

## GRACE YOUTH MINISTRY SEASON OF GIVING

### GIFT CARDS & SMALL GIFTS INDIAN PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 204

visit [www.peopleofgrace.org/youth-holiday-giving](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/youth-holiday-giving)  
for additional information.

11/25-12/16

# Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

December 2018

## The Meaning is in the Waiting ...

By Rev. Cindy Marino

### Say, what?!

There is no meaning in waiting!! (said with the exasperation of Tom Hanks in "A League of Their Own" when he cried, "There's no crying in baseball!")

We, as a society have made that determination. We have voted with our feet by pushing the annoyance of waiting completely out of our lives. With instant access to everything and anything, we no longer need to delay gratification as those in years long past.

So, wait for Christmas? Why?! Put up the tree and let's get on with it!

In the introduction to her book, The Meaning is in the Waiting, Paula Gooder says the church tells us a different story about waiting. Time, it seems, is God's, and there is enough of it, more than enough. And we can spend it in ways that



produce absolutely nothing unless you value peace and goodwill.

We can linger over a cup of steaming coffee. We can stare into the flames in the fireplace. We can snuggle a puppy. We can create and enjoy beautiful tablescapes or watch football. We can share in prayer with and give a little extra to those in need. We can meet with one another to explore with wonder and curiosity, the ways in which we are different. We can visit

the elderly and appreciate their wisdom and candor. In all of these passive activities, we will find our spirits activated and inspired as God's Holy Spirit finds a way in.

"More than enough" has been our theme as we have encouraged you to provide the Church with a commitment of your estimated giving for 2019. Time, dollars, love -- is there really more than enough to go around?

This God of ours wants us to stop living in the fear of scarcity that requires us to be constantly striving for more and relax into God's abundance that asks us to be aware of God's "enough."

That's what we'll find in the waiting, an awareness of God that fills the space we give it. There's no meaning without the waiting!

"I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word, I hope;" Psalm 130:5

## Christmas Eve Services

Noon | Traditional- Grace Bells, Youth Choir & Orchestra

3 PM | Intergenerational- Grace Children's Choir

4:30 PM | Intergenerational - Grace Praise Team

8 PM | Traditional Candlelight- New Life Singers

10 PM | Lessons & Carols - Chancel Choir

## Advent Sermon Series

The prophets of the Old Testament preached a powerful message of hope and joy in God's unfailing grace, love, and mercy...even during the darkest of times!

In the season of Advent, we will focus on this Biblical sense of "Prophetic Joy" in the midst of a hurting world. Beginning the weekend of December 2, each sermon until Christmas will show how this deep sense of joy compels us to embrace a discipleship of honest reflection, humble service, and bold action.



## VBS 2019 Leadership Team!

By Chamus Burnside-Savazzini

One small step for you, one giant step for the next generation! VBS needs a 2019 Leadership Team! On behalf of the hundreds of children and families that have been blessed by our VBS program, I would like to first thank Betsy and Reid Koepnick for their faithful, fun-filled, and passionate service as Co-Directors.



Thank you to all who have supported us by being strong leaders on the VBS team. We could not have done it without you! Our Pastors, music, craft, recreation, decorators, youth, prayer partners, snack team, church leaders and support teams, we thank God for you! Thank you is definitely not enough. I was blessed to serve with this team since joining Grace in 2011 and I am so thankful for that training and experience!

We are now calling on THIS Grace congregation and praying for a leader or leaders to emerge so that VBS 2019 is all that God is already confirming it would be. We are taking the kids to "Mars and Beyond!" That's right, we are taking them to outer space!! Whether you have never served, served once or have served for years, we want you with us!! The Director role will need to make bi-weekly connects with me and help plan and lay out the activities for that faith-filled week. If you know that God has blessed you or someone you know with the ability to manage VBS week with support, please reach out to me as soon as possible. Planning normally kicks off in the background in January. Turn your fear into faith and come join in the fun!

Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) if you are interested or for more information. Prayerfully waiting to hear from you!

## Grief Share 2019

Have you experienced a loss in your life? Are you looking for ways to deal with grief? A new session is starting soon that can help you as you journey through your grief. This 13-week class will be utilizing resources from the Grief Share program to help you face the challenges of grieving and move toward rebuilding your life.



This class will start on Sunday, January 13, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Room 254. Contact Pastor Mark Himel (mark.himel@peopleofgrace.org) or (630-355-1748) for more information or to sign up.

## Shop Amazon Smile!



Are you SMILING?

When you shop at Amazon.com we hope you are!

This holiday season (and every other season) when you shop through Amazon, please choose smile.amazon.com and help support our Youth Summer Mission trips with every purchase you make.

