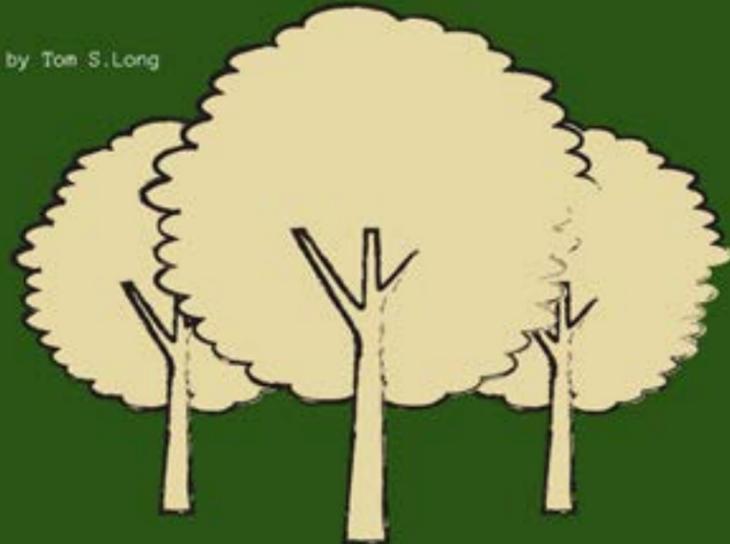


Children's Music Ministry Presents

The Tale of the Three Trees

A Musical Cantata by Allen Pote Lyrics and Narration by Tom S. Long

FRIDAY, MAY 10 AT 6:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, MAY 12 AT 11 A.M.
IN THE SANCTUARY



Over 50 Fellowship

Join us for a time of fellowship and food on Thursday, May 9, at Noon in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Daniel will share a visual presentation about his life and learning in Rome, Italy - an enchanting city with a rich Christian history. Come for the fellowship, come for the food, come for the fabulous photos!



Sign up at the Reception Desk by Noon on Monday, May 6. \$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.

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

United Methodist Women's General Meeting

United Methodist Women will hold their next general meeting on Tuesday, May 7, at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The guest speaker will be Reverend Danita Anderson, the lead pastor at Woodridge United Methodist Church. Her topic will be "Living as a Covenant Community."

Lunch will be served after the meeting. Priscilla Circle will serve as the hostess. All are welcome to attend. Contact Phyllis Pepiot (ppepiot@gmail.com) for more information.



Reverend Danita Anderson

Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

May 2019

Imagine a Church Community Where...

By Rev. Cindy Marino

Imagine a church community where the premises listed below are practiced!

These means to a "God-Soaked Life" summarize the book of that title by Chris Webb:

1. We accept Jesus' invitation to participate in God's community of love.
2. We are seeking the renewal of our hearts so we can love as Christ loves.
3. We are fearlessly honest about our weaknesses, failures, and limits.
4. We long to experience God in silence, prayers, and Scripture.
5. We nurture an awareness of God in everyday life.
6. We share life together with love, grace, mercy, and reconciliation.
7. We have the hope and courage to challenge the "lordless powers."

We used Webb's book as a resource during Lent as we attempted to make sense of Jesus' call to live a life in God's kingdom. As we studied each premise in turn, we found them to be both compelling and challenging.

I found number seven to be particularly bothersome.

We do our best to skirt the "political realm" in conversation with our faith. But Jesus is often described as a revolutionary figure. In fact, we know Jesus focused a great deal of time and attention on the reframing of the definition of power and challenging the status quo. How do we know when we should accommodate the change

that disrupts our culture and when we should "challenge the lordless powers?"

There is only one way ... we pray.

In prayer, we present our dilemmas to God and we listen for a call to action. We study scripture to guide us. We confer with others in faith to assure us of what we are hearing in the Holy Spirit.

In prayer, we allow the Holy Spirit of God to form us into the image of Christ, seeing with His eyes, hearing with His ears, acting as His hands and feet and speaking out with His voice.

I am so proud of our young people who chose to be confirmed in the United Methodist Church a few weeks ago. They did so with eyes wide open, writing in their essays how disappointed they were in the UMC's General Conference decision to continue its discrimination against LGBTQIA, disallowing marriage in the church and ordination in the denomination.

We are raising up young people to be open-minded thinkers and Christ-loving image bearers who are not afraid to pray and to follow the call they hear God placing upon their lives. We are teaching our young people to respond to God's call, rather than to react against those who would think differently. Our welcome statement declares our inclusion of all, and we believe change will follow.

There are many who are working diligently in the background to answer

God's call to bring change to this denomination. One such leader is Adam Hamilton. He and others have been meeting quietly with bishops and others to work through plans for the future of a church that includes all people.

