

October 2021, a Communications Ministry of
Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

GRACE NOTES

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve



PETER JARJISIAN, NEW CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

By: Linda Fronk, Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Thursday, September 23, from 7 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. the Grace UMC Chancel Choir will be rehearsing with their new Choral Director, Peter Jarjisian (pronounced Jar-JIH-see-an). His bright green eyes fairly danced over his black COVID face mask as he related to me the joy he feels when directing a choral group. I asked him what he likes best about bringing people together in a choir setting. He said, "You get to do things making music together that you can't do by yourself." As a child, he loved baseball and the team aspect of the sport. He feels that same team effort when bringing a choir together and drawing the best out of their efforts.

Peter has a long history as a high school teacher, then as professor of music at Ohio University, Athens, OH, where he taught Choral Conducting and Literature of Choral Music and directed many choral groups from 1984-2015. During that period and since, he has been Director of Music at three churches and sang tenor with a fourth.

Peter and his wife, Judy Piercy, moved to our area to be closer to her family. He was a bit reluctant to move fearing he might not find the right opportunity to use his musical skills. Then came the fateful day when he and Judy were going to get their driver's licenses. They passed a church called Grace United Methodist of Joliet. When he looked it up on the web, he also found Grace United Methodist Church of Naperville! Right there on our web page, he discovered our need for a Choral Director.

Peter told me that at their church in Athens their pastor referred to such occurrences as "thin place moments." Meaning - a place where one can see and feel God closely at work in your life.

Peter called our church for information and was impressed with Joan's friendly, warm welcome. When he and Judy attended a service, they were impressed with Pastor Cindy's positive, thoughtful message. They

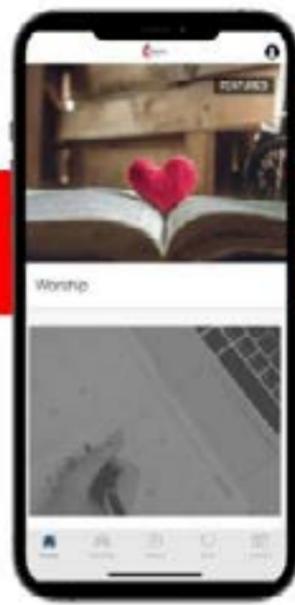
liked the people they met and the design of the Sanctuary. He submitted his resume....and the rest, as they say, is history.

As well as enjoying music and baseball, I found out that Peter is a golfer.

If you want to be part of a team, would like a wonderful ministry and have some musical skills, then Peter would like to hear from you.

Peter says that the choir will be singing a variety of sacred music, works by masters like Bach, Handel and Mozart, and those by outstanding living composers like Dan Forrest, Howard Helvey, Craig Courtney, and Stacey V. Gibbs.

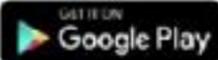
COVID complications may still be with us, but Peter and the Chancel Choir will be faithfully doing their part to send our spirits soaring.



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FOUNDATION SUPPORTS ZOOM ROOMS

Grace UMC is blessed to have a Foundation and memorials that have grown over the years. The Church is grateful for past and present members that have included Grace UMC in their estate plans or chosen to honor a loved one by establishing a memorial. Earnings from the endowments will help support Grace UMC's ministry for many years to come. The Grace Church Foundation and memorials may be used for unexpected and unbudgeted expenditures experienced by the Church.

A bequest from Dorothy Kline's estate created the Dorothy Kline Christian Initiative Endowment to be used for initiatives not covered by the annual budget. The Church was able to use a portion of the accumulated earnings to fund two Zoom rooms.

The family of the late Shirley Hoffman wanted her memorial fund to be used to support the music ministry.

Shirley was the Youth Choir Director for 53 years. Her memorial fund was used to pay for the Youth Choir Zoom equipment. The family of Joe and Peggy Bentz also requested their memorials to be used to support the music ministry. Their memorials funded the Adult Music Zoom equipment.

Memorial gifts are often given at the time of a person's death instead of flowers. It is a way to say that the person was important and will be missed, but memorial gifts do not always have to come at a person's death. Some people also like to make memorial gifts on the anniversary of someone's death or at other times in remembrance of someone close. Some gifts can be given to honor someone who is still alive. It is a celebration of one's life at an anniversary, birthday, or just to say thanks. The Foundation is thankful to those families or persons who have arranged for memorial gifts in honor of a loved one.

COMPANIONS JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Companions Journeying Together is now collecting unsigned Christmas cards to send to Illinois prisoners. These are for prisoners who have asked to receive a card. We will also need stamps. Please place your cards and stamps in the Welcoming Center in the cabinet marked: Notecards / Stationary. Deadline to donate is Sunday, October 31. Contact Nancy Lindberg (nanjquilter@comcast.net) for more information.

RAISE THE ROOF

Thanks to all those who have committed to Raise the Roof! Grace Church greatly appreciates your support. Weekly updates on Raise the Roof progress have been sent out during September and are shown on a chart in the Gathering Space. As September closes, we have surpassed 30% but are still short of our 2021 goal of \$300,000 in commitments.



Some very generous members have stepped up to spur additional 2021 commitments.

Match is On!

- Double your gift by making new or additional commitments for 2021
- Funds NOT already committed for 2021 are eligible
- One-time only, limited offer between October 1 and October 10
- Up to \$50,000 available in total for matching your gifts

Commitments are still needed for 2022 and 2023 but are not part of this match. Let's get that new roof installed!

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Our October Pantry collection will benefit the Common Pantry in Chicago. They continue to serve Cook County residents who are experiencing food insecurity. Clients can come once a month to shop for non-perishable food as well as frozen meat, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, and personal care items.

