

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

MOVIE NIGHT

Featuring Disney's
Christopher Robin

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9
AT 6 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Enjoy hot dogs, popcorn, drinks,
dilly bars and fellowship!
Fun for All Ages!

Contact Pastor Mark at mark.himel@peopleofgrace.org
for more information



Vacation Bible School 2019

We are almost ready to launch "To Mars and Beyond" during Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2019!

VBS will be held the week of June 24-28 from 9 a.m.-11:45 a.m. each day with a special Family Night you will not want to miss on Thursday, June 27.

As every good astronaut knows, we cannot exit the launch pad until we have all systems checked, supplies in order, a crew on the ground and all team players in place!

We are excited to announce that one of our key crew members is in place with Jill Rye serving as our VBS Launch Pad Director!

But there are still lots of other places to serve on this great space voyage with us like leaders and team members for crafts, music, apprentices, prayer partners, recreation, assembly, administrative supports, snack team, mission planners, Family night organizers, and group captains! Please pray about serving this year and then step out on faith and just do it! We know that you can help us take the kids to Mars and Beyond in their faith walk!

Stay tuned for meteorites, flying objects, and the VBS registration links coming soon to Grace in Mission and Grace Notes near you! Thank you for your support as always and the VBS Crew will look forward to seeing you on board. Over and out! Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) for more information or to volunteer.



Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

February 2019

A God-Soaked Lent

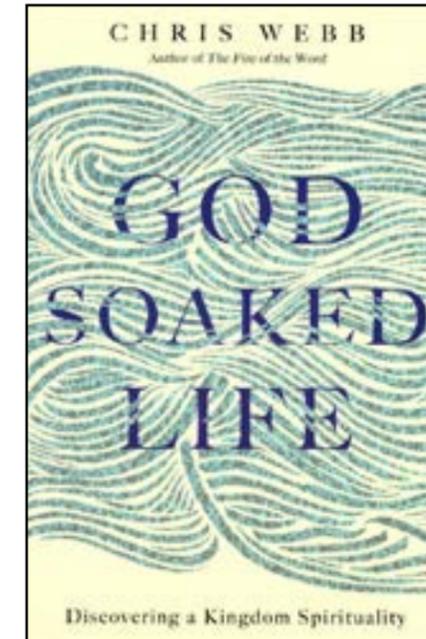
By Rev. Cindy Marino

The Beatitudes describe life in God's kingdom. And is it ever different! As we have been discovering in worship since the first of the year, we are never far from water, i.e. God's presence. We have everything we need to enter a way of life that is fearless, honest and full in a way we never expected possible!

Author Chris Webb calls this the God-soaked life. It includes "a daily experience of God through silence, Scripture and prayer; and a new life of love and service in the broken world around us." (Webb, 2017)

There's no substitute that satisfies.

In today's world, we find people looking to political figures to save them, to mega church pastors, to new scientific findings, to the next best diet or fashion statement or another child or a different partner or a new job.



We place blame for failure to attain happiness on those 'others' who would block our progress. Diving fully into a 'side' in any debate cuts

out a piece of the whole that is hard to regain. Our divisions are like a line in the water, arbitrary and unsustainable from God's view. Our efforts to find wholeness in this way are endless and endlessly futile.

This Lenten season, we as the church can intercede for those who are searching. We can be the safe place to wrestle with the issues. We can invite them to enter the water with us. We can refuse to be placed in a bucket when a deluge of love is available to us and to all. We can choose to listen, to understand, to refuse to reject if we can't accept. We can agree to disagree in love.

Grace is a place and a people. And the love here is contagious. May it drench your soul with the peace of Christ and may you flourish in the God-soaked life!

Lenten Devotional Needed!

Ash Wednesday is March 6, 2019. Almost 50 years ago at Grace, the tradition of a booklet of devotions for each day in the season of Lent began. This booklet consists of the writings, poems, photography and, artwork of our lay members, staff, and friends of Grace.

But it can't happen without you! Won't you bless our Grace family with your contributions for the 2019 edition? Please see the brochure at the Church Office for ideas and guidelines or download it at www.peopleofgrace.org/lent-2019

DEADLINE: Submit your devotions by Friday, February 1 to Barb Ceruti (bceruti917@gmail.com) or (630-618-9129) with any questions.



Friends & Family Movie Night!

Lights, Camera, Action! It's time for Movie Night at Grace!



Invite your friends and family to join you on Saturday, February 9, at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for dinner (hot dogs, chips, drinks, popcorn, and dilly bars) and a movie. Our feature film will be Disney's "Christopher Robin." This 2018 movie is a heartwarming tale of a working class family man, Christopher Robin. He encounters his childhood friend Winnie the Pooh, who helps him to rediscover the joys of life.

All you have to do is relax and enjoy the show with your Grace family and friends. Childcare will be provided for children ages 6 weeks to 4 years old. Contact Pastor Mark (mark.himel@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

"Soup"-er Bowl of Caring

Grace Youth invite you to help stomp out hunger! On Sunday, February 3, we will support the Soup-er Bowl of Caring by collecting monetary donations in the Narthex for Loaves and Fishes. Each \$1 donated gives Loaves and Fishes \$10 worth of buying power.



