



## Over 50 Fellowship

Join the Over 50 Fellowship on Thursday, March 12, at noon in Fellowship Hall to hear Reverend Jeffry Bross, Aurora District Superintendent, as we will follow the footsteps of Christ in His final days.

Rev. Jeffry is passionate about thinking outside the box and getting creative in ministry. He always maintains a strong foundation in the fundamentals of Wesleyan theology which is fully planted in the grace of Christ. He loves missions and serving and has led over 48 youth and adult mission trips. He believes that disciples are made and strengthened and nourished in the community of the local church. He is passionate about empowering lay persons, loving the lost and lonely, and getting rid of those things that prevent us from doing what we are truly called to be.

Sign up at the Connection Desk in the Gathering Space by Monday, March 9 at noon. The lunch is \$10 cash, payable at the door.

Contact Martha Sanders (bmarzink@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



Reverend Jeffry Bross,  
Aurora District Superintendent

# Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

March 2020

## And Inconvenient God.

By Rev. Cindy Marino

It's no secret that I love my dogs. Pastors are told they need to have 'hobbies.' So, I consider my dogs to be my 'hobby.' That gets me off the hook when my District Superintendent asks the old 'self-care' question.

I recall one morning not too long ago, I was working on my laptop in the family room. Annie, the little white, on the plump side, fluffy one, was curled up beside me on the sofa. She had labored long and hard to churn my velvety soft throw into a nest and was now cozy and content, having earned her place.

Enter Kate, my 60-pound rescue who is now 18 months old. Without warning, Kate decided to join us. Annie went flying, nap disrupted, life probably flashing before her eyes. She looked at Kate with a face of bewilderment, quickly and then annoyance. And then playtime ensued as the two chased one another around the house. Score one for Kate!

Kate is our disrupter. She hasn't yet settled into the pattern of laziness Annie and I enjoy. We all need a disrupter in our lives. It's just too easy to be comfortable and content and to miss the challenge and the joy of opening our lives to someone who thinks and acts a little differently.

The greatest disrupter ever was Jesus. He pulled the blanket out from under those who had nested themselves into a comfortable life of exclusion. He spread the blanket of compassion across the world reaching the forgotten and lonely, tugging at the hearts of those with more than their share. He was indeed an inconvenient addition to the life of those who were comfortable and content. But He was the longed-for savior for those who could acknowledge their need.

This season of Lent, let us allow the love of God, in the gift of Jesus



Christ, through the real presence of Christ in the Holy Spirit, to disrupt our comfort, to convict us of our need and expand our sphere of care. Let us allow the changes we experience to take us deeper into all God asks of us. Let us watch for the joy that ensues when we participate in the mission before us, however disheveled we might feel. May playful and loving relationships be yours as you contemplate your relationship with our Inconvenient God during this Lenten season and beyond.

## Easter Service Time Changes!

**Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

**April 11: Easter Saturday Evening Service** with Holy Communion and music led by Vickie Wagner, Choir and Brass Ensemble in the Sanctuary.

**April 12: Easter Sunday** (*Note: Easter Sunday Service Times are different than regular Sunday Worship times!*)

**Traditional Worship 8 a.m.** with Easter Message and New Life Singers in the Sanctuary

**Celebratory Worship 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.** with Easter Message, Chancel Choir, Brass Ensemble and Praise Team in the Sanctuary.

## New Lenten Study!



Faithful and Inclusive: The Bible, Sexuality, and The United Methodist Church allows you to gain an understanding of how United Methodists can be both obedient to God's Word and fully welcoming to LGBTQ persons in the church. This six week DVD-based Bible study has been designed for participants to develop their own perspectives on the Bible's passages related to homosexuality.

**Faithful and Inclusive will be offered starting the first week of March by leaders from the 9 Gathering Service on Sundays at 10:15 a.m., on Mondays at 1 p.m. in Sister's Bible Study in room 254 and on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall by Pastor Cindy.**

The study features Rev. Rob Fuquay, pastor of St. Luke's UMC, Indianapolis, via DVD. It creates a safe space to navigate through this important issue, relying on the biblical-interpretation approach of Methodism's founder, John Wesley. Each video session also features the faith journeys of members of the LGBTQ community and their families. No sign up is necessary. Just come!

The six 50-minute video sessions cover these subjects:

- 1: How United Methodists Interpret Scripture
- 2: Old Testament Passages
- 3: The Influence of Culture on How We Read the Bible
- 4: New Testament Passages
- 5: The Jesus Ethic: What Did Christ Say?
- 6: Where Does the United Methodist Church Go From Here?

## Save the Date! 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UMW Hamball Luncheon

UMW 50th Annual Hamball Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 17, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Ticket sales will start in mid-March during the week and on Sundays at the Welcome Desk and at [peopleofgrace.org/hamball-tickets](http://peopleofgrace.org/hamball-tickets). All proceeds go to Missions.

