



Rev. Beth Petzke

## Pastor's Corner

Dear friends in Christ,

November is traditionally a season of thanks giving, and there has been so much to be thankful for at Grace – and you are one of those gifts! My heart is full as I reflect on the many ways I've seen members and friends of Grace share their gifts, lend a hand with projects, and offered their time to support the missions and ministries. Thanks be to God!

As November draws to a close, we shift our hearts to the season of Advent – the four weeks of preparation leading up to Christmas. Flyers with all the details for worship opportunities are available in the narthex. They are both a meaningful reminder of the importance of gathering together, as well as a gentle invitation to others to experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ.

Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our spiritual ancestors were also worried – often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And the response of the scriptures is "the Holy Living One is with you." Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close. This advent season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.

The theme for our advent and Christmas this year stems from Dr. Marcia McFee, "The Gift of Being Present." I invite you to be present with us as each week as we explore how early Christians were present with hope, peace, joy, love, and light...and how we can be present in the 21<sup>st</sup> century too.

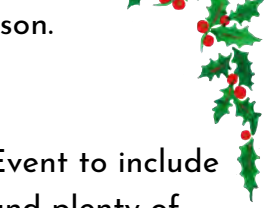
As a way to remember our loved ones at Christmas, we offer a memorial tree again this year. In the sanctuary will be a special tree dedicated to remembering our loved ones who are no longer with us. Beside the tree are paper ornaments where you are invited to write the names of your loved ones. Simply place on the tree as a visual reminder as we remember who there were to us.

May this Advent season remind us to present in all ways and in all seasons of life. There are many opportunities to be present together as people of faith (in person or online), to gather together as an example for those who need to know Jesus' love and share that love with all we meet! Below are some highlights for opportunities to gather. Please join us – All are welcome!

Weekly Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the lounge (rear of the sanctuary). See newsletter for details.

### Upcoming Sundays and special services:

- December 7 – Worship at 8 & 10 a.m.  
Grace Senior Choir will be singing at the 10 a.m. service.  
Second Sunday of Advent – Peace. All are welcome.
- December 10 – Blue Christmas worship service at 6:30 p.m. This service is offered as we acknowledge the "blue" feelings we may have at Christmas time and offer them to God. Advent can be a heavy season of pain and sorrow weighing on our hearts for many reasons. This service carves out sacred space – space for grief, space for memories to run free, and space to remember loved ones lost – and to remember we are not alone. The service includes scripture readings, candlelight, and songs to offer us hope in the midst of the darkness. Service will not be livestreamed. All are welcome.

- 
- December 14 - Worship at 10 a.m. Grace Senior Choir will be offering songs of the season. Third Sunday of Advent - Joy. All are welcome.
  - December 14 - Beginning at 1 p.m., Grace is hosting a community Christmas caroling. Event to include special music, musicians, and singers for your listening pleasure, as well as scriptures, and plenty of Christmas caroling to singalong and put you in the spirit. All are welcome.
  - December 21 - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Intergenerational Worship at 10 a.m. to include the Christmas program. Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love. Christmas Fund special offering will be taken. See newsletter for more details.
  - December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship at 4:30 p.m. will include the sacrament of Holy Communion - all are welcome at the table! Grace Senior Choir will be singing. The story of Jesus' birth, Christmas carols, and candlelight will help us celebrate the gift of Jesus' birth as we give the gift of being present. Relationship is one of the most needed gifts in our world - come and receive the best gift of all - Emmanuel, which means God with us. All are welcome.
  - Christmas Eve Worship at 11:30 p.m. will include candlelight, scriptures, and music as we bring in the birth of Jesus Christ, ending just after midnight. Service will not be livestreamed. All are welcome.
  - December 25 - Christmas day worship at 10 a.m. will include lessons and carols. All are welcome.

Friends in Christ, shine your light and share it with others - it won't lessen your light! When we put our lights together, it grows. Live fully, laugh deeply, love widely as we actively await Christ's coming into the world again, that we are changed because of him!

