



# Grace Notes

Community of Grace UMC

November 2019

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## THANKS-GIVING

The crisp air and the shorter days remind us that fall is upon us and the holidays quickly approach. All across the United States families and friends will get together and sit down to bounteous feasts of turkey with all the trimmings, with Cranberries and pumpkin pie. We will reward ourselves - those of us who can - with the bounties and fruits of the harvest. We will even remember those less fortunate than ourselves. We will hold dinners at shelters and soup kitchens and we will even give a little extra to the food banks. And we will be satisfied. And that's good - but it also might be bad.

It's good because it is right that we should feast and thank God for what he has given us. It is right to celebrate and to share the bounty of the earth and sea; it is good to express appreciation and to rejoice over the goodness of God.

But it also might be bad - depending on our overall attitude and approach to life and to what God has done for us and continues doing for us. God calls us not only to a day of thanksgiving, But He calls us... to a life of thanks-living.

The difference between thanksgiving and thanks-living is the difference between giving thanks on one day and living thanks always. Thanksgiving is a terminal event.... A moment in time. Thanks living is a way of life.

As this holiday season approaches, please take the time to give thanks every day:

- If you own just one Bible, you are abundantly blessed. One-third of the world does not have access to even one.
- If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive the week.
- If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.
- If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.
- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

We here at Community of Grace United Methodist Church are blessed. God indeed has given us all that we need - blessings not just of food and drink, warmth and shelter, but blessings as well of love and acceptance, forgiveness and hope, prayer and praise, love and joy.

Take time to give thanks...every day... and our continual thankfulness for our blessings will turn into a lifetime of living thanks, of living the blessings and sharing the blessings because we know in the deepest parts of our hearts that God is the giver of it all.

In Faith,

Pastor Donna

**Financial Update:**

by Pastor Donna

Included in our newsletter this month is our newly approved 2020 budget.

Our finance team (Mark Cox, David Eakle, Lisa McComas, Rob Preece, Steve Murray, Brent Hart, Heidi Cox(treasurer), Clete Damron) met in October and compared 2018 and 2019 budget numbers with 2018 year-end actual numbers and 2019 year-to-date actual numbers. They also took into account any expected changes in the year to come. The result is our 2020 budget, which was approved by the Ministry Action Team and adopted at our 1Charge Conference held on Oct.27 at 4pm.

A budget is just an estimate of what we anticipate the needs will be. Some numbers are "hard and fast" and we can know the amount in advance, others are more flexible and can change as needs and wants evolve over the year.

I invite you, as you consider your budget for the coming year, to include giving to your church as one of the "hard and fast" numbers in your budget. If you believe in the mission and ministries of Community of Grace UMC, please commit your resources to this Body of Christ.

And don't forget you can set up automatic giving through your bank, so that your giving heart shows up, even if you have to miss a Sunday.

Did you know that Community of Grace, through your commitment and generosity, supports 3 local food pantries (Grace food pantry in Guyandotte, New Baptist Church and Trinity Church of God)? That means that there is a food pantry available within walking distance of the church on Tuesday (New Baptist), Wednesday (Grace in Guyandotte), and Thursday (Trinity). We also support Highlawn Elementary School with \$480 of food each month for their food pantry. And of course, our blessing box reaches those in our neighborhood who are food insecure. Thanks to you, we are living out our vision as Community of Grace is a vital presence in our community.

**Community of Grace UMC 2020 Budget**

|                                     | <u>2018 Actual</u> | <u>2020 Budget</u> | <u>change</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | 257,142.33         | 248,398.00         | (8,744.33)    |
| <b>Expenses</b>                     |                    |                    |               |
| Conference apportionments           | 60,378.00          | 58,413.00          | (1,965.00)    |
| District Apportionments             | 4,226.04           | 4,089.00           | (137.04)      |
| Annual conference expenses - Lay    | 298.58             | 600.00             | 301.42        |
| Annual conference expenses - Pastor | 0.00               | 600.00             | 600.00        |
| Sunday School material              | 1,136.81           | 1,000.00           | (136.81)      |
| Upper Room                          | 529.50             | 400.00             | (129.50)      |
| Discipleship resources              | 1,596.48           | 750.00             | (846.48)      |
| Hospitality                         | 0.00               | 200.00             | 200.00        |
| Kitchen Supplies                    | 1,186.05           | 0.00               | (1,186.05)    |
| Snack Supper                        | 89.48              | 0.00               | (89.48)       |
| Vacation Bible School               | 1,788.26           | 1,500.00           | (288.26)      |

