

**Youth Worship  
Musical**

**Saturday, March 16  
5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 17  
11:00 a.m.**



# Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

March 2019

## Baptism and Easter: a match made in heaven, and on earth!

By Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran

The ritual of baptism and the events of Holy Week are historically and theologically intertwined. The early Church baptized new Christians at night, during the Easter Vigil that took place between Good Friday and Easter Morning. The timing was a vivid reminder of Paul's words in his letter to the Christians of Rome:

*All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death... we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4)*

We use water during baptism to symbolize the death of our old selves and our resurrection as new creations, as children of God, committed to walking in the way of Christ. These waters also remind us of God's creative power throughout sacred history. The words we recite during baptism recall the many ways God has used water to create, save, and renew creation and God's people:

*When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water... When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea... In the fullness of time you*



"Baptism of Jesus," by Donald Jackson (2002), St. John's Bible.

*sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.*

Join Grace Church this Lenten season as we explore God's gift of water—the Water of Life (Revelation 22:1).

Beginning on March 10, the pastors will offer a sermon series that reflects on these scriptural stories and explores their meaning for our lives today. We encourage everyone to join us in reading Chris Webb's beautiful and poignant book, God-Soaked Life. Webb writes

that God's Kingdom is not some distant, remote, or future promise. It is here among us, today! The waters of baptism are an invitation "into the community of God's people; into fearless honesty about our own weaknesses and failures; into the daily experience of God through silence, scripture, and prayer; and into a new life of love and service in the broken world around us."

The pastoral staff here at Grace UMC looks forward to walking, praying, and worshipping with you during this Lenten season—a season of reflection and repentance culminating on Easter morning with a celebration of the miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's final conquest of sin and death and glorious affirmation of life and love!

## The Water of Life

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL 2019

Additional Printed Devotional Booklets are available in the Church Office

Electronic Version is available at [www.peopleofgrace.org/lent-2019](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/lent-2019)

## "Soup"-er Bowl of Caring Says "Thank You!"

If you entered Grace UMC on Sunday, February 3, you might have thought we were a bit confused about who would be playing in the Big Game later that day.

thank  
you

Based on the attire of the congregation there was a little indication—many teams and sports were represented by all generations when it came to jerseys!

Thank you to ALL who helped support the Grace Youth Ministry's "Soup"er Bowl of Caring by not only contributing to the fundraiser with monetary donations for Loaves & Fishes but also by "sporting" your favorite team attire.

So, the outcome? Grace UMC chose the West Coast over the East Coast, BUT, Loaves and Fishes came out the winner with \$936.00 collected and donated to help tackle hunger!

## Mission Quilt 2019

The "Under the Sea" Mission Quilt was hand quilted by our very own Grace Quilters to help raise money in support of our 2019 Youth Summer Missions.



Tickets will be available for purchase for \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets after each service beginning on Sunday, April 7. Drawing for the quilt will take place at the Hamball Luncheon on Friday, April 26. Contact Sandy Bray (braysnap@aol.com) for more information.

## Save the Date! Hamball Luncheon

**UMW Annual Hamball Luncheon** will be held on Friday, April 26, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



Ticket sales will start in mid-March in the Church Office and Sundays in the Narthex. All proceeds go to Missions.

Contact Katie Smith (katiescott1994@yahoo.com) for more information.

## To Mars and Beyond!



**Vacation Bible School 2019** will be held the week of June 24-28, from 9 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Register NOW at [www.peopleofgrace.org/vbs/](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/vbs/)

**Registration closes on Sunday, June 16! No late registrations will be accepted.**

Crew Members (adults and youth) and passengers (aged 3 through the completion of 4th grade) needed for our voyage "To Mars and Beyond!!" Reserve your spot! In an effort to go green, no tickets will be issued--your online registration and payment reserves your seat on our spaceship!

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.