After Easter, we will take up Hamilton's study on Simon Peter. After working through the meaning of the God-soaked life in God's kingdom, we can follow the life of someone who was himself a "dilemma."

"Peter left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe him. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man."

Hamilton brings us this example of Peter, who met the Risen Lord, challenged the "lordless powers," and changed the world. Along with Peter, we will find that with God, all things are possible for those who love Him and obey His call.

We pray for change that will address the hurt caused when anyone is considered to be "lesser than" for any reason. We pray for continued patience and wisdom as new plans emerge that safeguard the vital ministries of the global church and the financial well-being of the local churches, that they may continue to raise up leaders for Christ.

We pray for a God-Soaked life for all.

Farewell Mr. Bob

By Lynn Leitzen, Director of Children's Music Ministry

On Wednesday, March 20, through tear-filled smiles, the children's choirs sang a blessing of peace as they bid farewell to a beloved friend of 23 years. "Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go."

Bob Rothe, lovingly known by the children as "Mr. Bob," will be moving to sunny California to join his wife, Rama, daughter, Tara, and dachshund, Beezy, just as soon as his doctors clear him to travel. (Bob underwent quintuple bypass surgery on Wednesday, April 3, at Good Samaritan in Downers Grove.) So, by the time you're reading this, Bob will most likely be recouping in the California sunshine. (Best medicine ever!)

Starting his volunteer ministry as a choir parent back in 1996 with Eva Gouge's Cherub Choir, Bob has continued to faithfully serve the children's choirs well past his years as an actual parent. He has assisted with everything from greeting the choristers to sitting with the choirs in worship on the Sundays they would sing.

But Bob goes above and beyond not just Wednesdays and Sundays, but has given generously of his time as a driver for our annual caroling outings, as a bib-overalls-wearing chaperone for our annual hayride party, as a volunteer packing side-by-side with our choristers for the Feed the Need Mobile Pack, and as the leader of the wagon-brigade for the collection of the annual Noisy Offering each November. He has also cheerfully slept on the floor of the choir room for all 12 of our annual Lock-Ins as we kicked off the start of the musical season.

The list of all his many acts of generosity as a volunteer will never be fully known, but his greatest gift was as a "Smile Ambassador" to every kid who was ever fortunate enough to have been the recipient of his grace and love. He was great at making the kids feel welcomed and important. Current Junior Singer, Josephine Zaccaria, says, "Mr. Bob is special because at first when I was in 4th grade, he was the only one I would talk to. I was shy and he would understand me. I have learned so much from him such as to always run instead of walk!"

Bob's day-job as a teaching assistant at Hinsdale Central HS gave him an immediate understanding and connection with our kids. He always knew just how to make them laugh and feel included. He served with humor, generosity, acceptance, caring, but most of all with love. He was a gentle male presence who willingly served just under the radar doing justice, and loving kindness, and walking humbly with his God. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for his years of service, and we wish him many happy and healthy years in California!

We will be celebrating Mr. Bob's ministry at our Year-End Celebration on Friday, May 10, just after our 6:30 p.m. musical presentation. All are welcome to join in the celebration! If you'd like to share your gratitude and best wishes, but can't make the celebration, you can drop him a note at his new address: 2157 Vista Del Mar, San Mateo, CA 94404.

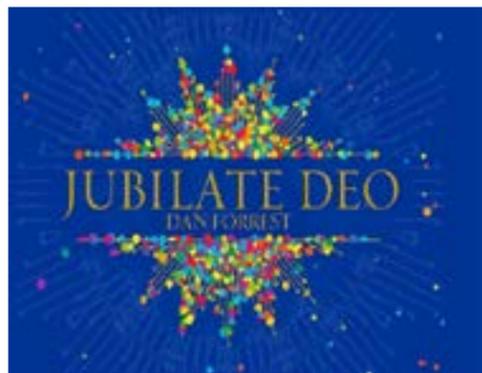


"Mr. Bob" Rothe, Sherri Nagy, and Lynn Leitzen, at Harvest Home 2018 where he received the "Grace Award For Faithful Christian Service"

Spring Choral Concert

Join us for Dan Forrest's "Jubilate Deo/Psalm 100" on Sunday, May 5, at 8:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. You do not want to miss Dan Forrest's thrilling setting of Psalm 100.

As the Psalm invites us to "make a joyful noise, all ye lands" the music takes us around the world, from Africa to China to the Middle East and the Latin nations. You will want to sing this exciting and moving music with us! Contact Dan Wagner (dan.wagner@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.



Holy Smokes

It's that time of year again! Join us for our Youth Summer Missions' drive-thru, bar-b-que fundraiser featuring 5-Bs, cooked on the premises pork chops and/or chicken, on Sunday, May 5, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the lower parking lot of Grace! Same day meal purchases are available but advanced purchase is preferred.

