

Grace Notes

MAY/JUNE 2023 EDITION

Grace United Methodist Church



WE GATHER



WE GROW



WE GO

WWW.PEOPLEOFGRACE.ORG

300 E. Gartner Rd.

Naperville, IL 60540

630-355-1748

Grace Notes

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Celebrate Mother's Day at Grace

The Grace Children's Music Ministry will present the musical "Called" by Mark Burrows on Mother's Day weekend on **Friday, May 12 at 6:30PM and Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day) at the 10:30AM worship service.**

The children learn it is not always easy to understand how God is calling us. We invite all to join us as the cast of children try to discern what it means to be "called" by God. We will learn that "God has put something beautiful in each of us and is calling on us to share it with the world. It won't always be easy, but God knows us and believes in us...even when we forget to believe in ourselves." The musical includes a special offering, collected by the cast, that will continue to support the Feed My Starving Children mission. Please save up your loose change and bring it with you to either of the performances. Everyone is welcome to join us!

God is not calling you to be someone else. God is not calling you to be like someone else. God is calling you because you're you. You are a child of God. You are worthy. You. Are. Called. - Mark Burrows



Outdoor Summer Worship in the Field

JULY 2, AUGUST 6, & SEPTEMBER 3 AT 9:00AM

Mark your calendar for Outdoor Summer Worship in the lower field. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy worship in the great outdoors with music and Holy Communion!

**** There will be no 8:00AM worship on these Sundays. In the event of inclement weather, we will gather in the Sanctuary. ****

Welcome Rev. Kim Neace

We are excited to welcome Rev. Kim Neace to Grace as our new Pastor of Children and Family Ministries. Pastor Kim brings fresh ideas for all ages to encourage a deeper faith by recognizing and mobilizing the gifts and graces of the people of Grace! She will work together with us to develop new programming that fits the needs of our Grace community.

Pastor Kim Neace is an ordained Deacon in the UMC. As an ordained Deacon she follows her call to Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice in unique and bold ways. She has a passion for faith formation and discipleship across all ages and stages of life, especially children and their families. She has an undergrad degree in Elementary Education, a Masters of Children and Family Ministry, which is "womb to tomb" discipleship, and Basics of Graduate Theological Studies.

Pastor Kim has a heart for missions and outreach as well as empowering and leading others to serve with their unique gifts, passions, and talents. Fun fact is that she has been on sixteen mission trips where eight of them have been overseas.

Pastor Kim and her husband Glen will be celebrating their 30th anniversary in July. They are blessed with two children: Alyssa who is married to Jacob, and Austin who is dating Erin. Pastor Kim and Glen find much joy spending time with their 18-month old grandchild, Connor, Alyssa and Jacob's son. We welcome Glen in joining us at Grace as well!

Kim's family loves playing board games, yard games, and ping pong. They also enjoy the outdoors. Pastor Kim loves an array of different cultural foods such as Indian, Mexican, and Mediterranean, just to name a few. But, guacamole and gelato would be her go to on any given day.

She looks forward to being part of Grace UMC and back in her local community. She will be scheduling some one-on-one coffees to get to know people when she begins in June. We will welcome her in worship on Sunday, June 4.



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Grace church does it again! Over 150 families (about 200 children) enjoyed beautiful weather, crafts, a visit with the Easter bunny, and a successful Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 8! Thank you to all who donated a gift basket, candy and trinkets, volunteered on the day of the event, attended, or invited someone to attend. Your generosity and support were greatly appreciated and helped create memories for a lifetime!



G.Y.M. (Grace Youth Ministry)

Midweek GYM goes on spring break beginning May 3 and will resume in June with our summer schedule after the Side x Side Youth Mission Trip. Stay tuned to the weekly email for details! Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org with questions or for more information.



Confirmation Sunday

On **Sunday, May 7**, Confirmation Class of 2023 will gather for the 10:30AM worship to confirm their baptism and become the newest "new" members of Grace United Methodist Church. Please join us as we welcome these young people into our Grace family!



Senior Celebration Worship

All high school graduating seniors are invited to attend worship on **Sunday, May 21 at 10:30AM** for a time of recognition of current achievements and future plans! Please register at www.peopleofgrace.org/seniors no later than May 7, or contact Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org for more information.



Reel People

Are you a movie buff? Do you like to see movies on the big screen? Do you also prefer the good old movies with Jimmy Stewart or Clark Gable or Liz Taylor to today's super heroes? Come join us! We are "Reel People," a senior movie review group who have been meeting since 2006. Our monthly format is to select a film (either currently showing or on DVD), watch it independently, and then convene at the church for a critique. Meetings are usually on the **4th Thursday at 2:00PM**. We'd love to have you join us! Questions? Call Dick Trondsen at 630-340-5080.



