

GROWING IN

Grace

November 2024

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Autumn is upon us; United in Grace is here & Advent is coming

November is like a season unto itself, one of transition, on the cusp of change. We frame this month with two Holy Days of the church year; All Saints Sunday, November 3rd, and Christ the King Sunday, November 24th. Each Sunday has a different focus, and yet in these weeks we hear scripture texts that will challenge us as we move into first Sunday of Advent on December 1st.

As the people of God in this Mission Outpost here in Monroe, we have worshipped and served our world and community together as 2 congregations. As of Sunday October 6th, and by the grace of God we have taken the bold step following the calling of the Holy Spirit to become, in the here and now, one congregation as United in Grace, a formally joined ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church.

Even as we continue to be and journey in personal and cultural lives, we are now in a wonderfully exciting new life as a community of faith on Lewis Street here in Monroe. With the midwifing and birth of United in Grace we will now begin the work as a community of Love and Grace to become a community that is a Light House and a Shade Tree for all of God's beloved, that is all of God's creation, perfectly and wonderfully created!

We are on the threshold of a new and exciting future together with God and Gods preferred future and dreams for us as Christ followers as Disciples (Learner/Student), and an Apostles, (Sent One) into our mission field following Jesus and joining with what God is already doing and has called us to do as a co-creative partner, in God's work.

Welcome to United in Grace!

Some of you may be wondering what membership in this newly formed congregation looks like as a part of the body of Christ?

From the United in Grace Constitution:

Membership C8.01. Members of this congregation shall be those persons on the membership roster of this congregation at the time that this Constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and its bylaws.

So, what this means is that if you attended the meeting on Oct. 6th and voted, you are now officially a member of United n Grace or if you were on either churches active membership roster or were attending on a regular basis, you are a member of United in Grace. If you need further explanation or have further questions please contact me via email- prmalcolmb@gmail.com.

We will have a formal Welcome in the future and perhaps have a place for all of us to sign as the first members.

continued on next page

We continue to gather together as we continue to be faithful followers and to be people of joy, grace, hope and love as we now await the season of HOPE, the season of Advent, with expectant wonderings and waiting, as we contemplate how God has come to us in the flesh in 2024, and will come to us and call us to new beginnings in 2025.

We know that God is faithful, is already present and ahead of us, will be with us, will lead us, and will call us into our future. We rest in hope because we know that endings with God are really new beginnings.

I thank God for each of you and for your love and grace as we journey together following and discovering Christ in our midst and in our world.

See you in church!

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Malcolm



NEW CHURCH, NEW LEADERSHIP

Happy November to everyone! It's so exciting to have this be the first edition of the newsletter for the official United in Grace congregation! It has been a long process, but here we are now finally United in Grace at last! After the vote on October 6 to approve the official Constitution and Bylaws, the newly formed Nominating Committee started its work in looking for the new board that will lead this new church, starting in January. Strong, cohesive elected leadership has been missing from both MUMC and MSLC for several years now. After the Covid shutdown and our return to church services, the leadership council dwindled to only myself, Ric Hart, Tanya Hubbard and Jasmine Ray-Symms for MUMC, and only Brian Johnson, Kathi Cooley, Kathleen Salle, for MSLC, plus Pr. Malcolm who advised on both councils. This made for many things having to be done as best we could under the circumstances, but many times without full consent or "by the rules" of either congregation, though we pulled in people from past leadership positions to advise and help make decisions many, many times when it was needed.

As you might imagine, it was so very hard, a lot of mistakes were made and it wore us all down to a point where we had little left to give to keep our beloved congregations going. But the light at the end of it all was the approval by all of you of the new Constitution and Bylaws, written and approved by both congregations to be this new entity, United in Grace, and now the foundation of this new entity will be strong, committed leadership that will bring fresh ideas and new energy and enthusiasm to making UIG ALL of our own!

The Time and Talents survey that many of you filled out was really helpful in giving the Nominating Committee information about where you would like to serve, and it was very encouraging to see how many people actually are willing! New leadership is of course important in any church, but especially in this new church where we are blending styles and processes that will be the best for all. You know that old saying "it takes a village" well, that sure is true for UIG, and no matter how much or how little you might be able to serve, you are needed. So if someone from the Nominating Committee contacts you, I hope that you will prayerfully consider what is being asked and what God is calling you to do with your own time and talent for the church.

