



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

www.memorialumc-clinton.com

February 2017

DID YOU KNOW?

Grace

The journey of spiritual formation and confirmation continues on Sunday afternoons. The confirmands, Kim Eby, and I have finished the first unit, Know Your Story. We have begun the second unit, Confirm Your Faith. In our last class we studied and discussed the topic of grace.

We hear and use the word grace a lot in the church, but do we really know of or about grace? A central point of United Methodist theology is our Wesleyan understanding of grace. We affirm that salvation comes entirely through God's grace and God's grace is with us throughout our lives and at every stage of our faith journey.

Grace can be defined as God's favor or as a gift from God. We do nothing to earn God's grace. Grace is the way we experience God's extraordinary love and forgiveness.

In our Wesleyan understanding of grace, we experience grace in three movements. John Wesley identified the three movements with significant means for our ministry. The first movement is *prevenient grace*. This is the grace of God that is present in all of our lives. God's grace is present before we are aware of God. God is continuously seeking us, through other people, through our experiences, and through our consciences.

Justifying grace is the second movement of grace. For many of us, this is the most familiar form of grace. Justifying grace is the grace that brings us into right relationship with God. This, too, is a gift of God, who has acted in and through the life of Jesus. Our responsibility is to respond to God's grace in faith, to make a decision for Christ.

The final movement of God's grace is sanctifying grace. United Methodist's understand salvation to be a process. Gradually, God transforms us into the persons whom God intends for us to be. This gradual transformation is called sanctification. Prayer, service, study and reflection, worship, and many other spiritual practices fuel us to grow and mature in our faith. We continually strive to live like Jesus.

John Wesley compared God's grace to a house. The illustration of a house helps to explain how each movement of God's grace corresponds to a different part of the house.

- **Prevenient Grace—the porch**
Prevenient grace is compared to the porch in the front of the house. When we experience prevenient grace, God has invited us into the house, but we haven't yet accepted the invitation. We are still standing just outside the door.
- **Justifying Grace—the door**
Justifying grace is compared to the door of the house. When we respond to God's invitation and open the door into God's house, we are right with God and have assurance that our sins are forgiven.
- **Sanctifying Grace—the interior**
When we experience justifying grace, we enter the house. And once we are in the house, there are a lot of rooms for us to explore. Sanctifying grace is the grace that guides us when we are inside the house, helping us mature in faith and live a holy life.

Now that you have received a refresher course on the Wesleyan understanding of grace, I invite and encourage you to turn to the last page of the newsletter. On this page you will find some questions for you to think theologically on the topic of God's grace. If you would like to discuss them, see me (or a confirmand)!

Blessings,
Pastor Donna

YUMS (Young United Methodist Students) News

February Wednesday Night Line-Up

We continue our study on the parables of Jesus. Our memory verse is: *Everyone who has ears should pay attention.* –Luke 8:8

2/1—The Good Samaritan
2/8—The Stories of the Lost
2/15—The Forgiving Father
2/22—**Surprise Program!**

Mark Your Calendars...

Wednesday March 1—Ash Wednesday Service

Saturday, April 15th—Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, May 14th—Children's Sunday (YUMS will be leading worship!)

Blessings,

Leanne

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YOUTH NEWS

Resurrection 2017

The youth and their “youthful” leaders had a great time at Resurrection in Pigeon Forge. The speaker, Mick Veach, encouraged us to get out of the boat and to be water walkers for Jesus. The band, Rend Collective, led us with some great music. There was an afternoon of fun at Wonder Works. Thank you to the church for helping to make this trip possible!

Mark your calendar for Resurrection 2018. The dates were announced for January 19-21, 2018 at the LeConte Center in Pigeon Forge, TN. Plans are being made for next year's trip.

Wednesday Night Study Schedule

02/01	Peter	Acts 9-10; 11
02/08	Paul	Acts 8-9, 13; 17; 21; 23; 25; 28; 2 Corinthians 11
02/15	New Creation	Revelation 1; 4-5; 7-9; 11; 21
02/22	Bible Review Game	

Blessings,

Pastor Donna

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REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Pat McBryde, Otto and Marie Briscoe, Lee Wysor, Deloris Johnson, and Ben Edwards. Our Pastor, Church and Church Families; Our Nation's Service Men, Women, and their families.

Flower Donors for FEBRUARY 2017

February 5 Joyce Wilson
February 12 Peggy Perry
February 19 Ken and Joyce Barnes
February 26 Buford and Karen Bray

The Altar Guild has two flower donor openings; one is January 29th and the other is March 12th. If you are interested, please call Libby Freels at 457-6742.

SUMMER CAMP JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH ASSEMBLY

With the warm weather, it is easy for our minds to begin to think about the summer. Summer Camp and Junior and Senior High Assembly are fast approaching.

The brochures for Camp Wesley Woods have arrived. They are in the information rack on the table next to the church office. The church will offer a scholarship again this year and pay one half of the registration fee. The scholarship code can be found on the back of the brochure.

Junior and Senior High Assembly will be held June 26-30, 2017 at Tennessee Wesleyan University. Registration information will be available soon. The church will also scholarship one half of the registration fee for Assembly.

FEBRUARY 2017 CALENDAR

Wed., Feb. 1 5:30p-6:00p Dinner in FH
6:00p-7:15p Bible Study
6:00p-7:15p YUMS
6:00p-7:15p Youth
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice

Thur., Feb. 2 5:30p Food Pantry

Sun., Feb. 5 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service
11:15a "Souper" Bowl Luncheon, FH
1:00p Staff Meeting
4:00p Confirmation Class

Wed., Feb. 8 5:30p-6:00p Dinner in FH
6:00p-7:15p Bible Study
6:00p-7:15p YUMS
6:00p-7:15p Youth
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice

Sun., Feb. 12 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service
4:00p Confirmation Class

Wed., Feb. 15 5:30p-6:00p Dinner in FH
6:00p-7:15p Bible Study
5:30p-7:15p YUMS
5:30p-7:15p Youth
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice

Thur., Feb. 16 5:30p Food Pantry

Sun., Feb. 19 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service

Wed., Feb. 22 5:30p-6:00p Dinner in FH
6:00p-7:15p Bible Study
5:30p-7:15p YUMS
5:30p-7:15p Youth
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice

Sun., Feb. 26 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service
4:00p Confirmation Class

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If the Anderson County Schools are closed, church activities will not meet! You can check on Facebook and the website regarding office hours and weekend activities.

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY

FUND

Lamar Medley

Mark Medley

Designated Property

William McBryde

Juanita Smith
David and Vicki Smith

General
Music

IN HONOR OF

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Dow and Peggy Burton

John and Laura Kramer

General

UMW NEWS

The Grace Circle of United Methodist Women **will not meet** on Thursday, February 2nd.

Don't Forget: "Souper Bowl" Sunday is February 5th. The luncheon will follow the morning services. Please bring your favorite soup/chili dish and join us.

DID YOU KNOW?

Grace

Do people who practice in a non-Christian religion experience God's grace, too?

Two people have experiences of justifying grace—one during his teenage years, the other shortly before her death. Which of these two people has God been more gracious to? (Hint: Matthew 20:1-16)

Sanctifying grace is all about living a holy life. What does a holy life look like?

Why, do you think, do United Methodists baptize infants (as opposed together denominations that baptize only those who are old enough to profess their faith)?

Why do people who have experienced justifying and sanctifying grace still do bad things sometimes?

If you have had an experience of justifying grace, and know that God pardons your sins, is it then OK to go out and live however you want?



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