

# WORD OF GRACE

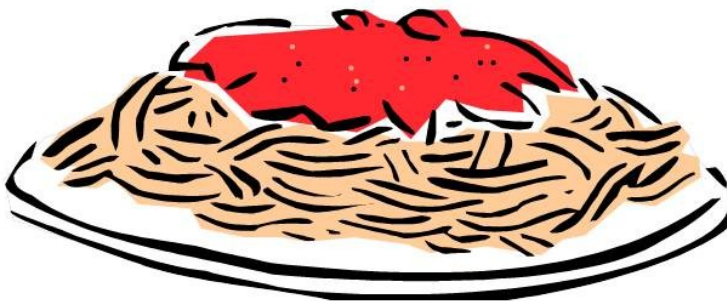
FEBRUARY 2012

VOLUME 127 NUMBER 2



Please join us for our...

## Spaghetti Dinner!



**Sunday, February 12, 2012**

(following our morning worship service.)

*Your free will donations will support our  
Spring Mission Trip.*

**Grace United Methodist Church  
South Ave. & Neosho St.  
Emporia, KS**



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN	2
MISSION MINISTRY	3
PRAYERS AND THANKS	4
ANNOUNCEMENTS	5



### IN THE WORD

Feb 6  
Psalms 126-132

Feb 12  
Psalms 133-139

Feb 19  
Psalms 140-146

Feb 28  
Psalms 147-150  
Proverbs 1-3



## From the Pastor's Pen ...February 2012

I love the month of February! It's the month of Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and it is perched at the tail end of winter with the promise of spring on the horizon. There are family birthdays: my dad, Duane Daniel, was born on Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1931, and my grandfather, George Kauffman, was born on Valentine's Day in 1896. February is bittersweet also; my dad died on George Washington's birthday in 1993 and we buried him two cold, wet days later, which happened to be Ash Wednesday that year.

The reason I mention this is because all of us, sooner or later, have anniversaries of those days when our loved ones leave this life. It is a challenge we all face in life of how to deal with grief and loss, and how to meaningfully move on. When I was in seminary, I learned that there are stages of grieving: Numbness and Shock come first, Denial soon follows, then Anger and Sadness. We may want to Bargain with God—suggesting that we will do something with our lives if only we could have our loved one back. Eventually we come to Acceptance, but it may take months, and we often cycle through the other feelings before Acceptance comes. Oftentimes we can take care of the “business” surrounding death even when we are still in one of these earlier phases.

*What wound did ever  
heal but by degrees?*

William Shakespeare  
*Othello*

*I trust in you, Lord, but  
keep helping me in my  
many moments of  
distrust and doubt.*

Henri Nouwen  
*Heart Speaks to Heart*

Each person grieves in ways unique to themselves, so there is no pattern you must follow. Some people may pick up the pieces of their lives easily, only to have sad days when anniversaries or other special days come. Others may lack the interest in life they had before, but as they think about how far they have come, they may feel relieved and proud. For many persons it is helpful to have a ritual and to share it with others.

One couple lost their young daughter years ago. Every year the woman and her husband held a small celebration on the child's birthday to commemorate her brief life. No one else knew that they did this—not even their two other children. When the husband died, the woman felt doubly apprehensive as the child's birthday approached. A friend suggested that she tell her two remaining children (now adults) about this tradition and ask them to join her for the ritual this year. They were deeply touched and very glad to share this celebration; it became a new and rich family tradition that deepened their relationship.\*

Some years ago I attended workshops about Children's Grief. The presenter said that many of the “problem behaviors” of children, such as ADHD, really stem from unresolved grief. These same unresolved feelings may follow us into adulthood and wreak havoc there too. He helped us to understand children's grief on both a cognitive level and an emotional level, and persuaded me of the value of children of all ages being a part of family events when a loved one has passed. If there is enough interest in the congregation, we may offer a workshop on children's grief. Let me know if you are interested.

Each loved one that has gone before us has touched us in meaningful ways. Their particular qualities, if they have rubbed off on us, help to make us who we are. And so, you could say, they are with us in those ways. As Christians, we do not grieve as those who had no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14), because our hope is in God, who made heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again that we may have life everlasting.



May God bless you with all joy and peace in believing. *Pastor Susan*

\*Kenneth C. Hauck, *Journeying through Grief, Book Four: Rebuilding and Remembering*

**MISSION MINISTRY -**  
*Caring for others...this is what we do!*  
*Peace begins when the hungry are fed.*

Thank you to everyone who signed up to help at Abundant Harvest. We serve on the second Wednesday and the fourth Monday of each month. It takes only about one hour to fulfill this service and we need a team of 5 each time we serve. This is not hard work and it so great to see the community offering a warm meal to those who may not eat if it were not for Abundant Harvest.

