



Grace Notes

JANUARY 2023 EDITION

Grace United Methodist Church



WE GATHER



WE GROW



WE GO

WWW.PEOPLEOFGRACE.ORG

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Naperville, IL 60540
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Grace Notes

Grace United Methodist Church | 300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville, IL 60540 | 630-355-1748



In This Issue

- Love Out Loud in February
- Lenten Devotional Booklet
- Grace Foundation 2022 Report
- 2023 Concert Series at Grace
- Confirmation begins January 15
- United Women in Faith events
- ...and much more!

New Year - New Me - New We

New Year's is a time to reflect on the past and plan and dream about the future. With each new literal year comes a chance to start fresh, set goals, and, in some cases, offers us a "clean slate" so to speak.

In what areas of your life would you like to start fresh? As you consider them, consider joining us at Grace for a new sermon series this January called "New Year - New Me - New We." We serve a God who says "behold, I am making all things new" in you, in us as a community, and for the purpose of blessing the world.

We want 2023 to be a year that enables us all to live the full, abundant, thriving life that God has called us to live. So whether you are new to Grace or a long-time member, come join us as we embark on a new year and new adventure as a community of faith, beginning January 15, 2023.



HEAR THE RESULTS!

Sunday, January 29

9:15AM

Fellowship Hall



Everyone is invited to hear a presentation by Rev. Dr. Jaye Johnson about the C.A.T. survey results

New Year Hours

Sunday, January 1

Worship at 9AM in the Sanctuary

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

Regular Office Hours Resume

9AM to 2PM Mondays-Thursdays, 9AM to Noon Fridays

Love Out LOUD in February

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. And, February is the month we often think of love - for spouses, partners, family, friends, and our neighbors. But, WHO is our neighbor? Everyone we encounter is our neighbor. Anyone we can help is our neighbor. We are making it easy to love our neighbors during the four weekends of February. Join us for any or all of these "Love Out Loud" events. Visit our website for more details as the dates approach.



February 5 - Stand Against Racism at 9:00AM in the Activity Center

Everyone is invited for the 1st session of a 4-part series, "Justice or Just Us?" Confronting racism is not just a social or political matter, but a theological one. It is the Bible that calls us to pursue justice, and the Bible that calls us to oppose racism.

February 10 & 11 - Support and Celebrate Black History Month at the 35th Annual Gospel X (Extravaganza)

Grace will be serving as host for this annual North Central College concert. You can help by volunteering and serving in a hospitality role and/or by purchasing a ticket and attending the concert.

February 18 & 19 - Participate at Feed My Starving Children's Feed the Need Mobile Pack

All ages are invited to sign up for one of the packing slots at the Feed My Starving Children's Feed the Need Mobile Pack at North Central College.

February 26 - Love Out Loud Worship

Join us for worship as we welcome a special guest who has "loved out loud" all around the world! Be inspired by his story and learn how we might do even more in our own lives.

2023 Lenten Booklet Contributions Needed!

It might seem a bit premature to think about Lent already, but Ash Wednesday is on February 22, and it will be here before we know it! We are excited to continue our nearly 60-year tradition of creating a booklet of daily Lenten devotions from our own Grace family.

Please prayerfully consider submitting a devotion for our 2023 publication. Our theme this year is "Love Out Loud," centered upon acts of service, but we are always open to - and grateful for - whatever heartfelt expressions of writing, art, poetry, or photography our contributors are led to offer.

A guidelines brochure will be available soon, so please watch for that. In the meantime, contact Barb Ceruti at bceruti917@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this time-honored booklet or for further information. The deadline for submission is January 20.



Grace Church Foundation: 2022 Report

The Grace United Methodist Church Foundation was established out of the need to think towards the church's future. Our purpose is to endow and support the lasting impact of the church's ministry and mission by encouraging members to remember Grace United Methodist Church Foundation in their estate plans (wills, trusts, etc.).

2022 was a year of transition out of many COVID protocols and back to "semi-normal" operations for Grace Church. As you are aware, Grace lost Paul Grysh, a staff member of 30 years, leaving behind his wife and family. Many members contributed to the Church's fund for the Grysh family. The Foundation has a pastoral care endowment that was created through the wishes of one of our member's estate plans. The donor wanted to provide support for people in immediate need but also enable people to grow and develop in faith. This endowment contributed to the Church's fund for the Grysh family.

Reliable and well-maintained facilities and grounds are critical to the Grace Church ministries. The Raise the Roof campaign addresses a number of critical facilities maintenance projects. As an incentive to meet the Raise the Roof goal, the Foundation committed to match 50% of new pledges in 2022 and 2023 to this project. Undesignated memorials and accumulated memorial earnings will be used in this commitment. In addition to facility maintenance, the church also has technology needs to provide streaming of services as well as maintain aging computers and equipment. Undesignated memorials and the accumulated earnings have also been used for these needs. There were erosion problems in the upper parking lot landscaping and the Foundation's Landscaping fund provided the financial support for these projects.