Coffee Volunteers Needed

Help is needed Sunday mornings to make coffee and serve donuts. No experience needed and training will be provided. You pick the Sunday that works best for you! Contact Laura Strain at lstrain2279@icloud.com or ask a volunteer at the coffee counter.



Side x Side Youth Mission Trip Dates at a Glance

The Side x Side Youth Summer Mission Trip is June 11 to June 15. Below are important upcoming dates. Questions? Please contact Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org.

Sunday, May 21: Meeting at Grace at 7:15PM for ALL! Attendance HIGHLY encouraged. Suds on Sunday details.

Sunday, June 4: Suds on Sunday Youth Car Wash Fundraiser at 8:00AM to 12:00PM (shifts at 7:00AM to 12:00PM)

Sunday, June 4: Meeting at Grace at 6:00PM for Drivers/for all at 7:00PM. Last minute trip details.

Sunday, June 11: Commissioning at 10:30AM Worship! Wear your Trip T-Shirt! (Trip Dress Code applies today!)

Sunday, June 11: Lunch following 10:30 worship; Team Building Activities (11:30AM to 3:00PM) Depart Grace at 12:30PM!

Monday, June 12: Gather at Grace at 7:30AM in Fellowship Hall





Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed Heroes Needed!

Many Adult HEROES (volunteers) are needed for Grace's 2023 Vacation Bible School on July 10 to July 14 at 9:00AM to 11:00AM! This year's theme is Hero Hotline where we will learn how we have exactly what it takes to help bring peace, spread love, and teach others about God's love for us. Adult HEROES (anyone over 18 years of age and SafeGatherings approved) may register at www.peopleofgrace.org/hero to be part of the team! Please contact Becky Blachford at vbs@peopleofgrace.org or Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org with questions.



Suds on Sunday Car Wash

Youth Summer Mission's annual car wash will be held on **Sunday, June 4 from 8:00AM to 12:00PM** on the lower lot of Grace. Bring your dirty car to worship and drive home in a clean one--yours, of course! Free will donations accepted. All proceeds benefit Side x Side 2023! *Please note, the lower lot will be closed that morning for car wash parking only. Limited handicap accessible parking will be available near Fellowship Hall door entrance.

Save the Date Grace Summer Concert Series

Angela Salvaggione

Sunday, June 25

8:00AM and 10:30AM worship and 2:00PM Concert

Everyone is invited to hear pianist/teacher/composer Angela Salvaggione at the 8:00AM and 10:30AM worship and perform at a 2:00PM recital of Lebanese piano music, both classical and contemporary. The afternoon program will consist of several important Lebanese composers of the past (Sabra, Farah, Baz, Succar and Gelalian) as well as current composers Georges Sawan, Tony Gemayel, Houtaf Khoury, Ramzi bou Kamel, and Wajdi Abou Diab. There is no fee to attend, however, a free will offering will be accepted to help promote the work of Lebanese musicologist Fady Jeanbart in his research and promotion of early Lebanese music, and Wajdi Abou Diab and his Living Lebanese Composers Channel project on YouTube.



Henry Rye and Myroslav Mikhailenko

Sunday, July 16

5:00PM Concert

Don't miss this special performance!

Henry Rye will play organ and Myroslav Mikhailenko will play piano for this free concert.



United Women in Faith May Meeting

Program: Framed by the Lord's Prayer: A Mini Retreat

May 2, 2023 at 9:30AM in Fellowship Hall



United
Women
in Faith



Presented by Deaconess Catherine Inserra, Manager of Faith and Community Relations, Kids Above All, formerly ChildServ

All women are invited to come and hear our speaker, Deaconess Catherine Inserra, present her program, Framed by the Lord's Prayer: A Mini Retreat. A light breakfast will be provided by Priscilla Circle.

Deaconess Catherine Inserra lives in a suburb of Chicago and is active at her home church of First UMC Park Ridge, Illinois. Her affiliation to United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) is as a consecrated Deaconess, and she serves as the manager of Faith and Community Relations with the Kids Above All child welfare agency, which was established by Lucy Rider Meyer as a Methodist Deaconess Orphanage in 1894 in Lake Bluff, Illinois. She earned a certificate of spiritual direction at Garrett Evangelical Theological

Seminary in 2010, and served two different churches in faith and spiritual formation ministries between 2006 to 2019, including participating in Lay Servant Academies as a leader and Mission u as a study leader for children and a study leader for adults. Inserra began leading a prayer practice experience using the Lord's Prayer and introducing movement to embody the prayer in 2009, and is committed to giving it new life for such times as this and to equip women with the power of the prayer Jesus gave to us through His disciples.