Nothing about shopping AmazonSmile is different-- same great selection, same vendors, same great customer service--just an awesome opportunity for raising money for our youth!

## Writers, Poets, Artists, Photographers!

It's time to think about contributions to our 2019 Lenten booklet of devotions, a Grace tradition for almost 50 years. Our theme is "The Water of Life - Our Baptismal Covenant," inspired by Chris Webb's "God-Soaked Life." Watch Grace in Mission for further info, but start thinking and praying about how you might be part of this time-honored publication.

## Save the Date! Created by God

Calling all 5th and 6th grade families! We will host our Created by God class January 25-27 at Grace and we want to have every 5th and 6th grader there!



We have other churches contacting us to register their children and I would love to place all of our children so that we know how many openings we can support. We have a team of amazing parents, health professionals, lay and staff who commit themselves to this weekend so that our children get good information regarding "growing up" and physical and spiritual development! Don't let them miss out! It's fun, we play games, eat and have a wonderful weekend. Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

## United Methodist Women Celebrate Christian Art

We invite you to join us at 9 a.m. on December 4 for our general meeting and a Christmas brunch. Pastor Daniel Cochran will be our guest speaker. He will discuss art that covers 2000 years of Christian history. His talk will focus on the art of Advent, especially the Annunciation and the Nativity. He will explore how Christians over the centuries have expressed these holy and life-changing events.

Be a part of Pastor Daniel's interactive presentation. Plan to learn about a new style or an unfamiliar modern artist and ask questions. Find inspiration in the frescos of Giotto (1305) or the work of Murillo (c.1660). Enjoy the beauty of these and other great works of art and share your discoveries at this meeting.

Admission is free. A Christmas brunch will be served after the program in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to attend. Contact Phyllis Pepiot (ppepiot@gmail.com) for more information.



## Elderberries Walking Group

Come join us in an indoor senior walking and yacking group!

Elderberries main objective is fitness, fun, and fellowship. We walk the main level "loop" of Grace UMC every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Walkers can arrive any time, set their own pace, rest any time, depart any time, and be AWOL any time.

Contact Dick Trondsen (630-637-8731) for more information.



## Christmas Children's Book Review

Jesus Calling: The Story of Christmas by Sarah Young is a 2018 beautifully illustrated children's picture book narrating the Christmas story in a new way.



Each page shares a specific event in the story and is accompanied by a quote from Jesus that relates to that part of the event. It stresses that Jesus has always been present and that God has always had a plan for Christmas. The quotes are used to express Jesus's point of view.

Sarah Young is the author of the devotional books Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence and award-winner Jesus Always: Embracing Joy in His Presence. Come visit the Grace UMC Library and check out these books along with many more great books for all ages.

## The Antique Road Show Visits Grace UMC!

At the Over 50 Fellowship on Thursday, January 10, the "Antique Road Show" will return to Grace! Two eminent local antique dealers will be on hand: Glenn Lynch, owner of Naperville's Out of the Attic, and John Leonard, owner of Leonard Auctions. Glenn and John will discuss current trends in antiques and collectibles and will offer reviews of items you submit.

Be sure to bring one of your treasured heirlooms for discussion and evaluation. It can be any interesting antique, collectible, or piece of ephemera, whether deemed valuable or not.

Lunch is scheduled for noon, with a cost of \$10 per person payable in cash at the door. The antique discussion will begin at 1 p.m. Sign up in the Church Office no later than Monday, January 7, at noon.

Contact Ruth or Dick Trondsen (630-637-8731) for more information.

## Intergenerational Orchestra for Christmas Eve

Instrumentalists are invited to play in the Christmas Eve Intergenerational Church Orchestra at the Noon Service.

There will be one rehearsal on Sunday afternoon, December 23, at 1 p.m. The only requirements are that you know all of your scales, have a good understanding of basic rhythms, and are available for the 11 a.m. call time. We will play prelude music and accompany the carols.

Sign up at [www.peopleofgrace.org/Christmas-orchestra](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/Christmas-orchestra) or contact Dan Wagner (dan.wagner@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

## The Gift of Love Concert

Join us on Sunday, December 16, at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary for "Carols in Grand Style!"

This year's Gift of Love will be presented by the combined Festival Choir and Orchestra, which includes the Chancel Choir, New Life Singers, Youth Choir, Junior Singers, Youth and Adult Handbells as well as guest musicians.



Tickets are \$30 for Adults, \$25 for Senior (65+), and \$10 for Students, and are available online ([www.peopleofgrace.org/tickets](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/tickets)), or by phone at 800-595-4TIX (tickets may be mailed to you, or held at will-call for phone orders). Tickets will not be available in the Church Office. Contact Dan Wagner ([dan.wagner@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:dan.wagner@peopleofgrace.org)) for more information.



