

Worship with Us!

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in-person
or online at peopleofgrace.org

Vacation Bible School 2021

Vacation Bible School is getting closer, and we are looking forward to connecting and learning more about God's word and how it connects to us today. We will be KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE! VBS will be held online **the week of July 12 -16 from 9 a.m.-10 a.m.** each day with activities provided for flexible learning at home each day.

We are also planning to host a Friends and Family Night on Thursday, July 15, from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. for those who are comfortable coming out for a time of fellowship and fun in a safe way.

[Register child\(ren\), Apprentice or Teen Here!](#)

[Register Adults Here!](#)

I will use this link to build a VBS leadership team. Please register using the form instead of email so that I can streamline communication with all participants, apprentices, teens and adult leaders.

Contact Chamus (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.



Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

May 2021

The Call

By Rev. Cindy Marino

A few weeks ago, I received "The Call." It was our District Superintendent, Rev. Jeffry Bross, informing me that the Bishop and Cabinet of the Northern Illinois Conference had made a new appointment for our Associate Pastor, Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran. This call was not completely unexpected. United Methodist pastors agree to something called "itineracy;" that is, we are appointed at any particular church (or "charge") for one year at a time, and we agree to move as needed.

That doesn't make it any easier! I have to admit my first response to my beloved DS was, "No! You can't have him!"

But, in our United Methodist system, pastors are not called or hired by the local church. Instead, we are deployed; sent by the Bishop to lead where our gifts are most needed. John Wesley was, himself, an "itinerant" preacher who traveled from town to town in England, setting up Methodist societies. He believed that moving pastors frequently not only made the best use of the various talents of the pastors, but, also made sure the ministry of the church remained in the capable hands of the laity! Thus, he set the example for us today.

All of this means that we recognize that our pastors are "resources of the conference," the larger connection of the church of which Grace is a part. We, as pastors, don't work for Grace Church. We work for God and are appointed to do that work at Grace for a particular period of time through an appointment.

Thankfully, appointments are generally longer than they've been in the past. We had Pastor Daniel for three years, about the minimum these days. But as we well know, Pastor Daniel has gifts and abilities beyond his years. We knew we wouldn't have him long.

All of this is to say that I am personally going to miss him greatly. Pastor Daniel has been a true partner in ministry and a brother in Christ. His passion for leading families with young children has led to blossoming growth at Grace. His ability to support and connect our faith formation groups has breathed new life into the desire to learn and grow. His work with our youth through Confirmation has brought new meaning to the definition of what "church" can be and indeed, is, for them and for their families! Pastor Daniel has worked to give wings to our teams that are passionate around issues of justice. His messages in worship have served to teach and inspire. I have been incredibly blessed by his time here at Grace.

Many have asked where Pastor Daniel's new appointment will be. He's not going far! He will be serving as the solo pastor for Aldersgate UMC in Wheaton, Illinois. Aldersgate UMC lost their pastor to an unexpected illness a few weeks ago. Pastor Daniel's first order of business will be to care for a grieving congregation, not an easy challenge. As a connectional church, Grace UMC will provide whatever resources Pastor Daniel needs for his ministry among the people of Aldersgate UMC to flourish. Because that's who we are and what we do.



"How to Answer the Tough Questions"

Parenting with Grace has planned an event you won't want to miss! **Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 23, at 3 p.m. on Zoom**

We will meet over Zoom for a panel discussion with three local pastors about how we answer tough questions parents are often asked by their children and teens.

The panel members will be Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran from Grace UMC, Rev. Tammy Scott from Sugar Grove UMC, and Rev. Kathy Wellman from Wesley UMC. Topics will include children and teens questioning their faith, questions about why God allows bad things to happen, and how we navigate the tougher Bible stories with our families. We look forward to hearing insights from the pastors, who are all parents themselves.

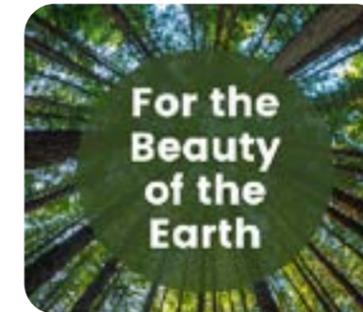
[Register Here!](#) Make sure to follow us on Facebook at "Parenting with Grace Group." Contact Stefanie Abderhalden (stefanie.abderhalden@gmail.com) with any questions.



All Church Faith Formation (May 2)

"For the Beauty of the Earth: Why and How We Care for Creation"

You are invited to join the friends and family of Grace at our next all-church faith formation hour on **Sunday, May 2 at 9 a.m.**



We will meet on Zoom to explore the scriptural foundations that call us to care for creation as well as practical steps for taking action today. Jaci Tschirhart, member of Grace and chair of our Commission on Church and Society, will lead the discussion.

Contact Pastor Daniel Cochran (daniel.cochran@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Senior Celebration



Grace Youth Ministry will be recognizing and celebrating our High School graduates on **Sunday, May 23.**

All high school seniors are invited to participate in the celebration!

[Register here](#) and submit a "senior" photo (professional and candid photos accepted). All photos and registrations are due no later than Monday, May 3.

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

Side X Side 2021

Yes! Yes! Yes! Grace Youth Summer Missions team has been called to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Scripture says in Proverbs 3:27, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." And, in Matthew 22:37-39, we are commanded to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

When we are called to serve and to love our neighbor, we are to answer the call, whether for our neighbor next door or our neighbor miles away. When we are called to serve, we are called to use the gifts we have available, not withholding any good we might do for others.

With an eager team of youth and adults, we will share our gifts and love our neighbors right in our own backyard.

Side x Side will gather the evening of June 23 for our kickoff worship and continue to serve from June 24-26 with several partners in Aurora, Naperville, and the surrounding area.

