

JUBILATE DEO

DAN FORREST

Save the date for
Dan Forrest's epic setting of
Psalm 100, "Jubilate Deo"
Chancel Choir, Festival Singers, Chamber Orchestra
Sunday, May 5, 2019—8:15 and 9:30 a.m.
Festival Singers... join us now for this exciting short-term
opportunity. Register to sing at
<http://tinyurl.com/SingMay5>



Join the Easter Eve Intergenerational Orchestra

Open to advanced students through adults.
One rehearsal, Saturday, April 20, 2:00 p.m.
4:30 Prelude and 5 p.m. Resurrection Service
Please register by April 10!
<http://tinyurl.com/EasterEve2019Orchestra>
or email dan.wagner@peopleofgrace.org

VBS 2019 "To Mars and Beyond" is June 24-28.

Join our team!

Be a part of this special ministry that connects
our church family and our local community through art, music, and education.

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| Are you outgoing and love kids? | ➔ | Join our Teaching/Childcare Team |
| Are you artsy and creative? | ➔ | Join our Art or Decorating Team |
| Are you outdoorsy? | ➔ | Join our Recreation Team |
| Are you scientific and organized? | ➔ | Join our Science Team |
| Are you comfortable in the kitchen? | ➔ | Join our Snack Team |
| Not available during the workday? | ➔ | Join our Special Event Team |
| Want to help, but don't know how? | ➔ | Join our Prayer Team |

Volunteer sign-up is at www.peopleofgrace.org/vbs

Contact Jill Rye, Director of Vacation Bible School (jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org) or Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, Director of Children's Faith Formation (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) to help you find the volunteer position that works best for you!

Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

April 2019

Hospitality is Key to Faith Formation!

By Rev. Cindy Marino

Faith Formation is something we at Grace have been closely exploring. Our newly-refurbished gathering space, scheduled to be completed next month, will better reflect our belief that relationships lie at the core of our ability to learn and grow together in faith. The love we share with others grows out of the loving relationships we have with one another, extended from God's loving relationship with us.

Hospitality is the number one way to share our faith in relationship with newcomers and younger families. The Barna Group recently published the results of the second of three studies it is conducting about the way private and public faith shapes American Life. The first study looked at individuals and their spiritual lives in a digital age. The last will study churches as communities of action. The second report, just released, explores "Families as the Households of Faith."

Here are two of the trends Barna found, as summarized:

- **Millennials are more likely than any other age group to find value in opening their homes to others and sharing generosity through hospitality.**



- **Faith formation is connected to and increases with a spirit of hospitality.**

These findings are exciting as we continue to adapt the activities and ministries of Grace to better accomplish our mission of reaching younger families for Christ. As we live into the newly renovated gathering space at Grace UMC, we will want to keep it open and available for impromptu conversation. We'll make sure to keep it 'schedule-free,' avoiding the temptation to lock it down for the use of any one group. That would only defeat the purpose of having an

open-use space at the ready to offer hospitality.

As we prepare to celebrate the ultimate hospitality Jesus displays for us in the washing of the feet of his disciples, in rising from the dead to represent us before God and in returning to guide us through the Holy Spirit, we give thanks for those with the gift of hospitality. We pray that no one will ever doubt whether they belong at Grace UMC.

May the celebration of Easter find you feeling the excitement of new life in Christ and in relationship with one another through Grace UMC!

UMW Annual Hamball Luncheon

Hamball Luncheon?

What is a Hamball?

The most delicious dinner around with the most boring name. This glorious "meatball" is a combination of ground pork and ham, spices and then glazed with a sticky sweet sauce. It sounds a bit ridiculous, but when it comes together it is awesome!



Our Hamball recipe and its sweet sauce were brought to Grace Church more than 50 years ago by way of two United Methodist Women members, Mardelle Fleming and Lorraine Spong who had relocated to the area from Racine, WI. The first luncheon was held in 1970 at the Ellsworth Street location of Grace Church and called the Public Luncheon to emphasize the fact that all were invited to attend.

United Methodist Women's Annual Hamball and Salad Buffet Luncheon will be held Friday, April 26, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This lunch includes; 2 Hamballs & hot German Potato Salad, an unlimited buffet of cold salads plus delicious pies and a beverage. Gather your friends, family or co-workers; tables of 8 may be reserved for groups. In a rush? No worries, we will have takeout available.

Tickets for this fundraiser are \$12 and are available in the Church Office, from UMW circle members or on Sundays, April 7 and 14 in between services in the Activity Center.

Proceeds benefit international, national and local missions for women in crisis, child advocacy, human rights issues, reading programs, and service to the local church and community. Visit www.peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women-missions for a detailed list of giving.

2019 Mission Quilt

The "Under the Sea" Mission Quilt was hand quilted by our very own Grace Quilters to help raise money in support of our 2019 Youth Summer Missions. Tickets will be available for purchase for \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets after each service on Sundays, April 7, April 28, May 5 and May 12 as well as at the Hamball Luncheon on Friday, April 26. Drawing for the quilt will take place on Sunday, May 12. Contact Sandy Bray (braysnap@aol.com) for more information.



