

HEARTLAND BLOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, JUNE 10

3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in
Fellowship Hall

Sign Up at www.versiti.org



Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

June 2019

Christ is risen, and spring has sprung! Thanks be to God!

By Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran

As we journey through the joyful season of Eastertide, we pause to reflect on the season of Lent, now behind us. While those 40 days recall the time that Jesus spent alone in the desert, we walked through that season together, balancing self-reflection and repentance with communal worship, mission, fellowship, and formation.

Grace Church marked the beginning of Lent on **Ash Wednesday** with ashes for commuters at the Naperville train station, ashes and prayer stations all day at Grace, and two full evening worship services. Our Lenten journey was enriched with book studies, a new sermon series that explored the theme of water in our Baptismal Covenant, an exciting Youth Musical, and the **Confirmation** of 17 of our eighth-graders in a youth-led worship service on Sunday, April 7.

We walked together through the highs and lows of **Holy Week**: on Palm Sunday we shook palm fronds and shouted “Hosannas!” but recognized that the hardest part of the journey was yet to come. We launched a new Holy Wednesday service designed to share the story of Christ’s Passion with children and their families; we worshiped with the Children’s Choir, created Resurrection Gardens in Fellowship Hall, and ate dinner together. On Maundy Thursday we washed each other’s hands to demonstrate our commitment to Christ’s *mandatum* or commandment to love one another. On Good Friday we heard the story of Christ’s Passion read and sung alongside images from the Canadian artist William Kurelek.

And then, after the shadows, came the light.

Grace was illuminated and bursting with the scent of lilies to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on **Easter morning!** Four beautiful services on Saturday and Sunday, each with vibrant music from New Life Singers, Chancel Choir, and Grace Praise Team, saw over 1200 Christians express their joy in what God has done.

And now, we walk on in the hope of the resurrection. The **Spring Choral Concert** propelled us into this new season with a magnificent performance of *Jubilate Deo* while the **Children’s Musical** performance of “The Three Trees” reminded us to look for God’s blessings in unexpected places. The much-anticipated **Holy Smokes BBQ** was a smashing success, raising significant funds for our Summer Youth Mission trips, and we look forward to the widely popular “**Touch a Truck**” on Saturday, June 1.

All the while, we eagerly anticipate the completion of the **New Welcoming Space** that promises a beautifully-lit and open environment that expresses our commitment to fellowship and community. And then, on July 21, we will launch a **New Sunday Morning Program**



that furthers this commitment. The 8:15 service will move up to 8 and the 9:30 service will move back to 10:30, opening up an hour from 9:15-10:15 for fellowship and faith formation. We believe this time together is so important for our development as disciples and for our life together as Grace Church. Stay after the 8:00 service or come early before 10:30 to enjoy coffee and donuts in the new gathering space, join any of our existing Adult Formation small-groups, or create a new group.

Pastors Cindy and Daniel will kick-off this new **Faith Formation Hour** on Sundays, July 21 and 28, with a two-part discussion: **Exploring the Four Gospels**. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall at 9:15 on those two Sundays for a casual and fun look at these most important books of the Bible.

There is no summer vacation at Grace! Through this wonderful season, we continue to worship, serve, and grow together as Disciples of Christ. Come and grow with us.

Dinners for Eight

Once again, we are signing up for Dinners for Eight for 2019-20. If you like to socialize and get to know the people of Grace, this a good group to join. You can be single, married, or with a significant other. The only requirement is to host one time and bring a dish to share when you are a guest. It can be a dinner, brunch, barbeque or anything you would like.



We meet four times a year. This time, we will be meeting in September/October, November/December, March/April, and May/June. This change will allow for people who leave for the coldest months.

Sign up at the Reception Desk now thru Sunday, July 28. Contact Alice Mann (malicat47@icloud.com) for more information.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PRESENT

Summer Coffee
all ladies welcome

Tuesday, June 11th
9:15AM - 11:15AM

Tea, Coffee & Brunch provided. Enjoy time for fun and fellowship.