Contact Katie Smith ([hamball@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:hamball@peopleofgrace.org)) for more information.

## Parenting and Faith

"Parenting with Grace" is pleased to offer a third event on the topic of "Parenting and Faith". Please join us on Sunday, March 15, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a lively discussion featuring a panel of pastors, deacons, and youth directors.



We are pleased to announce our panel participants: the Rev. Daniel Cochran and Gaye Lynn Loufek from Grace UMC as well as the Rev. Lauren Cochran (Yorkfield Presbyterian Church), the Rev. Tammy Scott (Sugar Grove UMC), the Rev. Sherry Steele (Plainfield UMC), the Rev. Corey Ashley (Wheatland Salem UMC), and the Rev. Laura Barkley (Salem UMC in Barrington). All these faith leaders are parents themselves and are sure to have much to offer on this important topic.

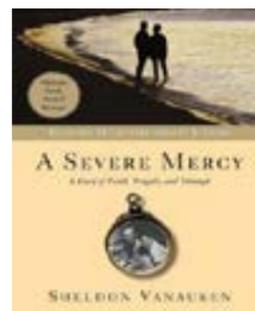
Our panel will give insights on issues such as "how do I help my children balance church with school and extracurricular activities", "how do I talk to my children about tough Bible passages", and "how can I help my children maintain their faith". Attendees will be able to submit questions ahead of the event when they register.

Register at [peopleofgrace.org/parenting-with-grace](http://peopleofgrace.org/parenting-with-grace) and follow "Parenting with Grace Group" on Facebook for more information. Childcare will be provided for 6 weeks through 5th grade.

Please join us for great conversation and to hear our faith leaders' unique perspectives on parenting and faith. Contact Stefanie Abderhalden ([stefanieabderhalden@gmail.com](mailto:stefanieabderhalden@gmail.com)) for more information.

## United Methodist Women's Book Discussion Group

Join us on Wednesday, March 25, at 12:45 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This month's book is [A Severe Mercy](#) by Sheldon Vanauken. All attendees should bring their own lunch and drink, for a picnic style gathering. Contact Mary Abe ([abzabe@msn.com](mailto:abzabe@msn.com)) for more information.



## United Methodist Women March Gathering

Join us on Tuesday, March 3, in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. at the United Methodist Women General Meeting, for a presentation on "Practicing Resurrection" by the Rev. Dr. Norval Ignatius Brown.



Rev. Dr. Norval Ignatius Brown

The Reverend Doctor Norval Ignatius Brown was born June 17, 1954, the 251st anniversary of the birth of John Wesley. Raised in the farming town of Brandywine, MD, outside of Washington DC, Brown heard a call for ministry at an early age. Answering an invitation to Christian discipleship at the age of 9, he began to take responsibility for the life in Christ that began at his baptism.

Brown's education includes a BA from the University of Chicago, Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and Doctor of Ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary. He holds a certificate in spiritual direction from the Claret Center in Chicago and has been involved in the Academy for Spiritual Formation as a participant, faculty presenter and member of the leadership team. Brown is an oblate at St. Benedict's Abby in Peoria, Illinois, and he serves on various boards and agencies of the church and community.

Brown has had a variety of pastoral experiences. He has served large parishes and small: African-American, predominantly Anglo, multi-racial, urban and suburban. He has served as a campus minister and an adjunct faculty member at Chicago Theological Seminary. He currently is the pastor of the Christ United Methodist Church in Deerfield, IL.

He and his wife Andrea Lynette Brookins reside in Homewood, IL. They are the parents of four children and a Yorkie. They also have two grandchildren.

All women are welcome to attend. The UMW Leadership Team will host the breakfast.

Contact Phyllis Pepiot ([ppepiot@gmail.com](mailto:ppepiot@gmail.com)) for information.

## All-Church Faith Formation Gathering

Join us on Sunday, March 1, at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for "A Faith-Based Response to Climate Change."



Dr. Barbara Willard

We are faced with formidable challenges posed by the reality of climate change. In this presentation, Dr. Barbara Willard will not only address our current environmental crisis but will also reflect on climate change as a moral issue. Going beyond the science and addressing the issue from a faith-based perspective requires us to take a closer look at Climate Justice and proper stewardship of God's creation. We will be encouraged to reflect on the spiritual, ethical, and practical response to climate change and explore what Methodists can do to ensure a healthy planet for future generations. Sponsored by the Committee on Church and Society of Grace UMC.

