

Pastor's Corner

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

May God's grace fill your new year with peace and joy! As we step into a brand new year, we do so with hearts full of gratitude. The past year held its share of celebrations, challenges, prayers answered, and lessons learned. Through it all, God proved faithful. We can look back and clearly see moments where God's grace sustained us and God's hand guided us forward.



Rev. Beth Petzke

At the same time, a new year invites us not to live in yesterday, but to embrace what God desires to do next. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God specializes in new beginnings. God is not finished with us, nor is God's work among us complete. Each new season carries fresh opportunities for growth, healing, and renewed purpose.

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"

— Isaiah 43:18-19

Faith reminds us that God was working even when we couldn't see the outcome. Walking by faith means trusting God beyond what is visible or predictable. The year ahead will likely include moments that stretch us, but faith assures us that God's promises are sure. God never asks us to walk alone—only to trust God step by step.

"We live by faith, not by sight." — 2 Corinthians 5:7

Scripture reminds us that God's ability far exceeds our expectations. What lies ahead is not limited by what we have seen before. God is always at work, often in ways beyond what we can imagine or predict.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."

— Ephesians 3:20

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31. Yet, people set new intentions or resolutions — ways or goals to do better, to improve, to be more. As people of faith, God invites us to dream big. It's an opportunity to bring our hopes, dreams, and challenges before God and set them with God. Our actions have an impact — on our lives and others.

There is something refreshing about new beginnings. With God, a new beginning is always possible with the gift of forgiveness and grace. May God be that which you can lean on in your weak or painful moments.

May you know God as your rock, your shelter, your strength, your wing of comfort and support...

- As we strive to live our lives well...
- As we enjoy the treasures we've found in faith...
- As we continue to surrender ourselves to God...
- As we journey into the unknown territory of a new year...
- As we hurt in the process of loving our enemies...
- As we learn to accept our weaknesses and our strengths...
- As we open our hearts to the messengers God sends to us...
- As we stay faithful to our relationship with God...
- As we give of ourselves to the poor and the powerless...
- As we keep searching for the truth...
- As we try to live in the heart of the scriptures...
- As we accept God's constant love for us.

Live boldly as God's beloved, remembering who you are, and who you belong to as we journey together through the new year together, with God at the center - knowing we can start anew anytime because of God's love for us.

God grant us wisdom for the new year, filled with peace, prosperity, and love as Grace United Church of Christ, God's beloved people - today and always.

New Year Blessings,

Pastor Beth



December has been busy for Church Council! One of the big decisions was about the parsonage. Our renters left at the beginning of November, and we have been working to prepare and find another family to rent it. While doing so, the possibility of using a rental management company was also discussed. Paul Green did a lot of the heavy lifting to find information and to meet with a company, and the council decided to use Blue Frog to help us with the property going forward. They will help with collecting rent and doing small repairs on the parsonage, while contacting us when bigger issues need to be fixed. We believe that we will be able to collect more rent, which will cover the cost of the services, and this helps our budget in the long run. Special thanks to Paul, Dan, and the board members for helping with some difficult decisions, and thank you to all of you for all you do to help Grace to move forward into the new year!

Happy Day!
Sarah Montgomery

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

JANUARY 4 - WORSHIP AT 8 & 10 A.M.
GRACE SENIOR CHOIR WILL BE SINGING
SPECIAL MUSIC: AT THE 10 A.M. SERVICE

JANUARY 11 - WORSHIP AT 10 A.M. WITH
SPECIAL MUSIC.

JANUARY 18 - WORSHIP AT 10 A.M.
GRACE SENIOR CHOIR WILL BE SINGING

JANUARY 25 - 9 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP AT 10 A.M.
FOLLOWED BY
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.



'JANUARY LUNCH WITH FRIENDS'

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 28TH - 1PM - CAFE BELLAS
725 INDIANA AVE., SHEBOYGAN



January Bible Study

TUESDAYS 6-7 p.m.

January 6 - Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12)

January 13 -- TBD

January 20 - Creation Stories (Genesis 1:2-2:4)

January 27 - Creation Stories (Genesis 2:5-25)



**FOLLOWING ARE
BRIEF THANKS FOR
DECEMBER ACTIVITIES!
LOOK FOR A 2026 MID-JANUARY
DETAILED GRATITUDE
GRACE NOTES WITH ADDITIONAL
DETAILS AND PICTURES!**

- With appreciation for Rosemary Lohseto for coordinating, and thanks to the Daughters of Grace and all friends who helped to decorate the church in preparation for the Advent season. The visual enhancements offered us new ways to experience our faith.
- Thanks to all who made the Community Christmas Caroling event possible and successful on December 14th. We give effusive thanks to the musicians and singers who gave of their time and talents: Grace Senior Choir, Sue Hildebrandt, Drea and Duane Ream, Markus Anderson, Marlea and Curt Joa, and Joya Cox.
- With gratitude to all who supported the Giving Tree. This support provides gifts for Project Angel Hugs, benefiting children with cancer. Great gratitude for your generosity. Thanks to Carol & Mike Skeris for delivering the gifts.
- Continued thanks to all those who meet weekly to help count offerings with Dan Montgomery.
- Thanks to our Property Committee chair, Paul Green, for all of his hard work on the church building, grounds, and parsonage. 'Behind the scenes work' gets done and rarely gets lifted up! We appreciate you!
- Thank you - to all of you - for your continued generosity to Grace Church, supporting the mission and ministry of spreading the good news of God's love for all!
- Blessings to Pastor Beth for a heart-touching 'Blue Christmas' service. Not all feel the 'merry, merry' of Christmas and we ARE thankful to be able to feel all the feels during this season.

