



## Join Grace Gardeners?

Grace Gardeners would welcome some new volunteers. We are a varied group of men and women who tend to the plantings around the buildings and parking lots. Each of us takes responsibility for a certain area, based on our preferences and abilities. We share advice and sometimes help each other, but work at our individual pace and time. A professional landscape company does the major spring cleanup, mulch distribution, shrub pruning, and weed spraying. Some of our more experienced gardeners plan renovations, divide and transplant perennials, or plant a few annuals. For most, our work generally involves simple maintenance, such as removing spent flowers and occasional weed digging. Help us keep the Church attractive! Interested novices or experienced gardeners are welcome. Contact Betty Long (b-long6120@sbcglobal.net) for further information.



## Thank You! Touch A Truck

On behalf of Grace UMC, our community partners, neighbors, and friends, please join us in thanking everyone who came together to ensure that the morning was a success. A special thank you to our Touch A Truck Lay Leader, Jami Copeland, who made all of the contacts and invited a record number of community partners to participate in our event. To those that helped with the marketing, planning, set up, hospitality, hosting and clean up, your presence was priceless! Ministry is truly a family effort! We look forward to bringing friends and neighbors together again next year and we welcome you all to join us. To God be the glory! Thank you!



# Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

July 2019

## What's Next? or Who's Next?

By Rev. Cindy Marino

### What's Next?

I find myself asking that question at the wrap up of any project or event. I'm not good at the whole "reflect, evaluate, be thankful" piece of life in ministry. By the time one thing comes to its conclusion, I've moved on. I tend to think in big pictures, each project being a part of our movement toward a present and future whole.

The recent renovation at Grace is a great example. It's vital and good to pause to evaluate and elevate this success for Grace; so much work has gone into bringing this exciting plan for space that encourages relationships to thrive. I do hope you were able to join us for the service of dedication. I will forever be in awe of the leaders who guided this project.

I now find my thoughts turning to the future and how the space will facilitate our mission to invite the community to be a part of who we are in Christ.

Grace UMC is in a unique position. A list of all the advantages and blessings available to this congregation would be lengthy enough to surround this beautiful property: loving people who know God's presence, a dedicated prayer team, devoted teachers and active classes, overflowing resources when inspiration nudges to give generously, amazing and gifted staff, committed leadership and caretakers, a beautiful setting along the river amongst stately century oaks, a team of clergy who like each other and work well together.

But none of these is honoring to God

if we aren't using them to reach new people for Christ.

Along with asking, "What's next," we might ask, "Who's next?"

We are reminded that Jesus left the 99 sheep to go out and find the one that was missing. Can we find the courage to do the same? The 99 are well cared for, have community in one another and all of the blessings of a family of faith. The "one" is out there alone, caught up in the notion that we need to be strong, self-sufficient and self-directed to make it in this world.

How wonderful that we have a God who proclaims the opposite to be true! We are strongest together in relationship, admitting our need for a Savior. Our faith requires us to be in community with one another for accountability, learning, caring, support, and to be our best selves. Just as Jesus reaches out to include us in relationship to God through Him, we must reach out to others. Just as Jesus invites us to participate in His worship of the Father, we must participate in that worship with one another.

Challenge yourself in these next few months to consider not only what's next, but who is next?

Our new worship schedule provides new options for inviting others to join you in worship and in fellowship:

- A staid and steady style with familiar hymns will provide solace for many at 8 a.m.

- A creative use of our traditions will guide us at 10:30.
- And a contemporary service friendly to those unfamiliar with church will invite and welcome everyone at 9 in the Activity Center.
- The 9:15 faith formation hour will provide classes and groups for many styles and stages of faith.
- A beautifully reflective, but casual Saturday service breaks for the summer but will return in joy on August 17.

Consider which of these options might appeal to that person who needs this community as much or more than you do and invite them to join you.

May Grace UMC exist for those who are not yet here, as Jesus came to teach us the true meaning of a love that gives itself away! And may we all be blessed as we grow in love together!

