

Word of Grace

In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." Isaiah 25:9 (New International Version)

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Missions Ministry

In the Word

Create to Share

Meals of Grace Cookbook

Health & Wellness Ministry

Library News

Calendar of Events

Giving to Build

Mexican Dinner

Flint Hills Prayer Calendar

Christian Education

Annual Conference

Page 2

Page 3

Hanging of the Greens
Page 3



Personally, I want it BACK!

Halloween, or traditionally known as "All Hallowed Eve," meaning the day before a Holy Day (All Saints Day, November 1) brings an interesting discussion regarding this October 31 event and its roots. In the 9th century Christians moved All Saints Day to November 1. While American and British media have contributed to the ghoulish, monster-laden segments, the Irish have their part in its history as a harvest celebration from the Celts.

The pumpkin was actually an American adaptation of the Irish story about Jack. The legend has it that Jack was kind of a miserly fellow who played tricks on the Devil. One time he persuaded the Devil to climb a tree, then Jack carved a cross on the tree, trapping the Devil. In response, the Devil cursed Jack to wander the land with his lantern made from a turnip. In the U.S. the turnip became a pumpkin.

Other countries brought such things as "Trick or Treat," which basically was an invitation to do "ornery" games or tricks. Dunking for apples, party and festivities

all come from different societies. As is true with many American celebrations, it is a combination of many cultures along with media influence.

For Christians, Halloween is the day before a Holy Day, similar to Mardi Gras before the beginning of Lent. Perhaps it would be interesting to reclaim the holiday as a Christian "All Hallowed Eve" and adopt practices of celebration that reflect the meaning of the holiday for us. In general, All Saints Day is a time to remember all the great people of faith.

If we were to combine the traditions of the American Halloween with the spiritual dimensions of "All Hallowed Eve," we might come up with an event that reflects our rich Christian heritage of our forbearers, including great people of the Bible. Our costumes could be Biblical characters rather than ghouls and goblins. Our theme could be "Remember the Bible Stories" rather than scare someone into the next county. Our purpose could be to bless and share joy of Christ rather than sneak around in the darkness and cause mayhem.

I guess I want to remember God's people and celebrate the rich heritage that our forbears gave us. Hmm. I might

dress up like Brother Van Orsdall. He founded Methodism in the headwaters of the Missouri River. He held his first Methodist worship service in a saloon at Fort Bridger, Montana. He hunted buffalo with the Blackfeet Indians and was good friends with a western painter by the name of Charlie Russell. You want Halloween back, too?

Shall we pray: *O God, over the centuries you have given us leaders and people to help everyone find you every day. You have been generous with the many celebrations to remind us of who you are, your presence and love. Today, Lord, we pray that we can recapture every opportunity to know you more every day of our lives. Lead us, we pray, and we give you the glory. In Christ. AMEN!*

Pastor Earl

Print copies of the *Word of Grace* are in the church library for members who do not have email.

Missions Ministry

Until November 9 we will be collecting food to send to the Bishop's Round-up, Please put your items in the grocery cart marked Bishop's Round-up. The cart is in the new entrance way. Please see the list of suggested items below.

Food Commercially Prepared - No Commodities or Glass Jars

Suggested items:

- Canned fruit Corn
- Green beans Macaroni & cheese
- Mixed vegetables Tuna
- Cereal (that children like)
- Peanut butter Spaghetti
- Spaghetti sauce 1lb dried beans
- Crackers Ramen noodles
- 1 lb. Rice Soup
- Canned meat Toilet paper
- Paper towels

Please don't forget to bring food items for the **Salvation Army** cart as well. The food is picked up every Thursday morning, and they count on our help.

Angel Food Ministries November delivery & order times:

- Mon-Thurs 10 am-4 pm
- Fri Nov 6 4 - 6 pm
- Sat Nov 7 11 am-1 pm

No orders may be placed after 1 pm on Mon, Nov 9

Delivery date is Sat Nov 21 at 8:30 am

The November Menu may be picked up in the church office, or you may go to emporiagrace.org and follow the link to angelfoodministries.com.

For Sale: Meals of Grace Cookbook

Soup, salads, breads, desserts, tips for healthy cooking, meal planning, and cooking for a crowd are all found in *Meals of Grace*, the new cookbook published by the Health and Wellness Ministry. The book is sold after worship services. Suggested donation for the cookbook is \$15. All proceeds will be donated to the church general fund.

Our regular weekly schedule:

- Sun**
8:45 am Sunday School Music
9:15 am Sun School
9:30 am Prayer
10 am Worship Service
6:30 pm Interactive Worship Service - A time of singing praise, prayer and discussion about anything the group wishes.
- Mon**
6 pm Cub Scouts
7 pm Boy Scouts
- Tues**
9 am Bible Study
5:30 pm Girl Scouts
- Wed**
5:30 pm Worship Planning Ministry
7 pm Voices of Grace

November Events

- Sunday November 1**
11:30 am Health & Wellness Ministry
12 pm Membership Ministry
- Monday November 2**
5:30 pm Trustees Ministry

- Tuesday November 3**
6 pm Mexican Dinner Committee Meeting

- Thursday November 5**
10-4 pm Angel Food orders
7 pm Simple Gifts Concert

- Friday November 6**
2-6 pm Angel Food orders

- Saturday November 7**
8:30 am UMW Executive meeting
10 am UMW General meeting
11 am- 1:00 Angel Food orders
Fish Fry East Side Community