With Hope and Joy for our future,

Nancy



We have an opportunity on **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. On this day we remember and celebrate the depth and breadth of Christians – that is, the saints.

You will be invited to light a candle during the service in memory of the saints in your life.



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY is the final Sunday of the church year. It is a day to celebrate Christ, who reigns as Lord of all, and to anticipate the day when all things are made new.

Join us for worship on **Sunday, November 24th** as we celebrate our King.



Wander under the canopy of trees or along the Snohomish River to re-ignite your soul and drink in the beautiful surroundings of this special place. We'll have time for story, prayer, silence, reflection and wandering. All are welcome to embrace the Wild Earth that is always inviting us back home. November 30th, 10am, at Al Borlin Park in Monroe.



Let's bless the Lord (and the congregation!) with music each week during Advent

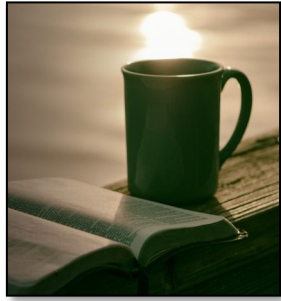
We meet every Sunday at 9am in the sanctuary. The songs are easy to learn, and you'll have fun while you learn them!

Come and Sing!

Daylight Saving Times ends on November 3
Remember to set your clocks back the night before!



GET CONNECTED – FELLOWSHIP, STUDY, AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

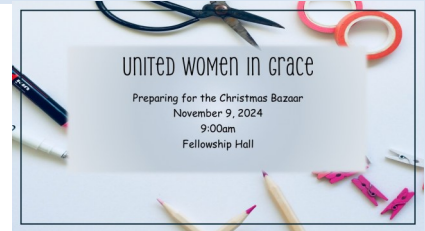


Jesus & Java

Brothers and Sisters in Christ! Jesus and Java meets Sunday morning before church at 8:15. We finish between 9:15-9:30 so you can participate in choir if you desire.

For the next few weeks, we're studying scripture using the Lectionary - a series of scriptures to be read according to the church calendar - as our guide. Each week we'll study four scripture readings assigned for that week: The Gospel, Old Testament, Psalm and New Testament. The goal is to explore how we can apply these scriptures to our lives rather than just hearing them each Sunday morning. Please join us as we embrace the teachings of God's Word!

It's COMING! The Christmas Bazaar is Coming!



Our United Women in Grace will be meeting Nov. 9th at 9am to make crafts for the Christmas Bazaar. Bring your own craft to work on or we'll be making jars to sell. If you aren't "crafty" join us anyway for fellowship with the ladies of United in Grace. All proceeds will go to support local ministries.



Advent Sound Bath – December 4

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the mystery of Christmas; a time to watch and wait and be present. In the hustle and bustle that often accompanies this season, taking time to center ourselves and tap into the spirit of Advent can be hard to do. If you're longing for a time to rest and reflect, please join us on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Adam Riehl is returning to UIG to lead us in a sound bath for Advent. For the most restful experience, bring a yoga mat, a blanket, and any bolster or pillow you prefer. You may also choose to experience it sitting in the pews, and you're welcome to bring a cushion or pillow to make you more comfortable. *The sound bath is free and open to the community. There is no need to register. Free-will donations are gladly accepted to help cover the cost.*

November's Books, TV & Movies is Tuesday the 19th at 6:30pm

Everyone is welcome to join the discussion, enjoy great food and drink, and be part of a community of like-minded books, tv & movie lovers! The Host is yet to be determined, but we promise to keep you posted!

SPECIAL SUNDAYS FOR OUR MINISTRIES

BROWN BAG SUNDAY — NOVEMBER 10

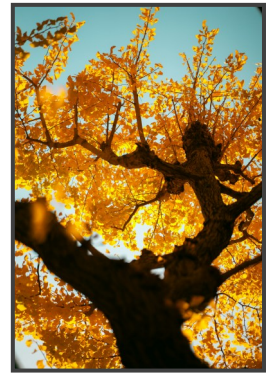
HAZEL'S LITTLE FREE PANTRY SUNDAY — NOVEMBER 24

Special emphasis is given and financial offerings are accepted for these important ministries on these days. Specially marked envelopes are found in the backs of the pews and on the Greeters desk on Sunday morning.