Advent blessings to you all,

Pastor Beth



Happy Advent Season! As we prepare for the birth of Christ in our liturgy, the church council has been busy preparing for the new year with calendar plans, a proposed budget, and a search for a new family to rent the parsonage. There are many ways to participate this holiday season, and we encourage you to enjoy all Grace has to offer, from music to spiritual reflection. May your season be blessed with joy, peace, and love!

Sarah Montgomery, Council President





## Dear Grace Church! Abundant thanks this month!

- Thanks to Rosemary Lohse for enhancing the chancel, narthex area and outside entrance with the beautiful fall decorations.
- Thanks to Lynn Green for the beautiful flowers to celebrate the Koepke legacy gift.
- Thanks to Joya Cox and Marge Horneck for hosting the coffee hour to celebrate the Koepke legacy gift and Sandy Rabe's ministry as the 'S.S. Sandy' moved into retirement from Grace UCC
- Thanks to the Waterman Family for helping with the projection system.  
Special thanks to Nolan who helped with the 'hands on' technology side of things.
- Thanks to all the unsung heroes that helped prepare the outside (fall yard clean up) and inside of Grace (fall clean up of the Sanctuary and surrounding areas) in preparation for the Fall/Winter season.
- Thanks to all the Daughters of Grace (aka church mice) and friends, that decorated the church in preparation for the Advent season.
- Continued thanks to all those who meet weekly to help count offerings with Dan Montgomery.
- 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!



Thanks to Paul Green for the final grass cutting of the season, and Joya Cox and Henry & Marge Horneck for blowing leaves.

CONTINUED THANKS TO ALL WHO ARE HELPING WITH THE CHURCH  
BUILDING AND GROUNDS DURING MIKE ROLLOFF'S MEDICAL LEAVE :  
PAUL & LYNN GREEN, MARGE & HANK HORNECK, JOYCE ATKINS,  
SUSIE & MIKE WANDSCHNEIDER, SANDY RABE, JOYA COX,  
GREG CARTWRIGHT AND FAMILY.



# November 14/15, 2025 Women's Retreat

ANOTHER WONDERFUL WOMEN'S RETREAT IS COMPLETE. WE ENJOYED MEANINGFUL BIBLE STUDY, HANDS-ON PROJECTS, AND DELICIOUS FOOD – SHARED WITH AN AMAZING COMMUNITY OF WOMEN OF FAITH. IT WAS A TRUE GIFT TO STEP AWAY FROM THE ROUTINE OF DAILY LIFE, AND IMMERSE OURSELVES IN FELLOWSHIP, REFLECTION, AND GROWTH (AND EVEN SOME FREE TIME).



TOGETHER WE DEEPENED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND CELEBRATED THE MANY WAYS OUR CUPS OVERFLOW WITH BLESSINGS.  
STAY TUNED FOR THE DATE OF THE 2026 FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT!



**NOVEMBER 9, 2025  
CELEBRATING:  
KOEPE LEGACY GIFT  
AND  
SANDY RABE  
RETIREMENT**





Anyone can say  
"THANKS"!

Thanks!

Thanks!

Thanks!

Thanks!

Thanks!

# A Thank You Card from Sandy



Dear Pastor Beth,  
Grace Council, and  
the good people of  
Grace,

My heart was  
overwhelmed with the  
outpouring of generous  
wishes, tasty cake + other goodies, + a meaningful  
"decommissioning" of the S.S. Sandy loc. ☺.

Thank you for your love, for the flowers,  
and your free help.

Truly,  
Sandy

But not everyone has  
someone as nice as you  
to say it to!



