included in your will. Please feel free to give this information to your attorney.

**Example bequest language** - Please feel free to change the numbers or percentages as you desire.

### 1. Bequest of cash

"I bequeath the sum of \$10,000 to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

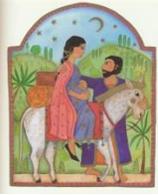
### 2. Bequest of a percent of the estate

"I devise and bequeath 20% of the remainder and residue of property owned at my death, whether real or personal, and wherever located to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

### 3. Contingent Bequest

"If my brother John Doe survives me, I devise and bequeath 20% of the remainder and residue of property owned at my death, whether real or personal, and wherever located to John Doe. If John Doe does not survive me, then I devise and bequeath 20% of my residuary estate, whether real or personal property and wherever located to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

# DECEMBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 
<b>3</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15 Worship - choir, Communion 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school & Confirmation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b>  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship - bells 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school & Confirmation	<b>11</b>  5:30 SPRC	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1:30 UMW  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bell party	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:15 Worship - choir 10:15 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Brunch 11:00 Christmas Program 6:00 Choir party	<b>18</b>  5:30 Finance 7:00 Council	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  7:00 Choir 8:00 NO Bells	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 
<b>24</b> 9:15 Worship - choir NO Sunday school 5:00 Christmas Eve Service w Communion	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  No choir or bells	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>  9:15 Worship NO Sunday school	<b>LOOKING AHEAD</b> <b>Happy New Year!</b> Members of Grace escort Bethany Manor residents to worship on January Sundays. <b>Saturday, February 17</b> – Understanding and Working with Conflict (SPRC, CDT, others)					