Note: For your safety and the safety of those participating in the fundraiser, please note the lower lot will be closed that morning. Please plan to park in the upper lots—thank you! Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Side X Side Meeting

All who are participating in Side x Side are requested to attend a meeting, Sunday, May 19, at 7 p.m. Information regarding the trip, travel van sign-ups, rooming lists and more will be covered. All fees and registration paperwork is due! Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.



Congratulations to our Grads!



**Congratulations
to our
most recent
New Members:
Confirmation
Class of 2019!**

Congratulations to our Senior Class of 2019!

Join us on Sunday, May 19, as we recognize and honor these young people with love from their church family.

All seniors and their families are invited to attend the 9:30 a.m. worship service followed by a brunch in their honor in Fellowship Hall. Seniors, please RSVP and share your plans for the fall of 2019.

Don't forget to bring your cap, gown, and any recognition cords for the worship service. Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.



To Mars and Beyond! Vacation Bible School 2019 June 24-28, from 9 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Join us on our voyage "To Mars and Beyond"! Crew members and passengers please register and reserve your spot at www.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 closes Sunday, June 16!**

Attention VBS Participants: Please watch Grace's Facebook page for a few surprise VBS activities! We hope these "training missions" will get our space travelers excited to blast off this summer! Like us at facebook.com/gracenaperville/

VBS 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!

Contact Jill Rye, Director of Vacation Bible School (jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org), or Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, Director of Children's Faith Formation (chamus@peopleofgrace.org).



Touch A Truck 2019!

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 so invite your friends and family to come out and enjoy all of the trucks and vehicles! We will have fun 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 UMC 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) or (630-355-1748, ext 3241) for more information.

Have News to Share?

Let Grace UMC know what's happening with your ministry by submitting your announcement at www.peopleofgrace.org/publications.

Submission Deadlines: Grace Notes is the first Tuesday of the month and Grace in Mission and the Weekly Friday Eblast is 7 days prior to the publication date.

Contact Ashley Pierce (ashley@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Save the Date! Thanks for the Music Grand Celebration!

Join us for an informal concert featuring all of Grace's Musical Ensembles on Sunday, June 2, at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This is a rare opportunity to enjoy all of the choirs and ensembles of the Grace Music Ministries in an informal collage concert of favorites by the Chancel Choir, Festival Singers, New Life Singers, Praise Team, Children's Choirs, Youth Choir, Instrumentalist, Adult and Youth Bells.

Contact Dan Wagner (dan.wagner@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.



Fellowship of Christian Men

All men are invited to join us on Friday, May 17, at 6 p.m. for dinner with the program starting at 6:30 p.m. in room 226.

The program will focus on "Integrity: a Must-have for Men to Connect" including topics of What it is?, How do we grow it?, How do we maintain it? and How it impacts your ability to connect with other men, presented by Bob Pacanowski.

Contact Bob Pacanowski (bpacanowski@franklinsports.com) for more information.

Coming Sunday, July 21. New Worship!



Encourage the inclusion of children in all worship services.

The "one-hour" Sunday model that allows children to attend Sunday School while parents are in worship has been convenient, but it has not served our younger generations well. As we can see in lagging worship attendance, children who were never in worship grow into adults who are never in worship. We want our children to gain appreciation for the traditions that are so important to pass along. In doing so, we want them to find the hope that we know in Christ as we participate together in worship!



Encourage everyone to participate in worship AND faith formation

Scheduling our worship and Adult Faith Formation (AFF) opportunities at the same time in the most popular hour of the morning (9:30) has impacted our worship attendance and limited participation in AFF. It is important to be able to worship and engage with others to grow in faith. The pastors also need time to engage with people on Sundays.



Affirm our diverse worship styles.

Traditional worship continues to draw all ages at Grace. There is also room for a less structured form of worship that allows for a casual feel but meaningful time of connection and worship.

New Sunday Schedule at a Glance:

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Faith Formation Hour for All Ages
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

The Gathering @ 9 a.m.
Casual Worship and Coffee
Activity Center 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Coffee & Donuts Served in the
New Gathering Space

Saturday @ 5 p.m. Activity Center

- Casual, caring atmosphere
- Committed community & refreshments
- Weekly Communion
- Reflective/meditative music & message

Sunday @ 8 a.m. Sanctuary

- Traditional service & liturgy
- Weekly Communion
- Weekly Children's Message
- New Life Singers, hymns, and organ

Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

- Traditional liturgy with a few variations
- Monthly Communion
- Children's Weekly Message & Youth Participation
- Chancel Choir, hymns, and organ

Sunday @ 9 a.m. Activity Center

- Casual contemporary and acoustic music with Praise Team
- Weekly Communion (informal liturgy)
- Coffee, fellowship and faith formation included!

