



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy New Year!

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



Re JANUARY 2023

From Our Pastors



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National Nothing Day

National Nothing Day is an "un-event" which is celebrated on January 16, 2023, by doing nothing. It was proposed in 1972 by columnist Harold Pullman Coffin. Its purpose is "to provide Americans with one National day when they can just sit without celebrating, observing or honoring anything." This text has been taken from www.cute-calendar.com

So here's your chance! A holiday to do nothing! But how can we actually do "nothing?"

From the Desk of Rev. Seay

I am thanking God for all of you and your kind greetings and gifts for me and my family to have a Merry Christmas and Blessed new year.

In looking ahead to the new year and having a calendar of events for 2023 for Grace Church. I have already circled some dates to be with you during middle of the week during lent and on other special dates. However, I will follow the advice of my sermon on the first day of 2023. I said, "never make predictions, especially about the future." But these are okay to make.

Beginning on Saturday February the 5th and every first Saturday afternoon, weather

permitting, I will be staying overnight at Grace Church residence in Buena Vista prior to that first Sunday. Dinner invitations for me are encouraged and appreciated. I am very fond of chicken and sea foods. If you are a new member of Grace Church, I encourage you to schedule with me an opportunity to get better acquainted, perhaps, over dinner. I also encourage members who are ill to request pastoral visitation, laying on of hands, prayerful recovery and for in home Communion. Members can call me directly or the Church Secretary, Judy Epperson to schedule a time for

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Whether they are a member of the church, our own family, a Christian or not. We pray for them. We do not judge the prayer request.

Christy's Column



Epiphany, the season of light and joy, first witnessed by shepherds and then by the faithful sages from the East who, upon seeing the child on whom the perfect light of the star rested, were overcome with joy in seeing the fulfillment of their long, long journey. Such was their joy, they responded with gifts; having already given their time and energy, following their hearts to find the revelation they had seen in the heavens, they now offered what they had - their treasure. (Matthey 2:9-11)

Overwhelmed and overcome *by* joy; overwhelmed and overcome *with* joy, both readings are possible, and both are important. Being overwhelmed *by* joy, is that occasion of pause when time seems to stand still for a few seconds and joy flows over you. It's a moment we long to bask in, a moment we long to remain. It's a

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Church Council Report

by Jennifer Wright, Chairman



Happy New Year! I am looking forward to **MOVING FORWARD** into a New Year with both Rev. Seay and Rev Christy.

Thanks to ongoing congregational support and a few

large end-of-the-year donations, our 2022 contributions equaled or exceeded our 2022 Expenses!!! This is a wonderful example of how Grace Church operates. Thanks to EACH and EVERY one of you...for giving YOUR Time, Talents, and Treasure!

At our December Council meeting:

We discussed the upcoming/proposed 2023 Budget; the Final Budget will be prepared for our Annual Meeting by the Finance Committee.

We discussed having Quarterly Membership Renewal services and small group dinners with Rev Seay and Rev Christy as part of our Congregation Life in 2023. We are also planning to have some regular Office Hours scheduled for both Rev. Seay and Rev. Christy in the Annex Apartment; day/time TBD.

We will be working on updating our website and online Calendar of Events, we also discussed adding a "Classified" section to Grace Notes for members that have services to be offered.

And finally, we appointed and welcomed Paul Nervig as a new Council Member (taking Janet Yinger's spot).

elevateHER

by Kathryn Prather

elevateHER is an organization in Chaffee County, whose mission is to foster self-worth and grit in young women through mentoring, outdoor adventure, and holistic wellness programs, and develops an appreciation for the outdoors and supports strong, confident, self-aware women.

Founded in 2017, elevateHER is a Chaffee County, CO. based non-profit providing young women the opportunity to cultivate resilience, fortitude, and tenaciousness while developing physical and mental strength through a unique blend of outdoor adventure, mentoring and wellness.

elevateHER's year-round programs for young women provide the necessary transportation, nutrition, equipment, instruction, and mentorship for all the outdoor adventures we take. We believe that every girl deserves the opportunity to feel a sense of connectedness to our community while developing skills to become a successful, resilient, adult and enter the workforce

elevateHER utilizes mentoring and leadership skills to fortify each girl's inner strength and helps to integrate leadership into all activities. They also hold holistic, wellness workshops that promote healthy living and mindfulness. These workshops create a safe place for young women to talk about self-esteem, bullying, stress management and nutrition.

Getting outside and moving are integral to all the elevateHER programs, giving the participants an opportunity to raft, rock climb, mountain bike, ski, and snowshoe. No experience is necessary. This total program is designed to make young women strong, self-confident, and aware.

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moment of presence; a moment in the presence of God. Sometimes it can change your life.

Being overcome *with* joy is that occasion of fullness when our entire being is permeated with joy that bubbles up from the core of our being and soaks our hearts and souls. Being with joy brings new lenses so we may see the world and all therein and so we may see with new eyes. Seeing perhaps, as God sees. Sometimes it can change your life.

And the Sages from the East experienced both being overwhelmed by and with joy in a journey fulfilled and a hope met. Such was their joy they gave what they had...their witness, their treasure and their hope renewed. Our Sages from the East, along with the shepherds keeping watch by night, were faithful to the light they had been given and along the way discovered a deep and abiding joy that remained, accompanied, and enlightened the rest of their days and journeys. This joy changed their lives.

O God, who comes to all people, draw us to you in this Epiphany season. Enlighten us and show us how to offer you the gift of ourselves.

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the visitations. A limited number of Grace Church members who would like to travel with me on homebound visits may do so on that Saturday or Sunday.