RENEWAL

I love fall. I love the colors. I love the sound of footsteps on leaves. I love the holidays: Halloween, Thanksgiving and the soon to be here gift of Christmas. I love the promise of new beginnings. Fall is all about the cycle of life. It's the passing of summer, and leading to winter, to bring us around to the promise of spring. It is a reminder that life is not stagnant but instead is always changing. The sadness of struggles is replaced by the joy of renewal.



2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

We hold on to that promise of renewal. It gives us hope and joy. We don't need to be confined to a single season but know that life is ever-changing. We are never "stuck". We can grow and change. We can find beauty in all that is around us. Even as the trees go bare before blossoming into life, we are reminded of the potential hope gives us.

As the seasons change, we still find joy amidst the gloom. The bare trees are still beautiful in their own way. The cold of winter is tempered by nights by the fire. The short days and longer nights create a "hominess" feeling. We bundle up to play in the snow and come into a warm house. The land goes to sleep but the growth continues out of sight.

So, as we transition into the time of winter, we maintain hope in the blessings of Easter. As our soul is renewed, so is the earth in all its glory. Life is finding the blessings surrounding us and the faith in God that He is with us every step of the way – ever changing, always for good!

Jasmine Ray-Symms

www.jasmineraysymms.com

Photo by [Szymon Shields](#) on [Unsplash](#)

NOVEMBER SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Thank you for serving. You are an indispensable part of the body of Christ and we thank you.

	NOVEMBER 3	NOVEMBER 10	NOVEMBER 17	NOVEMBER 24
Worship Asst.	Nancy Franke			Missy Maxson
Greeters	Perry & Valarie Cole	Denny & Diana Coates	Bev Rice	Joel & JoLynn Garrison
Ushers	Kaitlyn Ault Julia Chambers	Denny & Diana Coates	Perry & Valarie Cole	Joel & JoLynn Garrison
Acolyte	Ric Hart	Ben Ault	Ric Hart	
Reader	Missy Maxson	Ric Hart	Michael Gore	
Comm. Prep.	Kathleen Sallee		Harriet Barr	
Serve Comm.	Kathleen Sallee	Kaitlyn Ault Gwen Paietta	Joel & JoLynn Garrison	
Coffee Hour	Missy Maxson	Jill Sumpter	Kathleen Sallee	
Altar Flowers	Amy Halgren	Amy Halgren		
Soundboard	Kathi Cooley	Charlie Brown	Kathi Cooley	Charlie Brown

AROUND THE CHURCH

One of the things that has happened since United in Grace actually formed was the purchase of a new refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall. Since the old one was 100 years old (ok not really, but it was close and really worn out) and just gave up at last and died, we had a great committee that worked to determine what we should buy while our funds were rather low during this process. We got an anonymous donation of \$5,000 to go towards this purchase - what a blessing that was! It allowed us to buy a large, reliable refrigerator with a warranty, and so many more options than we had on the old one! We realized during this discussion just how much our missions in our church rely on a good working refrigerator. The Cold Weather Shelter can now have room to bring in food to serve those that stay overnight. For a congregation that knows "food is love", we sure have a lot of room to spread that love now!

Next is the new heat pump that will be put into the parsonage to replace the old broken boiler heater that was not working properly and was giving neither heat nor cool air to both Dean and Burt who live there. We couldn't afford to replace it, but were going to have somehow, and then a way to do this came – we were notified of an energy grant through the **Methodist Faith Foundation** who was giving \$150K in Energy funds, to update Methodist parsonages to more energy efficient and cost saving heating and cooling. We applied for the grant and got \$25K to do just that! I always say "God provides" and he sure came through this time! The installation will go in soon and it will give efficient heat and cooling to the parsonage, lower the energy bills and be a reliable source for many, many years to come! In addition, the wonderful deal that we were given by **Genesis Heating and Air Conditioning here in Monroe** (wonderful people – Mike the owner, is the best! They do so much for churches and shelters and have real servants hearts!), allowed us to have leftover funds to also purchase a badly needed new oven and range for the parsonage that the grant also provided for – What a blessing !