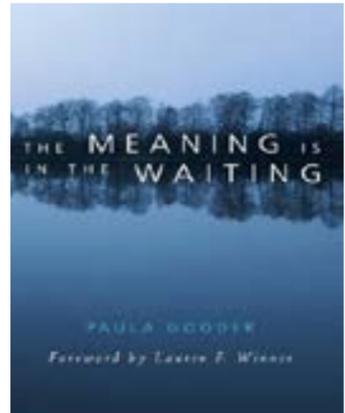
# Christmas at Grace



## Advent Bible Study

Advent is a time of waiting. It seems we are busier during Advent than at any other time of the year! But there is still an element of longing for and anticipating some mysterious culmination of God's work among us. This year's Advent study centers on that experience of waiting through those who were faithful for a lifetime: Abraham and Sarah, the Hebrew prophets, John the Baptist and, of course, Mary.

Join us in reading and reflecting upon this time of expectation through this thoughtful book. Together we will find companionship with the God who waits with us. The Meaning Is in the Waiting is arranged for daily reading in the hectic run-up to Christmas.



There are 5 opportunities to take this 4 week Advent Bible Study class:

- **Monday afternoons starting on Monday, November 26, at 1 p.m. in room 254 (Sisters Bible Study)**
- **Monday nights starting on Monday, November 26, at 7 p.m. in room 225 led by Pastor Doug**
- **Thursday nights starting on Thursday, November 29, at 7 p.m. in room 225 led by Pastor Cindy**
- **Friday mornings starting on Friday, November 30, at 9:30 a.m. in room 254 led by Kathy Carey**
- **Sunday mornings starting on Sunday, December 2, at 9:30 a.m. in room 250 (Hearts on Fire Class)**

You can sign up and purchase the book for \$14 in the Church Office. Contact Gay Craig ([gaycraig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gaycraig@sbcglobal.net)) for more information.

## Advent Fest

**Get ready!  
Get set!  
Now..... WAIT!!!**

Join us on Sunday, December 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as we kick off the season of Advent! We will learn about ADVENT, the season of anticipation and waiting for the hope, joy, love, and peace that only Christ, the Light of the World, can bring.

- Children's Musical, "Light of the World" (written by Mark Patterson), at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Brunch at Noon in the Activity Center
- Advent Wreath Making at 1 p.m. in the Activity Center

Cost is \$10 per family for a wreath, \$5 per person for brunch (\$20 max/family for brunch). Register now ([www.peopleofgrace.org/advent-fest](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/advent-fest))! You may pay online or with a check in the Church Office. Registration will close on Sunday, November 25, so register early! Bring your entire family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy the fun!

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



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13TH ANNUAL



# CELEBRATE THE SEASON



DECEMBER 5 AT 6 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Limited Number of Tickets Available!

Speaker: Jeanne Lunde

Topic: "Finding Peace at Christmas"

Music: Vickie Wagner

Contact Kim Scharafin (kimscharafin@comcast.net) for more information.

## Kid's Night Out

We invite the Children of Grace UMC to come join in the fun on Friday, December 7, starting at 5:30 p.m.! We will have pizza, treats, crafts, music, games, and a movie! Parents, plan a special night out, go shopping or just flop on a couch in silence, but don't forget to bring the kids!!

Cost: \$10/child and \$30 max/family due by Sunday, December 2, at noon. Register now ([www.peopleofgrace.org/children](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/children)). Pay by credit/debit card at the time of registration, or cash/check in the Church Office. We look forward to seeing you there!

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



## Lakeside Singers Concert

Join us on Saturday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for the Lakeside Singers 2018 Holiday Concert called "Oh, What Fun..." For our 2018 holiday concert, Director Robert Bowker and the 25 professional Lakeside Singers bring you the most eclectic collection of holiday music to be found anywhere: from early music and well-known carols to brand-new holiday samplings, both classical and contemporary. Our unique program of classical, pop, gospel, blues, and country songs will make your holiday truly special. Bring the whole family and have a delightful time with us!

Tickets are \$20 Grace UMC members (special price), \$35 adults, \$25 seniors/students and \$10 children under 12. Call 847-382-5085 or visit [www.lakesidesingers.com](http://www.lakesidesingers.com). Tickets are also available at the door.



## Christmas Around the World Market

SHOP for UNIQUE, HAND-CRAFTED ITEMS from FAIR TRADE ARTISANS ACROSS the GLOBE!

Sunday, December 9

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Activity Center

Vendors include:  
Enactus  
Ten Thousand Villages  
Special Sparkle  
WAR Chest  
Our own Fair Trade items



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

## Trinity UMC Joliet Christmas Luncheon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9  
AT NOON  
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Contact Nadia Kanhai ([grenadiakz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grenadiakz@sbcglobal.net)) for more information



## Surviving the Holidays

Are you dreading the holidays, knowing everything has changed after losing a loved one?