**-THANKS TO ALL WHO SHARED THEIR
NATIVITY SCENES/CRECHES WITH US**

ROSEMARY & WAYNE LOHSE
LAURIE & CURT JOA
BETTY JONES
LISA & MIKE ROLLOFF
BETH & DAN PETZKE
KAREN GROTH
MARGE & HANK HORNECK
SUE KAISER



**-THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH
THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
TELLING THE STORY IN A NEW WAY.**

**NOLAN WATERMAN
HENRY MCKNIGHT
RAELYNN PESKIE
BRANDON PAYNE
ANGELA PESKIE
LAURA WATERMAN
DAN MONTGOMERY
SHOSHI MCKNIGHT
BECKY PAYNE
CURT JOA**

**Thanks for Dan Petzke
AND the creative
photographs and covers
he created for
Christmas Eve and Day.
These added to our
rejoicing in Jesus' birth.**



**If you are interested in having
weekly offering envelopes,
please let the
church office know.**

financial corner

If you cannot or wish to not attend worship in person, please consider mailing in your offering to the church office at:

500 School Street, Kohler, WI 53044

[Link for Online Giving](#)

Thank you for your generosity to Grace Church, supporting the mission and ministry that helps spread the good news of God's love for all!

2025 YEAR END GIVING

A deposit will be made January 4, 2026!

**If you want a giving amount applied to your 2025 giving statement - you
MUST put a 2025 date on the check/envelope! Thanks! Dan Montgomery**

Wedding Anniversary's

1/11 Jan and Vern Nigh
1/11 Shari and Neil Jensen



Birthdays



8th Beverly Kramer
10th Ann Ebert
12th Kenneth Lindow
12th Vern Nigh
23rd Brenda Valenstein
24th Sue Hildebrand
25th Jacob Leonhard
27th Rhiannon Hochrein
27th Rosemary Lohse
29th Paul Protzmann
31st Michael Wandschneider

FUNDRAISER

**DELICIOUS
KRINGLE
FLAVORS**

Order forms are available in the narthex.
Kringle orders are due on January 13, 2026.
Pick Up your Kringles on Thursday, January 22, 2026
between 11AM- 3PM.
Kringle Cost is \$23.00 per Kringle
Contact Dan Montgomery with questions.

Uncle Mike's

A little bit of Heaven in every bite.

A little bit of Heaven in every bite.

Salesperson: _____

Phone Number:

School/Group:

Make Checks Payoff

Make Checks Payable

Return Form Date: _____

FUNDRAISER FOR GRACE UCC

Orders Due: Jan. 13, 2026

Pick Up: Thurs. Jan. 22, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Rec. Sp. Thurs, Jan. 22, 11 am-3 pm

Make Checks Payable to Grace UCC

9 Delicious Flavors

Traditional Pretzel Shape

* = Award Winning

Awarded the Best Kringle in North America!

SCHEDULE OF JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

2026	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	
January	Usher	Announcements (10AM) /Liturgist
4	8AM Mike and Carol Skeris/Betty Jones 10AM Lynn & Paul Green	Margy Horneck
11	Mike and Lisa Rolloff	Maureen Faucher
18	Mike and Susie Wandschneider	
25 (Annual Meeting after service)	Larry and Deb Ter Maat	Karen Groth

We are invited to help take down Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 10 at 9 a.m.

Many hands make light work.

Please plan to join us.

Thanks - The Daughters of Grace

REMINDER!

Grace UCC will hold it's Annual Meeting on January 25th following our 10AM worship service.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to attend.

Supporting documentation for the annual report is due to Sue (in the office) by January 2, 2026.

Grace, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Grace United Church of Christ, Christian Holidays

Jan 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Second Sunday after 8am - Worship 10am - Worship	Epiphany 5pm - Confirmation 6pm - pm Bible Study	Bev Kramer Office Open 11AM -	Ann Eder Grace 1/10/1924 9am - Un-Decorate the			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Baptism of Christ Janice & Vern Nigh Shari & Neil Jensen 10am - Worship	Karen Lindaw Vern Nigh 6pm - pm Bible Study	Kohler Villager Articles Newsletter Articles Office Open 11AM -				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Intergenerational Second Sunday after 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship	Kringle Orders Due 5pm - Confirmation 6pm - pm Bible Study	Office Open 11AM - 11am - Kringle Pick	Erenda Valenstein Happy birthday! Sue Hiltibrand, pianist			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Jacoby Leonhardt Third Sunday after the 10am - Worship	Rhiannon Hochrein Rosemary Lohse 5pm - Confirmation 6pm - pm Bible Study	Office Open 11AM - Paul Fritzmann	Mike Wandschneider Mike Wandschneider			

Grace United Church of Christ
500 School Street
Kohler, WI 53044

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



If you cannot or wish to not
attend worship in person,
please consider mailing in
your offering to the church
office:

[Click here for PayPal](#)



PASTOR: Rev. Beth Petzke

ORGANIST: Duane Ream

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST: Sue Hildebrand

CUSTODIAN: Mike Rolloff



CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Sarah Montgomery

TREASURER: Dan Montgomery

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Duane Ream

CHURCH SECRETARY: Sue Kaiser



*GRACE NOTES IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF GRACE CHURCH*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS **11AM-4PM on Thursdays most often**

Phone: (920) 452-6795 OR [Email:GraceUCCKohler@gmail.com](mailto:GraceUCCKohler@gmail.com)
[Website:https://graceucckohlerwi.wixsite.com/website](https://graceucckohlerwi.wixsite.com/website)

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Grace Church is an accepting community of faith, committed to growth through change."

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