March 25: Passion/Palm Sunday Worship at 8:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. music led by the Chancel Choir. The 11 a.m. with music led by the Grace Praise Team.

March 29: Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:30 p.m. with Holy Communion and Hand-washing on this holy night, commemorating the Last Supper. Music led by the New Life Singers. (Childcare available)

March 30: NEW! Good Friday Prayer Stations and Time for Reflection from 12-3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Grace has a beautiful, quiet space to be and enjoy time with God. Come join us!

Good Friday Worship at 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae service with music led by the Chancel Choir. (Childcare available)

March 31: Saturday Evening Easter Service from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Chapel.

March 31: Saturday Prayer Vigil at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. with music led by the Chancel Choir, Grace Praise Team, Grace Brass Ensemble and organ. (Childcare available)

April 1: Easter Sunday Worship:

Traditional Worship at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. with music led by the New Life Singers, Grace Brass Ensemble and Organ. (Childcare available)

Blended Worship at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with music led by the Chancel Choir, Grace Praise Team, Grace Brass Ensemble and Organ. (Childcare available)

Special Easter Sunday School hour for children 3 year olds through 5th grade at 9:30 a.m.

Celebrate Easter at Grace UMC on Saturday, March 31 & Sunday, April 1

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The More We Get Together.....the Happier We'll Be!

"MISTER MARK" Leads Worship March 18 at 9:30 a.m.

By Lynn Leitzen, Director of Children’s Music Ministry

The more we get together, together, together,
The more we get together the happier we’ll be!

"Mister Mark" will be joining us in worship on Sunday, March 18 at the 9:30 service to introduce us to some of the ways the Children’s Ministry team at FUMC Ft. Worth have intentionally made worship something they all WANT to do together. From child-friendly bulletins to backpacks filled with thoughtfully designed materials and activities created to help children engage with the scripture, sermon, and theme, to added features such as the "Faith Like a Child" time (children’s sermon) and sidebar commentary directed at younger worshipers, Mark and his team have created a worship environment to further enhance meaning for all ages.

While that tune may instantly spark memories of an annoying big purple dinosaur, the invitation is simple and understandable; when we gather frequently, and grow our friendships and invite others in, we’ll ALL be happier!

Mark Burrows has certainly found that to be true at his home church of First United Methodist, Ft. Worth, TX, where he is the Director of Children’s Ministries.

If you visit their website at www.fumcfw.org, you’ll hear church members of all ages singing this familiar yet includes many of these enhancements designed to engage people of all ages.

"It is up to us to do everything we can to make sure our children are not hindered from claiming their rightful place in God’s community of love. Make no mistake—the children are not the future of the church. They are the right now of the church, and we must do everything we can to make the word accessible to them...or we don’t have a future. My sincere hope is that we don’t simply ‘let the children come,’ but rather we reach out and bring them to the place where they already belong.

~ Mark Burrows

Our staff will be working with him to create a service that feels very familiar yet includes many of these elements designed to enhance the worship experience for all. We invite you to come with an open heart and mind as we explore the many possibilities with Mister Mark.

Because all are invited to this special worship, regular Sunday School classes for K-12th grade will not meet. Childcare will be provided for those 6 weeks to 4 years.

Mark will extend his time at Grace to include lunch and a round-table discussion with all who are interested in understanding why he believes it’s so vitally important that we re-engage our children in worship.

Watch for more details on how to register for lunch and the round-table discussion in Grace in Mission or at www.peopledoegrace.org.

Contact Lynn Leitzen (lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org) or (630-355-1748 Ext. 3249) for more information.
Save the Dates!

**Soup-er Bowl of Caring "Thank you"**

**Vacation Bible School 2018**

Calling all 3 year olds through those who have completed the 4th grade! Jump in as we navigate down the Rolling River Rampage from June 25-29 from 9 - 11: 45 a.m. each day! We will have a week full of music, stories, scripture fun, great games and yummy snacks! You will not want your child(ren) to miss this! Save the date on your calendar; and spread the word!

**Over 50 Fellowship**

Join us on Friday, March 9, at Noon in Fellowship Hall for special guest speaker Richard Tucker, former Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Mr. Tucker will share experiences from his fascinating career in law enforcement including 10 years as a police officer and 25 years as a DEA agent in both domestic and international assignments. Since retiring from law enforcement, he is a consultant in the healthcare industry. You will not want to miss his exciting program as he shares his unique perspective on many issues facing us today.

Sign-up will be in the Church Office until Wednesday, March 7, at Noon. Lunch will begin at noon, followed by the program at 1 p.m. $10 cash payable at the door.

**Lenten Journey to Easter**

Christians often spend time thinking about what they will “give up” for the 40 days of Lent. Is it radical to think we could offer up prayers of thanksgiving and praise instead of those sweets?

During Lent, you will have an opportunity to fill out a prayer slip with a praise or a request and place them in the wood frames or walls surrounding the stained glass windows in the back of the Sanctuary (paper and pens provided).

Prior to the Prayer Vigil on Saturday, March 31 in the Chapel, the prayer slips will be collected from the wood frames and walls surrounding the stain glass windows and each one will be prayed for by those willing to participate in this solemn and holy time.

You can sign up to participate in the Prayer Vigil on the poster located outside the Sanctuary. We will provide meditation material, Bibles, and other resources for guided prayer. If you cannot come to the Chapel, please still sign up on the poster and simply indicate you will be praying from home.

“Devote yourself to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.” Colossians 4:2

**Book Review: Two New Book Donations for the Open Door’s Ministry to the Grace Library**

By Jill Ridder

**Dreams Die Hard**

*Family Histories of Adults with Developmental Disabilities as Told by Parents and Caregivers, by Susan Kessler Barnard.

*This book on hope of families for the dreams for their children was a donated gift from Barbara Hoch, a long-time member of a Grace and a member of the Open Door’s Ministry committee.

**Navigating the Medical Maze with a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder:**

*As Told by Parents, Teachers, and Program Managers who Share Their Experiences with Children of All Ages with Special Needs, by Sue X. Ming and Beth A. Pletcher.

*Barbara Hoch also donated the book, *Navigating the Medical Maze with a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. This resource takes parents, teachers, and health care providers through the medical system and the roles they play as advocates for the child’s care. It explains different medical conditions, diagnostic tests, different therapies and how they work, lists of resources as well as tips on managing behavioral problems. It gives guidance for parents from diagnosis in the early stages, through adolescence, and to preparing for life and vocational skills as adults.

Both of these books are now available for check out found on the Open Door’s Ministry cart in the Grace United Methodist Church Library.

Want to learn more about the Open Doors Ministry (ODM) at Grace UMC? Join us on Saturday, April 21 for an educational training program in the Fellowship Hall at Grace UMC. More details to come in next April’s Grace Notes and in Grace in Mission. You can also learn more about Open Doors Ministry at www.peopleofgrace.org/open-doors-ministry.