Hosted by Sandy Bray
25 W 208 Setauket Av
Naperville

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE
INFORMATION (630) 355 - 1748



Suds on Sunday

Bring your dirty car to church and go home with a clean one; yours, of course! Youth Summer Missions will hold its annual Suds on Sunday on June 2, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the lower parking lot. All donations will directly benefit the Youth Summer Mission trips to Sioux Falls, SD, and our own Chicagoland communities.



Due to the car wash, the lower parking lot will be closed that morning to all vehicles not participating in the fundraiser. A few handicapped parking spaces will be available for easy access to Sunday School and the elevator. Please, just speak to the people in the lot that morning.

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

Faith Build 2019

Grace Church has once again partnered with Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity and approximately 28 other churches in the area for Faith Build 2019. Recent weather patterns have caused a delay in the beginning of the build. Please "stay tuned" for further information.

Tentatively, the first scheduled date is June 21. Contact Rick Loufek (rick.loufek@gmail.com), Brentley Loufek (brentley.loufek@gmail.com) or contact the Youth Office (630-355-1748) for further information or to be placed on the contact list for updates.

Hope @ Home Needs Teen Helpers!

Hope @ Home, a homebound mission July 9-11, currently has five slots available for high school leaders.

High school students who have completed 9th grade - 12th grade are eligible.

Contact Gaye Lynn (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) (ASAP) if you are available and interested in serving with our junior high students in our Chicagoland area.



Touch A Truck

Our 3rd Annual Touch A Truck is right around the corner! Touch A Truck will be held on Saturday, June 1, from 10 a.m. - noon in the lower parking lot.

This free event is open to the community. Please invite your friends and family to come out and enjoy all of the trucks and vehicles! We will have fun-filled activities and yummy food! Come out, touch a truck, eat and have a great time with friends and family!

As always, we want to welcome our friends and neighbors to Grace Church with radical hospitality, so don't forget to be a part of the Touch A Truck welcome team! Sign up to volunteer at peopleofgrace.org/touch-a-truck!

Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.



Touring Youth Choir at Grace

Enjoy the refreshing sound of the fifty-voice Genesis Youth Choir from First UMC, Prattville, Alabama, at 8:15 and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 26, a great day to be in worship on this holiday weekend. The Prattville church has served as a Side X Side host, and we'd love to celebrate their large youth choir with enthusiasm.

We will also provide a potluck lunch for their entourage of about seventy people. We'll need lots of help, so please sign-up today at peopleofgrace.org.touring-choir. Contact Dan Wagner (dan.wagner@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Hope @ Home Meeting!

Hope @ Home participants will gather on Sunday, June 23, at 10:30 in Room 234 to learn additional information about our trip.

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

Computer Check-in for Children

Our Community Church Builder (CCB) software is now being used to check-in/check-out our nursery through fifth-grade children. Using the automated features will be more efficient for our staff, ensure a safe and secure environment for the children, as well as meeting the expectations of our members and visitors with children. Utilization of these features in the CCB software was made possible by the purchase of laptops, printers and other supplies.



Melissa, AJ and Joe Hickok

The hardware equipment was purchased by the Grace Church Foundation through the Dorothy Clausen Memorial Fund. This initiative was implemented through the hard work and oversight of Traci and Chris Weilemann. Thank you, Traci and Chris Weilemann and the Foundation for improving the safety of our Sunday School children.

Holy Wednesday

On Wednesday, April 17, approximately 128 people attended a special Holy Wednesday service in the Sanctuary journeying through Holy Week with a child-friendly message led by Pastor Daniel. Under the direction of Lynn Leitzen and her leadership team, our children's choirs provided music for both worship and reflection.



The service began in the front of the Sanctuary reflecting on Palm Sunday, anticipating Maundy Thursday, and transitioned to the back of the Sanctuary where the cross, draped in purple, was transformed to black (with the help of little hands eager to assist) for Holy Friday. Children present were seated around the cross and assisted Pastor Daniel in adding clarity to just how Good Friday can be called "good" when we know it was the day of Jesus' crucifixion.

All were invited down to Fellowship Hall for a continued

Side X Side 2019

Prayer Partner Bracelets

Side x Side invites YOU to come along... through prayer! Each Side x Side participant is seeking a prayer partner from our congregation. Visit the table in the back of the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 26, to sign up to be in prayer with us during our travel, and to receive your Prayer Partner bracelet.

