



CHURCH CHATTER

Monthly Newsletter of Events and Information

Grace: A Four Part Series

Part 3- Justifying Grace

A quick refresher . “Grace pervades our understanding of Christian faith and life. By grace we mean the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit.” (The Book of Discipline)

When I introduced the topic of grace I said there were three types of grace according to John Wesley. They are prevenient grace, justifying grace and, sanctifying grace.

So we talked about the grace that brings us into the family of Christ. The next discussion was on “prevenient grace. Our Book of discipline says, “God’s prevenient grace, the divine love that surrounds all humanity and precedes any and all of our conscious impulses. This grace prompts our first wish to please God, our first glimmer of understanding concerning God’s will, and our “first slight transient conviction” of having sinned against God.”(Book of Discipline). In short, this is the grace that leads us to be baptized and join Christ’s family. In fact, as part of the sacrament of Baptism we are welcomed into the Christian.family by those Christians who are already baptized and are family.

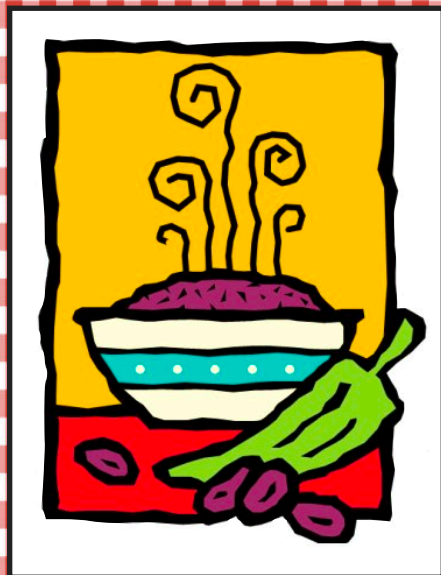
“We believe God reaches out to the repentant believer in justifying grace with accepting and pardoning love. Wesleyan theology stresses that a decisive change in the human heart can and does occur under the prompting of grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In justification we are, through faith, forgiven our sin and restored to God’s favor.” (The Book of Discipline)

Justifying grace is the assurance of forgiveness that comes from repentance, from turning toward God's gracious gift of new life. It is being reconciled and realigned with God and the acceptance of God's atoning act in Jesus Christ.. If prevenient grace is the steps to the door then justifying grace is walking through the door. In evangelistic terms it is to heartily repent of you sins, and accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. It is not the act of salvation, that happened over 2,000 years ago on Golgatha. It is our act of accepting salvation.

An aside on repentance. It is not just being sorry for what we do. Repentance, in Hebrew is teshuva (tes-shoo-va). But teshuva takes on a completely different focus. Instead of being simply a state of mind, it is a decision. It is deciding to turn away from where you are headed and moving back toward God.

In practice, I think it is a 180 degree turn away from our old ways as we turn to new life in Christ. We are forgiven. Justifying grace is the doors opening for each of us but we must accept and step through the doorway.

Frank Remkiewicz
Certified Lay Minister



Chili Cook Off Contest

Nov 5th - 4 to 7pm

Adult \$10. - Child \$5 (under 12)
(3 & under FREE)

Get your recipe ready and/or tell your favorite chili chef the church is having a first annual contest with prizes! This is being planned and promoted as a Community Event.

Live Music and Art Show

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

by Pastor Jeff



Pastor Jeff is leading a Zoom Bible Study on Tuesdays @ 6:30pm Call for a Zoom link if you are interested in attending: Pastor Jeff (209) 840-7939.