### New Worship + Faith Formation Schedule (Starting July 21)

8 -9 Worship Service (current 8:15)  
9:15-10:15 Faith Formation hour  
for all ages  
10:30-11:30 Worship Service  
(current 9:30)

9 -10:15 Contemporary Worship and "table talk formation" in the Activity Center (current 11)

You can pick up more information about our New Sunday Worship + Faith Formation Schedule at the Welcome Desk!

## Hope@Home 2019

### Donations

Hope@Home team members are grateful for the continued support of our Grace Church family! This year we have a new way to serve our team.



### Donations for snack bags are requested from the following list:

- Goldfish crackers (individual packages) 30 packages
- Cookie Packages (individual "sleeves"/packages) 30 packages
- Granola Bars 60 bars
- Fruit Snacks 60 packages
- Chex Mix (individual packages) 60 packages
- Breakfast Cookies (like Belvita) 30 packages
- String Cheese 30 "sticks"
- Grapes 3 lbs.
- Cuties or Halo Oranges 60 pieces

Donations may be placed in the Church kitchen between Wednesday, July 3, and Sunday, July 7, either in the refrigerator marked Hope@Home, or on the counter in the container provided. Contact Betsy Koepnick (betsykoepnick@gmail.com) for more information.

### Commissioning

Join us on Sunday, July 7, at 11 a.m. as we commission our Hope @ Home team who will be serving in Aurora, Joliet, Naperville, and surrounding areas July 9-July 11.

### Meeting

Hope @ Home participants will gather in room 234 on Sunday, July 7, at noon for a final meeting prior to our trip.

### Slideshow

All are welcome to join our Hope @ Home team for a slide show and celebration on Sunday, July 21, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come share in the excitement! Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

## Call for Acolytes - Children 7 to 14

Grace Church invites all children 7 to 14 to serve as acolytes during the new 10:30 service (formerly 9:30). Acolytes will light the candles near the Communion Table at the start of worship and lead the pastors out of the sanctuary at the end. The program is set to begin on Sunday, August 18. Contact Jennifer Hoover (gumcacyte@peopleofgrace.org) for more information or to sign up.

## New! Dietrich Bonhoeffer Study

The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Study, taught so well by Pastor Bill Bryan in January and February of 2019, was a blessing to 45 who participated in the afternoon and evening sessions.

Building on this first Dietrich Bonhoeffer study, we invite you, over the summer months of July and August, to read Life Together, a book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer about the Confessing Church Pastors two years living and studying together in Finkenwalde, Germany, 1935 to 1937. Join us for a seven-week study and discussion Tuesdays, September 17 to October 29, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in room 254.

On one of these Tuesday evenings, October 8, true to the call of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, we will volunteer in Grace Church's serving meal ministry at Hesus House, Aurora.

We recommend the newly edited edition of Life Together, published by Fortress Press © 2015, with an introduction by the noted Bonhoeffer Scholar, Geoffrey B. Kelly. This can be ordered and purchased from Anderson's Book Store in Naperville or your other book order sources.

Life Together deals with the nature of this Christ-centered community: The Life of Christians living together, united in service to and for one another through prayer, the practice of confession, and the partaking of the Lord's Supper." (Kelly).

Contact Pastor Doug Bowden (dbowden6@aol.com) or Larry Hartman (lehartman@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## Grace @Kane County Cougars!

All of our Grace family and friends are invited to join us on Wednesday, July 17, as we cheer on the Kane County Cougars. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the game starts at 6:30 p.m.



Register at [peopleofgrace.org/cougars](http://peopleofgrace.org/cougars) to get discount tickets, food bucks, and parking. Deadline to register is Tuesday, July 2. Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) or (630-355-1748, Ext. 3241) for more information.

## Mission Control Signing Out: "Thank you for your service!"

On behalf of the children of the Mars and Beyond 2019 VBS program, we would like to thank Jill Rye for her leadership this year as Director of Vacation Bible School! We would like to thank the Apprentices, Teens, Adults, Art, Snack, Recreation, Music, Prayer leaders and teams. Thank you to our entire Office Staff, Custodians, Receptionists, Trustees, Ministry Leaders/Teams and Pastors. This program could not have been done without all of you!