All are invited to wear your favorite jersey (homemade, official, t-shirt with duct tape numbers on it) for ANY sport/team to worship that Sunday. Together we can tackle hunger one community at a time! Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.lofek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Now Is A Great Time to Join Choir!

The New Year is still a great time to join one of the choirs or ensembles at Grace. New Singers needed and welcomed!

Contact Dan Wagner (dan.wagner@peopleofgrace.org) or any of our directors for more information.



Financial Fireside Chat

All of our Grace Friends and Family (woman and men) are invited to attend this event on Tuesday, February 5, in Fellowship Hall. The evening will begin with dessert and coffee served at 6:30 p.m. and immediately followed by our featured speaker, Mr. Charles R.P. Brown III, the CEO and Portfolio Manager of CB3 Financial Group, Inc.



Mr. Charles R.P. Brown III

Mr. Brown's presentation is entitled, "CB3's Financial Chat for 2019: Protecting your Portfolio." His key topics will be influences weighing on the markets as 2019 begins, selecting stocks in a correction environment, and understanding stop-loss strategy. He also will provide information about charitable giving.

He has been trading commodities and stocks for thirty-plus years. He has written numerous financial articles and a book, Not Your Father's Retirement. An experienced lecturer, he has appeared on national TV with his economic opinions and news. He is known for his ability to "explain complex topics in his 'everyman' conversational style." Apart from the financial world, he is an accomplished musician and performed in Carnegie Hall at age 17. He currently is an active member and performs in the Moody Church Orchestra in Chicago.

All are welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided. Reservations are requested but not required. This event is hosted by the United Methodist Women. Contact Phyllis Pepiot (ppepiot@gmail.com) for more information.

CIN Sunday

United Methodist Women will hold their annual CIN Sunday fundraiser on Sunday, February 10, in the Activity Center. The scent of delicious, freshly-baked cinnamon rolls will waft through the air all morning. All proceeds from the sale of the rolls will support our Youth Summer Mission Program. In 2018, CIN Sunday raised \$1,252.98 for Youth Summer Missions. Contact Phyllis Pepiot (ppepiot@gmail.com) for more information.



Side X Side Kick-Off

Side x Side is open to all who have completed 8th grade through adult! We are inviting anyone interested in participating to attend our kick-off meeting on Sunday, February 3, in Fellowship Hall, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship.



We will be giving out information regarding tuition, paperwork required to participate, fundraising, and of course, revealing our 2019 destination.

Come join us for refreshments, fellowship, fun and information! We have a place for you! Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.lofek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Over 50 Fellowship

Join the Over 50 Fellowship on Friday, March 15, for a delicious lunch of corned beef and cabbage and program by Kay McKeen, Executive Director of SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling & Composting Education). Kay will give an energetic presentation addressing the many aspects of "repurposing" our treasures and our direct connection to nature and the environment. We will definitely leave with valuable information and action we can take to care for our planet!



Kay has been featured in newspapers and on many television and radio programs including "Making a Difference" on NBC. SCARCE collects unwanted books of any kind, crayons, school and office supplies, musical instruments, school furniture, and other educational tools. Local teachers visit the SCARCE center to acquire books. Even more inspiring, SCARCE ships thousands of books to diverse areas ravaged by disasters, such as Florida and Ghana. Kay McKeen has earned dozens of awards, most recently the Illinois Recycler of the Year in 2016 and the Nonprofit Executive of the Year in 2017.

Sign up for the March Over 50 Fellowship in the Church Office by Tuesday, March 12 at noon. \$10 cash will be payable at the door. When signing up, please remember that we have prepared a meal for you. If you do not attend, please arrange to pay for your reserved meal and pick it up in the kitchen on the day of the event.

Note: we will meet on Friday, not Thursday!

Confirmation End of Year Projects

Our Confirmation Class of 2019 continues to travel their faith journey in preparation for Confirmation Sunday on April 7. As part of the curriculum, ALL students are required to complete an End of the Year Project. Instructions for those projects will be shared in class on Sunday, February 10.



Project Due Dates:

- Rough Drafts: Sunday, February 24
- Final Copy: Saturday, March 9 (Weekend of Decision)

Parents of Confirmation students have an assignment too--Suprise!! The parent assignment is due Sunday, February 24. Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.lofek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Thank you!

By: Gretchen Andsager

"The Malibu United Methodist Church" community was so touched by your generosity helping with the aftermath of the California wildfires. In all, Grace United Methodist members raised more than \$1,000 for the families who lost their homes. While there, we learned 10 families, not 11, are starting from scratch. The church is still standing thanks to good Samaritans who covered the rooftop to keep embers from reaching it. The church building was still without power when we visited Sunday, November 25. They are also having to give the building special treatment to get the smoke out of it. Otherwise, the church property is okay.