Join us for our Surviving the Holidays workshop on Sunday, December 9, from 1 p.m. - 3:30 pm in room 254 led by Judy Cornett. This workshop will provide ways to cope and a time to be in community with others who are finding this to be a difficult time of year. There is hope!

Contact Judy Cornett ([shottsja@gmail.com](mailto:shottsja@gmail.com)) for more information.



# Building Committee Update

By John Bodine, Building Committee Chair

It's been a long haul over the last few years distilling input for revitalizing Grace toward a plan for renovating several of our spaces, but we have now begun construction work. Greater levels of detail will emerge as we go forward, but we have four main phases of work planned, the first of which began in early November.

## Phase 1 – November 2018

- Install sprinklers in Fellowship Hall, in the Sanctuary & Chancel, and in the Organ Chamber. Spaces impacted will include the lower level vestibule outside of the elevator, Room 101, and the Hallway going to Door #4. New ceiling tiles and LED lights will be installed in these lower level spaces.
- Access to and use of the Kitchen will be available during this time
- Work will be completed in Fellowship Hall by the end of November to avoid conflict with our “Celebrate the Season” dinner
- Work will resume on December 6, after “Celebrate the Season”

## Phase 2A – December 10, 2018 – January 7, 2019

- Complete sprinkler, ceiling tile and LED light installation in the Kitchen and Chapel, and renovate rooms 150-153 & 155 (under the Activity Center)
- Construct the new lower level family restroom
- Renovate Children's Center Classrooms below the Activity Center (151, 152, 153, & 155) before the resumption of PDO activities on January 7, 2019
- Continue sprinkler, ceiling tile, and LED light installation in the Education Wing
- Continue renovation of flooring and wall finishes in the Children's Center

## Phase 2B – December 26, 2018 - early February 2019

- Resume Parent's Day Out Programs in rooms 150 - 153, & 155
- Renovate the lower level of the Education Wing with flooring, paint, ceiling tile, sprinklers, and new LED lighting
- Renovate the upper level of the Education Wing with sprinklers, new ceiling tiles, and LED lights
- Construct the new family restroom outside of Fellowship Hall"

This is an exciting time of change, but it will also bring some disruption to the normal use of our spaces. As we near the completion of Phases 1 & 2, we will have a more complete picture of the timeline and areas affected in Phases 3 & 4. Please bear with us as we work to maintain as smooth a transition as possible while accommodating the traditions and activities that are so important to our members. We'll be providing updates as we go along! Thanks for your patience.

# Summer Youth Event "Thank You!"

By Scott Oats, Grace UMC Foundation President

The Grace Church Foundation and the Youth Ministry are grateful to Gary and Alice Silke for their inspiration behind the July Summer Youth Night event and underwriting the cost.

Long-time Grace members, the Silke family has been very active in many Grace ministries. The Youth Council worked with Gary to plan the event, reaching out to other churches in the community. The event was on Saturday, July 28, in the lower level parking lot from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There were food trucks, a DJ, and several giant inflatables for older youth. Over 100 youth and their friends came, finding the event exciting enough to stay for the duration. Gaye Lynn Loufek, Youth Director, said "it was a successful event as many Grace youth came as well as their friends, some being youth from other churches in the community. The kids came and did what kids do – they "hung out."



Gary's belief in today's world is to "plan events to get kids coming to the church and the parents will follow (to church)." To that end, Gary and Alice established the Spark Something Youth Development Project Fund in the Grace Foundation to underwrite youth outreach events.

If you are inspired by our youth, the Silke's, or you'd like to contribute to future youth outreach events, please contact the Grace Church Foundation to learn more about donating to the Spark Something Youth Development Project Fund.

Thank you, Gary and Alice Silke, Youth Council, Gaye Lynn and the many adults that provided supervision for the night...it really takes a village to plan and put on a fun outreach party!

# Fall Festival "Thank You!"

Through wind, misty rain, and bitterly cold temperatures Fall Festival prevailed!

Thank you to ALL who participated in any way to make this year's Fall Festival a HUGE success!

Though the weather wasn't our best friend, we still managed to serve 200 hot dogs, countless bowls of chili, provide over 150 bags (per participating vehicle) of candy to trunk-or-treaters, and enjoy a day of fellowship and outreach.

Thank you to our vendors Nielsen Farm, Friendly Farm, Ken Sheldon, The Fun Ones, Pauling Brothers, Cutting Edge Graphics, our trunk-or-treat vehicle providers, our Grace ministry teams who provided a booth, our custodial staff, our volunteers, and all who attended. We couldn't have done it without you!