|                               |          |          |            |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Advertising                   | 361.49   | 250.00   | (111.49)   |
| Community Outreach            | 1,276.66 | 250.00   | (1,026.66) |
| Drama material                | 0.00     | 150.00   | 150.00     |
| Organ tuning and repairs      | 450.00   | 250.00   | (200.00)   |
| Worship Supplies              | 1,313.00 | 750.00   | (563.00)   |
| Music Supplies                | 2,861.54 | 2,500.00 | (361.54)   |
| Financial Audit               | 975.00   | 0.00     | (975.00)   |
| Cleaning supplies             | 1,191.90 | 1,000.00 | (191.90)   |
| Computer expenses             | 0.00     | 900.00   | 900.00     |
| Office supplies, toner, paper | 6,031.36 | 3,600.00 | (2,431.36) |

|                                | <b>2018 Actual</b> | <b>2020 Budget</b> | <b>Change</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Postage                        | 741.00             | 750.00             | 9.00          |
| Sam's membership               | 140.00             | 140.00             | 0.00          |
| Salaries:                      |                    |                    |               |
| Custodian                      | 12,333.63          | 12,000.00          | (333.63)      |
| Oragnist                       | 9,876.10           | 9,876.00           | (0.10)        |
| Pastor                         | 50,203.04          | 50,203.00          | (0.04)        |
| Secretary                      | 14,819.15          | 9,828.00           | (4,991.15)    |
| Payroll expenses               | 2,832.72           | 2,800.00           | (32.72)       |
| Accountable Reimbursement Acct | 0.00               | 2,500.00           | 2,500.00      |
| Pension                        | 12,550.92          | 12,551.00          | 0.08          |
| Workers' Comp                  | 1,188.50           | 1,200.00           | 11.50         |
| Health Insurance               | 15,792.00          | 15,238.00          | (554.00)      |
| Background checks              | 209.00             | 100.00             | (109.00)      |
| Building insurance             | 13,108.84          | 13,675.00          | 566.16        |
| Van fuel                       | 801.86             | 600.00             | (201.86)      |
| Van Insurance                  | 757.56             | 800.00             | 42.44         |
| Van repairs                    | 524.23             | 700.00             | 175.77        |

Parsonage  
utilities:

|                                |          |          |         |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Sanitary board                 | 546.46   | 500.00   | (46.46) |
| Security<br>monitoring         | 641.88   | 600.00   | (41.88) |
| TV/Internet/Phone<br>(Comcast) | 2,031.98 | 2,200.00 | 168.02  |
| Electric                       | 2,298.89 | 2,200.00 | (98.89) |
| Garbage                        | 240.00   | 240.00   | 0.00    |
| Gas                            | 1,629.51 | 1,650.00 | 20.49   |
| Municipal service fee          | 278.12   | 280.00   | 1.88    |
| Pest Control                   | 375.00   | 300.00   | (75.00) |
| Water                          | 667.16   | 700.00   | 32.84   |
| Sewage Parsonage               | 62.13    | 240.00   | 177.87  |

Church utilities:

|                        |            |            |             |
|------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Cable                  | 410.33     | 400.00     | (10.33)     |
| Pest Control           | 804.94     | 800.00     | (4.94)      |
| Garbage                | 240.00     | 240.00     | 0.00        |
| Sanitary Board         | 689.92     | 750.00     | 60.08       |
| Internet               | 1,449.20   | 1,500.00   | 50.80       |
| Electric               | 13,921.71  | 12,275.00  | (1,646.71)  |
| Gas                    | 6,828.00   | 6,800.00   | (28.00)     |
| Municipal fee          | 2,507.08   | 2,550.00   | 42.92       |
| Telephone              | 1,278.92   | 1,200.00   | (78.92)     |
| Security               | 960.00     | 960.00     | 0.00        |
| Water                  | 697.43     | 700.00     | 2.57        |
| Maintenance:<br>Church | 587.54     | 750.00     | 162.46      |
| Parsonage              | 14.22      | 400.00     | 385.78      |
| Total Expenses         | 260,729.12 | 248,398.00 | (12,331.12) |

Net Income/Loss (3,586.79) 0.00