Once again our little church will host the Cold Weather Shelter for the 2024-5 year, this is facilitated by Volunteers of America who provide and train the volunteers and provide the supplies that are needed. It was such a blessing last year to know that we were able to allow our space to be used to provide a warm bed for those who had no place to go on the cold and freezing nights. This winter is supposed to be much colder than last, so we know that the shelter will be utilized more. It's a good feeling to know that our facilities can be used to possibly save someone's life who might otherwise die of exposure out on the street. As we go forward into this new chapter of our church life and congregation, I hope you are all as excited as I am about what God might be calling us to do. Opportunities come our way all the time to provide what we have as a mission for others to help others. While we are a small congregation, we are a mighty congregation, full of people with generous and loving hearts for each other and their fellow man and woman. Thanks to you all for being part of this very special congregation. Here's to the future of United in Grace. May God bless us all.

See you in church,
Nancy Franke

November Birthday & Anniversary* Celebrations

09	Christine Coco
09	Jill Sumpter
12	Missy Maxson
13	Rob Williams
28	Ric & Marian Hart*

 **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

OCTOBER 2024

In Person: 39 Online: 10

Includes 11 at Grace in the Wild



From **The Spirit**, a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA.

Dear Beloveds,

As the election season is here – and for many, your vote has already been cast – I have been doing some reflecting on what it means to vote as a

Lutheran Christian. Please know that I am not telling you who to vote for in this election. It is not for me to tell you who to vote for. I mean, after all, God is neither Republican or Democrat, or even American.

But in saying that, I am not abdicating the responsibility that we have as Lutheran Christians who live in a country where voting matters. As children of God, we are called to vote beyond our own self-interest or individuality. As people who follow Jesus, we are called towards God's vision of a just and mercy-filled world. As people who have received grace upon grace, we are called to stand against injustice, and to remind everyone that, in God's eyes, every single person is loved and beloved.

So, here are a few thoughts and questions:

Jesus is all about loving one's neighbor. Even when it is hard. When he is asked, "Who is my neighbor," Jesus expands his answer beyond imagination. In Jesus' stories and actions he constantly goes to those who are on the outside, those marginalized, those without status, and shows how they are loved by God – how they are, in fact, his neighbor. *As you vote: Who is your neighbor?*

Throughout scripture, hospitality to the stranger is embraced. In the Old Testament, the command to welcome strangers is repeated 37 times. In Matthew 25:35 Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." *As you vote: Who is the stranger?*

God's will and God's calling is towards equity and justice for those who have been silenced, oppressed, or harmed. As we hear in Isaiah, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow."

As you vote: Who are the silenced, the oppressed, the harmed?

The eighth commandment declares that we are called to not bear false witness against our neighbor. This, of course, means not lying about another. This means no name-calling or false accusations. But it goes beyond this. As Martin Luther tells us in his Small Catechism, we are to defend our neighbor, speak well of our neighbor, and explain everything in the kindest way.

As you vote: Who is speaking truth?

God created this beautiful earth and declared that we are both part of the creation and are also called to be stewards. As we read in the ELCA social statement, *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*, we affirm that it is God's intention for the healing and wholeness of creation. *As you vote: Who is caring for creation?*

Dear Beloveds of God, there is so much more that could be written about the state of the country and what voting means. We could make this all complicated and intricate and difficult. (And to be fair, the United States sometimes feels shaky and unmoored). But truly it comes down to this: God's love is unconditional and unending. Jesus came to this earth to show, to embody, to be God's love for us and for all people. And so, knowing this, trusting this, believing this, we are called. We are called, as baptized and sent children of God, to show this love to the world. We are called to vote against hate. We are called to vote for God's love. As we hear in 1 John, *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ... We love because God first loved us.*

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee /
bishop@lutheransnw.org

From the Greater Northwest Communications, Oct. 30, 2024

Navigating Election Day and the weeks that will follow

As leaders in the Greater Northwest Area, we know that election seasons can bring heightened tensions, anxiety, and deep division within our communities. This year is no exception, and the work of fostering understanding, hope, and compassion will not end on Election Day.

To help you guide your congregation through this challenging time, we've curated a special resource page. Here, you'll find insights, practical reflections, and worship resources designed to foster spiritual grounding, encourage civil dialogue, and promote peace amid uncertainty.

Whether you are planning pre-election prayers, navigating post-election conversations, or seeking ways to promote unity in polarized times, we hope these resources will support you and your ministry. Together, we remain committed to being peacemakers and a presence of Christ's love in the world, no matter the outcome of the election.

