

# Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

June 2021

## Under Heaven

By: Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran

I knew of Pete Seeger long before I had heard of Ecclesiastes. As a teenager, I learned from my father not only the big bands of the 1960s but also the musical lineage of their hit songs. By seventh grade, for example, I knew that The Byrds' 1965 chart-topper "Turn! Turn! Turn!" was made famous by the Limelites in 1962 but originally recorded in 1959 by the peerless Pete Seeger.

What I didn't know at the time was that Seeger had simply set to music the third chapter of Ecclesiastes – a poetic book of wisdom literature found in the Old Testament. By adding just six words to eight verses, Seeger created a powerful protest song that has been rearranged countless times and featured in period films such as *Forrest Gump*. But the song endures in popular culture, in part, because the original Biblical text captures a challenging truth of our human experience: change is inevitable (and often difficult).

We are living this truth today! The pandemic changed everything, we know, but a "return to normal" also involves a host of changes. Our society is rapidly changing in ways that are frightening to some and liberating for others. Grace UMC is changing too; we're not only adjusting to pandemic protocols but also to changes in our membership and staff. Some of these changes are sad and painful, others are occasions for celebration and joy, and still others evoke a range of emotions—these are bittersweet, as they say.

The good news, Ecclesiastes reminds us, is that every change is "under heaven." God does not necessarily cause each change (God did not cause the pandemic), but God certainly walks with us through every change; there is never a single second when we are separated from the presence and love of God (Romans 8). Through good times and bad, we rejoice that it is in God that "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Living in the light of this truth grants us not only strength and courage to face inevitable change but also an enduring spirit of joy and gratitude for what has been and what will be.

I am leaning on the wisdom of Ecclesiastes as I prepare for my departure from Grace on June 13. This change, or turn, in my ministry is certainly bittersweet for me, full of both sadness and excitement. But with Ecclesiastes on my heart, I am beginning to see how both emotions are really expressions of gratitude. Saying goodbye is difficult because I am so very grateful for our time together. Thank you for welcoming me and my family into your church family. Thank you for trusting me with your stories and for sharing with me such joyful and heartbreaking moments as baptisms and weddings, funerals and burials. I have been blessed to walk with you through this pandemic, finding comfort in our common worship, prayer, and study. My excitement for what lies ahead in Wheaton is also grounded in gratitude—gratitude for this calling that God has placed upon my heart and for the continued opportunity to live into this calling as an appointed pastor in this dynamic conference of the United Methodist Church.

Good, bad, or bittersweet, change is an inevitable part of life. But Ecclesiastes (and Pete Seeger) remind us that God is present with us through it all, supporting us during the hard times and dancing with us through the good. In faith, then, we lean into whatever changes come our way, eternally grateful for the turning of the seasons, grateful for our fellow siblings in Christ, and grateful to belong to such a loving God.



## Your Opportunity to Wish Them Well!

Grace has four staff persons who have or are leaving the Grace UMC staff and family to head off to new adventures! They have each been valued members Grace and so important to many of you! Pandemic restrictions make it difficult to host a going-away affair, so we have crafted an opportunity for you to wish each of them well. The link by each name below will lead you to an online app called Kudos. You will have the space to write a note and even post a photo or meme, if you are familiar with those. We will publish a book for each person that includes the special memories, messages and thoughts that you choose to share.



**Phyllis Pepiot** at <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/MihiZ3jF>  
**Sharon Ferguson** at <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/qLoHKcYt>  
**Dan Wagner** at <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/4HDPD6Wd>  
**Rev. Daniel Cochran** at <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/wiqwDRR0>

Of course, you can always send cards or gifts to Grace at 300 E. Gartner Rd, Naperville, IL 60540 and we will be sure to pass them along.

Don't forget Pastor Daniel will greet you in-person for a Drive-Thru Farewell Celebration on Sunday, June 6, from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Worship Center Entrance. Pastor Daniel's last Sunday with us at Grace will be Sunday, June 13.

