

## ARMFUL OF LOVE UPDATE

We recently received a letter from 360 Communities thanking us for being a sponsor again for their program. Over 700 families received gifts to help out for Christmas from this year's program. The letter as well as comments from people who benefitted can be found on the rolling kiosk closest to the Sanctuary doors. Take a look at some of the creative ways these families expressed their gratitude.



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help keep our sidewalks clear and safe. Remember, if you need to shovel your walk at home, chances are the church needs clearing too. Shovels are at the church, but you might like your own better. For heavy, serious snow we have a snow blower. Kindly let the office know if you are willing to help out. Thanks.

**REMINDER:** Now that we have started a new year, we are in need of individuals to sign up to bring baked goodies for the fellowship time that follows the 10:00 p.m. service in the Narthex each Sunday. The sign-up can be found on the table in the Narthex. If the slots are not filled, **there will not be treats** - only coffee. What is needed are two to three dozen baked items. Please note on them if they have nuts, gluten, etc. Simply place your items by the coffee maker in the Narthex. Store-bought bakery items may also be brought. Let's continue to make this time a yummy one. Thank you!

Monday, January 10th  
at 7:00 p.m.



We will be watching "Te Ata." It's based on a true story about a Chickasaw Native American. There was an article in the Star Tribune about the movie.

Three hundred and thirty pounds of non-perishable goods/food that was donated by our Grace members was taken to 360 Communities the week of Christmas. Thank you so much for once again stepping up and giving to this worthy cause. It was especially appreciated during the holidays.



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**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

# Grace Notes

**Our Mission:** To serve and unite those we touch with the Grace of God.

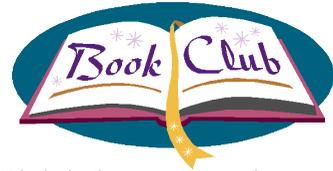
**Our Vision:** Transforming lives to become the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus in the world.



## Grace United Methodist Church

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

**PLEASE NOTE:** For everyone's safety, if you are attending Sunday's services, please plan on wearing a mask. Thank you.



**Thursday, January 20th**  
**6:30-8:30 P.M.**  
**Now Meeting in the Narthex at Grace UMC**

The Club is happy to welcome anyone interested in joining or just visiting for one of their selected books. Generally shared are impressions of the characters, context and any perceived author's intent. It makes for a lively discussion. Below are the dates and the list of books, and authors' names:

- January 20th - Home Front by Kristin Hannah
- February 24th - The Moon, The Stars and Madame Burova by Ruth Hogan
- March 17th - The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
- April 23rd - Saturday at 7:30 p.m. One Book One Lakeville If You Lived Here You'd Be Home by Now: Why We Traded the Commuting Life for a Little House on the Prairie by Christopher Ingraham. Lakeville Art Center ( must register for free ticket)
- May 19th - The Wind Chill Factor by Thomas Gifford    June 15th - The Boys by Ron and Clint Howard
- July 20th - Cicada Days by Samuel Whiteleather    August 17th - Book to be announced
- September 15th - State of Terror by Louise Penny and Hillary Clinton
- October 20th - The Matriarch: Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty by Susan Page
- November 17th - Susan Angeline Collins: With a Hallelujah Heart by Janis Bennington
- December 15th - Christmas party and choose next year's books.

**JANUARY'S WORSHIP HELPERS**

If you are unable to make your scheduled time, please find a replacement. Thank you.

DATE	GREETER	USHER	SOUND	LITURGIST
<b>Jan. 9th</b>				
10:00 a.m.	Glenda Wheelock	Rick Fossum	Roy Koenigsberg	James Milne
Acolyte	Claire Conaway			
<b>Jan. 16th</b>				
10:00 a.m.	Cara Kennedy	Chuck Loveless	Ed Sanders	Bill Macklin
Acolyte	Max Halsted			
<b>Jan. 23rd</b>				
10:00 a.m.	Rhonda Brown	Sean Litterer	Tom Litterer	Laurie Sanders
Acolyte	Timmerman Brothers			
<b>Jan. 30th</b>				
10:00 a.m.	Janet Barnes	James Milne	Dave Chmielewski	Lynn Kilian
Acolyte	Alaina Chmielewski			

HAPPY NEW YEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST!

Or at least that is where our hope lies: in a happier new year. Going into 2021 we were all hopeful that the year would lean towards a life more familiar and less determined by the pandemic. We were all hopeful church would once again become that place where we could fellowship in person and resume our spiritual learning and lives. Instead, 2021 brought more pandemic fatigue, more virtual church, a new pastoral change, construction challenges, and the manifestation of The Overlook apartment complex as our building neighbor on the hill. It is no wonder that going into 2022 we may be feeling a tad hesitant about proclaiming a "happy new year!" with too much gusto.

And yet, as people of faith we can stand in the present and look towards the future with hope in our bones regardless of circumstance because the God we proclaim with our lips and serve with being is a God who is "making all things new" (Rev. 21:5). Perhaps as Christians, our new year's toast would be something like "Here's to all things being made new!" That's the power of hope. It directs our psychological and spiritual compass towards seeing and noticing the work of God in the midst of the wearisome and upsetting.

And speaking of God's work here in 2022, that theme of "God is building something new" continues, except ***the emphasis going into January and February will be bringing attention to the scaffolding*** of that something new. In other words, attention and detail will be given to the specific components that are required both spiritually and practically for raising up that something new. If you've ever been close to a construction site you know that the scaffolding put around a newly emerging structure is designed to ensure that that structure emerges with sound fitting and an integrity to the whole foundation. The scaffolding ensures the overall completion of that which is being built. The same is true for Grace UMC. **Going into 2022, we will be giving direct attention to our scaffolding so that what God is building new here is bolstered by the right spiritual and practical components needed for its success. We want to be ready to be the disciples needed to help heal a broken world.**



So Grace UMC, here's to all things being made new in 2022!

**Stay in Peace and Every Good,**  
**Pastor Amanda**