

The Ladder

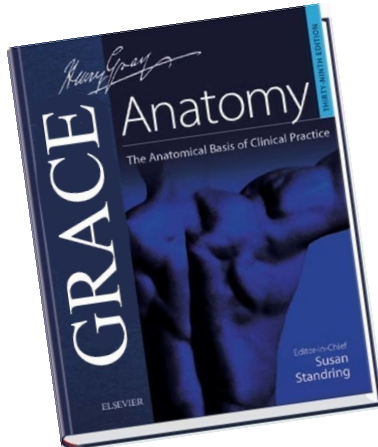
A Publication of

New Bethel UMC



January 2018

Glen Carbon's United Methodist Congregation



New Sermon Series:
January 7 - February 11, 2018

GRACE ANATOMY

Jan 7 - Mired in Sin
Jan 14 - The Self-Indulgent Hedonist
Jan. 21 - The Fault-Finding Judgmentalist
Jan. 28 - Trying to Earn Grace
Feb. 4 - The Grace-Receiving Christian
Feb. 11 - Sufficient Grace

We will begin this series with a discussion of the problem of sin, and how it affects all human-kind. We are powerless to overcome it on our own; and we cannot escape the consequences of sin, which is death. But God has given us a way: his son, Jesus Christ. We are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus.

Some of us imagine we know a lot about grace. We talk about it often. We certainly experience it. When we are receiving it, we are appreciative. When we are having to extend it, we are uncomfortable. But when applied correctly, grace is restorative, refreshing, and fixes just about everything! Join us at New Bethel UMC as we explore the amazing Grace of God, and the tremendous creativity we humans have in resisting it. In preparation, read Paul's letter to the Romans. I will also be utilizing two other books about grace: *In the Grip of Grace*, by Max Lucado, and *The Grace of God*, by Andy Stanley. And we'll talk about John Wesley's understanding of prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. And most importantly, we will look at the life of Jesus Christ, and how he came from God to extend this precious gift of grace with us!

Join Pastor Penny in worship at New Bethel UMC as we get a little primer on
Grace Anatomy

Soup and Bread Lunch!!
Saturday, January 27th
11am—3pm

Presale Tickets are now available –
buy early and SAVE!

See Page 3 for details

COMING IN FEBRUARY:

Sunday evening Worship and Planning
sessions with Pastor Penny

We will sing some good hymns, have a
short devotion and time of prayer,
then discuss the vision, ministry, and
goals of our church!

Pastor's Pen:

A new year always brings fresh opportunities for spiritual growth, new resolutions and the reexamination of priorities and goals. Do you make resolutions? How far into the new year do you usually get with them? What about setting new goals? I like to do this and build in a little reward for each goal, as I reach it. What about recommitting yourself to Jesus Christ? Will you be a good disciple of Jesus' in 2018?

Allow me to offer you a few invitations for the new year. Think of them as leaps of faith.

Leap 1: Trust in Jesus. Try living your life a little freer from anxiety; a little less stressed. Learn to master the unavoidable and take the natural challenges and disappointments in life, in stride. Be flexible and know that God is on your side. Jesus understood that God was on his side and he prayed to God....a lot. Try more prayer and less whining.

Leap 2: Be fruitful and multiply. It's not just for your own salvation that Jesus saved you. It's so you can continue his ministry and reach out to others with the good news of God's love. Where in your life are you bearing Kingdom fruit? Are you mentoring anyone? Be willing to talk with others about your faith and journey and why you think Jesus matters.

Leap 3: Love like Jesus. Jesus' love transformed the world. He loved deeply, completely, and sacrificially. How did Jesus do it? What was the source of that tremendous ability to love? Do your own research, read the Bible, discover the source of Jesus' love, and then go and do likewise!

Just a few suggestions if you're ready to "level up" in this happy, new year! It may not be a leap year, officially, but I hope you'll take a few good leaps forward in your faith!

In Grace,
Pastor Penny



THANK YOUs:

From Tiara Trotter- *Words cannot express how grateful I am to have shared the past months with such an amazing and welcoming church. Thank you for everything.* (Tiara has returned to Mississippi to complete her undergraduate degree.)

Thank You, New Bethel UMC family – for all the cards, gifts, and well wishes to me and my family over the Christmas and New Year's holiday. And thank you for celebrating our son David's college graduation with us! You are a wonderful, loving congregation and we are so blessed by your friendship and partnership in ministry for Jesus Christ! I hope you're as excited for 2018 as I am! It will be a fresh new year filled with adventure and grace!

Thank you – to **Ken and Nancy Gaines** for leading our church group to the Lady of Snows Lights and then dinner to Eckerts on Tuesday, December 19th! [Pastor Penny came down with a sudden case of the flu!]

Thank you to the congregation:

We would like to thank everyone for your generous donations that were used to purchase Christmas gifts for a local family. The youth shopped on December 10 and purchased many gifts for the family. I think they received everything on their lists! We truly were blessed to be a blessing!