Dr. Barbara Willard (daughter of Ro Willard) is an Associate Professor of Communication at DePaul University. She studies environmental messaging, environmental campaigns, and best practices for promoting sustainable behaviors. She has published in a number of academic journals and other outlets. She is a founding board member of the International Environmental Communication Association and a member of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps.

## Holy Smokes BBQ Fundraiser

The smell of Bar-B-Que is just around the corner! Grace Youth Summer Missions (Side x Side and Hope @ Home) will be hosting the annual Holy Smokes Drive-thru Bar-b-que on Sunday, April 26 from 11 a.m. – 1 a.m. in the lower parking lot.

Tickets will be available on Sundays beginning March 29, at the Welcome Desk or from any Side x Side or Hope @ Home participants.

Cost of meals: 1 meat meal (pork chop or 1/4 chicken) \$10 (\$11 at the gate), 2 meat meal (two of the same meat or one of each meat) \$12 (\$13 at the gate), Hot Dog kids meal \$5 (\$6 at the gate). **Advanced ticket purchase is encouraged.**

Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek ([gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org)) or in the Youth Office (630-355-1748, ext. 3234.) for more information.

## Vacation Bible School 2020

Calling all Rainforest Explorers!! We are going on a Rainforest Exploration July 13-17 and we want you all there! The Rainforest is a WILD place with beautiful WILD things for us to discover together! God has created many interesting creatures and as we explore Bible stories like Noah's Ark, the Ten Commandments, The Call of the Disciples, Jesus Healing the Ten Lepers and Jesus Visiting the Disciples, we will learn how nature was fully appreciated and included! We can't wait to watch Grace UMC transform into a lush Rainforest for VBS.



### Are you excited??

In order to take an adventure like this, we really need some passionate and caring adults to ensure that this trip leaves a permanent impression on every child that attends. We will need the following to make this the BEST exploration EVER!! If you have never been a part of VBS or you LOVE VBS, please consider volunteering in one of the roles below. Many hands make light work AND result in great experiences for the kids! Prayers are being offered up for God to inspire many hearts and hands to help make this VBS a memorable and unforgettable, life changing experience that brings children closer to Christ!!

### Adult Volutneers Needed!

1. Rainforest VBS Director to work with Children's Director
2. Rainforest VBS Prayer Team
3. Rainforest VBS Creative Arts Leader and Team
4. Rainforest VBS Recreation Leader and Team
5. Rainforest Snack Leader and Team
6. Rainforest VBS Preschool Music Leader and Team
7. Rainforest VBS Elementary Music Leader and Team
8. Rainforest VBS Apprentices and Teens
9. Rainforest VBS Small Group Team Leaders
10. Rainforest VBS Decorating Team (Fellowship Hall, Upper and Lower back hallways. This can be broken up by section)
11. Rainforest VBS Photography and Videography Team Leaders
12. Rainforest VBS Opening Assembly Leader and Team
13. Rainforest VBS Medical/Safety Support Team
14. Rainforest VBS Closing Celebration Tech Support Team

If you cannot participate for whatever reason, please consider being a part of our snack or mission donation team.

You can sign up for all of our needs at [peopleofgrace.org/vbs](http://peopleofgrace.org/vbs)

Grace Family, please join me in praying for our 2020 VBS and all who will enter our doors that week. May we be a safe space where children can form their faith and confidently share their faith with others!

If you have any questions at all, please contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini ([chamus@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:chamus@peopleofgrace.org)) or (630-355-1748 ext. 3241)

## Holy Week 2020

**April 5: Passion/Palm Sunday Worship** at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. music led by the Chancel Choir. The 9 a.m. Gathering with music led by the Grace Praise Team. (Childcare available)

**April 8: Holy Wednesday**, April 8, from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to an evening of worship and fellowship with crafts and food. We will begin in the Sanctuary with worship and a children-friendly message, and then move to Fellowship Hall where we will have fun building "Resurrection Gardens" 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. Cost is \$15 per immediate family which will cover food and materials for (1) Resurrection Garden. Registration is required for the Resurrection Garden and meal portions of the evening. Register at [peopleofgrace.org/holy-Wednesday](http://peopleofgrace.org/holy-Wednesday). Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek ([gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org)) for more information.

**April 9: 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 New Life Singers. (Childcare available)

**April 10: Good Friday** Time of Personal Reflection from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Grace Sanctuary is a beautiful, quiet space to pray, to think and to contemplate Christ's sacrifice of love for us all. Reflection resources will be available and Pastors will be on hand for prayer or consultation if desired. Freely come and go.

**Good Friday Worship** at 7 p.m. Service of Shadows is a powerful new musical setting for Good Friday by Michael John Trotta. Music led by the Grace Chancel Choir and Instrumental Ensemble. (Childcare available)

## Lenten Devotion 2020

Print copies of the 2020 Lenten Devotionals are available at the Welcome Desk.