Gretchen with Pastor Sandy of Malibu UMC

The church says they are planning to use the donations to help people with groceries. Some members who lost their homes were not insured, so some of our gifts will also go toward helping them.

The congregation was incredibly thankful for your donations and letters of support. They are so resilient. Even though the journey to recovery will take time, everyone is grasping to hope and the church community as they start again. Thank you again for helping a community that is so close to my heart.

Grace UMC Foundation Supports Many Grace Ministries in 2018

By Scott Oats, Grace United Methodist Church Foundation, President and Secretary

The Foundation provided \$70,000 of support for new initiatives and current ministries in 2018. These activities are not normally included in the annual budget. The Foundation does this through the accumulation of donations over many years from generous members that included the Foundation in their wills or from outright gifts.

In 2018, the Foundation supported:

Leadership through continuing education	Youth Ministry	North Central College Scholarships
Children's Faith Formation Ministry	Russian Initiative Ministry	Faith Build 2018
Building and grounds improvements		

The Foundation funds and endowments used during 2018 were:

Music of Grace Endowment	Muriel Phillips Endowment for Music
Building up the Church Education Fund	North Central College Scholarship Endowment
Robert Lehman North Central College Scholarship Endowment	Joan Ritzer Memorial
Holloway Endowment for International Ministries	Clarence Rickleff Memorial
Holloway Endowment for Children's Faith Formation Ministry	Kayton Youth Center Endowment
Holloway Endowment for Youth Ministry and Outreach	Sparksomething Youth Development Project Fund
Grace UMC Landscaping Endowment	Rodney Gene Lacy Garden Memorial Fund

Not included in the above is the current renovation project. The Glenna Holloway Fund is providing substantially all the funding for this large and important project.

The Foundation is grateful for those who have given, continue to give and who have included the Foundation in their wills or trusts. Your gifts are being used to help meet the needs of those in our church, community and broader world. If you have any questions about the Foundation or how to make a planned gift please contact Scott Oats, Pastor Cindy, Pastor Daniel or any of the Foundation Board Members.

Foundation Board Members: Scott Oats, President and Secretary, Jo Ellen Bender Vice President, Peggy Nasti Treasurer, Merle Clewett, Bob Long, Ron Laub, Gina Gramarosso and John Abe.

Scholarship for North Central College

The Grace Church Foundation is again offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year at North Central College. These funds are available through North Central College Scholarship Funds established by generous donations from Anna Stephenson. The scholarship maybe matched by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation as part of its Dollars for Scholars program and also by North Central College for a total scholarship of \$3,000.

If you are a current student or plan to enroll for the fall semester and are a member of Grace United Methodist Church, you are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Online application forms are available now and can be completed online at www.umhef.org. After the online application has been submitted, you must complete the Confirmation Form attaching a photograph and a personal biography including a description of your involvement in Grace United Methodist Church and your community.

These must be placed in Merle Clewett's mailbox located in Room 224 no later than February 17. The Foundation will select a candidate or candidates and forward the application with a Foundation check for \$1,000 to the UMHEF before the March 1 deadline.

Contact Pastor Cindy Marino (cindy.marino@peopleofgrace.org) or Merle Clewett (mclewett@msn.com) for more information.

Children's Musical Lock-in!

By Lynn Leitzen, Director of Children's Music Ministry

It's been described as "Epic", "Most Fun You'll Ever Have in Church," "Best Reason for Being in Choir!"

What is it, you ask?

It's the annual Lock-In for the start of the musical season for our children's choirs, and your child is invited!

Has your child ever expressed interest in drama or musical theater? Here's a wonderful, safe, and loving environment for them to explore their creative side. Many of our choristers have gone on to have leads in several of the local high school productions!

They "get the bug" having experienced the joy of theater and song at a young age, and some choose to pursue it even into college.



It's a humble little start, but for some, that's all that's needed. And what better reason to share a message with the world than a love of God and a desire to serve their church while they learn?

This year's Lock-In will be held on the weekend of March 1 & 2. All choirs (K-7th grade) are invited to attend. Everyone will experience a night of great fun, games, food, fellowship, and rehearsal all intertwined to totally engage them in the Biblical truths from the musical we are rehearsing. 3rd graders and younger will be picked up by their parents at the end of the evening. 4th graders and older will be spending the night "locked-in" until 9 a.m.

Again, the invitation to join the children's choirs for this year's musical begins with the Lock-In, March 1 & 2. Sunday rehearsals are required, and Wednesday evenings are encouraged, but not mandatory.

If this "EPIC" experience sounds like something your child/grandchild/neighbor/friend might be interested in, please contact Lynn Leitzen, Director of Children's Music Ministry (lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org) or (630-355-1748, Ext. 3249), by Wednesday, February 20 to get signed up.



**Keep Calm and go to
Choral Evensong**



Sunday, February 10

3:30 p.m. Pre-Service Organ Concert, Tom Colao

4 p.m.- 4:45 p.m. Choral Evensong with Evensong Singers

4:45 p.m. Tea Reception