You may choose to sign up for one day a month or maybe just one time but your participation is welcome and you will be pleased with the personal gratification you will receive in this service to others.

I hope you will look at the signup board, located on the table outside of the elevator on the main floor, and select one day to work. We have set Feb. 29 as our goal to fill these team spots and we hope you will consider this opportunity to serve. Many churches and local groups volunteer as a team and "Team Grace" is just one of those teams. COME AND HELP!

BLANKETS- We still have some of the blankets and pillowcases we received last year from the University of Missouri linen recycle program. If you know of someone who could benefit from these items please contact Kitty at the church office 342-2240.

**Spring Mission Trip** – Grace UMC is planning a mission trip during spring break; the exact dates are to be determined (between March 16-24). We will stay at Canyon Camp, a UM camp 40 miles west of Oklahoma City. We will engage in mission work at the camp as well as in Oklahoma City. A visit to the Oklahoma City Memorial will also be included. The cost for this mission trip will be modest, and we do plan to work together to raise funds for some of our expenses. For more information please contact Pastor Susan, 342-2240 or Jill Lynch at 343-3639, or sign up on the registration sheet, located on the table by the elevator on the main floor.

After church Sunday, February 12, a spaghetti dinner will be held at Grace Church to raise money for the mission trip. Please plan to stay for this enjoyable meal.

***When you receive our call for help please say yes! Come and let's work together to find new ways to meet the needs of our community and remain in partnership with the greater connectional ministry of The United Methodist Church!***

**The Flint Hills District** has asked all the churches to be in prayer for each other, and a different church or organization is selected each week. Let us all be in prayer for the churches, ministries and UMC organizations as well as for the ministers and staff associated with them.

This month we pray for:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 5  | Flint Hills District<br>(District Leadership Team and<br>District Committees) |
| Feb. 12 | Emporia Grace   |
| Feb. 19 | Emmanuel  |
| Feb. 26 | Missionaries/Diaconal Ministers   |

**Parish Visitors Ministry**--Parish visitors call on friends and neighbors who are unable to attend church, those in the hospital, and those living in long-term care facilities. We meet monthly on the first Thursday at 5:30 pm in the church library to share news of our visits and include new members and friends who need to receive a visit. Anyone interested in joining this very vital ministry is welcome to come and join us. If you would like to know more about this ministry please contact Sally Holliman at 342-4172 or you may contact Pastor Susan at

*Giving Thanks-*

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you so much for your gift of \$403.42 to purchase animals for Heifer International, where it has already been put to work toward igniting transformation in families and projects all over the world.*

*While it's winter here at home, thousands of families around the world are entering into their summer harvest, with an abundance of fruits and vegetables for the first time ever, thanks to the gift of livestock and training in their care. A new confidence in sustainable livelihoods allows project participants to grow ever more self-reliant, rather than face hopelessness and defeat.*

*Best of all, through our cornerstone Pass on the Gift, another family will receive the animals and training they need to start a powerful and life-changing journey of their own. Thank you for making this possible.*

*Sincerely,*

*Pierre U. Ferrari*

Sunday School	9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 am

**Community Care Points Sent In**

Community Point receipts totaling 693 points were sent in January 6. Each point means that \$25 in purchases were made from either Price Chopper or the north or south Country Mart Stores, representing a total of \$17,325 in grocery purchases to these local merchants. The church in turn will receive a check which helps support our Missions Ministry.

**Thank you** for shopping at these stores and **saving** the Community Care Points. Each point is a blessing!

Have you checked out the Grace Church website recently? Mark Kewley graciously volunteered to maintain it. Thanks, Mark!

<http://www.emporiagrace.org>

GRACE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

2 Neosho St.  
(South Ave. and Neosho St.)  
Emporia, KS 66801  
Phone: 620-342-2240

E-mail: [emporiagraceumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emporiagraceumc@sbcglobal.net)



**We're on the Web!**

<http://www.emporiagrace.org>

**Campbell's Soup Labels, Best Choice Labels, and Community Care Points from Country Mart stores and Price Chopper help our church and others.** Labels and points may be left in the church library in the designated container.



**Save-A-Label**

**facebook**

Find us on FACEBOOK!

<http://www.facebook.com>

Then search for  
Grace Church.

Remember to check the Grace UMC Calendar!

<http://calendar.yahoo.com/graceunited@sbcglobal.net/7c1779f4b85e2762002da48e83c72c23?od=131>