Electronic Version is available at [peopleofgrace.org/lent-2020](http://peopleofgrace.org/lent-2020).



## Celebrate Easter at Grace

**Easter Sunday Worship on Saturday at 5 p.m., and on Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.!**



April 11: Saturday Evening Resurrection Service at 5 p.m. with Holy Communion and music led by Vickie Wagner, Choir and Brass Ensemble in the Sanctuary.

### April 12: Easter Sunday Worship:

*Note: Easter Sunday Service Times are different from Regular Sunday Worship Times!*

Traditional Worship at 8 a.m. and Blended Worship at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

## Check Out These New Titles in the Grace Library

[Becoming Mrs. Lewis: The Improbable Love Story of Joy Davidman and C.S. Lewis](#) by Patti Callahan

[The Baggage Handler](#) by David Rawlings

[We Were the Lucky Ones: A Novel](#) by Georgia Hunter

[Sold on Monday A Novel](#) by Kristina McMorris

[No One Ever Asked A Novel](#) by Katie Ganshert

[Synapse](#) by Steven James

[Educated A Memoir](#) by Tara Westover

[Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity](#) by Nabeel Qureshi

[The New Testament in Its World: An Introduction to the History, Literature and Theology of the First Christians](#) by N. T. Wright (2019)

Visit the Grace Library for these and other great titles at [peopleofgrace.org/library](http://peopleofgrace.org/library) or in room 223.

## Youth Summer Missions 2020



Side x Side and Hope @ Home are so much more than "work camp." Both have the purpose of being an outreach of Grace church to the communities in which we serve, and both give the opportunity for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. In addition, both also offer a path to discipleship.

During Side x Side we share in morning devotions, serve together during the day, share meals together, engage in fellowship through silly games or social events, share in small group discussions, "build" leaders, pray together, and most importantly build community and relationships: both within our group and in the communities where we serve.

Hope @ Home offers many of the same elements. Side x Side tends to be more construction based (though no experience is necessary), while Hope @ Home has more varied serving opportunities.

Grace youth and adults are invited to participate in both mission opportunities this summer. Side x Side is open to all who have completed 8th grade through adults, and Hope @ Home is open to all who have completed 5th-7th grades and adults, with an opportunity for our high school and college students to serve as young adult leaders.

### Youth Summer Missions Dates are:

**Side x Side: June 6-14**

**Hope @ Home : June 23-25**

Visit [peopleofgrace.org/youth](http://peopleofgrace.org/youth) for more information or contact Gaye Lynn Loufek in the Youth Office (630-355-1748, ext. 3234) or ([gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org)). Applications for registration will be available at [peopleofgrace.org](http://peopleofgrace.org) beginning Monday, March 9.



## Youth Summer Mission Dates to Remember at a Glance:

**Monday, March 9:** Registration opens for Side X Side and Hope @ Home

**Sunday, March 15:** Bake Sale Fundraiser before and after worship

**Sunday, March 22:** Side x Side and Hope @ Home Meeting in room 234, 12 p.m.

**Sunday, April 19:** Hope @ Home Meeting at 6 p.m., in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, April 19:** Side x Side Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, April 26:** Holy Smokes BBQ Fundraiser from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the lower parking lot

**Sunday, May 7:** Side x Side only at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, May 31:** Side x Side Commissioning at 8 a.m. service

**Sunday, May 31:** Suds on Sunday Fundraiser from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the lower parking lot

**Sunday, May 31:** Side x Side Meeting at 7 p.m.

**Thursday, June 4:** Load the Truck at 6:30 p.m. (Side x Side)

**Thursday, June 4:** Side x Side College & Adult Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**June 6-14:** Side x Side

**Thursday, June 18:** Hope @ Home Meeting at 7 p.m.

**Sunday, June 21:** Hope @ Home Commissioning at 10:30 a.m. service

**June 22-25:** Hope @ Home

**Sunday, June 28:** Hope @ Home Slide Show 12 p.m.

**Sunday, June 28:** Side x Side Slide Show 7 p.m.

**Youth Summer Missions**

*Sunday Bake Sale* **MARCH 15**

**CUPCAKES, COOKIES, AND MORE!**

Available in the Gathering Space  
before & after worship.

Donations benefit Youth Summer Missions!

To donate baked goods or for more information, contact Alexis Henderson ([alexisrae2015@gmail.com](mailto:alexisrae2015@gmail.com))

**BUILD MY LIFE**

**A MUSICAL WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

Saturday, March 14 at 5 p.m.  
Sunday, March 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday's service will also feature  
Grace Children's Music Ministry

**THE GRACE YOUTH CHOIR**

Support Youth and Children in Worship Leadership  
BRING A GUEST! BE BLESSED!