



# Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

April 2021



*Sunday April 4*

*In-person at 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.*

*Register at [peopleofgrace.org/easter](https://peopleofgrace.org/easter)  
starting Sunday, March 28!*

*Online anytime at [peopleofgrace.org/watch](https://peopleofgrace.org/watch)*

## Holy Week 2021

Grace UMC will be offering daily opportunities for worship, prayer, and reflection during Holy Week 2021.

**Palm Sunday, March 28:** Live stream and limited capacity in-person worship (by registration only) from the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. and online worship with our 9G Praise Team anytime on [peopleofgrace.org/watch](https://peopleofgrace.org/watch).

**Palm Sunday, March 28 at 3 p.m.:** Bring your creative side and join Parenting with Grace on Zoom as we honor the season of Lent by making a Resurrection Garden together led by Bonnie Lewan and her family. Families of all ages are invited to participate! **Registration at [peopleofgrace.org/parenting-lent](https://peopleofgrace.org/parenting-lent).**

**Monday, March 29 – Wednesday, March 31:** A Time of Holy Week Prayers and Reflection available online nightly with Pastor Daniel.

**Maundy Thursday, April 1:** A digital hand-washing liturgy with Pastor Daniel.

**Good Friday, April 2:** Good Friday Worship will be based on Michael John Trotta's captivating, fresh and riveting musical setting of Christ's "Seven Last Words." This digital service will be presented by the Grace Chancel Choir and Friends, with inspiring words from our pastors combined with visual images to enhance the message of this deeply moving experience.



We invite you to embrace all the feelings. Worship in-person this Easter!

Take in the beauty of the sanctuary, fully dressed with geraniums and lilies to memorialize and honor your loved ones. Hear the traditional Easter Hymn, the celebratory music of a string quartet. Share in Holy Communion, experience the Easter message, and the smiling eyes of friends.

But most of all come to celebrate the new life offered as we bring ourselves to worship in union with Christ's worship for us as our resurrected Lord and Savior.

It's Easter! Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed!

## From your Grace UMC Foundation

### Start planning on how you can be a part of the future of Grace UMC

This can be done by naming Grace UMC Foundation as a beneficiary in your estate plan. You can accomplish this by creating a principal-protected endowment in the Foundation which will assure your continued participation in the life and mission of Grace UMC far into the future.

### Learn more about Grace UMC Foundation

We have a brand new look at [peopleofgrace.org/foundation](http://peopleofgrace.org/foundation). Here you will find out about ways to give that meet your needs and life situations, see how gifts have made lasting impacts on Grace UMC and find answers to frequently asked questions. In addition, you can contact the Grace UMC Foundation at [foundation@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:foundation@peopleofgrace.org), or contact one of the members on the Foundation board.

We look forward to hearing from you as we prepare for the future of Grace UMC.

#### Board of Directors:

Scott Oats, President and Secretary  
Tim Ford

John Abe, Vice President  
Gina Gramarosso

Peggy Nasti, Treasurer  
Ron Laub  
Scott Skoglund

## Wesley Challenge

Join Pastor Mark and take part in The Wesley Challenge: a 21-day video/book-based journey to a More Authentic Faith starting on Sunday, April 11, at 9 a.m. on Zoom.

In [The Wesley Challenge](#), written by Chris Folmsbee, we will spend three weeks working through 21 questions that will engage our physical, spiritual and emotional lives and our relationship with God and others.

Register Now by [clicking here](#) or contact Pastor Mark ([mark.himel@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:mark.himel@peopleofgrace.org)) for more information.

## Food Pantry Collection

Our April pantry collection will benefit the Common Pantry in Chicago.

They report that the demand for food assistance rose over 200% during these Covid times. Since every \$1 donated allows them to buy 4 meals, they really appreciated the Love Loaf money we have sent them which has totaled an average of \$300 every 3 months last year.

In lieu of dropping off bags of food at Grace, [donate online here](#) and select the "Love Loaf" in the drop-down menu or visit [www.commonpantry.org/](http://www.commonpantry.org/) and donate directly to the pantry.