# Summer Worship at Grace

We can't wait to welcome you back for our summer worship offerings.

Wherever you're most comfortable, we have a worship service for you!

## Beginning in June!

**9 a.m. First Sundays Worship in the Field** on Sundays, June 6, July 4, August 1, and September 5

- Bring a lawn chair or blanket/Communion/Live music/Casual dress
- Masks, Optional
- No Registration Needed
- Engaging Worship, ABSOLUTELY!
- Inclement weather moves service to the Activity Center

**9 a.m. All other Sundays of the month the 9 Gathering Service** in the Activity Center

- Bring your own coffee/Communion/Casual, contemporary worship around tables
- Masks, Required
- No Registration Needed
- Engaging Worship, ABSOLUTELY!

**10:30 a.m. Every Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary**

- Masks, Required
- No Registration Needed
- Engaging Worship, ABSOLUTELY!

**Worship Online at [peopleofgrace.org](http://peopleofgrace.org)**

- Online Contemporary Service is always available for viewing at your convenience.
- Live-stream of 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service also recorded to view at your convenience.

## Are You a Techie?

### Grace UMC Audio Visual Teams Needs You!

Interested in joining an awesome team of audio visual technology geeks? Get involved with the audio ministry here at Grace!

With our training, in a short period of time, you could be working the cameras and/or sound for worship and live-streamed events, bringing them to those who cannot attend!

Contact Chris Weilemann ([chris.weilemann@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:chris.weilemann@peopleofgrace.org)) or drop by the Sound Desk after worship on Sundays for more information.



## Summer Sunday Worship Highlights

June 6: Pastor Daniel's Last Sermon  
(All Services)

June 27: VBS Commissioning at 10:30 a.m.

July 4: A Slice of Americana (Music)  
at 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship

July 11: Pastor Eric's First Sermon

# Congratulations Seniors!



Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

Remember when you were in the Confirmation Class of 2017?

We are so proud of all of you!

May this next part of your journey be full of adventure, excitement, joy, and many blessings!

## Side X Side 2021

Side x Side 2021 is just around the corner! Our Side x Side team will gather June 23-26 exploring the theme "Giant Faith" the one thing that has helped get us through our most recent challenge. For this year, only our mission field will be in our local community, working with Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity, Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry, McDonald Farm, and various other organizations. Please watch your email and our weekly Friday Eblast for ways you might be able to get involved through food pantry donations, specific collections, etc.

Currently, we are seeking prayer partners (21 females & 25 males) for our participants. Contact Gaye Lynn to receive the sign-up link to be a prayer partner ([gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org)). Thank you for your continued support. The generosity of our congregation continues to help make this a meaningful time of serving and discipleship.



## 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, 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.

# Update from the Open Doors Ministry

*"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12, ESV).*

Grace welcomes and embraces individuals of all abilities! Of course, we do! We preach, believe, and live the Word that tells us that each of us is beautifully and wonderfully made and that we all are defined by the spiritual gifts that have been given to us.

Grace is a church that cherishes those individual gifts, but it also realizes that the reality, for some of God's Kingdom, is that in order to have equal access to share those gifts and engage in church-wide opportunities, individualized supports must be provided. Working with families, the Open Doors Ministry (ODM) develops individualized plans to meet the needs of people at all age levels.

Prior to the pandemic, these needs were met in multiple in-person settings, such as in Worship, in various Sunday School classes, in VBS, in Choir, and in Mission opportunities. When the doors of Grace's building had to be closed, just like all of the other ministries of the church, ODM remained open, and our focus has been devoted to meeting each family's individual needs. Some families have been supported through regularly scheduled Zoom sessions with buddies; some have been provided with community resources to help them navigate all of the changes associated with this remote time; others, yet, have been receiving ongoing care packages to send love and encouragement.

As we look ahead and excitedly anticipate the continued opening of our community, the Open Doors Ministry welcomes you to reach out to Nicole Zaccaria, the ODM Coordinator, ([nicole.zaccaria@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:nicole.zaccaria@peopleofgrace.org)) if you or a loved one have any need for individualized support at Grace or if you are interested in becoming involved with this very important ministry. We are always looking for new committee members and individuals to serve as buddies. Training is provided and the commitment can be as frequent as your schedule allows.