Commissioning

Join us on Sunday, June 2, at 8:15 a.m. for the commissioning our Youth Summer Mission Side x Side team as they prepare to serve in Sioux Falls, SD. The Side x Side team will leave on Saturday, June 8, at Noon and return on Sunday, June 16.

Slideshows

All are invited to attend the Side x Side slide show and celebration on Sunday, June 23, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We can't wait to share our amazing trip with you!

time of fellowship and celebration. Pastor Daniel introduced Grace to the activity of Resurrection Gardens and 35 were uniquely created with supplies provided by our Grace Foundation through the Maxine and Julian Voss Endowment for Youth and the Scott MacFarland Endowment for Youth. The evening continued with hand washing stations offered by Pastor Cindy and Pastor Daniel, a dinner of pizza, pasta and salad, and dessert in the form of birthday cake, as we all wished "Mr. Bob" Rothe (a long-time children's choir volunteer) a very Happy Birthday!

While Holy Wednesday services have happened at Grace in the past, this was our inaugural creation of Resurrection Gardens and dinner together, a collaborative effort among Children's Music Ministry, Children's Faith Formation, Youth Ministry and Pastors.

Thank you to our Grace Church Foundation and to everyone who attended, planned or participated in any way so we might share in an evening of learning, fellowship, and memory-making during Holy Week. He is Risen!



Mary and Elly Whyte

FINAL LAUNCH PAD CALL!!!

What: Vacation Bible School 2019 - To Mars and Beyond!

When: June 24-28, from 9:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Who: Children 3 years old to rising 5th grade

Support Team needed: Rising 6th graders through adults

Join us on our voyage "To Mars and Beyond"!! Crew members and passengers, please register and reserve your spot at peopleofgrace.org/vbs. In an effort to go green, no tickets will be issued--your online registration and payment reserves your seat on our spaceship!

Registration will close on Sunday, June 16, and we will not be able to reopen the cabin doors for safety reasons!! Do not get left behind! If you are reading this, **register your child(ren) now!!!**

New to VBS? This week-long morning Bible School is a great time to stay connected to your church and neighborhood friends during the summer! If you have been on a VBS journey before, you know that it is an amazing week filled with music, art, and fellowship. All children are welcome, so call up some friends and make a date for VBS 2019. We look forward to seeing all of you there! If you have questions or need help with the online registration, please let us know and we will be glad to help you, but sign up quickly!

Contact Jill Rye, Director of VBS (jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org), or Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) or (630-355-1748 Ext 3241) for more information.

Calling All Cookie Bakers and Snack Makers (or Purchasers)!

Youth Summer Missions is so grateful to our Grace Church family for your continued support! As in the past, we continue to have various ways for our congregation to participate in our mission trips: prayer shawl ministry, monetary donation, fundraising support, prayer partners, and cookies, to name a few. Additionally, this year we have the opportunity to teach/learn life skills, serve the community of Sioux Falls, SD, and serve each other. We will be preparing our own lunches each day and are inviting our cookie bakers to continue baking, and also inviting others to donate items needed for brown bag lunches.

Below is a list of needed items:

- Small individual bags of chips (300 bags needed)
- Small individual bags of pretzels (100 bags needed)
- Granola Bars (200 bars needed)
- Individually packaged cookies
- Individually packaged snacks (Goldfish, cheese crackers, etc.)
- Individually packaged fruit snacks (150 packages needed)
- Home-baked cookies (1200 cookies)
- Purchased cookies
- Ziploc plastic bags in one gallon and quart sizes

Non-perishable items may be dropped off in the Church Kitchen in the tub provided marked Side x Side. Home-baked cookies and snacks may be dropped off beginning Tuesday, June 4. All items must be received no later than Thursday, June 6, at 5 p.m. Orange envelopes, found in your pew, may be used for monetary donations for any of the opportunities listed, or with "Lunches" written on the front of the envelope for a specific donation to this request.