## SCHEDULE OF DECEMBER MINISTRY HELPERS

December Dates	USHER	Announcements & Liturgist
7	8AM Betty Jones 10AM Paul & Lynn Green	Margy Horneck
10th Blue Christmas	6:30PM on Wednesday no ushers	
14th	Mike and Lisa Rolloff	Karen Groth
21	Margy Horneck & Karen Groth	
24 Christmas Eve Holy Communion	4:30PM <b>VACANT</b> 11:30PM Candlelight Service	
25th Christmas Day	10AM Larry and Deb Ter Maat	
28th	Mike and Carol Skeris	

## HELP DECORATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

### NATIVITY / CRECHE DISPLAY



Nativity displays are sometimes known as a "creche," a French word meaning "crib" or "cradle".

If you would like to display your 'creche/nativity' scene at Grace Church for the upcoming Christmas Season - you will be responsible to set it up in the church window on **SATURDAY 11/29 after 9am.**

(You would also be responsible for your display's removal.)  
Have your name and a note attached explaining what you might know about its origin or what makes it special to you.  
Please contact Rosemary Lohse with any questions.  
Thank you in advance for participating!

**Poinsettia plants will be added to the decorations for Christmas Eve services.**  
**Thank you to all members who purchased a plant(s).**  
**The plants always add so much to our beautiful sanctuary.**  
**Names will be mentioned in upcoming Grace publications.**



# UPCOMING SPECIAL DECEMBER SERVICES



## Community Christmas Caroling December 14

Beginning at 1 p.m., Grace is hosting a community Christmas caroling event! It will include special music, musicians, and singers for your listening pleasure, as well as scriptures. Plenty of singing along to your favorite Christmas carols will put you in the Christmas spirit.

All are welcome.

If you are interested in offering your talents as a vocal/instrumental soloist please contact Pastor Beth by Dec. 7th.



Christmas Eve - 4:30PM

Family Service  
with Communion

Christmas Eve - 11:30PM  
Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Worship  
10:00 a.m.  
Service of Stories and Carols



*Please Support the Christmas Fund Special Offering on 12/21*

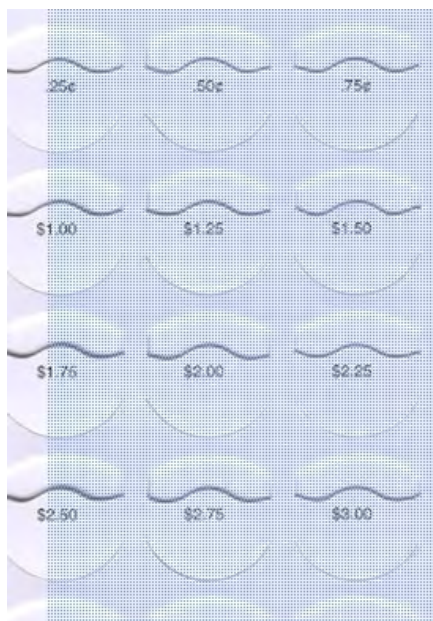


Special envelopes have been ordered and will be placed in the pews and narthex in December.

If giving a check, a notation in the memo area is also acceptable.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas support to our lower-income retirees.

---



### **SPECIAL ADVENT COLLECTION**

PLEASE JOIN US IN TAKING TIME TO REMEMBER CHRIST EACH DAY IN A WONDERFUL GRACE TRADITION!

AT GRACE IT IS A WONDERFUL TRADITION TO COLLECT SPECIAL ADVENT OFFERINGS. BY PLACING A QUARTER IN A QUARTER FOLDER. THERE ARE RETRO FOLDERS IN THE NARTHEX THAT CAN HOLD A QUARTER A DAY, OR FEEL FREE TO WRITE A CHECK OR DONATE CASH AND INCLUDE IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR PLACE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

---

## 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!

### **YEAR END GIVING**

Please note that offering received before 9AM December 29th, 2025 will be applied to 2025 giving statements.



# FUNDRAISER

**DELICIOUS  
KRINGLE  
FLAVORS**



Start collecting your orders now!  
Order forms will be available in the narthex Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Your freshly made Kringles will be available for pick up at the church  
on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Time TBD.  
Contact Dan Montgomery with questions.

