



Brothers and sisters, we cannot help but thank God for you, which is only appropriate because your faith is growing and expanding and because the love demonstrated by each and every one of you is overflowing for one another. So, of course, we've proudly bragged about you within circles of God's people at other churches near and far because, even in the grip of much persecution and affliction, you've stood firm in your faith and have persevered.

1 Thess 1:3-5

Thank You!

I want to pause a moment and say thank you. Thank you first and foremost to our most amazing God who has been beside us throughout this most unique of years. Thank you to the faithful servants of Simply Grace that adapted and are still willing to adjust as things continue to change. Thank you for each person who comes to worship, either remotely or in person, your presence keeps us engaged and moving forward.

Thank you to our small group leaders and members your participation is such a source of encouragement. Thank you to each person who has given financial support to the church, it is because of your generosity that ministry and mission keeps happening.

I want to remember the saints who have served Simply Grace faithfully and now have gone to their heavenly reward: Maddie Smith, Ginny DeWire, Dick Meyers, and Betty Gardner. We thank you for all the years you served among us.

Thank you to all who have been involved in mission, the world has been touched by the love of God in the most difficult of times because of you. Since our last change conference, we delivered over 3000 Christmas cards and treats to spread holiday cheer to Clymer Village residents and Veteran's Haven North. We gathered Christmas gifts for children and families through NORWESCAP, in Bloomsbury and in Honduras. Over the winter we collected blankets and winter clothing and hygiene products for local families and the homeless in New Brunswick.

Thank you for your faithfulness to keep traditions strong like beautiful music each Sunday, decorating the outside of the church for every holiday, creating Advent and Lenten bags for people to worship in their homes, including special treats for our children.

Thank you for being the church. We celebrate that we have made it this far and that with the help of God we will continue to move forward, no matter what tomorrow might hold. I do miss so many of the things that we took for granted in the past, however I am thankful for all that we have discovered through this. Now let us with words of praise and songs of hope anxiously wait for what God has in store for us next.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Gina

Discipleship Opportunities

IN MEMORY

This year in lieu of the traditional poinsettias adorning our altar, we will be collecting donations of \$25.00 toward a new Christmas tree.

TO SERVE:

Christmas Card Collection for Clymer Village and Haven North Veterans has started. All cards are needed by 12/15.

Angel Tree gifts for children are now available. See simplygracumc.com for link to signup.

TO LEARN:

Advent Studies

Read, Reflect, Relate - Not a typical Bible Study Wednesday's at 7PM at the church. All are invited to drop by. Christmas Characters: (12/1)

God with Us

Women's Zoom Tuesday at 7PM (11/30)
Hybrid in person and Zoom, Thursday 7PM (12/2)

TO PRAY:

Weekly Prayer Meeting: Each Thursday at 6:30 a group meets for 15 minutes of prayer on Zoom led by Tom Kinsman Link on church website.

More details inside.

Advent/Christmas

Advent Worship every Sunday both in person and on Zoom at 9:30.

Longest Night Service 12/20 7:00 PM
A time to hold space for the grief and loss of the year. Zoom

5PM Candlelight Worship Service

A lively, joy filled telling of the Christmas Story

Including a Children's Message

Both in person and on Zoom

10 PM Fireside Service

This service will offer quiet moments of reflection, special message and music. Service will be offered on Zoom and FB live.

All Zoom links can be found at [simplygraceumc.com](https://www.simplygraceumc.com)



Christmas Video

We have an exciting plan for our Christmas Eve Service and need YOUR help! We are making a Nativity Video and need kid's to fill the different roles. There are speaking and non-speaking options. We can provide simple costumes if needed. Parents can email us clips unedited, and our friend Phoebe will put it together with her creative genius!

You can sign up to be: • Mary • Joseph • Baby Jesus • Angels • Shepherds • Three Wisemen • Animals

If you're interested in participating contact Miss Angie to sign up or for more info!

Angie.simplygrace@gmail.com

Gifting

Holidays can be a stressful and expensive time for many, in particular with the challenging economy. Unfortunately it is fairly common for many families to be short of money around the holidays and they struggle to buy Christmas gifts as well as essentials. Here are a few ways Simply Grace is helping.

Angel Tree Gifts for local children: these are specific gifts for local children to receive something special on Christmas morning. Tags are available in church or at signup (see church website [simplygraceumc.com](https://www.simplygraceumc.com)). Gifts are needed in the church by Dec 12, please leave gifts unwrapped, but a gift bag would be a nice addition.

Pizza for Families - the local school is looking for a card for a pizza. We need cards for 5 families. In addition they are looking for wrapping paper and gift bags. Needed by Dec 19.

Money is not the only challenge during the holiday, loneliness is also a big challenge.

We are collecting **Christmas cards** for the seniors at Clymer Village and the Veterans at Haven North. Cards are needed by Dec 19. Please do not seal.

Veterans at Haven North - we are looking for gift cards in small denominations \$5-\$20. Needed by Dec 19.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund : this collection is used to care for emergencies such as utility shut offs. This is a year around collection please mail to PO Box 86 or use PayPal on the church website. [simplygraceumc.com](https://www.simplygraceumc.com)

Christmas Tree

This year in lieu of the traditional poinsettias adorning our altar, we will be collecting donations of \$25.00 toward a new Christmas tree. In recognition of your donation, a personalized ornament will be placed on the tree. Any additional funds received above the cost of the tree will be used toward the purchase of decorations for the tree and several poinsettias to adorn the altar.

You can mail your donation to Simply Grace UMC PO Box 86, Bloomsbury, NJ 08804 or it can be included with your contribution via PayPal, Vanco or during in person worship. Please have your donation in by December 12, 2021. Questions, contact Nancy Huber financialsecretary.sgumc@gmail.com

Throughout November we explored the theme “All In”. We began by recognizing that we serve a God who went “all in.” God loved the world, you, me, but also all the rest of humankind, so much that God gave his only Son for us, “so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” God’s love for us is “all in!” We in turn are called to do the same.

Each week we explored the idea of going “all in” for Jesus. (All sermons can be found on the church website.) We looked at the risks and the need to work together. We established that each person has been equipped with unique talents and abilities to use for the good of many and we were reminded that there is a great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us to show us the way by faith.

Now, I am going to invite all of you, those who were present in church, those remote, those who are reading this newsletter, everyone to make a commitment. A commitment to taking the next step. This is not about just a single action, but about an all-encompassing commitment in life to live in a way that honors God. So where is your soul being stirred? Where are you being called to put yourself out there?

We will also look at what is our vision for Simply Grace. At one time we had a vision of a swingset in a graveyard and out of that vision came our ministry to the children in Bloomsbury called BIG. In another season it was the care and support of young adults through Wine Cellar. We also went all in to support recovery ministry through supporting 12 step programs. So what is our vision for today and tomorrow. How will we be known throughout our community? I pray that we can move from doing nice things to doing God sized things.

A life fully surrendered to God is a life of taking next steps, no matter what the cost. Going all in involves taking risks and putting aside what we know and are used to. So how will you commit to going all in? You are invited to fill out the form below. You can take a picture of your response and email it to us (umcpastorgina@comcast.net) or you can bring it to worship or mail it to the church with your offering.

Please prayerfully consider how you can serve God and others. So will you play it safe or will you go all in.



I promise to go “All In” with renewed love, generosity and service in my life. I covenant to engage in these actions.

Generosity

Time/Presence

Gifts/Service

Witness

Prayers