

GRACE NOTES

**January Birthdays:**

5<sup>th</sup> – Meri Pace

6<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Buck

*Grace Ladies Birthday Lunch: To be scheduled. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the date, time and location!*

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*Brothers and Sisters,*

*I want to say a big thank you to all of you from the Welch family. You have all been incredibly generous during this time of Rachael's pregnancy and the Christmas season. Many of you have given us various gifts that are deeply appreciated. And many of you have offered your gifts, talents, and time unreservedly and selflessly. When possible, we have attempted (and I hope, succeeded) in thanking you personally. But for many of you, your gifts were given either anonymously or as part of a larger group. If this applies to you please accept this as our personal "thank you!" The generosity of our entire church body in this season of our lives has meant a great deal more than we ever thought it would. Thank you all from Nick, Rachael, Zech, and baby boy Welch.*

**January Calendar:**

*1/6/19 – Communion Sunday*

*1/21/19 – Session Meeting, 10:00 a.m.*

*1/27/19 – Congregational Meeting, following worship*

Brothers and Sisters,

Some may see the change of our calendars from December to January as an arbitrary passing of 24 hours. In fact, many cultures have their own distinct new year celebrations that fall on many different days. But others may see it as a significant event to mark a major life change. Regardless of your opinion on this movement from one year in the Gregorian Calendar to the next, I think that on the eve of a new year it seems proper to stop and look back on where we have been. Additionally, it seems appropriate to pause and look forward to the coming year. Chiefly, it is an opportunity to express thanks to God for all He has done in and through us and reaffirm our covenant faithfulness to Him as we pray for His strength for all our needs in the coming year.

So, what does God have in store for 2018? I cannot say with specificity, but what I do know is this: God eagerly desires that you, me, and all of His people live in such a way that we rejoice in His glory. And He has made it explicitly clear in His word just how we are to do that.

- We are to love God with all of our being (*Deuteronomy 6:5*)
- We are to love our neighbors, and even our enemies (*Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 5:43-44*)
- We are to winsomely and fearlessly proclaim the Gospel (*Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 7, Acts 17:22-34, Romans 1:16-17*)
- We are to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*)
- We are to endure persecution (*Romans 8:35*)
- We are to eagerly await Christ's return (*Hebrews 9:27-28*)

All of these and more are what we are called to in Christ as we rejoice in His glory. That is, we rejoice in all of God's manifold perfections. And it is my prayer that 2018 will find you

	<b>LAY READER</b>	<b>GREETERS &amp; USHERS</b>
6	Sharon Grace	Eileen Blankenship & Rita Heikura
13	John Christ	Marylin Harrington & Jan Mauck
20	John Pitzer	June Watson & Betty Clough
27	Mike Krause	Don VonTungeln & Fred Lennard

**COMMUNION – JANUARY: JOHN CHRIST    FEBRUARY: JIM RAY**

and I following hard after Christ for our joy and His glory. The Puritan prayer book, *The Valley of Vision*, has a wonderful prayer for the new year that I ask you to join me in praying for the coming year:

*O LORD, length of days does not profit me except the days are passed in thy presence, in thy service, to thy glory. Give me a grace that precedes, follows, guides, sustains, sanctifies, aids every hour, that I may not be one moment apart from thee, but may rely on thy Spirit to supply every thought, speak in every word, direct every step, prosper every work, build up every mote of faith, and give me a desire to show forth thy praise; testify thy love, advance thy kingdom.*

*I launch my bark [ship] on the unknown waters of this year, with thee, O Father, as my harbour, thee, O Son, at my helm, thee, O Holy Spirit, filling my sails. Guide me to heaven with my loins girt, my lamp burning, my ear open to thy calls, my heart full of love, my soul free. Give me thy grace to sanctify me, thy comforts to cheer, thy wisdom to teach, thy right hand to guide, thy counsel to instruct, thy law to judge, thy presence to stabilize. May thy fear be my awe, thy triumphs my joy.*

## **Peace and Rest, Pastor Nick**

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

#### **Children**

Evelyn, Adele and Elijah attended Christmas Eve worship with their parents and grandmother, Kathy Gaustad. Each child was given a Christmas gift bag of Nativity activities, fruit and goodies from Grace Sunday School.

#### **Adult Bible Study**

Gerry Watson led a small group, four-week study of Advent, *The Advent of Christ: Hope, Joy, Peace, Love and Truth*. We met on Tuesday afternoons in December, in the homes of June & Gerry Watson and Marge & Neil McDowell. Others attending were Betty, Jan, Jim and Sharon, Charlie and Nancy.

Be looking for a new adult study to begin mid-to-late January.

Elder Betty Clough, Christian Education Chair

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## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

We had a five-week Bible Study during Advent. We focused on the four weeks of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. Those attending were the McDowells, the Rays, the Watson, the Bucks, Jan, Betty and a couple from another church Bill and Denise Lawrence. Sessions were held at the church facility and at the Watson and McDowell residences. This was a lively group with plenty of questions and or comments. The study was led by Gerry Watson.

We are planning a five or six week adult bible study to begin in late January or early February. We plan on using a book and study guide and DVD's by Bob Goff. Bob is a lawyer who found God and became a missionary and started a mission called LOVE DOES in Uganda. All proceeds for his book and study materials go to the mission. I think you will enjoy the down to earth content of this study.

We are also planning to have a study during Lent. This will start on or about Ash Wednesday February 6<sup>th</sup>. And ending on or about Palm Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>. We are still in the planning stage o if you want to be a part of the study and want to have input on the study content please contact Betty or Gerry.

Gerry Watson

## **MISSIONS**

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> The Weed Christmas Committee, Martin Nicholas, and Evelyn Smith delivered boxes of food from many different stores and placed the food into 150 bags donated by Tri Counties Bank. On Friday, a team of 21 braced themselves for the onslaught as more than 170 men, women, and some children paced through the social hall of Grace Community Presbyterian Church to receive a bag of food including sugar, flower, butter, eggs, celery, bread, canned fruit and vegetables, sweet potatoes, apples, oranges, tangerines, and turkey. Enough to feed a family of six.

This continued a tradition that was started back in 1978 by the late Grace Ragsdale who was a member of Grace Presbyterian Church. Even with the rain and cold and wind we managed to survive and celebrate a wonderful day helping those in need.

Gerry Watson

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## **FINANCE**

We are going to finish 2018 with a deficit of expenses over income of about \$7,000.00. We had budget for a deficit of \$6,000.00. Actual figures will not be available until year end deposits and

checks are accounted for. A year-end report will appear in the annual report scheduled for Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship.

We are still working on the 2019 budget. After we projected both income and expenses it was determined that we would need to alter some of the expenses.

In 2018 we received faith pledges of \$50,000.00. So far in 2019 we have only received \$45,000.00. If you have not yet submitted a faith pledge and intend on doing so, please do so during the first week of January.

Through the monthly Grace Notes you will be informed as to how we are meeting our income and expense projections.

We do have some funds in reserve, however we do not want to use them to balance our budget projections. Of course, they will be used as situations arise where we must draw from the reserves.

Gerry Watson