Explore the resources and let us journey together—faithful, resilient, and hopeful—beyond Election Day.

<https://greaternw.org/navigating-election-day/>

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 8:15 Jesus & Java 9:15 Choir 10 Worship	4	5	6 12:30pm Refit Class Fellowship Hall Bible Nerds 6pm	7 7pm Sky Per. Arts Fellowship Hall	8	9 9am United Women in Grace Fellowship Hall
10 <i>Brown Bag Sunday</i> 8:15 Jesus & Java 9:15 Choir 10 Worship	11	12 6:30 pm Books, TV & Movies	13 12:30pm Refit Class Fellowship Hall	14	15	16
17 8:15 Jesus & Java 9:15 Choir 10 Worship	18	19	20 12:30pm Refit Class Fellowship Hall	21	22	23
24 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> <i>Little Pantry Sunday</i> 8:15 Jesus & Java 9:15 Choir 10 Worship	25	26	27 12:30pm Refit Class Fellowship Hall	28 	29	30 10am Grace in the Wild Al Borlin Park

NOVEMBER 2024 - MONROE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**MONROE UNITED METHODIST TREASURER'S
REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 6,540.14
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	- \$ 8,725.14
TOTAL SHORTFALL	- \$ 2,185.01

<u>2024 MUMC LAY LEADERSHIP</u>	
Board of Trustees Chairman	Ric Hart 360-794-7772
Treasurer	Tanya Hubbard 360-793-8959
Financial Secretary	Nancy Franke 360-794-6954
Staff-Parish Relations Committee	Nancy Franke —temporary
Membership Secretary	Kathi Cooley 425-293-8694
Lay Leader to Annual Conference	Jasmine Ray-Symms 425-223-9866
UWG President	Jasmine Ray-Symms 425-223-9866
Recording Secretary	vacant

NOVEMBER 2024 - MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 NON-DESIGNATED OFFERINGS AND EXPENSES

	2024 Budget	July Actual	August Actual	September Actual
Offerings	\$ 8,917	\$ 6,979	\$ 5,832	\$ 6,244
Expenses	\$10,384	\$ 9,847	\$ 8,008	\$ 7,862
Surplus/deficit		- \$ 2,868	- \$ 2,176	- \$ 1,618



<u>2024 MSLC COUNCIL</u>	
Treasurer:	Brian Johnson 425-503-8352
Community Relations:	Kathleen Sallee 425-387-2638
Worship:	Kathi Cooley 425-293-8694

On behalf of Charlie and myself - THANK YOU!

Thank you for the wonderfully generous and delicious Appreciation Gift we received from all of you on Sunday, October 27th. When we sit down to consume the wonderful treats in the basket we will think of all of you, we will toast you as we sip the very fine Port and remember how blessed with love and support we receive from you. We remember in our humble hearts how much we love and appreciate the blessing that you are to both of us.

With love, gratitude and blessings,

Pr Malcolm and Charlie

 Morning Star Lutheran Church
 Monroe United Methodist Church
412 South Lewis Street
Monroe, WA 98272-4149



LOOKING AHEAD THIS MONTH:

- * **All Saints' Sunday**
November 3rd
- * **Jesus & Java**
Sunday mornings at 8:15
- * **Bible Nerds**
Wednesday the 6th
- * **United Women in Grace**
Saturday the 9th at 9am
- * **Books, TV, & Movies**
Tuesday the 19th at 6:30pm
- * **Christ the King Sunday**
November 24th
- * **Grace in the Wild**
Saturday the 30th at 10am

November 3: All Saints' Sunday ~ Scripture: **Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44**

November 10: 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ Scripture: **Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44**

November 17: 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ Scripture: **Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13: 1-8**

November 24: Christ the King ~ Scripture: **Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18: 33-37**

CONTACT US:

Pastor Malcolm Brown

Phone: 360-794-2111

Email: prmalcolmb@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Kathi Cooley

Music Director: Jill Sumpter

Live stream/editor: Bryce Cooley

MONROE UNITED METHODIST

Phone: 360-794-8863

Email: office@unitedingrace.org

Website: www.unitedingrace.org

MORNING STAR LUTHERAN

Phone: 360-794-2111

Email: office@unitedingrace.org

Website: www.unitedingrace.org

**10:00 SUNDAY MORNINGS IN-
PERSON AND LIVE STREAMED**



unitedingrace.org