Volunteers also deliver groceries to homebound seniors. As a non-profit, they have more buying power to get food in bulk, so they really appreciate cash donations. Each \$1 donated provides 4 meals.

Please continue to donate money to the Love Loaf at peopleofgrace.org/give or directly to commonpantry.org.

NAPERVILLE HUNGER CROP WALK

Join the Grace UMC Team for Naperville's CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 17, with the outdoor and socially-distanced Kick-off Rally starting at 1:15 p.m. in Grace UMC's lower parking lot. The walk will begin at 1:30 p.m.



A challenge has been issued to Grace UMC again this year. An anonymous donor will give an extra \$1,000 if the Grace team raises at least \$6,200! Can we meet this challenge?

JOIN the Grace UMC team at napervillecropwalk.org by following these simple steps:

- Click on Join or Start a Team.
- Enter our team's name, Grace UMC-Naperville, and follow the prompts to our team page.
- Start raising funds! Let your friends and family know how they can sponsor you.
- All walkers are asked to pre-register online and use the online donation system as much as possible to minimize the number of people congregating in Fellowship Hall on the day of the walk.

Can't walk this year? DONATE online to the Grace UMC team or a specific walker at napervillecropwalk.org by clicking on the DONATE tab at the top, then enter the team's name, Grace UMC-Naperville, or the name for a specific walker.

Donations can also be made by check and sent to the Church Office at Grace United Methodist Church, 300 E. Gartner Road, Naperville, IL 60540. Checks should be made out to CWS. Please write CROP Walk on the memo line.

All donations collected are used to support those experiencing hunger, around the block and around the world: 25% of the funds collected are divided equally between Loaves and Fishes and the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and the remaining 75% is used by Church World Service (CWS) to fund food and water initiatives in our country and throughout the world.



MISTLETOE MARKETPLACE IS BACK!

Join the United Methodist Women for their biggest fundraiser for Missions event on **Saturday, November 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** There will be many hand-crafted items, quilted items, baked goods, and a silent auction of many wonderful items.

Along with these items will be our 2021 Mission Quilt drawing. Each year, the Quilters of Grace commit to creating beautiful quilt masterpieces in service of mission fundraising. This year's quilt, "Cherrytime," was hand-quilted by the Grace Quilters. Donations for the quilt drawing will be sold online at peopleofgrace.org/mission-quilt and after worship services on Sundays, October 31 and November 7. Donations will be \$1 for 1 ticket, \$5 for 6 tickets or \$10 for 12 tickets. With your donation, you will receive a quilt pattern. The Quilt Drawing will take place at the Mistletoe Marketplace on Saturday, November 13, at 2:30 p.m. You do not have to be present to win.

Not able to attend Mistletoe Marketplace, but still want to donate to help support the UMW Mission projects? Donations can be made online at peopleofgrace.org/give, or by check made out to Grace United Methodist Women. The memo section, indicate donation for Mistletoe Marketplace. Checks can be mailed to Grace UMC, Attn: Grace UMW, 300 East Gartner Road, Naperville, IL 60540.

All Mistletoe Marketplace and Quilt Drawing proceeds will benefit UMW mission projects which support women, youth and children locally, nationally and worldwide. Come and bring your friends and help us to provide hope, dignity, and a brighter future for these families. It is only possible with caring, faithful supporters like you!

We look forward to your assistance in helping others in need. For more information, contact UMW President Kathy Carey (percula4344@sbcglobal.net).

UMCOR RESPONSE & SUPPORT

By: Chamus Burnside-Savazzini

Greetings Grace UMC!

On behalf of all who have been affected by the life-changing storms and tornadoes, we come asking for your support of resources or time and talents. Please consider supporting UMCOR. You may find more information by going to UMCOR.ORG and search "disaster response." As we all know and some may have experienced, hope looks like others offering a helping hand in your time of need!

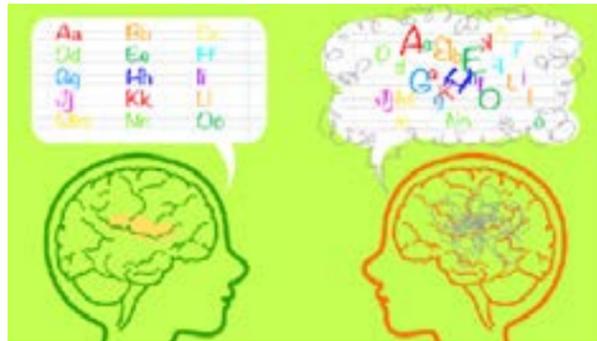
How to Help

- The Conference Board of Global Ministries is working with the Midwest Mission Distribution Center for a fall pick-up in the NIC for needed items for hurricane relief. Churches can begin gathering donations...details and drop-off sites coming soon. For information on relief supply kits, visit midwestmission.org.
- Give to UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery through Advance #901670. Donations can also be made through the

Louisiana Annual Conference's disaster response fund.

- Learn more about UMCOR's monthly training opportunities. For September, they're launching UMCOR's revised Connecting Neighbors with an introduction to accessing the workshop materials and information on how YOU can become a Connecting Neighbors Ambassador.

Contact Colin Monk (monks5@comcast.net) for more information.



NATIONAL DYSLEXIA MONTH

By: Nicole Zaccaria,
Open Doors Ministry Coordinator

Did you know that October is National Dyslexia Awareness month? Dyslexia is a neurological, language-based learning disability. It does not impact intelligence but can impact a person's ability to read text and produce words. Some experts say that dyslexia can impact between 5-17% of the population, and there is no consensus on what causes it. