

Come Walk With Us

ELDERBERRIES !

**TUESDAY, THURSDAY,
& SATURDAY!**
9 A.M. - 10 A.M.

Indoors on Grace UMC's Main Level

Contact Dick Trondsen (rtrondsen@comcast.net) for more information



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 (rtrondsen@comcast.net) for more information.

United Methodist Women Meeting

United Methodist Women will hold their general meeting on Tuesday, January 15, at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Note that this gathering is also a combined circle meeting. Barb LeMaster will be in charge of our pledge service. Important updates and special fellowship time will be included. Ruth Circle will be the hostess for the breakfast. All women are welcome to attend. Contact Phyllis Pepiot (ppepiot@gmail.com) for 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.

Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

January 2019

The Refreshing Waters of Grace

By Rev. Cindy Marino

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
Habakkuk 2:14

Water serves as a powerful metaphor in scripture. Water permeates every nook and cranny over which it flows, and so God's grace permeates our very beings. Whether that grace becomes an irritant or a source of refreshment is up for discussion, but the power contained therein is never questioned.

We will begin the new year of 2019 by diving into the Gospel of Matthew to find Jesus being launched into ministry from the middle of a muddy river. He will travel through the desert and mountains before pausing to reveal God's kingdom at the seaside. The journey is arduous. Not everyone is equipped! But the water continues to flow and Jesus presses onward.

During Lent, we will dive deeper into those metaphors of water we find throughout the scriptures. We'll find that even in those dry, hot, desert moments we are never far from water.

While we are on this trek of discovery, the building at Grace will be under construction! We'll find ourselves working around plastic barriers and talking over the pounding of hammers. Glenna Holloway, author of the book of poetry entitled, Never Far from Water, provided the gift which



makes a new gathering space and refurbished children's area possible! (visit www.peopleofgrace.org/blog for more information)

We will honor her memory in the space as we honor her writing with this theme of water throughout worship.

And then, as new life presents itself in the spring, we will see the fruits of the labors of many. The new gathering space should be finished by the end of April. The Children's Center should be receiving its final touches the first week in January. There will be opportunities to contribute toward furnishings for the new spaces and for areas throughout the church, bringing this place to its fullest use in refreshing our relationships with God and others.

There's never been a better time to test the waters at Grace!

Grace Youth Season of Giving "Thank you!"



The holiday season can be described in countless ways: exciting, anticipatory, joyous, celebratory, even stressful. At Grace UMC, the word that comes to mind in any season is generous!

Thank you to ALL who participated in any way with the Grace Youth Ministry Season of Giving, supporting our Indian Prairie School District 204 families. Thanks to your generosity multiple families will experience a bit of joy and hope this Christmas!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Gaye Lynn

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, who 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. Contact Pastor Mark (mark.himel@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Parent's Day Out 2019-2020



Grace UMC's Parent's Day Out is a childcare program for children ages 1 - 4 years old. The program operates from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday through Friday during the school year. Children are registered to attend one day per week and may indicate interest in a second day (if available) for the school year.

2019-2020 Registration dates are:

- Sunday, January 13, for Grace UMC Families, 9:15 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the Activity Center
- Tuesday, January 15, for Grace UMC Families, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Parent's Day Out Office
- Wednesday, January 16, for Current Families, Alternates, and Alumni at 9:15 am in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 16, for Community Families at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Parent's Day Out information is available on the rack outside the Church Office or www.peopleofgrace.org/parent-day-out or by calling the Parent's Day Out Office at 630-355-6146.

Vacation Bible School 2019

We are almost ready to launch "To Mars and Beyond" during VBS 2019! VBS will be held the week of June 24-28. But 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 currently seeking committed volunteers to serve as Director, Co-Director, crafts, music, apprentices, prayer partners, recreation, assembly, administrative supports, snack team, and group captains! Please pray about serving this year and step out on faith and just do it! I believe 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 UMC Continues Faithful Service to Hesed House

By Larry Hartman

The 185 faces of homelessness - black, brown, white, weathered, fresh, worried, joyful. These are the faces of the needy that Grace Church served one night last month at the overnight emergency shelter at Hesed House, Aurora.