In addition to our tasks, we will share in devotions, worship, prayer, and fellowship. Registration closed on Monday, April 25. However, if you drive by Grace any morning or evening during our "trip," you'll be able to see us in action.

Want to partner with us? There are several ways to do so.

Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org or 630-355-1748, ext. 3234) to learn more about becoming a Prayer Partner, providing donations to food pantries or making monetary donations to Side x Side.



"It Takes A Village!"

Come hear our special guest speaker, Vicky Joseph, founder of the local nonprofit organization, Families Helping Families! She will be speaking at the United Methodist Women General Zoom Meeting on **Tuesday, May 4, at 9 a.m. Zoom.** [Click here for Zom details](#)

For many years, Families Helping Families has been one of the organizations the UMW has funded as a mission. Families Helping Families is a grass roots neighborhood organization started by Vicky in 1994 with the focus of helping families in DuPage County. Families Helping Families provides apartments and supportive services to homeless families while they are working to reclaim their lives. Vicky will speak about how she was motivated to begin her journey in helping to provide transitional housing for families in need. She will discuss the success stories of many of her families, who is eligible, what they receive, what services are provided, and what is needed for the FHF Supply Closet.

Our United Methodist Women would like to collect toilet paper, paper towels, and quarters to help these families with their laundry. Be watching to learn where we will be putting our collections. You can begin to save now! We hope you will join us on Zoom for our wonderful program and learn how we can continue to help the wonderful organization Families Helping Families! It takes a village!

Contact Kathy Carey, UMW President (percula4344@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



Thank You Grace for All You Do for Our Community!

Texas Relief Efforts

Thank you to all who contributed to the Texas Relief Mission. Through your generosity and caring hearts, we were able to send donations in the amount of \$2,500. Partnering with St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Plano, TX, your gifts helped provide relief for many who were hardest hit by the winter storm. Well done, good and faithful servants.



Vaccination Clinic

On behalf of the 101 Grace members, family, friends and surrounding community members, "Thank You" members of Grace and staff for your service, support and encouragement for the VNA Health, Moderna vaccination clinic that was held on Monday, April 12. We were able to support the vaccination efforts in our area, and we could not have done it without the support of many who came together to sign up, spread the word, check temperatures, welcome and check in participants, register participants and prepare the church so that we were set up properly. Thank you so much for making this important effort a successful community outreach event.

Plan Now to Be Part of the Lasting Legacy of Grace UMC

Our church members – present, past and future – are what make Grace Church the faith community we know and love. And the memory of past members is all around us in our church building. Glenna Holloway's gift helped fund the 2019 renovation including the creation of the Gathering Space area of the church, the lovely Rodney Lacy Garden is an ongoing gift from Ginny Lacy, the beautiful piano in the sanctuary was a gift from Rita Harvard, and the stained-glass windows in the vestibule are a reminder of Bea & Merrill Gates. We are grateful to these and all past members who have included the Grace Church Foundation in their estate plans because it has helped to continue the mission and work of the church.

And just as you ensure for your family's future, please consider including the Grace Church Foundation in your estate plans by leaving a legacy gift to your church family and its future. By naming Grace Church Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or trust, you are ensuring that the church's mission continues for years to come.

To learn more about ways to give that meet your needs and life situations, see how gifts have made lasting impacts on Grace Church and find answers to frequently asked questions, visit our recently updated website at peopleofgrace.org/foundation.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the members on the Foundation Board of Directors listed below or complete and submit the Foundation Contact Form at peopleofgrace.org/foundation-contact-form.

Scott Oats, President and Secretary
Tim Ford
Scott Skooglund

John Abe, Vice President
Gina Gramarosso

Peggy Nasti, Treasurer
Ron Laub

Virtual Passover Seder Experience

By: Robin Schmuckal

Liz and I had a wonderful experience at the Virtual Passover Seder on Sunday, March 13, led by Bernie Newman, from Congregation Beth Shalom. He is a vibrant speaker and excellent educator. It was a great spiritual and learning experience.

We found out that Passover is the most celebrated of all Jewish holidays with more than 70% of Jewish Americans taking part in a Seder, its ritual meal. Passover is when Jewish people celebrate the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery by retelling the story of Exodus at a Seder.

The event included lots of eating and singing, and we learned to appreciate the symbolism of the food: Maror (bitter herbs - horseradish), Chazeret (bitter roots - romaine lettuce), Charoset (sweet and nutty paste), Karpas (vegetable dipped in salt water), Zeroa (roast lamb or sheep), grape juice, and matzah.

Most of all, the experience was fun. Bernie told stories; children and adults read passages. There were games for families, like hiding and searching for the afikomen (matzah). We sang in both English and Hebrew.

It was moving for me to also hear readings in both English and Hebrew. I think Passover and the Seder meal is an important part of our Christian heritage. Passover is the prelude to the exodus. It reminds us that the Lord saved us from slavery. Bernie discussed how this is always relevant to current conditions. Jill and Chamus did a great job sending everyone setup materials. Our preparation was easy and flexible. Because it was a Zoom call, my daughter from Iowa was able to virtually join us. She was also glad she attended.

Bernie closed the Seder with the traditional “Next year in Jerusalem,” and also added the very fitting “Next year without Zoom.” I look forward to in-person gatherings at Grace in the future.



Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry Collection

May's Food Pantry Collection will benefit Loaves and Fishes Pantry in Naperville.

COVID-19's impact on families has resulted in an average of 909 families visiting the pantry weekly compared to an average of 789 families pre COVID-19.



Instead of collecting bags of food at Grace, we invite you to donate cash, or food items via their “Virtual Food Drive” found at www.loaves-fishes.org under the “Ways to Give” drop-down menu. You will see a list of their most needed items and can select the number of items you wish to donate.