Teamwork makes a dream work and God's faithfulness prevailed as always! As you continue to enjoy the summer months and prepare for the fall, we encourage you to "Go Beyond with Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness, and Hope"! God was with us during VBS week and he is always with us. We look forward to seeing all of you next year! To God be the glory, great things He hath done!

## UMW Annual Hamball Luncheon Thank You!

By Katie Smith, Hamball Luncheon Chairwoman

On behalf of the United Methodist Women, I would like to thank all of our guests who attended the 49th Annual Hamball Luncheon on April 26. Through your generous contributions, our local, national, + global women's & children's missions will receive over \$3,400.

*Wages in the form of love, perks in the form of hopes and promotions in the forms of blessings – this is your reward for volunteering with all your heart. -unknown*

To all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this luncheon so special, a heartfelt Thank You!

As William Arthur Ward has said, "Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgiving, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." This amazing day was a day of thanksgiving filled with joy and bountiful blessings. I am deeply grateful for each of you!

**Save the Date!** Our Golden Anniversary of UMW Annual Hamball Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 17, 2020!

## Thank You!

Grace Quilters would like to thank all folks who donated to the 2019 Youth Mission Quilt "Under the Sea." Because of your generosity, we were able to raise \$956 for our 2019 Youth Summer Mission Trips. The quilt was won by Bob and Jaci Tschirhart, Grace Church members.

## Open Doors Ministry Buddies Needed!

The Open Doors Ministry is seeking buddies to support our children, youth and adults with special needs. Training is provided, and we work around your schedule. You can buddy as often as you are available, from weekly, to once a month, or even on an "on-call" status. Contact Nicole Zaccaria, our Open Doors Coordinator (nicole.zaccaria@peopleofgrace.org) if you are interested or want more information.

## Save the Date!

Join us on Sunday, August 1, as Open Doors Ministry celebrates the Official Opening of Grace's new Sensory Room (downstairs in room 151) between all worship services. There will be cake, refreshments, and a time of learning about sensory needs, seeing all of the tools that Grace has to offer to help us welcome individuals of all abilities. We look forward to seeing you!

## Youth Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Do you remember being a pre-teen or a teen? Do you remember how great it felt to have adults in your life who cared about you? Do you remember who walked with you on your faith journey?

Junior High and Senior High youth are in great need of adults in our Sunday School program who are passionate, compassionate, God loving, and willing to walk an authentic faith walk through teaching on Sunday mornings at 9:30 currently, 9:15 a.m. as of July 21.

Our Youth Sunday School program accommodates busy schedules with a team-teaching approach. The curriculum is provided and teaching meetings happen quarterly or once/semester with frequent email check-ins.

We celebrate with some of our most recent teaching teams as exciting life changes are occurring: moving up with their 8th graders to Confirmation, weddings of children, new marriages, relocation, and grandbabies! Please prayerfully consider joining our team, helping continue the great foundation already begun by these ladies!

Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) with interest and/or questions! Without YOU, we will just be "TH"!

# Weekday Groups

(Groups will resume meeting in the August/September of 2019)

## Monday

### Sisters Bible Study at 1 p.m. in Room 254

An intergenerational group of women engages in spirited discussions of books and studies focused on spiritual formation, led by Pastor Cindy Marino. Sisters will resume meeting again in September of 2019. Contact Pastor Cindy Marino ([cindy.marino@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:cindy.marino@peopleofgrace.org)) for more information.

### NEW! Disciple Fast Track 2 Class at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Join us on Monday, September 23, as we begin the Disciple Fast Track Study of Genesis and Exodus. This 12-week study will immerse you in the books of Genesis and Exodus in which you will deepen your understanding of Scripture and make connections between what you already know and what you are reading. In every session, we will commit to how we can respond to Scripture in terms of ministry in our world today. Contact Sandy Bray ([braysnap@aol.com](mailto:braysnap@aol.com)) for more information and to sign up.