Adult Faith Formation

The new worship schedule outlined on the front page provides exciting new opportunities for Adult Faith Formation at Grace UMC starting on Sunday, July 21. Currently, many of our small groups such as Questors, Hearts on Fire, Forum, and New Connections meet during our popular 9:30 worship service with the Chancel Choir. (Information about our current Sunday Adult Faith Formation classes is below.) This model puts our members and visitors in a difficult situation: choosing between adult formation and this beautiful service.

The new worship schedule opens the Adult Faith Formation hour (9:15-10:15) to everyone who attends either of our worship services in the Sanctuary (8 and 10:30). This new approach accomplishes two key objectives. First, more of our church family will be able to participate in Adult Faith Formation! We believe strongly that the education and fellowship that comes with participating in small groups is essential to our lives as disciples. The new model opens our adult formation groups to more members and new visitors, allowing us to put this belief into practice.

Second, the new Sunday model provides an open time for our pastors and small groups to come together for church-wide presentations in Fellowship Hall—now with new ceiling lights and a new HD projector! We will take advantage of this opportunity with two consecutive presentations on Sundays, July 21 and July 28, by Pastors Cindy and Daniel. We will have two more church-wide presentations on Sundays, September 1 and 8, to welcome back our summer travelers. Following these Sundays, the pastoral staff will work in conjunction with guest presenters and our faith formation leaders to offer church-wide presentations on the first Sunday of every other month, beginning on November 3. The possibilities for this time together are endless: topical conversations, in-depth Bible studies, presentations on the new liturgical season (Advent or Lent) or visual explorations of church history and art, opportunities to learn about missions and service...

The pastoral staff encourages every member of Grace UMC to jump in! If you are new to Adult Faith Formation at Grace, let us help you find a small group or create a new one; and all are welcome to attend the church-wide presentations. A final schedule will be publicized on the church website and through our regular communications. We look forward to this new opportunity to explore our faith together as the people of Grace!

Current Sunday Morning Groups at 9:30 a.m.

Hearts on Fire Class

Jesus-centered, warm-hearted folks who don't take themselves too seriously, seeking to grow in faith through study, conversation, and relationships. 9:30 a.m. in room 250. Contact Bob Pacanowski (bpacanoswki@franklinsports.com).

The Forum Class

All ages engage in insightful and lively conversation about the Bible, Christian theology, and the implications of discipleship in contemporary matters. Guided by knowledgeable discussion leaders. 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Contact Mark Fleming (markwflemi@aol.com).

Questors

A traditional lecture and discussion format that focuses on contemporary Christian issues, Bible studies, and practical application of faith. Members organize speakers, missions and fellowship events. 9:30 a.m. in room 231 (due to construction). Contact Ginnie Battle (ginbattle@icloud.com)

New Connections

Younger couples & singles engage in thought-provoking studies that help negotiate the stuff of everyday life, faith, and relationship to God and one another. And they do fun stuff, too! 9:30 a.m. in room 226. Contact Dr. Jeffrey Barbeau (jeff@jeffbarbeau.com).

Faith Build 2019!

Grace UMC has once again partnered with Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity and 20+ other churches for Faith Build 2019, building a home for Andrea Wood and her two small sons. The Faith Build 2019 home is being built at 1530 Solfisburg, Aurora, IL, with the dedication and presentation of keys being scheduled for Saturday, December 7. So, many volunteers are needed! We need builders, lunch providers, prayer partners, fundraising organizers, and donations: in-kind (services) and monetary. Want to get involved? We have a place for you!

Come join us on the following build dates:

- Friday, May 10
- Saturday, May 11
- Thursday, May 16
- Friday, May 17
- Saturday, May 18
- Sunday, May 19
- Tuesday, July 23

All volunteers must complete the Fox Valley Habitat safety training and registration at <http://www.volunteerfvhabitat.com> (non-digital option available). Only 10 volunteers are allowed on-site per build day so sign up early!

Contact Brentley Loufek (brentley.loufek@gmail.com) or Rick Loufek (rick.loufek@gmail.com), or by calling the Youth Office (630-355-1748, ext. 3234) for more information.



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.

Orange Turns Green as You Support Youth Summer Missions



Grace Youth Summer Missions is always grateful for the generosity and support of our congregation. Our annual shareholder fundraising efforts are now underway.

Please find orange envelopes in the pews and become a shareholder for either Side x Side, Hope @ Home, or both! No donation is too small! We love taking you with us through prayer, monetary contribution, fundraising support, or as a physical member of our team.

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