Church History Trip to Rome, Italy

Informational Meetings:

- Sunday, May 26 at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, May 29 at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Trip: April 25 – May 3, 2020

Rome, Italy, is where the apostles Peter and Paul ended their ministries, where archaeologists have discovered the earliest Christian churches, and where millions of pilgrims each year reconnect with the living history of our faith. In the spring of 2020, friends and family of Grace Church are invited to join Pastor Daniel as he leads a small group through the catacombs, churches, and streets of the beautiful Eternal City. From the dark and damp tombs beneath the city to the splendors of the Sistine Chapel, we will learn about our shared history and experience the Christian witness of generations through Rome's splendid works of art and architecture.



Participants will enjoy an all-inclusive trip that provides not only a unique educational opportunity but also a small-group experience that emphasizes faith and fellowship. Monthly pre-trip meetings will provide information and help us build community prior to our travel. While in Rome, participants will eat together, worship together, and enjoy a more intimate and memorable experience of this beautiful city: no tour buses or garbled audio guides here!

We will stay in a comfortable guest house in the center of the city, making for easy access to all our destinations. Pastor Daniel makes all of the travel arrangements and leads the tours himself. He has lived and worked in Rome and has been offering these trips for students and congregations since 2012. Visit his website at www.ExploreChristianArt.com for more information as well as for photos and testimonials from previous trips.

This trip to Rome is open to everyone, but Rome is a walking city so participants should be in good physical health. If you are interested, please attend one of the information sessions on either Sunday, May 26 at 11 a.m., in Fellowship Hall or on Wednesday, May 29 at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room. If you cannot make one of the meetings but are interested in the trip, contact Pastor Daniel (daniel.cochran@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Mother's Day Musical

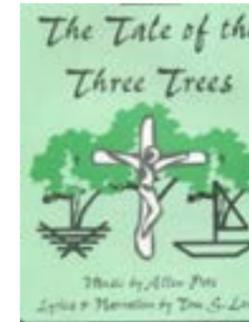
May 10 & 12, 2019

Presented by the Children's Music Ministry

In May of 2006, at the recommendation of then Associate Pastor, Lisa Telomen, the Children's Choirs of Grace offered up "The Tale of the Three Trees" for the annual Mother's Day worship. While every musical garners praise, there was something very special about the way this treasured folktale touched the hearts of the audience. Even today, as I announced we were revisiting this musical, many have shared that it was their absolute favorite of all the previous musicals.

Maybe it's the simplicity of the staging and props that allows the audience to use their imaginations as we share three vignettes from Jesus' life. Or, maybe it's the story itself and how we can each relate to how God is calling and using us for His glory. The three trees each dream of what they might become when they grow, but God has much greater plans in store for them. Plans they never could have imagined! It's a message that reaches out to all ages. Plan to invite friends and family to this beloved annual musical presentation!

Please plan to join us in the Sanctuary on Friday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. or Sunday, May 12, at 11 a.m. (or both), as the choirs present Allen Pote and Tom S. Long's musical adaptation of "The Tale of the Three Trees".



Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of 2019!

On Sunday, April 7 at 11 a.m. our Eighth Grade Class of 2019 will share their experiences in worship as they confirm their baptisms and become members of Grace United Methodist Church. Please join us for Confirmation Sunday and welcome the newest members to our church family. Congratulations to our 8th graders and their families!

Save the Date! 3rd Annual Touch A Truck!

Touch A Truck will be held on Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m.-Noon in the Lower Parking Lot. The free event is open to the community so invite your friends and family to come out and enjoy all of the trucks and vehicles to explore, fun activities and yummy food!

As always we want to welcome our friends and neighbors to Grace UMC with radical hospitality so don't forget to be a part of the Touch A Truck welcome team! Sign up coming soon! Come out, touch a truck, eat and have a great time with friends and family! Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Youth Summer Missions



Calling all who are interested in being God's hands and feet! Side x Side and Hope @ Home 2019 are currently accepting applications for registration.

Side x Side will be June 8-16 and those who have completed 8th grade through adults are eligible to apply. Side x Side will be traveling to Sioux Falls, SD and will be working with Habitat for Humanity. The tuition for Side x Side is \$400 per person with a discount for families participating together.

Hope @ Home will be July 9-11 and those who have completed 5th grade through 7th grade and adults are eligible to apply. Hope @ Home is a local mission trip in our Chicagoland community. Mission experiences will vary but no experience is necessary. The tuition for Hope @ Home is \$120 per person.

Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Holy Smokes BBQ Fundraiser

Holy Smokes it's that time of year again! Youth Summer Missions will be holding its annual drive-thru bar-b-que fundraiser on Sunday, May 5, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Lower Parking Lot of Grace.