### Progressive Christianity at 7 p.m. in Room 254

Open discussion of various non-traditional theological ideas. Led by Revs. Don Niswonger and Dr. Carol Findon. Progressive Christianity will resume meeting on Monday, September 9, at 7 p.m. Contact Rev. Don Niswonger ([dniswo25@aol.com](mailto:dniswo25@aol.com)), Rev. Dr. Carol Findon ([revdcrf@aol.com](mailto:revdcrf@aol.com)) for more information.

## Wednesday

### Portico Collective at 5 p.m., Room 234

All-ages, drop-in discussion group led by Chris Weilemann. A great place to wrestle with your doubts and questions. Portico Collective will resume meeting on Wednesday, August 21, at 5 p.m. Contact Chris Weilemann ([chris.weilemann@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:chris.weilemann@peopleofgrace.org)) for more information.

### New! Sisters Evening Class at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Join us on Wednesday, September 25, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Our Fall study will be Not a Silent Night by Adam Hamilton. This 5-week course will look at Jesus from Mary's point of view -- proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this study we will begin at the Crucifixion and Resurrection then travel back in time as Mary witnesses Jesus' life and ministry and ends at the beginning with the Christ Child. Come experience an early Advent and Christmas with Mary. Contact Sandy Bray ([braysnap@aol.com](mailto:braysnap@aol.com)) for more information and to sign up.

## Thursday

### Thursday Bible Study at 9:30 a.m., Room 254

"Disciple Fast Track" is a 12-week adaptation of the original, bestselling "Disciple Bible Study: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study." It is created to be ideal for busy people who still want to make time to grow in their relationship with Christ. Thursday Bible Study will resume meeting in September of 2019. Contact Pastor Doug Bowden ([dbowden6@aol.com](mailto:dbowden6@aol.com)) for more information.

And there's always room for more! If you see a need, let us know!

# Adult Faith Formation @Grace!

(Current Sunday Offerings)

## **Hearts on Fire Class at 9:30 a.m. in Room 250**

Jesus-centered, warm-hearted folks who don't take themselves too seriously, seeking to grow in faith through study, conversation, and relationship. Contact: Bob Pacanowski (bpacanoswki@franklinsports.com).

## **The Forum Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room** (downstairs by the Church kitchen)

All ages engage in insightful and lively conversation about the Bible, Christian theology, and the implications of discipleship in contemporary matters. Guided by knowledgeable discussion leaders. Contact: Mark Fleming (markwflemi@aol.com).

## **Questors at 9:30 a.m. in Room 254**

A traditional lecture and discussion format that focuses on contemporary Christian issues, Bible studies, and practical application of faith. Members organize speakers, missions and fellowship events. Contact: Roger Hendrickson (rsh1458@sbcglobal.net)

## **New Connections at 9:30 a.m. in Room 226**

A group for younger adults (25-50) who engage in thought-provoking studies that help negotiate the stuff of everyday life, faith, and relationship to God and one another. And they do fun stuff, too! Contact: Dr. Jeffrey Barbeau (jeff@jeffbarbeau.com).

## **Open Hearts and Minds at 11 a.m. in Room 231**

A diverse but progressive group that explores various theological and social perspectives on the Christian message. All are invited! Contact: Rev. Don Niswonger (dniswo25@aol.com), Rev. Dr. Carol Findon (revdrcrf@aol.com).

## **NEW! All Church Adult Faith Formation Opportunities!**

In addition to our regular adult formation classes, the new formation hour (9:15-10:15) provides time for church-wide presentations and discussions in Fellowship Hall. To celebrate this new opportunity, Grace has planned 4 exciting conversations for July and September. On Sunday, July 21, Pastor Daniel will lead us as we discuss: What is the Bible and How Do We Read It? On Sunday, July 28, Pastor Cindy will lead us through the History, Theology, and Practice of Communion, which we will celebrate weekly at our 8 a.m. traditional worship and 9 a.m. contemporary worship services. Then, on Sunday, September 1, Bill Bryan will teach us about the Protestant Reformation, setting the stage for an exploration of our Methodist Movement and on Sunday, September 8, Dr. Jeffrey Barbeau will share with us his new book, [The Spirit of Methodism](#), and discuss the global reach of the UMC. More church-wide conversations to follow!

And there's always room for more! If you see a need, let us know!