

July 2021, a Communications Ministry of
Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

GRACE NOTES

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER OF FREEDOM

By Rev. Cindy Marino

There's a current of excitement over the re-opening of the world; can you feel it?

As I write this, people are grateful and even giddy over simple things like backyard cookouts with friends and in-person hellos. Whether you are ready to jump back in cannonball style or are still considering how to safely enter in, Grace has opportunities for you to live and serve through the freedom you have in Christ.

We now have in-person serving opportunities opening up again! Offering your time and talents to build the community of faith that we know as Grace UMC is something that also builds your faith in God. We are a team at Grace: staff, clergy and you! It's all about relationship, doing the work we're called to do together; each one living out their call to express Christ in our midst.

So how will you use the freedom God gives you to love and serve? Here are a couple of ideas:

1) Sunday Morning Welcome Team:

Be the one with the warm smile and friendly welcome for all who come to worship on Sunday mornings. You will be the person that people remember for years to come!

a. **Guides:** Help those unfamiliar with the building find their way to the Children's Area, classrooms or restrooms. It's a simple task, but easily the most important.

b. **Ushers:** Make sure everyone has what they need and is welcomed and comfortable for worship in the Sanctuary. Assist with the offering. If you are interested, contact Mark Himel (mark.himel@peopleofgrace.org).

2) Tech Team:

From the soundboard to cameras to internet connections, nothing happens without the Tech Team. If computers come easily to you, learn about our system and we will schedule you to serve as you are available. If you are interested, contact Ashley Pierce (ashley.pierce@peopleofgrace.org).

OUR PRAYER

I'm too busy today, Lord of mission and sending, too busy with the things I think I am doing for you. Too busy with the lists and the contracts and the commitments and meetings and teaching and.. well, just too busy. I don't have time to stop and pray. I don't have time to examine my soul and ask for forgiveness and opened eyes and a heart for my neighbor. I'm just too busy. I'll get to it, eventually. But I've got obligations to fulfill. I can't be worried about rockets that are flying and children that are dying. I can't be thinking about another black man shot or shouted at or called names or irrationally feared and shunned. I've got too much on my plate this week.

Too much to be a neighbor? Too much to care? Forgive me, Lord, for once again thinking I matter more than those who are hurting, that my schedule matters more than their lives. Yes, my list is long this week. And I have promises to keep.

But at the top of my list is to love God and love our neighbors and to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with you, O God of all people. So, even when my head is down and my nose is to the grindstone, help me open my eyes for opportunities to love in action and in heart.

In the name of the one who was never too busy for us. Amen.

If you are interested in committing just a bit more of your time to creating just and anti-racist relationships with our community brothers and sisters, and within our church and institutions please visit peopleofgrace.org/corr.

As your fellow church members, CORR strives to provide opportunities and resources for our congregation that help us all build a society that dwells together in God's unconditional and universal love.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY HOSTS BUTTERFLY GARDEN ACTIVITY

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

On Sunday, June 13, Grace's Church and Society Committee partnered with the Children's Faith Formation Ministry to share more about plants and flowers that can provide a place for butterflies to survive. The families visited the Grace Garden, decorated their own pots, and planted flowers and plants that support the butterfly in its life cycle.

It was a beautiful afternoon of fellowship, thinking about our role in caring for our environment, and doing our part to keep the cycle going and enjoyed Froot Loop Popsicles!

Special thanks to Jean Ives, Margaret Schmitt, Linda Bodine and Tracey Mitchell for their preparation, presentation and passionate commitment to teaching the next generation. This committee plays a key role in caring for our Grace property and they are always happy to welcome new faces to the team!



Margaret Schmitt, Linda Bodine, Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, Tracey Mitchell and Jean Ives.

QUARTERS FOR FAMILIES

The United Methodist Women will be collecting quarters all summer for the non-profit organization, Families Helping Families. Families Helping Families is a local organization the UMW has supported as a mission for many years. These families need the quarters for washing and drying their laundry.

You can bring all of your saved quarters to our UMW General Meeting **in-person** on Tuesday, September 7, 9:30 a.m. (new starting time) in Room 231.

Interested in learning more about United Methodist Women?

Visit peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women or contact Merrilyn Schultz (rgs115@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



A Bridge Communities Partner



MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT RETURNING?

As the opportunities for in-person worship and fellowship increase at Grace, we know that the return may be complicated for some individuals. Along with our excitement and joy, we might see increased worry and stress as we adapt to new routines. The Open Doors Ministry (ODM) is here to provide social, emotional and behavioral supports to individuals of all ages!

If you or a loved one have any individualized needs or just want to brainstorm how to make the transition as smooth and successful as possible, contact Nicole Zaccaria, ODM Coordinator, (nicole.zaccaria@peopleofgrace.org).