As a follow up from our March United Women in Faith Meeting, "Riverwalk Adult Day Services: Sharing in Caring," with Jennifer Brasfield, Executive Director of Riverwalk Adult Day Services, we will be collecting the following items to donate to Riverwalk Adult Day Services:

- Dry Erase Markers and Erasers
- Colored Washable Markers
- Printer Paper
- Large Print Word Search Puzzles
- Adult Coloring Books

You may bring your donations to our May 2nd United Women in Faith Meeting.

We are a group of all ages and backgrounds! All women are welcome! If you cannot attend monthly meetings, you can support us through prayers, donations and gifts as a Supportive Member. "Every Woman in Grace Church can be in Mission!" Please join us - it's an exciting relationship! For more information on United Women in Faith, visit the new website at www.uwfaith.org. Here you will find webinars, podcasts, and other ways to grow in your faith, become informed, and involved in our faith-driven sisterhood!

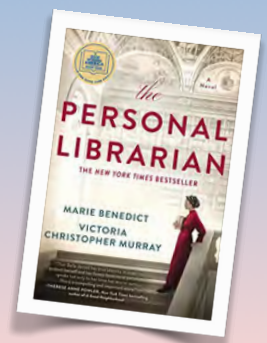
If you would like to join Grace United Women in Faith, or a monthly circle, contact Erin O'Brien (eobrien1451@gmail.com) or Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamusb@gmail.com). Childcare is provided by reservation for all United Women in Faith activities. For more information about United Women in Faith, contact UWIF President Kathy Carey at percula4344@sbcglobal.net or visit www.peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women.

Grace United Women in Faith Book Group

Join the Grace UWF Book Group on the 4th Wednesday of each month in January through October. We will meet in person at the church with a ZOOM option to discuss the book of the month. Please contact Cathy Connor at cathy.connor.05@gmail.com for more information.

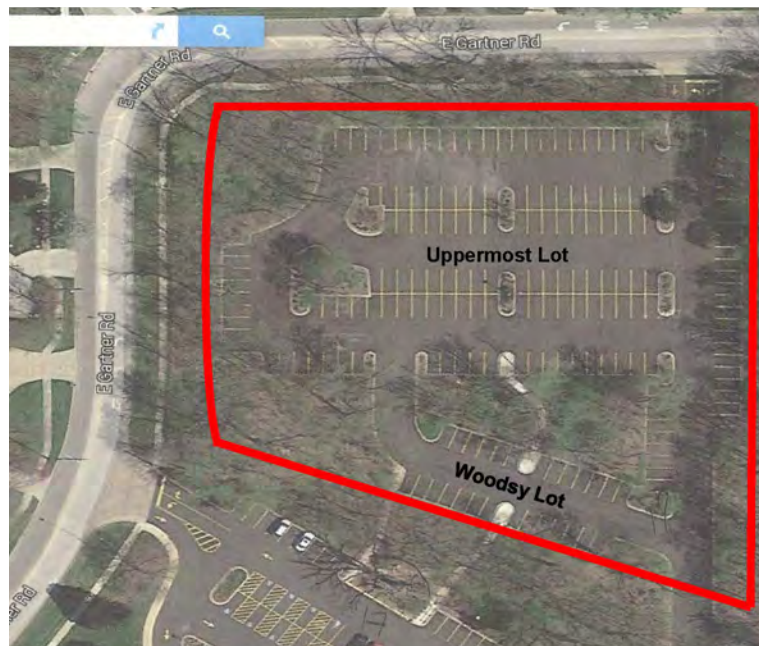
May Book

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
Meets Wednesday, May 24 at 12:45PM



Capital Project Delayed

Parts for our air handler that services the Sanctuary were ordered in January. Our hope was to install the new air handler during the transition between spring heating and summer cooling. Not going to happen! We are now told parts will arrive in August due to supply chain issues! We will pray they do, and the temporary fix in place continues to function. We will now aim to install the new air handler during the transition between summer cooling and fall heating.



Parking Agreement with North Central College

Grace Church has a long history of supporting North Central College dating back to the 1800s. The College has asked for our help in providing parking while a parking deck is under construction on their campus. The temporary arrangement will allow permitted College parking in our upper parking lots during the 2023 fall semester and as much of spring semester as is needed.