MONDAY on CALL

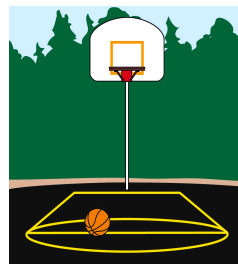
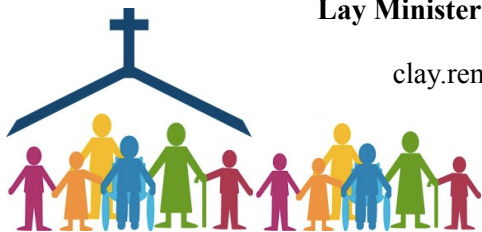
Certified Lay Minister, Frank Remkiewicz, is now "on call" Mondays so Pastor Jeff can take a day off to "re-energize his batteries". Frank will be available ALL DAY Mondays by phone (209 630-1882) or email (clay.remkiewicz@gmail.com) He can meet at the church or if needed at a home.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Email: cumcOakdaleAdmin@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Frank Remkiewicz
(209) 630-1882
clay.remkiewicz@gmail.com

Pastor Jeff Holder:
(209) 840-7939
vjHolder@att.net



OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT

by Nancy Podolsky

Many might not realize the church has a full size basketball court. It has not been used or maintained in many, many years. The church has been approached by a youth group wanting and needing a place to have organized basketball games. Since we are a "community" church, we want to encourage and utilized our facility for community events. We are in the process of getting bids to resurface, stripe, with new basketball backboards & hoops. Donations will be appreciated for this project.

October

Jordyn Pennell 9th - Tia Pennell Oct 16th
Brandon Smith Oct 21st - Megan Manly 24th
Nancy Podolsky - 28th



CALENDAR of EVENTS

Meetings here at the Church

Canoeing Spiritual Group	Tues Zoom Mtg 6:30pm
TOPS Weekly Classes	Mondays - 8:30 am
Scouting Nights	Mondays - 6pm
Girl Scouts	2nd/4th Wed 7pm
Alanon	Mon 7pm/Thurs noon/Fri 6pm
Life & Grief Support w/Pastor Jeff	Tuesdays 1pm
Addiction Ministry/Hand in Hand	Thursday 7pm
Art Classes w/Carole Earle	Tues/Thurs 9:30am/Tues 1:30
Oakdale Garden Club	3rd Tues 10am



B&B-QUE CHICKEN FUNDRAISER

Come to Worship October 9th on a “wing and a prayer”. If you can make it, you can get a “leg-up”. Bring a little “scratch” and donate to our church HVAC Fund. Herb and Becky Williams are providing a B&B-QUE Chicken lunch right after worship. There will be chicken, beans, salad and drinks. A Free will offering is gratefully accepted.

So don't fly the coop on the 9th of October. Worship is at 10:00 am followed immediately by the grilling master himself, Herb Williams. “Chick” your calendars and come ex”peck”ting a good time and great food!

Office Volunteers Still Needed

Coverage in the church office is needed for 2 hours on the day(s) of the week you can serve. This is a multi person help needed request. Duties include basic filing, answering the phone, special project, etc. Please contact Pastor Jeff.

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP

Coffee & treats after church is a great time for friendship/fellowship. **Hosts** are needed for ALL OCTOBER



Sundays.. If you or your church committee can be a hostess, please **contact Judy Bradley** (209 985-3590) It is less effort to prepare food if working together with someone else to share the load. After church

coffee time will only happen if there is someone signed up to host/hostess.

METHODIST MEN'S GROUP

by Frank Remkiewicz

The Men's group meets regularly the first Saturday of each month @ 9am, @ HUCKLEBERRYS. located in the small shopping center on the corner of Oak & F Street (Hwy 108). All men are welcome (bring a friend). There is discussion about sports, vacations, family, and what is going on in the church. We want to create a force to serve within our community.

For more information, Call Frank Remkiewicz (209) 630-1882.

CALLING ALL PRAYER WARRIORS

We are considering forming a core congregational prayer group, and will be inviting some of you to participate. If you would like to volunteer, please call Frank. (209) 603-1882, Prayer can move mountains.

Quote for the month

*“Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.”*

Henry Ford

ALL SAINTS DAY

October 30th

All Saints Day is a traditional special day in the church year when we remember all our friends and relatives who have passed on to heaven. There will be time set aside during the worship to recognize loved ones. Please submit name(s) to Frank by email, text, or calling prior to the service. (clay.remkiewicz@gmail.com -or call/text: 209 630-1882.