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## Faith Build 2021

Meet Cristal Lopez and her three sons, Anthony, Noah, & Malachi, (pictured to the right)!

We are so excited to begin building the house they will call "home!" Faith Build 2021 held a groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, May 8, and construction is due to begin in June.

Contact Brentley Loufek ([brentley.loufek@gmail.com](mailto:brentley.loufek@gmail.com)) or Rick Loufek ([rick.loufek@gmail.com](mailto:rick.loufek@gmail.com)) to learn more about how you might become involved in this exciting partnership between Grace and Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity.

A few of the exciting ways to get involved are prayer warriors, lunches on build days, water on build days, monetary donations, in-kind donations—so many options! Together we will work to change the community one home at a time!



# Knights of the North Castle VBS

We are thrilled that we are a little over a month away from one of the most faith-forming experiences of the year!

Vacation Bible School, the week of July 12 -16 from 9 a.m.- 10 a.m. each day, is not just another fun week of fellowship, learning, and fun, it is also a time of spiritual transformation for the children and their families, apprentices, teens, adults.

This year they will hear and learn more about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, David, and Goliath, Mary traveling to Bethlehem, Jesus Walking on Water, and A Midnight Praise with Paul and Silas! With the exception of your home, where else will they hear about maintaining faith in God, being courageous, staying strong and obedient, depending on Jesus in times of trouble, and praising God until the walls shake? We are ready and we hope you are too!

We are also planning to host a Friends and Family Night on Thursday, July 15, from 5 p.m.- 7 p.m. for those who are comfortable coming out for a time of fellowship and fun in a safe way.

**Join us as we put faith into action with our presence and in mission!**

New this year, we will have opportunities for the entire congregation to join us in support of our VBS and our mission partnership with "Quarters for Kids" which is done through Families Helping Families. We will be sharing "Faith Partner" shoes to recognize those who would like to support VBS and the outreach mission.



[Give to Support Our Missions by clicking here!](#)

[Register child\(ren\), Apprentice or Teen by clicking here!](#)

[Register Adults by clicking here!](#)

**Registration closes on Friday, June 25!**

I will use these links to communicate with the VBS families and team. Please register using the form instead of email so that I can streamline communication with all participants, apprentices, teens, and adult leaders.

Thank you all for your prayers and continued support of our summer VBS program! We are responding to the Great Commission while having fun!

Contact Chamus ([chamus@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:chamus@peopleofgrace.org)) for more information.

# Vaccine Clinic Thank You!

By: Chamus Burnside-Sazzavini

On behalf of the 102 individuals who were able to get their Moderna vaccines at Grace, thank you to all who helped make this opportunity happen. Grace has always been and still is the place for meaningful mission and outreach. We now add a vaccination clinic to the outreach list. I would like to thank every volunteer, staff member, and Pastoral Team for the prayers, presence and support! My prayer is that we have answered God's call by creating a space for our members, extended family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to get vaccinated. We are grateful that more vaccines are now available more readily for those who would like to be vaccinated. We thank you for your participation and continued prayers for obedience as Grace continues to be exactly what God wants us to be. Love, peace and blessings always!



# Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry Collection

Our June pantry collection will benefit Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry. They have started a Pantry-to-Go on Mondays with volunteers delivering boxes of food to homebound clients.

They also hosted a Memorial Day Pantry, distributing food for active service members and vets to ensure they are aware of the pantry's services.

In lieu of dropping off bags of food at Grace, donate online by [clicking here](#) and select the "Love Loaf" in the drop-down menu or visit [aurorafoodpantry.org/](http://aurorafoodpantry.org/) and donate directly to the pantry.

For every \$1 donated, they can buy \$8 worth of food.



