

# Word of Grace

*LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory above the heavens. . . .*

*When I consider your heavens,*

*the work of your fingers,*

*the moon and the stars,*

*which you have set in place,*

*what are mere mortals that you are mindful of them,*

*human beings that you care for them?* Psalm 8:1, 3-4 (TNIV)

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## New and Improved!

It's a slogan to get us to buy a product we have used before. Often it will tout the attributes of a new formula or some additive. No matter how we look at it, the product has changed! Humans so enjoy consistency and peace, we can easily slip into a resistant form of change called the status quo. Certainly, one must be cautious about some change, but lets face it, no change brings unwanted results.

Remember, water that stands still begins to stink. Is that too harsh? Maybe it could be called a simple warning. Look around. Nothing stays static without stagnating or dying. Since we wish to do neither, change just might be a good thing. We can examine it and be cautious, but change will happen.

Rejecting change just because we had never done that before? What kind of statement is that? Are we afraid or uncertain? What about faith? Ever walk on water? I am sure that Peter had second thoughts. Even Peter had to admit, most change deserves at least a test or trial. And even when it fails, Jesus is still there to rescue.

Remember, doing the same thing twice and expecting different results is one definition of insanity. We humans do a lot of that. I am amazed that God puts up with us, but he does. We have a great deal to be thankful for in 2009, what makes you think that the same God who walked us through 2009 won't be there for 2010? What do we have to fear? What do we have that will defeat us? Can we believe God?

I don't know what 2010 will bring, but I do know the One who walks before me. He is my shepherd, He is my Lord, He is called counselor, the mighty God, the Prince of Peace. That is my Lord, and He is primed and ready for a new year!

Blessed New Year,

*Earl*

## In the Word

Jan. 3	Acts 10-16
Jan. 10	Acts 17-23
Jan. 17	Acts 24-28
	Romans 1-2
Jan. 24	Romans 3-9
Jan. 31	Romans 10-16

## Angel Food Ministries

### Beginning in January, Grace Church

will no longer process Angel Food Orders. This decision was based strictly on the small amount of orders that we were processing though our church and the fact that those who desire to place orders for Angel Food may still do so by ordering through the First Church of the Nazarene at 2931 W 24<sup>th</sup> Street, located just north of the Emporia Wal-Mart. You may call 342-2858 for more information or go to [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) to order on line or to receive their ordering information.

Our Angel Food staff has enjoyed being part of this ministry and encourages those looking for a way to save money on food to continue using this service. The Mission Ministry will continue to look for more ways that we may be able to serve the people of our community. A special thank you to all the volunteers who have made the last 2 ½ years with Angel Food Ministries a joy.

# January Events

## Our regular weekly schedule:

### Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School Music  
 9:15 am Sunday School  
 10 am Worship Service  
 6:30 pm Interactive Worship Service

### Monday

6 pm Cub Scouts  
 7 pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday

9 am Bible Study  
 5:30 pm Girl Scouts

### Wednesday

5:30 Worship Planning Ministry  
 7 pm Voices of Grace

### Sunday January 3

11:30 Health & Wellness Ministry  
 12 pm Membership Ministry

### Tuesday January 5

7 pm Phebe Group

### Wednesday January 6

No Youth Group

### Friday January 8

6 pm Barham Wedding Rehearsal

### Saturday January 9

7 pm Barham Wedding

### Sunday January 10

11:30 am Missions Ministry

### Wednesday January 13

2 pm Abigail & Joanna  
 5 pm Abundant Harvest  
 6 pm Youth Group

### Thursday January 14

7 pm Finance Ministry

### Saturday January 16

Martin Luther King Brisket Fundraiser

### Sunday January 17

11:30 am Church Council  
 1 pm Education Ministry

### Sunday January 24

4 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Monday January 25

5 pm Abundant Harvest

### Wednesday January 27

1:30 pm Create to Share

## Giving Thanks

Dear Grace Church,  
 Thank you so much for the lovely plate of cookies. They were delicious.  
 With love,  
 Irene Hopkins



I wish to thank everyone for the many calls and all the prayers being sent for me. Visits and calls from Kathy Williams, Joan Parks, Sally Holliman and Pastor Detwiler are so very much appreciated.

Thank you, all my Christian Family.

Berniece Kelley



Dear Friends in Christ,  
 What a wonderful blessing! We thank you so much for your gift to Living Water United Methodist Church. We continue to try to get the word out to all we can! We are now worshipping on Sunday mornings and we have groups that meet on Wednesday nights. God continues to bless us- new people find their way to the church- with your help!

All the best!

Pam McGuire



Grace United Methodist Women,  
 Thanks for remembering me with a fruit & cookie plate and the bag for my walker. It was all much appreciated as was the nice visit by Santa's elf-Judy Kewley. With love and blessings to all,  
 Alice Conrade



Dear Friends at Grace Church,  
 We are so happy because you gave clothes to the people who need it. We appreciate that you give to the Riverside families. You are welcome at any time you would like to come to our school. We are happy that you gave to the people who need to keep warm. I am in fourth grade and I like when people give.

From your friend Sam (a student at Riverside)



Thank you for making our holiday MUCH brighter! We appreciate your generosity. From the students and families of Riverside School.

The Riverside Tigers



I am the mother of a 4 year old girl who had no hopes for holiday giving. I am

staying with friends and very desperate. The Women of Worship, United Methodist Women of Grace UMC, adopted my daughter and me and saw to it we will have a wonderful Christmas. I had nowhere to turn, and they appeared. I also received a box of Angel Food to share with the family that we are staying with, and it was a wonderful blessing.

I need to know that all of you will know what you have done for my daughter and I, and we will never forget your kindness. (A friend who needed some help.)

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Grace Church's Susan Fowler will be the featured speaker at the upcoming Martin Luther King Worship Celebration for 2010. Susan will speak on the theme, "Powerful Beyond Measure." The worship service will be held on Monday, January 18 at 7 pm at First Congregational Church, 12th & State Street, Emporia.

The program will include participation from local clergy and community leaders, as well as participation from Emporia State University students. The service is a collaborative effort between Emporia churches and Emporia State University. Additional activities include a Candlelight Walk from the ESU Library to First Congregational Church beginning at 5:15, and an International Dinner from 5:30-7 pm, also at First Congregational Church. All are invited to attend! For more information, contact Earl and Kathy Williams.

## New Sunday School Class

"The Parables of Jesus Christ" - A discussion and study class began on December 27 at 9:15 in the Noah's Ark room and will be held each Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour. The only resource used will be the Bible. No assignments, but group participation is required. All are invited to attend!! For more information about this study, please contact Bud Utley.