~New Bethel Youth

*Are you ready to sing?
The Choir is ready for you!*

Practices - Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Sing 3 or so Sundays each month at
the 8:15 service.



New Bethel Seniors: Do you have a few repairs that need done around the house? Do you have an appointment scheduled with a repairman/contractor, and would like to have an extra set of ears to help evaluate the bid?

Our United Methodist Men have many skills, and are willing to help out! If one of them can't do the work, they will help you figure out who to call.

For more information, call the Office, or John Kutz at 288-9431



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 9, at 6:30pm.

Administrative Council will meet on Tuesday, January 16, at 6:30pm.

SOUP & BREAD LUNCH!

Advance tickets are available for our **January 27th Soup and Bread** lunch at the Information table in the Narthex. Envelopes contain 10 tickets for you to sell. Pay for the tickets you sell and return any unsold ones. Sign out sheet will be with the basket of tickets.

You can turn in your payment with any unsold tickets to Linda at the church office or drop it in the offering plate at any service, by marking your envelope "Soup and Bread Dinner."

Save \$1.00 by purchasing your advance tickets for you, your family, friends and neighbors.

Pricing is Adults \$7.00 Advance and \$8.00 at the door; Children 5 to 12 - \$3.00 Advance and \$4.00 at the door.

SANCTUARY TO GET NEW CARPETING IN 2018

New carpeting will be coming SOON. The new color is a dark gray, with flecks of maroon in it, which will complement the maroon pew cushions. Painting will also be done. Our Trustees are doing a great job!

VISITOR FOLLOW UP AND COOKIES!

Pastor Penny is looking for a few good bakers! Would you be willing to bake some cookies and do a quick, front-porch visit to some of our worship visitors?

Presently, we give first time visitors a New Bethel UMC mug with a \$5 gift card in it; and if they've provided their address, Pastor Penny sends them a welcome letter. The second time they visit, it would be great if a member or two from the congregation would take by a plate of cookies and tell them how we've enjoyed having them worship with us.

If this sounds like a ministry you might be able to help with, please contact Pastor Penny at 217-932-3115, or at the church office 618-288-5700. This is just one of the ways we are hoping to continue our good outreach to those in our community!





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 2018

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO SATISFY THAT 'NUDGE'

Believe it or not, we are already gearing up for 2018 VBS. "Shipwreck!" is the theme and the first planning meeting was held on October 26 with 3 other churches in Granite City. **The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, with work dates targeted for April 19,20,21 when scenery work begins.**



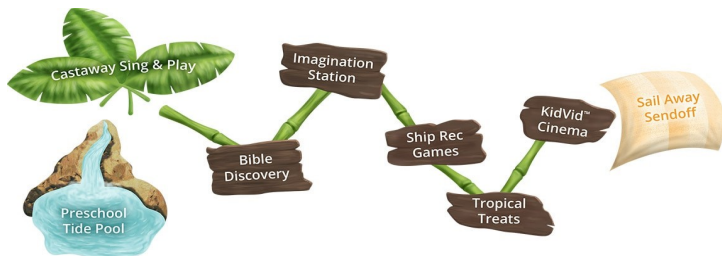
WHAT'S NEEDED: First on the list is a **VBS Ministry Leader** to manage and coordinate activities and do the delegating. Next is the workers – folks that can cut/paste, saw, assemble, paint, etc. To keep the process going, 'go-fers' are always needed. Resources: A list of items will be made available after the February meeting.

Most folks may not know this, but last year we were fortunate/blessed to have access to several truck-loads of decorations that were graciously offered by churches in Granite City. Out of that event, we were invited to join that alliance with the following churches; Unity Baptist, Grace East, and Word of Life Tabernacle. The VBS Leaders from each church welcomed me to attend that first meeting in October with the understanding that I am a temporary liaison to keep us connected while we seek out a NBUMC VBS Leader. We are committed to providing time, talent, and resources; in return we will once again have access to decorations. **Our tentative date for 2018 is the week of July 23 with the option of moving to later dates.**

Please be in prayer! Save the dates!

Yours in Christ,

Dennis E. Wilson



Your children's bulletin unlocks ONLINE FUN at home.

We're excited to announce a **NEW feature** of *Children's Worship Bulletins* that will have children lining up to get their bulletin this Sunday! They'll be looking forward to the secret code on the front of the bulletin that unlocks hours of fun learning at home.

This secret code is unique to our church and allows SAFE and secure access to online games that reinforce the message for the week.

Children's Worship Bulletins[™] @HOME!



CHILDREN and YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join the Pre-school/Elementary Sunday School class for DIG IN Bible stories, videos, and games, each week from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. with **Jenny Mulvihill and Nancy Slater**.

Children's Worship activity bags are available during each service for your little ones. They are welcome to grab one out of the tub and take back to their pews after the Children's sermon.

Join the Middle School SS Class, led by **Andrew Adams and Pastor Penny**. This month we'll be looking at some of the main bible stories in the Old Testament, beginning with Adam and Eve, Noah, and the Tower of Babel....

