

GRACE NOTES

February 2024



Issue 02

*Grace United Methodist Church is growing into an open, welcoming,
and accepting Christ-centered community, committed to sharing
the transforming love of Christ, and loving
all people all the time!*

Phone: (785) 232-3333; e-mail: graceumc27@gmail.com

Website: graceumctopeka.org

Are you a fan or a follower? As we begin seeking to understand God's direction and purpose for our churches, it is important that we understand who we are as people who identify as Christians. Are we fans of Christ or followers of Christ? Are we theoretical Christians who present outward signs of faith but haven't felt the Spirit's stirring within us for quite some time?

Here is a little help to discern where you are at. Reflect on the past week and answer the following questions.

Did I live the past week as a disciple of Christ Jesus?

Did I seek Him with all my heart, soul and mind?

Did I encourage someone in their faith?

Did I victoriously resist a particular sin that is a stumbling block for me?

Was I humble/mEEK in all situations?

Pure in my heart and thoughts, blessing those that curse me, praying for those that hurt me?

Did I walk in peace, rather than fuel dissention or gossip?

Was I consciously open to the Holy Spirit's suggestions, and did I obey?

How did you do? Actually, that is not the correct question. The correct question is, "Do you want to do better?" In the Methodist tradition, wanting to do better is called, "Going on to perfection." Jesus described wanting to do better this way, "*If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me*" (Luke 9:23).

In February, March, and through Easter Sunday on March 31, our worship will focus on the question, "Are you a fan or a follower?" Although not necessary for worship, I would encourage you to pick up Kyle Idleman's book, "Not a Fan." It is available on Amazon for \$10.00. We are also going to offer a Lenten study on the topic. You will need Kyle's book for the study.

Both worship and the study are intended for everyone but have a specific focus for those who are already in the church and who identify themselves as Christians. We will seek to challenge ourselves and one another to take a closer look at our relationship with Christ, to deepen our relationship with Christ, to clarify God's purpose for our lives, and to draw closer to one another. To help

You will find more information about the Lenten study in this newsletter. I pray that you will consider joining me for worship and the study as we seek to love Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Think about it. Pray about it. I hope to see you in church.

Pastor Kevin

Scripture Readings



February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31
 Psalms 147:1-11, 20C (UMH 859)
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
 Mark 1:29-39

February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12
 Psalms 50:1-6 (UMH 783)
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
 Mark 9:2-9

February 18

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalms 25:1-10 (UMH 756)
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

February 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Psalms 22:23-31 (UMH 752)
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38



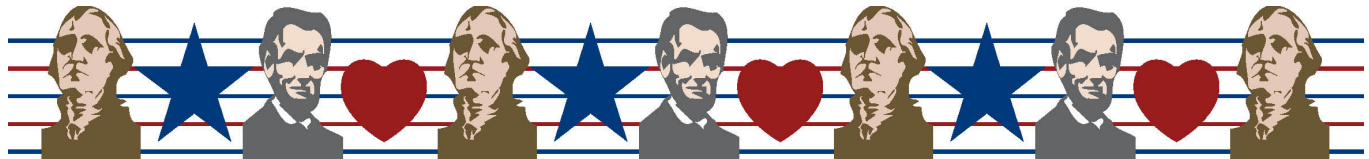
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

February Birthdays

Rowene Helwick	2/1	Warren Helwick	2/16
Don Hoover	2/8	Alyssa Hailey	2/18
Patricia Morris	2/10	Irma Boyer	2/20
Christopher Wiechen	2/11	Phillip Moser	2/24
Lauren Wolf	2/12	Patty Hale	2/25
Pam Trimble	2/15	Lisa Eberhart	2/28

February Anniversaries

2-12 James & Rowene Helwick



Grace Vital Signs

We give thanks for your presence & presents each week.

	12/24	12/31	1/7	1/14	1/21
Attendance	44	43	43	closed	43

January 1 – January 23, 2024
 Received for operating expenses (thru offerings): \$7,741.00
 Transferred from another account: \$0
 Received other operating income: \$1,639.54
 Spent for total operating expenses: \$7,877.15
 Operating Acct Balance January 23, 2024: \$5,981.22
 Paid on Mission Shares to Date: \$0
 Total Balance from Memorial funds: \$10,413.35



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