Hesed House is a non-for-profit coalition of religious ministries serving the very poor in Fox Valley. Started in the 1980s by religious leaders and concerned citizens, it is now the second largest shelter in the state. With professional staff, alliances with outside agencies and 6,000 volunteers from 70 area churches, over 1,000 people are served each year. In addition to the overnight shelter, they provide many other programs including case management, housing support, employment training, medical assistance, and a family shelter.

As the new Grace coordinator for Hesed House, I stepped into a "well-oiled machine" that has been serving since the inception of Hesed House. Through the generosity of Grace, we are responsible for the second Tuesday of each month. We provide volunteers to help with dinner preparation and serving, overnight monitoring, lunch and breakfast preparation. In addition to the groceries we purchase, church members lovingly provide home-cooked potato or green bean casseroles, salads, and cookies.



Casseroles, salads, cookies, and mittens ready for delivery to Hesed House in November.

While guests are getting a hot meal, shower, and a bed for the night, they also receive donated personal hygiene and medical supplies from their "store," staffed by a Grace volunteer. A Hesed House collection box will be located outside the Activity Center to collect these items.

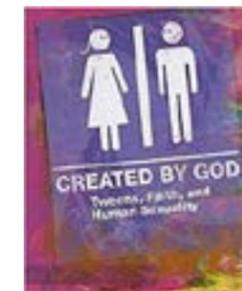
Current needs are listed on their website www.hesedhouse.org, which includes the following critical items:

- Cough drops
- Shower gel (full-sized)
- Alcohol-free cold medicine
- Alcohol-free mouthwash
- Hair brushes, large combs, and picks
- Men's & Women's underwear
- Alcohol-free mouthwash
- Laundry detergent
- New sippy cups & bottles
- Over-the-counter topical ointments

Many of our faithful volunteers have participated for several years, but now is the time to expand the volunteer list. Contact Larry Hartman (lehartman@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in volunteering on a regular basis or just being included on a substitute list.

Created By God

All 5th and 6th graders are invited for a weekend focused on growing spiritually and physically with a faith-based perspective. Our Created by God weekend will be held on January 25-27 at Grace and we encourage you to invite friends and neighbors who may benefit from this weekend experience.



We have a team of amazing parents, health professionals, lay people 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.

We have limited space, so register early at www.peopleofgrace.org/created-by-god. Deadline to register is Monday, January 21. Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Children's Faith Formation Ministry, we wish you a healthy and blessed 2019! Each year, so many verbally or quietly decide how this New Year will go for them. We really do not know what tomorrow will bring, but as Christians, we live courageously in the hope that there is a tomorrow! As we look toward the hope of tomorrow, please continue to keep the next generation in your thoughts, prayers and as recipients of your faith in action.

End of Year Giving Statement 2018

End of year giving statements will be sent electronically this year and will be sent no later than Thursday, January 31. If you wish to receive a paper copy, please email (finance@peopleofgrace.org) or sign up in the Church Office no later than Sunday, January 20.



Grace Community Builders

By Bill Fronk

Invitation to Join Grace Community Builders

Don't miss your opportunity to join a Grace Community Builders Group (GCB). Get to know other members of our church better, have an enjoyable experience and help instill a greater overall sense of community in our church.

GCB groups are comprised of six people who meet, with one different person from the group, each week over a period of five weeks. There is a participant sheet which identifies each person and who they will meet with that week. At the conclusion of the five weeks, there will be a potluck dinner for each participant and his/her spouse, significant other or friend. Each meeting is set up between the two people who are planning to meet that week. They decide the time and place. The discussions are wide-ranging and fit the comfort level of those involved.

Join a GCB Group now and get to meet the other wonderful people from our church. The friendships that have developed through these meetings is amazing. Do you have to be a member of Grace UMC to participate? Absolutely not! You only need to want to get to know the people of Grace better and have them know you.

The next groups will begin the week of January 21. Deadline to sign up is Friday, January 9. Contact Bill Fronk (wcfrok1@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.



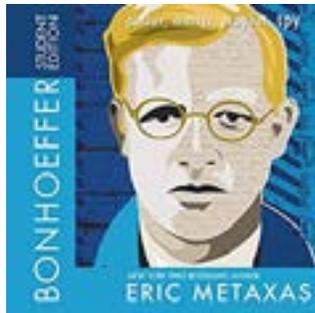
New Small Group in January!

If standing up for God's truth might cost you your life, would you take the risk?

Beginning Monday, January 21, at 7 p.m., Bill Bryan will lead a four-session study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a 20th century hero and martyr who was

a vocal anti-Nazi dissident in Germany during World War II. A Lutheran minister who became active in the German resistance, he opposed Hitler's euthanasia program and genocidal persecution of the Jews. He was arrested and sent to a concentration camp, where he was executed days before the end of the war. Bonhoeffer's writings on Christianity's role in the secular world continue to be influential in the 21st century.

Registration for the Bonhoeffer study is available in the Church Office. Please indicate whether you will provide your own book or would like to purchase the book through the church: Bonhoeffer Student Edition by Eric Metaxas, \$12. Room assignments may change as construction progresses, so make sure to check the screens in the entrances for current classroom room. Contact Gay Craig (gaycraig@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



New Fast Track Disciple Studies in January!

Fast Track Disciple Studies is an opportunity for a short-term Bible study in small groups. The 12-week Fast Track Study creates an ideal balance for those with busy lives who strive to fit a comprehensive Bible study into their hectic schedules and to journey in their faith walk with fellow Christians. Each class will begin with a short DVD presentation, then move to a discussion of questions from the study manual based upon the previous week's Bible reading assignments.

Grace will be offering two Fast Track Disciple class options starting in January. The study manuals for each class will cost \$18 and be available in the Church Office. Room assignments may change as construction progresses, so make sure to check the screens in the entrances for current classroom number.

Fast Track 1, a New Testament Survey Class, will be led by Sandy Bray from January 16 to April 10. Classes will meet Wednesday nights from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Fast Track 2, focusing on the New Testament Luke and Acts, will be led by Pastor Doug Bowden from January 17 to March 28 on Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

In both cases, new class members are welcome, even if they have not taken the previous study of the Old Testament.

Contact Gay Craig (gaycraig@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Are You Living a God-Soaked Life? Lenten Devotional 2019

Do you have thoughts or questions about your baptismal covenant or what it means to live a God-soaked life? Contribute to our 2019 Lenten book of devotions!

You're free to express yourself however you wish but if you'd like little guidance, here are some questions to ponder, based on Chris Webb's book God-Soaked Life:

What does your baptism mean to you?

Where in everyday life do you see God?

What does it mean to repent? Do you think it's necessary?

What is your favorite Bible passage, and why?

Why do you think Jesus came to earth? Would you recognize Him if He came back?

Do you like being in or near water? Why or why not?

Are you comfortable being among God's broken people? Why or why not?

Do you have a deep-seated yearning for intimacy with God?

When or where do you feel closest to God?

Have you ever felt forsaken or abandoned by God?

Based on page 106 of God-Soaked Life, how would you describe the "whatness" of God?

Could you love someone who will never love you back?

When have you experienced consolation? Desolation?

How is the Kingdom of God like a community of love?

Devotions in written form, as well as poems, drawings and photographs, are welcome. Feel free to include a Bible passage, hymn or prayer. Submit your devotions to Barb Ceruti (bceruti917@gmail.com) no later than Friday, February 1. Please limit copy to 300 words and art to 5.5" x 8" in size. Questions? Contact Barb Ceruti (bceruti917@gmail.com).



FaithBuild 2019

Grace UMC will once again partner with Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity in 2019 to build a home for the Wood family. The FaithBuild 2019 home will be one half block from FaithBuild 2017 & 2018 homes on Solfsburg in Aurora.

The kick-off meeting for the churches partnering in the 2019 build will be Saturday, January 19, at 9:00 a.m. at Genesis Community Church, 1300 S. Broadway, Montgomery, IL.

Contact Brentley Loufek (brentley.loufek@gmail.com), Rick Loufek (rick.loufek@gmail.com), or Gaye Lynn Loufek, (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information on how to get involved.

Stay tuned for more information on how Grace UMC will be involved!