Cody Azotea and Dennis Wilson are leading the High School SS Class, using the NOOMA videos and applying them to our lives. Join us this Sunday!

MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Wednesdays: 6:00-7:30 in room 103/104. Bible Study and more! (Pastor Penny will lead the group on January 24th.)

Sunday, January 14: Noon. Mission Trip meeting for everyone who is interested in going. (8th grade and above; college students are welcome; adults are needed, too!)

The trip to Virginia is June 24-30, 2018. A \$50 deposit per person will hold your spot. We will discuss the cost at the meeting, but it should be less than \$100 per person. Go to mmskids.org to check out Mountain Mission School.

The **Soup and Bread lunch** is on **Saturday, January 27**. Work a shift and receive "points" in your youth account!

Friday - Sunday, Feb. 23-25: Fire Up Senior High Conference at Troy UMC. Early Bird Registration (\$25) is due by Feb. 4. After Feb. 4, your cost is \$35. (The remainder of the registration fee will be paid from our youth account.) Invite your friends! Tom Richter is the speaker this year. You will love him! Check out details at fire-up.org. Girls are welcome to sleep over at Judy's house! You can attend all or part of the weekend.

Seniors, don't forget to check out GBHEM.org for a **scholarship opportunity**. Since New Bethel supports this scholarship, our members are eligible to apply. And no essay is required! You can find information on student loans there, too.

Check with your guidance counselor to see if you still have time to apply for the **Al Wentz scholarship** that will be awarded to one or two (or maybe more!) New Bethel seniors.



BIRTHDAYS ...

January 1– Jim Talley
January 3– Brianna Chamberlain
January 4– Rita Makler
January 7– Lydia Foster
January 9– Todd Slater
January 11– Norma Abram
January 12– Nancy Gaines
January 13– David Bryant
January 18– Paul Dodds and McLain Oertle
January 21– Barb Metter
January 25– Dennis Schneider and
Noah Whitehead
January 26– Amber Larson
January 31– Jacob Mulvihill

ANNIVERSARIES...

January 9– Kim & Linda Hellenga
January 22– Tim & Joannna Nuoffer
January 26– Charlie & Kathy Witzke

Quote of the month:

I have come to abhor profoundly the spectacle of theology constantly trying to adjust above all to the philosophy of the age, thereby neglecting its own theme.

**by Swiss theologian,
Karl Barth**

RECURRING EVENTS AT NEW BETHEL...

SUNDAYS:

Worship. 8:15 & 10:45 AM

Nursery. 8:00 AM-Noon

Sunday School. 9:30 AM

WEEKLY:

Tuesday Daytime

Quilters. Tuesdays 9:30 AM. Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Wednesday Evening

Middle & Senior High School. Lively learning and fun with Ms. Judy Lee. 6-7:30 PM, Room 103/104.

Bible Study, Prayer Shawl Ministry. 6:30pm

Chancel Choir. Practice weekly at 7:30pm

Thursday Evening

Bell Choir. 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6pm

Praise Band Practice—check with Jake Hoult

MONTHLY:

United Methodist Men. 2nd Saturdays, 8 AM breakfast and meeting

United Methodist Women. 2nd Saturdays, 9:30 AM **No meetings in January or February**

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES—SUNDAYS 9:30 AM:

Room 202—Women of Faith Class on Jesus Calling

Room 204 - Son Catchers, led by Norma Abram

Off-site - Embracing Grace

SHORT-TERM CLASSES

New classes beginning February 2018.

Details will be announced soon.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year!	2 Quilters– 9:15a	3 AA– 7am Choir– 7:30p	4 Disciple 1– 6p Bell Choir– 6p Praise Band– 7p	5	6
7 “Unhang” Noon Disciple 2– 1:30pm (cancelled)	8 Bible Study– 6pm	9 Quilters– 9:15a	10 AA– 7am Youth Group– 6pm Bible Study and Groups– 6:30pm Choir– 7:30p	11 Disciple I – 6p	12	13 UMM– 8am NO UMW
14 Disciple 2– 1:30pm	15 Bible Study– 6pm	16 Quilters– 9:15a	17 AA– 7am Youth Group– 6pm Bible Study and Groups– 6:30pm Choir– 7:30p	18 Disciple I – 6p Bell Choir– 6p Praise Band– 7p	19	20
21 Disciple 2– 1:30pm	22 Bible Study– 6pm	23 Quilters– 9:15a	24 AA– 7am Youth Group– 6pm Bible Study and Groups– 6:30pm Choir– 7:30p	25 Disciple I– 6p Praise Band– 7p	26 Set up for Soup & Bread- 6pm	27 Soup & Bread Lunch
28 Disciple 2– 1:30pm	29 Bible Study– 6pm	30 Quilters– 9:15a	31 AA– 7am Youth Group– 6pm Bible Study and Groups– 6:30pm Choir– 7:30p			