## Shop Amazon Smile to Support Grace!

Easy! Start today! You shop, and Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases go to Grace UMC.

Amazon Smile is the same as the Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same services.

[Click here](#) to learn how to sign-up and start giving back with each purchase on Amazon Smile!

## New and Prospective Members Conversation!

Announcing an opportunity for prospective members, new members, and those who have joined in years' past but are hoping to reconnect and engage anew with the ministries of Grace UMC.

You are invited to join Pastor Daniel for a series of Zoom conversations about Methodism and Grace UMC; we will talk about the fundamentals of our tradition (baptism, communion, the Bible, etc.) as we fellowship together and engage with the many opportunities to grow in faith at Grace.

We will meet digitally at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays, April 11, 18, and 25, immediately following our in-person worship service.

Contact Pastor Daniel ([daniel.cochran@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:daniel.cochran@peopleofgrace.org)) to sign up!

## Vacation Bible School 2021

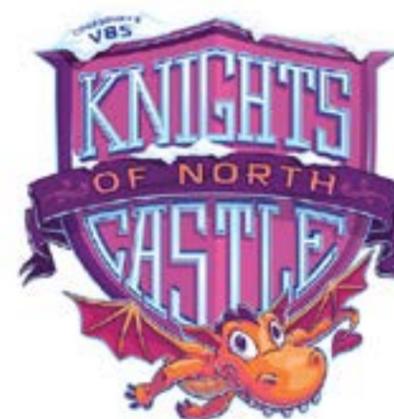
Save the date as we put on the Full Armor of God during the Knights of North Castle VBS 2021!

Our adventure will be July 12-16, 2021 and we look forward to seeing you there!

Join us in prayer as we seek God's guidance on all the details!

More details coming soon!

Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini ([chamus@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:chamus@peopleofgrace.org)) for more information.



## God is making all things new!

By: Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, Director of Children's Faith Formation

As we celebrate Easter, I pray that we are all able to recognize that God is making all things new! What a difference a year makes!

In 2020, we were on lock-down and wondering what would happen next. We have experienced many challenges and losses, but we have seen many new beginnings also. God continues to be faithful through it all. Jesus gave us the hope we have when he died on the cross and then rose from the grave! There is new life in Christ!

*Let's take time to stop and give thanks and teach our children to do the same.*

*Let's teach our children to count their blessings daily.*

*Let's stop and give thanks for the changing seasons; make intentional time to talk to God and read His Word daily; find ways to serve and empower our communities and treat each other with respect.*

*Let's remind our children that God is always present, and they can count on him!*

Have a blessed April!

## Easter Book Review

By Treva Brashears

[Twas the Morning of Easter](#)  
by Glenys Nellist; illustrated by Elena Selivanova, c. 2021

Author Glenys Nellist and illustrator Elena Selivanova have created a fresh new book about the joys and beauty of the resurrection of Jesus with read-aloud rhymes and beautiful illustrations. Using the cadence of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" this book shares the story of Easter with young children (ages 4-8 years old)

Available for check-out from the Grace Church Library.

Contact Treva Brashears ([tbrashears@wowway.com](mailto:tbrashears@wowway.com)) for more information.

# Virtual Hamball Luncheon 2021

## It's Back!! One More Time!

Due to the CDC and the United Methodist Church Guidelines, the United Methodist Women will once again be having a Virtual Hamball Luncheon instead of the Traditional Hamball Luncheon.

Our Hamball Luncheon is one of our ways to raise money for our missions locally, nationally, and globally. Again, this year, our mission giving remains critically important. The “No-Cal” Virtual Hamball Luncheon 2021 will be celebrated the entire month of April!

How can you help? During the month of April, we are asking everyone who would have made salads or pies and/or purchased tickets (\$12 each), to donate the money they would have spent to UMW Missions. These donations can be made online at [peopleofgrace.org/give](https://peopleofgrace.org/give) or you may send a check made out to Grace United Methodist Women, Attn: Grace UMW, 300 East Garner Road, Naperville, 60540.