# Popular Picks Available at the Grace Library

[The Book of Lost Names](#)  
by Kristen Harmel

[The Book of Lost Names](#) is a page-turning historical novel about a young woman with a talent for forgery who helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis.

Eva, a young Jewish woman, is determined to keep the identities alive of all of the children who escape under false documentation. The novel was inspired by a true story from World War II. In the author's words "this book is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of bravery and love in the face of evil."

[White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism](#)  
by Robin Diangelo and Michael Eric Dyson

[White Fragility](#) is a book with a bracing call to white folk everywhere to see their whiteness for what it is and to seize the opportunity to make things better now. The author kicks all the crutches to the side and demands that white folk finally mature and face the world they have made while seeking to help remake it for those who have neither their privilege nor their protection.

Michael Eric Dyson, the author, discusses the defensive behavior white people make when challenged racially. Emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt appear as well as argumentative and silent behaviors. He explores how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality and what we can do to engage more constructively.

Contact Treva Brashears ([tbrashears@wowway.com](mailto:tbrashears@wowway.com)) to request books in the Grace Library.

The Library collection can be viewed [by clicking here](#).

# UMW Summer Coffee

Ladies, are you missing your girlfriends from church? Do you want to see familiar faces or meet new friendly faces? Are you new to Grace Church and want to meet some wonderful ladies and find out about United Methodist Women? Do you want to become inspired by a wonderful speaker?



Then, mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 15, at 9:30 a.m. to join us for our Zoom Summer Coffee. [Click here for Zoom Link](#).

This year we will have B. A. Church speaking to us about the First Ladies Costume Collection found at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C.

B. A. grew up in the small town of Lebanon in Southern Illinois. She received B.S. and M.S. degrees in interior design from S.I.U.. Carbondale, worked in interior design and historic preservation. She spent over 50 years teaching architectural/interior design/furniture and fashion history. As she was interested in all aspects of design, she took coursework in the Fashion Design program at Columbia College, working towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and was just short of that degree by six hours.

B. A. enjoys spending time with husband Dennis Pabich, delving into family genealogy and traveling to historical, interior design, architectural and fashion sites of interest. After visiting the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D. C., with her fashion background, she became very interested in learning about the First Ladies Costume Collection.

With Zoom, you can join us from wherever you are, or for as long or as little as you like! We are looking forward to being together for a wonderful conversation and fellowship!

Interested in learning more about United Methodist Women? [Click here](#) or contact Kathy Carey, President of Grace UMW, ([percula4344@sbcglobal.net](mailto:percula4344@sbcglobal.net)) for more information.

# Grief Group

By: Elaine Pauls

The Grief Group has been gathering regularly since we first met before the holidays. We gather to share our thoughts and feelings knowing that we are heard and respected through our journey of grief.

Each of us has different experiences, different timelines and different ways to deal with those feelings. We sometimes bring articles or questions to begin our conversations but sharing our concerns and thoughts seems to be most helpful. Because each one has a different experience, we are encouraged and supported by others in the group; we have this common bond of shared grief. It takes a long time to go through... grief... sharing in confidence and knowing that others are traveling this same journey is helpful. We learn from each other ways that might prove to be helpful for us.

If you have experienced a recent or not-so-recent loss, we welcome you to join us. For our next meeting time or for more information, contact Judy Cornett ([shottsja@gmail.com](mailto:shottsja@gmail.com)) or Elaine Pauls ([paulseapl@gmail.com](mailto:paulseapl@gmail.com)).

# What? Grace Gardeners

## Who? Maybe YOU!

Grace Gardeners would welcome more helpers.

We have garden beds waiting to be adopted. You don't need to be an expert gardener. We typically assign a landscape area commensurate with each volunteer's abilities.



Linda Fronk and Brenda Miskiewicz

Other gardeners are available to help support novices.

Volunteers schedule work at their own convenience. Contact Betty Long ([b-long6120@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b-long6120@sbcglobal.net)) for more information.