COMMON PANTRY

Our July pantry collection will benefit the Common Pantry, which is the oldest continually operating food pantry in Chicago on N. Damen Ave.

On average, they serve 750 families each month. As a non-profit, they have more buying power to get food in bulk so they really appreciate cash donations. Each \$1 donated provides 4 meals.

Please continue to donate online at peopleofgrace.org/give and select "Love Loaf" in the drop-down menu or directly to the Common Food Pantry at www.commonpantry.org/.

BOOK REVIEW

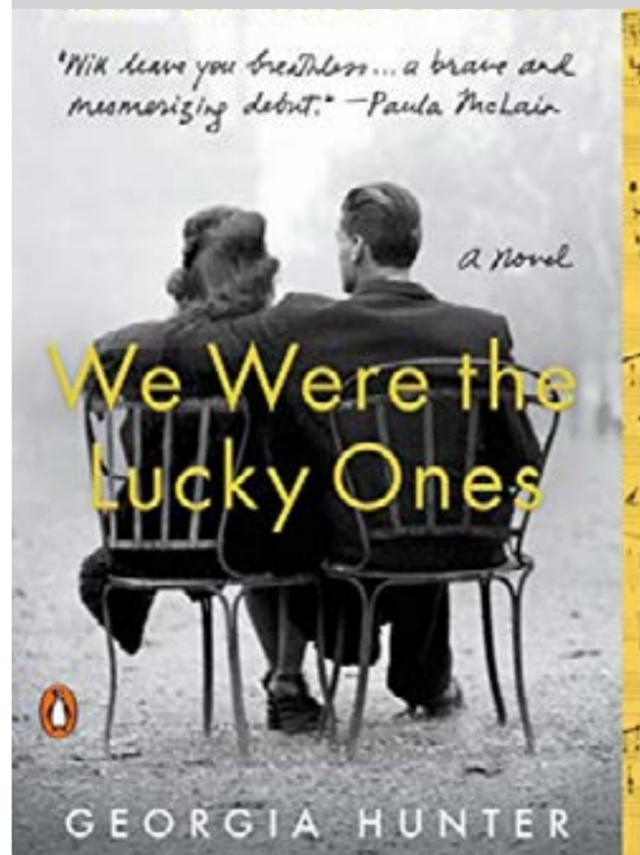
We Were the Lucky Ones - Georgia Hunter

In the spring of 1939, members of the Kurc family of Radom, Poland, find themselves torn apart because of the threat to the Jews in Poland. Members of the family become separated and flung to the far corners of the world, each trying desperately to navigate their way to safety.

This historical fiction story is based on the author's quest to uncover her family's history of surviving the Holocaust by reflecting love and hope in the face of one of the century's darkest times.

Books are available from the Grace Library upon request by contacting Cathy Connor (cathyconnor05@gmail.com).

Visit peopleofgrace.org/library to view the whole collection.



SAVE THE DATES! SUMMER MUSIC FUN

Summer Music Fun for All Kids!! (K-12th Grades)

Sundays, July 25 and August 29, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The majority of the event will be out-of-doors with a few short visits inside the building. Activities will be divided based on age groups. All are invited! Bring friends!

Sunday, July 25

"We Got the Beat!" Adventures in Rhythm featuring Guest Professional Drummer, Nils Higdon. (Visit nilshigdon.com/bio to learn more about Nils)

We love rhythm! It's the heartbeat of the soul! Join us for creative and fun movement activities all related to understanding rhythm and beat! Nils will lead one of our activities and close our time together leading a Drum Circle where all come together to share in the joy of creating music!

Register Now at peopleofgrace.org/drums

Sunday, August 29!

"Music Mashup!" Exploring Ways We Can Make Music to Worship God.

We'll use interactive exploration with our voices as well as instruments (including handbells, drums, guitars, and the mighty pipe organ). Our servant volunteer musicians will be on hand to make the afternoon fun and memorable as we explore the many ways and types of music Grace uses to give praise to our Creator.

Contact Lynn Letizen (lynn.letizen@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.



CELEBRATE YOU

Fellowship Gathering: College Age Young Adults

We are so excited for all of you and want to celebrate your hard work and your accomplishments!

As a new season of College Care Ministry begins, we invite ALL college-age students (whether you are going to college, into the armed forces, or into the corporate world) to join us for a night of fellowship and fun on Sunday, August 1, at 7 p.m. in the lower parking lot of Grace (in case of inclement weather we will move inside).

We value the opportunity to stay connected and keep in touch, so please, bring your fall address so we may add it to our database. You never know when something fun might appear in your mailbox.

Register at: peopleofgrace.org/college

Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

WILLS VS. TRUSTS SEMINAR COMING THIS FALL!

The Grace Foundation is planning a free seminar for church members who are in need of creating an estate plan or updating their current plan.

Estate Attorney Ted Kuczek, of the Law Firm Kuczek and Associates, will share key estate planning information in a friendly setting.