Contact Betsy Koepnick (BetsyKoepnick@gmail.com) for more information or to donate. Thank you for traveling with us!



The 9:00 Gathering: A New Opportunity in Faith and Connection

By Barb Ceruti

Thirteen years ago, Grace Director of Children's Choir Ministries Lynn Leitzen asked me what I thought of former Senior Pastor Bob Atkins' idea to create a contemporary worship service at 11 a.m. with a "plugged in" band and vocalists. As Lynn's enthusiasm is contagious, I told her that if she was game, so was I.

So were some other dedicated singers and players, many of whom were involved in music for Wednesday night "Grace Grill" in earlier days at the Church. Together, we formed the Grace Praise Team, co-led by Lynn and Grace Music Minister Dan Wagner. For me, it was both thrilling and scary to sing into a microphone, my voice projected across the Sanctuary. It was several months before my knees stopped knocking and my hands didn't tremble and sweat.

Over the years, several instrumentalists and vocalists (some of whom were also members of other Grace choirs, including the beloved late Rev. Carol Madalin) joined us in our offering of praise music – arguably less "out there" than one might think! – every Sunday all year long. We've grown close to one another as a team and to the Grace family at large. Our pastors and music ministry continue to offer us their steadfast support.

In the spirit of that support, the decision to evolve the 11 a.m. service was made, along with other worship changes at Grace. Named "The 9:00 Gathering," this new

worship experience will begin Sunday, July 21, in the Activity Center at 9 a.m.

Once again, our team, staff, and congregation are charting new waters. But, as we were 13 years ago, we're excited about this new opportunity and what it can mean for Grace and the greater community.

The 9:00 Gathering has much to offer. The round table setup of the Activity Center will provide a space for small group connections in a casual, personal setting. We'll have coffee and refreshments, conversation, communion, worship with pastors, and praise music on a smaller scale. It will be an atmosphere of intimacy that will foster friendships, fellowship, and faith.

Plus, the time of 9 a.m. will allow children, teens, and adults participating in faith formation to join us for a sip, a bite and a bit of fellowship and worship before their 9:15 classes. It's totally okay to stop in and step out when necessary. That's how we'll roll!

For my part, I'm looking forward to growing closer to the people of Grace in a setting that invites dialogue not only about daily life but the deeper quest to know God. I'm also eager to share these thoughts from others who are either directly involved in the 9:00 Gathering or anticipating good things to come by attending:



Pastor Cindy Marino

Sometimes traditional worship has a "prescribed" feel to it. As much as I love and learn through our traditional liturgy, I am excited to use the beauty of the ancient words in new ways — as they speak to us in the moment, rather than where they fit within the service. Studies tell us our attention spans are 10 minutes or less these days. I see this service as one that integrates the message with other elements of worship — music, prayer, questions, laughter, play, reflection, storytelling — rather than focusing on a lengthy sermon or long song set. The point is for us to take in what the Holy Spirit is offering rather than simply hear the words and go through the motions.

I am also excited because we have incredibly gifted musicians who can set the tone for a very natural and organic time of worship and who believe in this service as it will welcome in all who come.

We promise this will never feel awkward or coerced. A person can come and sit, be anonymous, enjoy refreshments, great music and time to reflect. Or a person can come and pour themselves into the opportunity to get to know themselves and be known by others in Christ. And both are fully acceptable.

(Continued on next page)

The 9:00 Gathering (Continued)

Khris Kahle, vocalist and guitarist

What an exciting time to be a part of Grace! There are so many wonderful changes starting to emerge in our building and in our worship opportunities. And while I LOVE the beauty of our Sanctuary, there's just something special about having a more intimate space to gather in. For example, instead of having the Praise Team up on stage, I'm actually excited to be on the floor - physically closer to all that's going on - and to have a greater connection to everyone in the room. I really look forward to being able to see new faces - and celebrate the Good News in such a warm, friendly, casual environment.

If you've never been to one of our contemporary services before, I would encourage you to check out the "9:00 Gathering." At 9 a.m. is a great time for many families faced with a jam-packed weekend.

I believe the casual atmosphere will make it much easier to enjoy the service with your whole family. Have a snack along with some great music and ministry. Catch up with those around you, or keep more to yourself. Totally your choice.