# Meet Christopher Grady

By: Nicole Zaccaria

I was asked if I would introduce the Grace congregation to Christopher Grady, and I gladly accepted the task. Christopher has just completed his junior year at North Central College, and is one of the recipients of this year's Grace UMC scholarship, sponsored by the Commission on Race and Religion (CORR).

I had the pleasure of meeting him when he attended one of the CORR meetings, in February, 2021. The committee members were immediately struck by his articulate, passionate, inspiring and endearing manner. We learned that Chris is the third oldest of seven children. He spent his childhood growing up in Naperville until he relocated after his seventh grade year to Montgomery. He graduated from Oswego High School in 2018 as president of his senior class. He started his first year at North Central College in the fall of 2018. Although his first major was in Mechanical Engineering, Christopher quickly realized where his passions and heart lay, and changed to a major in Environmental Studies, focusing on the link

between society and the environment. He also decided on a minor in Leadership. During his time at North Central, he's held many leadership positions amongst groups on campus. Specifically, he served as president of The Union, which is the student-led music venue, became a nationally placed champion on the speech and debate team, and led events for the men's track and field team. Christopher states that, "All of these experiences have helped mold me into the student-athlete, educator, advocate, speaker, and change-maker I am today."

When I heard him speak about his passions of environmental health and leadership, I mentioned to Chris that I facilitate a "Greens Club" at the middle school at which I teach. I shared that I was feeling somewhat overwhelmed about turning this club into a virtual experience for the 2020-2021 school year. Shortly afterwards, Christopher reached out to me and blessed our club with his gifts! Together, we created engaging, creative, and virtual lessons to present to the students on the very important issues surrounding the earth today. Christopher was a natural! Despite the challenges of Zoom interactions, he was able to share his passion with the students. They responded, in turn, with their own excitement, and with his gifts of listening and encouragement, fascinating conversations ensued. Christopher always left the students with the knowledge that they could make a difference and empowered them to do so. In fact, over the course of our six weeks together, two of the students requested a chance to facilitate the club themselves. Watching Christopher model leadership qualities, they each found their own topic of interest and created a lesson to share with their peers. Christopher watched two young leaders in the making, all because of his inspiration to them.



*Christopher Grady, Scholarship Recipient*

(continued on back page)

Next spring, Chris will be graduating with his degree as the first member of his family to attend a four-year institution! He doesn't, yet, have a definite plan for after graduation, but he is looking forward to an environmental career involving the management of natural resources such as water. Christopher is a humble, grateful spirit, and when he found out that I'd be introducing him, he wanted to be sure that I expressed his gratitude.

After our last club meeting, he said to me that, "It is through the generous financial contributions of scholarships I've received, including the Grace UMC scholarship, that I have been able to remain in school and successfully complete my coursework. I am eternally grateful." I, too, am so very grateful to have gotten to know this remarkable young man.



*Christopher on his first day at North Central in 2018*

If you would like information on how to donate to this very important scholarship fund, contact Jill Rye, coordinator of CORR, ([jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org)).

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## World Religions Series

### **Sunday nights on Zoom at 7 p.m. starting Sunday, June 6!**

Religion is a powerful cultural identifier and impacts our everyday expression of ourselves. Religious literacy—the knowledge of basic teachings, symbols, practices, founders, institutions, and values of the world's religious traditions—can shed new light on the world around us and knock down the boundaries between us, making us better neighbors and better citizens. However, religious literacy is about so much more than naming deities or knowing the stories of ancient history!

For many of us, religion is important for examining and understanding ourselves. Religion and the interactions between different faiths play a critical role in many of today's current events. The world is increasingly diverse and interconnected, and most of us have close friends, relatives, and neighbors of different faiths.

Join the Commission on Religion and Race as they host this Great Course series taught by Mark Berson, Ph.D. Sunday nights from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., beginning Sunday, June 6. The group will watch the video together via Zoom and then discuss. Each session is unique and you may join anytime or miss a week as necessary.

[Click here for a preview of the sessions!](#)

Contact Jill Rye ([jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org)) to receive the Zoom link or for more information.