As a church family in the Lord's army, look at the Grace Church Prayer List, and you see prayerful concerns for someone other than the person making the request. Whether they are a member of the church, our own family, a Christian or not. We pray for them. We do not judge the prayer request. We merely ask God to intervene because he told us to ask Him and not faint over it. We do not know how or even when, God will render the help being requested. We are required to believe that he will in His own time, in His own way. Lord in Your mercy hear our prayers. It brings tears of joy when we see how the Lord has answered prayers, often in a manner we could not and did not see coming. Yet answered in such a way the Lord God gets the glory and honor from the person who made the request, and their faith and ours is strengthened by the prayers given by us as Christian soldiers on this battlefield of life.

Blessing Extended

W. Clifford Seay, Pastor

TRANSITIONS

Continued prayers are needed for Joyce Logan as she continues her cancer treatments.

Please pray for Grace Garret's mother, who is recovering from a stroke and for Grace who is caring for her.

Pray for safe travel for Sherry Thomas, who is in Kansas visiting family.

Jennifer requests prayers that Grace Church may continue to grow in the coming year.

Please pray for the family of Kathryn's friend, Chole, who recently died from pancreatic cancer.

Continued prayers for Ron and Judy Hassel. Ron is fighting cancer.

Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, and for the people who are suffering in that country.

Rev. Seay offers prayers of thanksgiving for the people of Grace church and their generosity to him and his family during the Christmas season.

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. Enlighten us and show us how to be your light and joy in the world. Enlighten us that we may echo your love and goodness in our daily lives so that others may see and know your light, your joy, and your love.

May the perfect light of Christ abide with you this day and always,

Rev. Christy

Council Report
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Thanks in advance for your all your work with/for Grace Church, Paul!

Please Note: Our January Council Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 21st at the Council Retreat Our Annual Church Meeting will be held sometime in January via Zoom.

Continued Thanks to EVERYONE in our congregation for ALL you do! Please remember to Stop, Look, Listen, and Respond with LOVE to each other! We can continue to do Great Things if/when we work together!

Blessings - Jennifer

elevateHER
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The winter program begins December 2nd and runs through February. For 10 weeks, meeting once a week, the usual elevateHER activities will take place along with activities focusing on stress, self-love, creating, and other helpful topics that young women face.

Grace Church will be sponsoring a young woman through this organization for the coming year as part of the Outreach program. If you would like to learn more about the organization and their program, visit the website, elevateHerco.org, or phone 719 285 4243



Reverse Advent Project by Margaret Butler

Thanks from the CATS

The Women's Bible Study group (CATS) extends our appreciation to the congregation of Grace Church for your overwhelming support of our Reverse Advent Calendar project. The project came about after the chief cat herder, Sharon Robertson, found information about a Reverse Advent Calendar for individuals.

After some discussion about doing something to be good neighbors during the Advent Season, the group decided to participate and to invite the congregation to join us. We purchased shopping bags for everyone and spent some time learning to stencil Christmas scenes on the bags. It is obvious that our stenciling skills could stand more training but we were able to give the bags out for collecting the goods.

We carried five car loads including eight large tubs and about 30 shopping bags of food and personal supplies to the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission during December. We were not able to weigh the total amount of the food collected but we do know that a dozen one-pound cans in one of those bags is heavy and it takes two to carry one of the tubs. The photo shows just one weekly collection, approximately 20% of the total.

You did well and as Sharon says, "Thanks a bunch"

Special thanks also to Becky Arthur and Ed Butler for carrying and unloading the goods at the Mission.

Pictures of the Food



New Year's Quotes

Every year you make a resolution to change yourself. This year, make a resolution to be yourself. Unknown

In this new year, be grateful that God has given you victory over many things over the past year. Stephen Hitchcock

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day.

Michael Josephson

You know how I always dread the whole year? Well this time I'm only going to dread one day at a time. Charlie Brown

To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.

Winston Churchill

Some of This Year's Pictures



Seen in Jo's Driveway



Grace Choir



Announcements

The Grace Church Council wishes to welcome Paul Nervig as its newest member. Paul has generously consented to join the Council and fill the vacancy left by Janet Yinger. He is an experienced council member and brings many new ideas to the council.

The Women of Grace breakfasts will begin on February 2, 2023, which is the first Thursday. We will meet on the first Thursday of every month for the rest of the year. The breakfasts are held at 9:00 am at Jan's Restaurant. All the ladies of Grace are invited to attend. Check your email for reminders.

New sign-up sheets for Coffee Hour and Flowers are on the bulletin board by the door in Parish Hall. Please sign up for both of these important ministries of Grace.

The Women's Bible Study meets each Monday at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall and on Zoom. If you are in town, and are able, please come join us in the Parish Hall. We are beginning a new study of the Psalms on Monday, January 9, 2023. If you have questions, or need more information, see Judy Epperson. Sharon Robertson leads the study.

If you would like to use the Parish Hall for a meeting, family reunion, or other activity, please contact Judy Epperson so she can put your event on the church calendar. Thanks.

A new column is being added to Grace Notes for the coming year. It will be a Help Wanted-Work Needed column. If you need something done around your house, or if you are a handy man (or woman) and would like to work for the people of the church, you can submit your information in this column. Contact Judy Epperson if you are interested.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays

12/7 Evelyn Baker
12/25 Cheryl Wilderman
12/27 Junis Fitzgerald
12/31 Barbara O'Donnell

No December anniversaries

January Birthdays

1/25 Ken Holze
1/30 Sharon Robertson

January Anniversaries

1/1 Keith and Evelyn Baker
1/20 Barry and Carolyn Hayes

Grace Notes is a publication of Grace Church in Buena Vista, Colorado

Grace is an Episcopal-United Methodist Ecumenical Fellowship where people of all Christian faith traditions are finding a spiritual home.

Please send articles and pictures to editor Judy Epperson at eppersonjudy51@gmail.com