Wayne and Jayne McCallister, 11 a.m. worship attendees

We love the Praise Team; in fact, it was one of the reasons we were drawn to attend and join Grace. We were honored to have the team sing joyful songs at our wedding. We look forward to and cherish our worship time with the team. We will definitely be worshipping in the Activity Center on Sundays at 9 a.m.

Jennifer Hoover, mother of a busy child

I am excited for the earlier, more contemporary service because I am looking forward to the table

talk aspect of the service and weekly communion. Can we come in our suits on our way to the pool? LOL!

Lynn Leitzen, Worship Leader

I'm excited about the opportunity to create something "new." Something totally different than anything we offered at Grace before. A service where the formality is removed, and we gather and grow together in our love for Christ and each other. A service that is warm and welcoming, casual and caring, informal and informative. A service where great music and a great message uplift and send us out into a world that desperately needs to hear the good news of the gospel!

Our team is committed to making you feel welcomed wherever you are in your faith journey. Give it a try!

Join us in The 9:00 Gathering in the Activity Center on Sundays beginning July 21.

Renovation Dedication

By Rev. Cindy Marino

"Oh, the garden is so beautiful! Where has it been all this time?" "Where did all this space come from?" "I can imagine coming in to sit just by that window and read."

These are a few of the comments I heard while standing in the unfinished Gathering Space on Mother's Day at Grace. We invited everyone to sign the unfinished floor of the new space, providing their prayers and hopes that faith will grow as God's presence abides with us in this community. This space will be such a gift to the Grace community as it provides a place to touch base, to reflect, to chat, to pause, to fellowship.

Join us on Saturday, June 22, at 5 p.m. or Sunday, June 23, at any of our services as we consecrate this newly-refurbished space. The Gathering Space and the other areas in the Church such as the Children's Center will be dedicated to God's service in connecting us to God and to one another.

Plan to be in worship as our District Superintendent, Rev. Jeffrey Bross brings the message, reminding us how our engagement at Grace impacts this community and Conference. We will recognize and thank the tireless workers who sweated each detail of the plan, bringing it to fruition before our eyes. We will also honor the memory of Glenna Holloway, whose generosity made it possible to put wings to the dreams of those on the Vision Teams who began meeting four years ago.

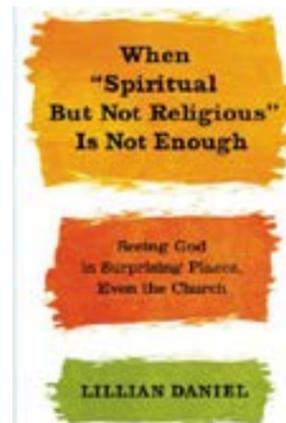
Between services you are invited to tour the newly-refurbished spaces, enjoy refreshments, ask questions, and learn the many ways you can be engaged at Grace.



Book Review

By Treva Brashears

When "Spiritual but not Religious" is not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places. Even the Church by Lillian Daniel (senior pastor of the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn). Have you ever found God in an unusual place, such as an airport, a prison, a yoga class, a committee meeting? This humorous and sincere book relates some interesting short stories about finding God in unexpected places. The author takes issue with those she identifies as spiritually lazy who say they opt for a personal faith experience outside of a church and emphasizes what a wonderful and fulfilling experience belonging to a church community can be. Check it out at the Grace Library in room 223.



Save the Date! Grace Night @ Kane County Cougars Game!

On Wednesday, July 17, all of our Grace family and friends are invited to cheer on the Kane County Cougars at 6:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for more information in Grace in Mission, July's Grace Notes and the weekly eblast for our group discount rate tickets. Time to watch them PLAY BALL!!

Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) or (630-355-1748, Ext. 3241) for more information.



"Thanks for the Music"

**Sunday, June 2
3:00 PM**

A fun and informal concert of favorites by most of the Grace music ministry groups

**Chancel Choir * Congregational Song * Evensong Singers
Grace Bell Ensemble * Instrumentalists
New Life Singers * Praise Team
Youth Choir and Bells**