The College and Grace Trustees have entered into an agreement that sets regulations and protects both parties. They will cost-share expenses, which includes snow removal and will cover 2024 crack-fill and sealcoating of those parking lots, an expense that was cut from the church's 2023 budget. The upper parking lots will NOT be available for church parking during that time.



COMMON PANTRY

May Food Pantry Collection

May's pantry collection will benefit Common Pantry in Chicago. They went from serving 386 families last year to 650 this year and are having to increase their food purchases by 36% to meet their clients' needs. Monetary donations have decreased as inflation impacts many donor families. Please consider making a generous donation online at www.peopleofgrace.org/give and selecting the "Love Loaf" option. Grace sends these donations monthly to the designated pantry.

June Food Pantry Collection

June's pantry collection will benefit Loaves and Fishes. They consistently serve almost 2000 households weekly, doubling last year's number. They are struggling with the rise of food costs especially when purchasing eggs, cereal, and some meats so are developing new community partnerships to source food. Cash donations are appreciated and can be put in Grace's Love Loaf by the Welcome Desk or donated via Push Pay by visiting www.peopleofgrace.org/give and choosing the "Love Loaf" option.



What is the “NetZero 2050” UMC initiative?

This may not be a familiar phrase, but you should expect to hear more about it over the months to come. There is a swelling conviction around the world that all nations and communities must act in concert to limit the adverse impact of climate change (Net Zero - United Nations).

“NetZero 2050” is a global movement to reduce net carbon emissions to zero by year 2050, meaning whatever lingering carbon emissions exist in 2050 are offset by equivalent carbon capture. “Carbon Capture” refers to taking potent carbon greenhouse gases, like methane and carbon dioxide, out of the atmosphere. This can be done by planting trees, nourishing ocean reefs, or diverting industrial exhaust gases to underground storage.



The U.S. Government has made such a commitment and is now joined by 18 national governments with a goal of attaining net-zero government emissions by 2050 (Net Zero US Government Initiative).

Through this Initiative, national governments will work together to steadily curb emissions in ways that meet the urgency of the climate crisis.

The UMC General Board of Global Ministries together with the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC Eco-Sustainability Task Force) have also committed to a NetZero effort at a Summit in the Fall of 2022. A subsequent NIC initiative was launched in January 2023 to establish a NIC NetZero Task Force to lead, enable, and facilitate progress toward a NetZero 2050 goal.

Churches from across the NIC are represented on the team, totaling together about thirty clergy and lay members. The kick-off meeting in January resulted in identifying five key Task Force teams to implement NetZero emissions actions by 2026:

- Sharing Motivational Communications
- Executing Specific Actions
- Including Nature in Worship (Creation Care)
- Creating Educational Resources
- Promoting Conference Level Activities

Grace UMC has two members participating with the Task Force representing Grace’s Church & Society Committee, John Bodine and Jean Ives, both on the “Including Nature in Worship” team. They will continue participation through the year, meeting quarterly with the task force for NIC level efforts, and working to guide Grace Members and Grace Church in defining NetZero action steps at the local level.

Developments will be communicated in Grace Notes and through the Church & Society Committee as we progress through the year. This will be a transformative effort, requiring learning, adaptation, and a collective spirit of belief that we can make a difference in the climate challenge that is before us.

John Bodine & Jean Ives




Annual DuPage River Sweep

God calls us to care for his creation! Thus, Grace will once again participate in the annual DuPage River Sweep, where we gather to clean up the areas adjacent to our river. We will meet at 8:30AM in the lower parking lot on **Saturday, May 20**, to pick up debris in and along the DuPage River near church at 9:00AM to 12:00PM. This county-wide event is organized by the local Conservation Foundation. Help us care for our river and protect wildlife! Email church.society@peopleofgrace.org or contact Jaci Green-Tschirhart at green.tschirhart@gmail.com if you have questions or are interested in joining us. We need a headcount **by Friday, May 12**.

Grace Cares

An Outreach Ministry of
Grace United Methodist Church



If you know of someone who would benefit from a visit or phone call or if you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Richard Newell, Grace Cares Coordinator, at richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org or 630-947-9311.



WE'RE HIRING

Children's Ministry
Nursery Attendant

More info at
www.peopleofgrace.org/jobs

Contact Pastor Cindy Marino at
cindy.marino@peopleofgrace.org or
Gaye Lynn Loufek at
gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org
with questions.

Grace Notes Newsletter 2023 Publication Dates

In 2023, the *Grace Notes* newsletter will be published *every other month*. The next publication dates will be: **July 1, September 1, and November 1**. The deadline for materials for the newsletter is the 20th of the previous month. Please send your questions and submissions to communications@peopleofgrace.org.

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