According to [caring.com](https://www.caring.com), only 42% of U.S. adults have estate plans. Don't be in the 58%... mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, September 26. More details to follow.

FINAL COUNTDOWN TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

Our 2021 Virtual VBS, Knights of North Castle, is right around the corner and we are excited!! We are planning for 60+ children, Apprentices and Teens. I already know that God is clearing a path for us to hear His WORD clearly so that we can do His will daily. Many adults, youth and teens have been busy in the background preparing videos, compiling take-home kits and writing encouraging prayers to each child. God is on the move!

We invite you all to the official commissioning service on Sunday, June 27, at 10:30 a.m. We will Power Up with truth, justice, peace, faith and salvation the week of July 12-16 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. together and then reinforce the scripture with crafts, recreational

activities and science at home or with friends!

If you are unable to participate, please consider supporting Vacation Bible School and our "Quarters for Kids" mission collection by donating to our "Shoes of Peace" program this year online at peopleofgrace.org/vbs-missions. Watch out for a shoe with your name on it!!

If you have questions or need more information, contact Chamus (chamus@peopleofgrace.org). Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our next generation of world changers!

Stay tuned for our VBS celebration presentation that will be shared on Sunday, July 18!!



DISTRICT 204 BACKPACK COLLECTION

District 204 has requested our support for their annual backpack collection ! This year, we are asking for empty backpacks and donations of any amount to help purchase the supply kits to deliver consistency in what each child receives.

There will be a collection bin in the Gathering Space, you can write a check to "Grace UMC" earmarked for the "backpack D204" or donate online at peopleofgrace.org/give and select "District 204" in the drop-down menu. Funds received will be used to purchase backpacks and supply kits equally.

We will need to receive all donations by Sunday, July 18, so that they have time to determine their gaps before their Thursday, August 19, opening date! Contact Chamus (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

HYBRID CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, June 6, we held our first hybrid Sunday School class and reopened the nursery! Children were able to attend in person with masks or on Zoom! God is faithful!

We are so grateful for everyone who has helped make this happen and we look forward to welcoming all of our children back.

Sunday School starts at 9 a.m. for ages 3-5th grade and the nursery for ages 6 weeks to 2 years old is available from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We are grateful!

If you need more information or would like to get a copy of the guidelines we are following, please email Chamus (chamus@peopleofgrace.org).

GRACE UMC RENEWS ITS COMMITMENT TO HESED HOUSE

Grace UMC has been a strong supporter of Hesed House since its inception in the 1980s. Located a mile south of downtown Aurora, the mission of Hesed House is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and give people the chance to hope again. It has become a national model for ending homelessness: one person, one family at a time. It is the second-largest homeless shelter in Illinois outside of Chicago. For decades, before COVID, faithful volunteers from Grace provided food, cooked and served breakfast, lunch and dinner each month at Hesed House. The volunteers cherished their interactions with the homeless guests while assisting with bed assignments, distributing toiletries and food.

Since April 2020, COVID restrictions have prevented Grace volunteers from serving inside the facility. However, a group of volunteers continued to provide "ready to serve" hot meals and sack lunches prepared at Grace kitchen. These meals along with donated toiletries and bottled water have filled up a cargo van and have been delivered in time for dinner.

Starting in July 2021, Grace UMC will again be allowed to provide volunteers to serve inside Hesed House. In order to expand volunteer possibilities, the hot dinner and sack lunches will be prepared by volunteers in the Grace UMC kitchen and delivered to Hesed House for volunteers to serve.

Ways You Can Serve at Grace:

- Prepare hot meals and sack lunches at Grace UMC kitchen from 2 p.m.-5:30 p.m. (second Tuesday each month)

Ways You Can Serve at Hesed House:

- Make final dinner preparations, serve dinner, clean up, and other assignments from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (second Tuesday each month)
- Prepare, serve, and clean up for breakfast from 4:30 a.m.- 7:30 a.m. (second Wednesday each month)

Sign up to volunteer at peopleofgrace.org/hesed

Ways to Donate:

- Donate fruit and/or dessert items from 2 p.m.- 5 p.m. (second Tuesday each month)
- Donate from the "current needs" of toiletry items, etc., as listed at hesedhouse.org

Donations of either food or other items can be dropped off in the Gathering Space at Grace UMC in the cabinet marked "Hesed House" or at the Fellowship Hall entry before 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

Contact Larry Hartman (lehartman@sbcglobal.net) if you wish to contribute, volunteer or need more information.



Grace Hesed House team at work, preparing food and loading the van for the trip to Hesed House.



welcome

REVEREND ERIC BLACHFORD & FAMILY
IN ALL SERVICES ON SUNDAY, JULY 4!



Worship with Us!

SUNDAY JULY 4

Worship in the Field at 9 a.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.
Online at anytime at peopleofgrace.org