The post-COVID culture has brought new challenges and opportunities for the church's ministries. The leadership and staff attended the Leadership Institute 2022 at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, Missouri, in-person or on-line. The conference resources pastors, lay leaders, church staff, and volunteers with practical tips and tools designed to build leadership development and growth. Several members of Grace Church made donations through their wills or trusts to establish continuing education funds to promote the continued education and development of Grace leadership, staff and lay persons involved in church ministries.

In 2022, it was decided to make the Fall Festival a separate event and add new initiatives to enhance the outreach and serve more of the local community. The event was well attended by the families of Grace as well as families from the local community. The Foundation's endowments for children and youth ministries provided the additional financial support for the new initiatives.

The Foundation supported the academic and spiritual development of our youth in the congregation by providing scholarships to North Central College. One of our youths received a scholarship from the NCC scholarship endowment to attend North Central College. The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation's Dollars for Scholars program and North Central College both match our scholarship, tripling the amount for the student.

Through an endowment for international ministries, the Foundation was able to donate to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. This was accomplished through the United Methodist committee on relief (UMCOR). UMCOR assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry for humanitarian relief. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters - famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire, or other events. (Continued on page 4)

Foundation Board Members

Scott Oats, President and Secretary

John Abe, Vice President

Scott Skooglund, Treasurer

Ron Laub

Gina Gramarosso

Tim Ford

Susan Patton

Missy Hoekstra-Hecht

(Continued from page 3)

The Foundation provides resources to Grace Church because of our many donors for whom we are grateful. These donors looked to the future of Grace Church and included the Foundation in their wills, trusts, or made outright donations. The above examples show the impact and importance of legacy gifts on the current and ongoing ministries of Grace Church. If you would like additional information or wish to discuss, confidentially, the best way for you to make a gift, please feel free to contact me, or Pastors Cindy Marino, Eric Blachford, or Mark Himel.

The Foundation sponsored the second annual *Wills vs Trusts: Which is better for me?* seminar in October. The seminar is presented by an estate planning attorney. The seminar focuses on the importance of having an estate plan and differences between having a will vs a trust. The feedback from the attendees was positive and they found it informative and helpful. The Foundation is planning to add an additional seminar on, "How to make planned/legacy gift" in 2023.

If you have already named the Grace Foundation in your financial planning, please let the Foundation know by contacting me. We would like to thank you!

In Christ,

Scott Oats, Grace United Methodist Church Foundation Board of Directors, President

Email: soats@sbcglobal.net, Phone 630-386-6011

IRA Gifts: An Easy Way to Save Taxes and Provide a Legacy of Support

Thank you to all members who give annually to Grace United Methodist Church. As we begin another year of ministry at Grace Church, we would like to remind you of an easy way to save taxes and provide a lasting legacy of support.

If you're 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free transfer/gift to Grace Church Foundation. You won't pay income taxes on the gift because the transfer doesn't generate taxable income or a tax deduction.

And, if you are required to take minimum distributions, your gift can satisfy all or part of your RMD obligation.

Here are 3 simple steps to making an IRA gift:

1. Contact your IRA administrator and request/instruct that you would like make a QCD (qualified charitable distribution) to Grace Church Foundation.
2. You will need to provide:
 - Grace Church Foundation Tax ID #: 36-3912854
 - Address: 300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville, IL 60540
 - Contact Name: Scott Oats, Foundation Chairman
3. Let us know about your plans so we can confirm receipt of the gift and send you an acknowledgment letter.

Gifts received by the Foundation are added to a general endowment fund that supports outreach and ministry programs and helps to maintain the physical upkeep of our church.

Questions can be directed to Scott Oats at soats@sbcglobal.net.

Mark Your Calendar for 2023 Concert Series at Grace!



Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. **Myroslav Mykhailenko Concert Pianist**

Myroslav was born in Ukraine and moved to the U.S. just four years ago. For the past four years, he has been pursuing his dream of becoming a concert pianist. He has been accepted at the Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University, one of the most respected music conservatories in the U.S. [Click here to visit Myroslav's GoFundMe page and learn more about him.](#) We will also take up a love (freewill) offering to help support his schooling. Myroslav will be joined by his brother, Nazarii, a singer and conductor. Nazarii is a student at Roosevelt University in Chicago, and a student conductor with NaperVoices.

Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. **35th Annual Gospel Extravaganza Concert**

Join Voices of Praise Gospel Choir for an evening of praise and worship. We will be celebrating Black History Month with local college choirs, spoken word artists, and other performances. Learn about African American culture through various art forms. The cost is Seniors \$5, Adults \$10, Students/Children free. Everyone is welcome!



Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. **Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir**

Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir to present a Memorial Concert honoring Bob Guenzler on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. A love (freewill) offering will be taken at the concert to help defray concert expenses. The Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir has established a long history of excellence through its on-campus performances, annual tours, and recordings. The Choir maintains the IWU Choral Commission Series, the oldest collegiate commission series in the United States. The choir is under the direction of Conductor, Dr. J. Scott Ferguson. Learn more about the choir [here](#).

Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. **Rutherford B. Hayes Symphonic Choir**

Grace UMC will host a concert by the Symphonic Choir from Rutherford B. Hayes High School from Delaware, Ohio (Dr. Dara A. Gillis, director). The music program at Hayes is one of the finest in Ohio, often receiving invitations to perform at the OMEA State Music Conference. We invite you to attend this free concert and to bring interested students. A love (freewill) offering will be invited.



Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

NaperVoice Spring Concert

The inaugural concert for this philanthropic choir was nearly sold out with Feed My Starving Children being the blessed recipient of the proceeds. Mark your calendars now and watch for ticket info for the April concert, "Singing Our Superpowers," which will benefit KidsAboveAll. Visit www.napervoice.org to learn more.



Confirmation

Confirmation begins on **Sunday, January 15, 2023 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** in Room 234.

Confirmation is that time when youth are given an opportunity to build relationships within the church, participate in the church's life and ministries, serve in mission, study scriptures, and explore their beliefs and doubts. Confirmation is not the end of our faith journey but just the beginning; confirmands will be introduced to resources that will assist them in the lifelong journey of discipleship.

All those participating are required to register for Confirmation class [by clicking here](#). Questions may be directed to Pastor Eric eric.blachford@peopleofgrace.org or Gaye Lynn gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org.

Grace's Generosity Transforms Lives

Grace families have generously donated the following animals during Advent to Heifer International Project that will impact many families'

lives for years to come: 1 Heifer; 1 Water Buffalo; 2 Llamas; 4 Goats; 1 Sheep; 2 Pigs; several Hives of Bees; 2 groups of Tree Seedlings; and 12 Flocks of Chickens. Thank you so much for your donations!



January Food Pantry Collection

Our January Pantry collection will benefit the Common Pantry in Chicago. Their executive director, Margaret O'Connor, told us recently that our donations help to provide emergency food, home delivered groceries, weekly lunch, and other forms of assistance when crises hit for their Northside neighbors. She really appreciates our continued support. Please donate by visiting www.peopleofgrace.org/give and choosing the "Love Loaf" option.

United Women in Faith January Meeting

United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) will be meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for a combined unit meeting and circle meeting.

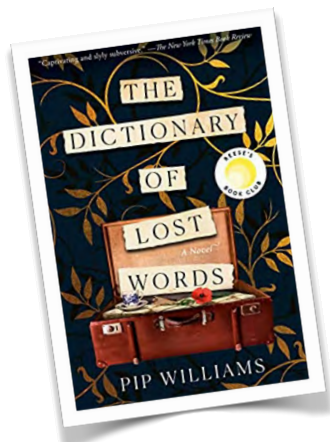
During this meeting we will have the installation of new officers, our pledge service given by Laurie Chesla and information explaining the changes ahead in our organization now called, "United Women in Faith." Come to learn about how United Women in Faith will introduce new and improved programs designed to better reflect the changes that have occurred in the lives of women in the 21st century. Learn how the organization plans to continue to nurture current members and welcome new women of diverse backgrounds in focusing on serving in missions for women, youth and children locally, nationally, and worldwide. Along with our new logo is the new website, www.uwfaith.org. Here you will find webinars, podcasts, and other ways to grow your faith, become informed and involved in our faith-driven sisterhood!

"All Women in Faith" are welcome!

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.



United
Women
in Faith



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.

January Book: *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams
Meets Wednesday, January 25 at 12:45PM

Grace Cares

Each of us needs a sense of community. When on earth Jesus modeled community for all of us to emulate. This sense of community comes by attending church services, study groups, and other in-person activities. However, sometimes for many reasons we may be unable to be in person. At Grace United Methodist Church, we have a ministry to bring that sense of community to our members who are isolated and unable to attend in person. Grace Cares is an outreach ministry of Grace United Methodist Church made up of volunteers providing in-person visits/or phone calls for those members who are unable to participate in person. 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.



Save the Date

JANUARY				
1/1/2023	Sunday	9AM	One Worship Service	Sanctuary
1/2/2023	Monday		Church Office Closed	
1/8/2023	Sunday	8AM, 9AM, & 10:30AM	Three Worship Services Resume	
1/8/2023	Sunday	3PM	Piano Concert, Myroslav Mykhailenko	Sanctuary
1/15/23	Sunday	6PM	Confirmation Begins	Room 234
1/29/2023	Sunday	9:15AM	All Church Meeting - CAT Survey Results	Fellowship Hall
FEBRUARY				
2/5/2023	Sunday	9AM	Stand Against Racism Event	Activity Center
2/11/2023	Saturday	3PM	35 th Annual Gospel Extravaganza Concert	Sanctuary
2/18/2023 to 2/19/2023	Saturday to Sunday		Feed My Starving Children's Feed the Need Mobile Pack	North Central College
2/22/2023	Wednesday		Ash Wednesday	Sanctuary
2/26/2023	Sunday		Love Out Loud Worship	Sanctuary
MARCH				
3/18/2023	Saturday	7:30PM	Memorial Concert Honoring Bob Guenzler	Sanctuary

Grace Notes Newsletter 2023 Publication Dates

In 2023, the *Grace Notes* newsletter will be published *every other month*. The publication dates will be: **January 1, March 1, May 1, 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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