*As an added feature this year and way of fellowship, the United Methodist Women decided to meet on Zoom at noon on Friday, April 9. Join us in good conversation and fellowship during your lunch hour. A zoom link will be sent closer to the event!*

If you want more information on the UMW mission giving, visit [peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women-missions](https://peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women-missions) to see where the money was used last year. Help us to continue to support our missions that serve children, youth and women in need around the world. We can make a difference!

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## CROP Hunger Walk Celebration

The leadership of the Naperville CROP Walk has recently received word that our walk is ranked 26 out of 600 in the nation this year and raised over \$36,000, surpassing its high for the last four years.

Grace UMC ranked 94 among 5, 000 teams in the country and reached their goal of raising over \$7, 000. Locally 25% of the \$36,000 will be split equally between Loaves and Fishes Community Services and the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

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## Parenting with Grace Presents “How to Answer the Tough Questions”

Save the date for a Parenting with Grace conversation you won't want to miss! On Sunday, May 23 at 3 p.m. join the group as we hear local pastors discussing how we answer tough questions with our children and teens.

Topics will include children and teens questioning their faith, questions about why God allows bad things to happen, and how we navigate the tougher Bible stories with our families. We look forward to hearing insights from the pastors who are also parents themselves. More information including a sign-up link will be available soon.

Contact Stefanie Abderhalden ([stefanie.abderhalden@gmail.com](mailto:stefanie.abderhalden@gmail.com)) with questions and please follow us on Facebook at “Parenting with Grace Group”.

# Pastor Daniel's Ordination

The rescheduled Service of Ordination and Commissioning for the 2020 class will be held *Saturday, April 24 at 3 pm* at Barrington United Methodist Church with limited attendance and will follow COVID-19 safety guidelines. It will be live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook (visit [umcnic.org](http://umcnic.org) for information).

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## Grace Community Builders (GCB) Group

### **This is a great time to join a Grace Community Builders (GCB) Group!**

New GCB Groups will begin the week of April 18. Grace Community Builders help build a stronger sense of community within our church. This powerful idea is based on getting to know other members of our church better and have an enjoyable time while you are doing it. The GCB Groups result in building stronger personal relationships among our members. The greater sense of community derives from the deep, multiple connections each Community Builder Group has within the church. Thus far, 130 individuals have participated in at least one group.



#### **Here are some recent comments from participants:**

*Jan Smucker said, "GCB is a fantastic program that offers our members the opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners on a deeper and more personal level. At this time of isolation, it was great to have the chance to safely socialize and make meaningful connections."*

*Mike Craig elaborated, "Having participated in several GCB Groups, I had the opportunity to meet people of Grace in a personal and rewarding way. I would highly recommend that all people of Grace participate in at least one GCB Group."*

Each (GCB) Group is comprised of six people. Each Community Builder will spend approximately one hour a week with one of the other participants in his/her Group over a period of five weeks. A pairing sheet is provided which identifies each Community Builder and who she or he will meet with during each of the five weeks. It includes the phone numbers and email addresses of the participants.

Each meeting is set up between the two people who are planning to meet within the next week. The time and place are totally up to each pair. Because of COVID-19, the options for meeting have changed. Before the pandemic, most people found that meeting at a public place for coffee or an informal lunch or breakfast was the most efficient and relaxing way to meet. Now, a good alternative is our church's gathering space. Face-to-face meetings are preferred, but FaceTime, Skype and Zoom are good alternatives.

What is discussed at the meeting is up to the two participants. Most often the topics include a bit of personal history, when each person started attending services at the church and what s/he is involved within the church. Often people find they have many things, such as hobbies, in common which easily carries the conversation.

Grace Community Builders is one of the Church's internal foundational steps that helps equip our members to understand one another better and to participate in the outreaches of our church to do the Lord's work.

Contact Bill Fronk ([wcfronk1@gmail.com](mailto:wcfronk1@gmail.com)) for more information or to sign up for a group.