If you have questions or need help with the online registration please let us know and we will be glad to help you! Jill Rye, Director of Vacation Bible School (jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org) or Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, Director of Children's Faith Formation (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) or (630-355-1748, Ext 3241). We look forward to seeing all of you there!



Did you know?

All of Grace's Sunday services are now streamed LIVE via [www.peopleofgrace.org/live](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/live).

## Ash Wednesday

Grace UMC will observe the start of Lent in a variety of different ways on Ash Wednesday, March 6.

Ashes to Go for Commuters will be offered by Pastor Daniel at the Naperville Train Station from 7 a.m. - 8 a.m.

Imposition of Ashes will be offered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This is an informal time to receive ashes with reflection and prayer. All are invited to come and go as you please.

Our 5 p.m. family service will feature the children's choir, a teaching time with Pastor Daniel, and the imposition of ashes. Children will be offered a small seed to take home, water, and watch grow during Lent as a reminder of God's nurturing love.

Our 7 p.m. traditional service with a Lenten message from Pastor Cindy followed by the imposition of ashes, Holy Communion and music led by the Chancel Choir.

## Holy Week 2019!

**April 14: 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. (Childcare available)

**April 17: Holy Wednesday, April 17, from 6 p.m. -7 p.m.** Children of all ages are invited to an evening of crafts, food, and fellowship. We will work together on a large Easter coloring poster to display in the Narthex, and then split into small groups to build a "Resurrection Garden" for your home! This fun interactive craft reminds us of both the crucifixion on Good Friday and the empty tomb on Easter morning. Pizza and pasta will be provided. RSVP by Wednesday, April 10 to Chamus Burnside-Savazzini by April 10 (chamus@peopleofgrace.org).

**April 18: Maundy Thursday Worship** at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion and hand-washing, as we prepare to receive the fullness of God's forgiveness and new life in Christ. Music led by Chancel Choir. (Childcare available)

**April 19: 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. Various stations for reflection and prayer will be set up throughout the building, guiding you to the beauty of the sanctuary. Spend a few moments or a few hours, whatever your day allows, to consider Christ's sacrifice of love for you.

**Good Friday Worship at 7 p.m.** With the spoken word, visual art and familiar hymns, our Good Friday service will provide the space to consider the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf. Music led by the New Life Singers. (Childcare available)

## Over 50 Fellowship

Join the Over 50 Fellowship on Friday, March 15, for a delicious lunch of corned beef and cabbage and program by Kay McKeen, Executive Director of SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling & Composting Education). Kay will give an energetic presentation addressing the many aspects of "repurposing" our treasures and our direct connection to nature and the environment. We will definitely leave with valuable information and action we can take to care for our planet!



Kay has been featured in newspapers and on many television and radio programs including "Making a Difference" on NBC. SCARCE collects unwanted books of any kind, crayons, school and office supplies, musical instruments, school furniture, and other educational tools. Local teachers visit the SCARCE center to acquire books. Even more inspiring, SCARCE ships thousands of books to diverse areas ravaged by disasters, such as Florida and Ghana. Kay McKeen has earned dozens of awards, most recently the Illinois Recycler of the Year in 2016 and the Nonprofit Executive of the Year in 2017.

Sign up for the March Over 50 Fellowship in the Church Office by Tuesday, March 12 at noon. \$10 cash will be payable at the door. When signing up, please remember that we have prepared a meal for you. If you do not attend, please arrange to pay for your reserved meal and pick it up in the kitchen on the day of the event.

**Note: we will meet on Friday, not Thursday!**

## Easter 2019

**April 20: Saturday Prayer Vigil** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Chapel.

**April 20: Saturday Evening Easter Service** at 5 p.m. with Holy Communion and music led by Vickie Wagner in the Sanctuary. (Childcare available)

**April 21: Easter Sunday Worship:**

**Traditional Worship** at 8:15 a.m. and **Blended Worship** at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. (Childcare available)

More details to come about each of these services in Grace in Mission and Grace Notes in April!