- Sunday November 8**
9 am Coffee With The Pastor
11:30 am Healthy Lunch

- Tuesday November 10**
6 pm Mexican Dinner Committee
7 pm Phebe Group

- Wednesday November 11**
2 pm Joanna
5 pm Abundant Harvest

- Thursday November 12**
7 pm Finance Ministry

- Saturday November 14**
10 am Health & Wellness Presentation: Advance Directives and Living Wills
5-7:30 pm Mexican Dinner

- Sunday November 15**
11:30 am Church Council
1 pm Education Ministry

- Wednesday November 18**
2 pm Abigail Group

- Saturday November 21**
7 am Angel Food Distribution

- Sunday November 22**
4 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry

- Monday November 23**
5 pm Abundant Harvest

- Thursday November 26**
Thanksgiving Day

- Saturday November 28**
9 am Hanging of the Greens

- Monday November 30**
6:30 Staff Parish Ministry
7 pm Annual Conference

Looking Ahead

- December 12** Chili Feed

FLINT HILLS DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

- Nov. 1 Lebo-Olivet
- Nov. 8 Waterville/Blue Rapids
- Nov. 15 Axtell/Beattie
- Nov 22 St. George/ Louisville
- Nov. 29 Missionaries

Let us pray. *Heavenly and merciful Father, we lift up the Flinthills District of the United Methodist Church. Always we seek your guidance as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray for the churches, ministries, and United Methodist organizations, that they will listen to your wishes for them so that their activities will be pleasing to you and help them to foster discipleship. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

In the Word

Nov. 1	Mark 8-14
Nov. 8	Mark 15-16 & Luke 1-5
Nov 15	Luke 6-12
Nov. 22	Luke 13-19
Nov. 29	Luke 20-24 & John 1-2

Health & Wellness Ministry

will have a workshop on "**Advance Directives and Living Wills**" on November 14 at 10 am in the Grace UMC parlor. Presenters are Cory Palmer Hopkins, Hospice Consultant, and Dawn Benson LBSW. Whether you are 18 or 80, documenting your wishes today means your family won't have to make difficult decisions later. This program will help you "L" earn about options "I" mplement a plan "V" oice your plan to others "E" ngage others to live
This is an open workshop for the community.

Soup Luncheon November 8

Enjoy a soup luncheon after the worship service November 8. The Health and Wellness Ministry will prepare a healthy menu from its new cookbook, available for purchase that day. The freewill offering for the meal will be donated to the church general fund. Enjoy a healthy meal, buy a cookbook, and contribute to the church's general fund.

Giving to Build

At the end of the last quarterly report the receipts were \$347, 395. What a blessing for our congregation to be able to accomplish this.

The end of the first mile giving will be March 11. This is the time to evaluate where each of us stand. Let us make an effort to complete our pledge. Also, we should search our hearts and see if we are able to make a *second mile* pledge to help retire the \$68,017 debt we still owe.

Yours in Christ,
Brenda Street co-chair
Charlene Utley co-chair

Christian Education

How will you spend this Advent season?

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation when we make ourselves ready for the coming or birth of Jesus Christ. We celebrate Advent by thanking God for Jesus Christ and for his presence with us today as revealed through the Holy Spirit. Advent will begin on Sunday, November 29 and last until December 20.

How do you plan to celebrate this important season this year? We have a couple of suggestions to offer:

- Advent wreaths and devotions will be available on November 29 right after service. You may sign up in fellowship hall or call the office during the month of November to reserve one for your family. This will allow you and your family a time of prayer and devotion in the comfort of your own home.
- Advent bible studies will be available each Sunday morning at 9:15 and on Tuesday evenings at 7. Please consider joining one of these groups and learning more about the significance of this season of preparation and what it means for you.

Each new season brings a new opportunity for growth. How will you spend your time in this season?

Wanted: Sunday School Youth Teacher

Thank you to Marilyn Harbaugh for accepting the role of Sunday School teacher for our young children. We appreciate her willingness to offer this ministry in the spiritual building of our children. We are still in need of a youth Sunday School teacher. Our youth are wondering who will help prepare their hearts in the way of the Lord.....Is it you? If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Kathy (342-2240).

CREATE TO SHARE

Wednesday, Dec. 16 10 am, Cookie Day, annual cookie delivery to shut-ins

Note: Create to Share will not meet in Nov. or Dec.

Library News

Quicker than expected, the holidays will be upon us. To get in the mood, go to the library and check out *Christmas Shoes*, *Christmas Blessing*, *Christmas Hope*, or *Christmas Promise*. These books have much to offer. They are the type of book you won't be able to put down. Connie has her own library of these at home that she shares with friends each holiday season. If the ones in the library are checked out, please give Connie a call at 343-9500.

Mexican Dinner- Want a night out? Want a break from cooking? Grace United Methodist Church is having a Mexican Dinner on Saturday November 14 from 5 to 7:30 pm. We are accepting freewill offerings for this meal, which means your generosity is limited only by your obedience to God's prompting. (For those who need more concrete guidelines, a family of four can expect to spend \$56 for dinner at Carlos O'Kellys or Casa Ramos. If you can't match the market price, try to donate at least half.) All proceeds from the dinner will go to the general budget of the church. Please come and enjoy this evening of good food and fellowship.

Find Grace - Live Grace

The Annual Conference for 2009 has been set for Monday, November 30 at 7 pm. We hope everyone will come and enjoy this evening when we celebrate the missions and ministries of Grace United Methodist Church for this past year.

Hanging of the Greens

Please join the worship team on Saturday, November 28, at 9 am for hanging of the greens. All ages are welcome to help decorate the church for the Advent season. Meet us in the sanctuary, and we will find a job for you. Come for the fellowship and fun as we begin to prepare our hearts and the church building for the Christmas season.