Tickets will be available in the Activity Center on Sundays in April, in the Church Office during the week, or from any Side x Side or Hope @ Home participant. Meals are \$10 for a one meat meal (pork chop or 1/4 chicken), \$12 for a two meat meal (two of the same meat or one of each meat), and \$5 for a kid's meal (hot dog). All meals are served with baked beans, applesauce, coleslaw, and a roll.

Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.



***Celebrate Easter at Grace UMC on
Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21***

April 20: Saturday Prayer Vigil from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Chapel. Sign up to pray with us on the Prayer Vigil Poster in the Narthex. You may choose to pray with us in the building or on your own. Prayer materials will be available for those who would like to use them.

April 20: Saturday Evening Easter Service at 5 p.m. with Holy Communion and music led by Vickie Wagner, the Evensong Singers and an Intergenerational Orchestra in the Sanctuary. (Childcare available)

April 21: Easter Sunday Worship:

Traditional Worship at 8:15 a.m. with music led by the New Life Singers and Grace Brass Ensemble. (Childcare available)

Blended Worship at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with music led by the Chancel Choir, Grace Praise Team, and Grace Brass Ensemble. (Childcare available)

Special Easter Sunday School Hour for children 3 year old through 5th grade with check in at 9:15 a.m. at our new Welcome Desk located in the Children's Area and gather at 9:30 a.m. in room 123. We will have a special time of Easter focused fellowship, creating, acting, praise and worship in the garden (weather permitting) to remember the story of Jesus' resurrection because it is a reminder of the hope we have in him!

God in the Everyday

By Missy Hoekstra-Hecht

Dear People of Grace: It happened – my worst nightmare as editor of the Lenten booklet of devotions. I missed a devotion someone submitted. I am trying to remind myself I'm only human, but still, I feel very badly about this unintentional omission. Fortunately, Grace Notes was kind enough to include Missy Hoekstra-Hecht's devotion in this issue. My thanks and sincere apologies to Missy. May you be blessed by her heartfelt words. ~ Barb Ceruti

Let your light shine. – Matthew 5:16

I've got a secret to admit. I've never had a big "coming to Christ" moment like many who tell the stories of experiencing Christ in a life-changing encounter that led them to be born again. While I have always thought I wanted a life-altering experience to feel closer to Him, I've learned that I don't need one, because Christ is found in the everyday small moments of life that might seem insignificant to others. I often find Him in the "waiting." Those are the moments through my day, where I see the small wonders like the veins on a leaf during an outdoor walk. I often find Him in my encounters with others in community.

Have you ever met someone who just radiated Christ? That doesn't mean they're perfect, but you can tell they have listened to Christ when He said, "follow me." For me, those people are a knowledgeable pastor and his loving wife who have dedicated their time, efforts and lives to Christ. They serve in any way possible, and spending time with them always leaves me feeling loved and cherished. The best sermon I've had the honor to witness isn't one consisting of words, but small moments of action every time I'm around them. They have taught me that God is in the everyday.

If you haven't had the advantage of being around people like them, I hope you not only find that gift someday in others, but you might become that person that shows others what God looks like in the everyday through gentleness, love, service, and kindness. Thank you to Bill and Erma for showing me what it looks like to love and serve others unconditionally.

Holy Week 2019!

April 14: Passion/Palm Sunday Worship at 8:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. music led by the Chancel and Children's Choirs. The 11 a.m. with music led by the Grace Praise Team. (Childcare available)

April 17: Holy Wednesday, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to an evening of worship, crafts, food, and fellowship. We will gather in the sanctuary for a musical worship service from 5 - 5:30 p.m. Pastor Daniel will offer a seasonal message for all ages. Then, at 5:30 p.m. we will move to Fellowship Hall where everyone is invited to build a "Resurrection Garden" for your home! Using soil, rocks, moss, and flowers, this fun interactive craft reconstructs the tomb of Jesus and reminds us of both the crucifixion on Good Friday and the empty tomb on Easter morning. We will conclude with a hand-washing service before joining together at the table for a light dinner from 6 - 6:30 p.m. There is no cost to participate but registration is required for the Resurrection Garden and meal portions of the evening. Register at www.peopleofgrace.org/holy-wednesday by no later than Wednesday, April 10. Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

April 18: Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion and hand-washing, as we prepare to receive the fullness of God's forgiveness and new life in Christ. Music led by Chancel Choir. (Childcare available)

April 19: Good Friday Prayer Stations and Time for Reflection from 12- 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Grace is a beautiful, quiet space to be and enjoy time with God. Various stations for reflection and prayer will be set up throughout the building, guiding you to the beauty of the Sanctuary. Spend a few moments or a few hours, whatever your day allows, to consider Christ's sacrifice of love for you.

April 19: Good Friday Worship at 7 p.m. With the spoken word, visual art and familiar hymns, our Good Friday service will provide the space to consider the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf. Music led by the New Life Singers. (Childcare available)