*Collect orders now and through the holidays  
for gift giving or just yummy eating.*



## “MISSIONS: THE GIVING TREE”

Mission Team members Carol Skeris, Laurie Joa, and Betty Jones announce that this year's Giving Tree will display wishes provided to us through Project Angel Hugs in Plymouth.

This program helps children with cancer.



The giving tree will be waiting for you on December 1st. Gifts are due back under the tree (unwrapped) by **December 21st.**

**No!**

THERE WILL BE NO  
'DECEMBER LUNCH WITH FRIENDS'  
SEE YOU IN JANUARY!



## December Bible Study

TUESDAYS 6-7 p.m.

December 2 - Hope

December 9 -- Peace

December 16 -- Joy

December 23 & 30 - No Bible Study

Resumes January 6

ST. LUKE  
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

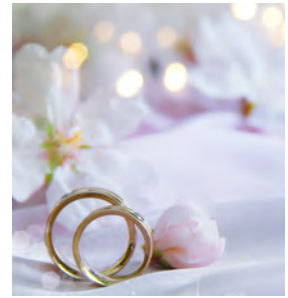
## Crafts and Christmas Cookies

Due to ongoing renovations at  
St. Luke UMC, we are moving to  
Uptown Social to be part of their  
2025 Holiday Craft Fair.

UPTOWN SOCIAL  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025  
8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM  
1817 N. 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN

Uptown Social has a \$2.00  
suggested admission

## Wedding Anniversary



12/13 Vicki and Robert Mavis



## Birthdays

4th Brandon McKnight  
Stacy Harriott  
10th Markus Anderson  
11th Sara McKnight  
13th Karen Hendricks  
15th Tami Ter Maat  
18th Carol Skeris  
28th Rick Kleeman  
30th Brooklyn Ter Maat



*Our 23<sup>rd</sup> Year!*

## Living Nativity

**Come! Celebrate the birth of Jesus!**

See and hear a live 15 minute outside presentation  
of the Christmas story with animals.

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - 6-9 p.m.

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> - 6-9 p.m.

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - 4-7 p.m.

Signed Presentations for the Hearing Impaired

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6, 7, & 8 p.m.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

441 Millersville Ave  
Howards Grove, WI  
[stpaulshowardsgrove.org](http://stpaulshowardsgrove.org)

Join us in our gym for cookies, warm drinks and  
musical entertainment. See a display of beautiful  
nativities in the commons.

**FREE Admission, Parking and Refreshments**



# DECEMBER 2025

30 First Sunday of Advent • 10am Worship • 11am 2026 Budget Member Meeting	Dec 1 • 11am Choir Rehearsal	2 • 5pm Confirmation Class	3	4 Office Open 11AM - 4PM Brandon McKnight Stacy Harriott	5	6
7 Second Sunday of Advent • 8am Worship • 9am Sunday School • 10am Worship	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception • 11am Choir Rehearsal	9	10 Markus Anderson, Choir member Ophelia 12/10 • 6:30pm Blue Christmas Service	11 Office Open 11AM - 4PM Sara McKnight	12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 Robert & Vicki Mavis Karen Hendricks
14 Community Christmas Caroling (at C Third Sunday of Advent • 10am Worship	15 Newsletter Articles due 15th Tami Ter Maat • 11am Choir Rehearsal	16 • 5pm Confirmation Class	17 • 5:30pm Council Meeting	18 Office Open 11AM - 4PM Carol Skeris	19 Kohler Villager Articles due 19th	20
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday School at 9am • 10am Intergenerational Worship w/	22 • 11am Choir Rehearsal	23	24 Office Open 11AM-4PM Christmas Eve • 4:30pm Family Worship Service w/c • 11:30pm Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day • 10am Service of Stories and Carols	26	27
28 First Sunday after Christmas Rick Kleeman • 9am Sunday School	29	30 Brooklyn Ter Maat	31 Office Open 11AM-4PM	Jan 1	2	3

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."*

December 2025  
VOLUME 83 No. 12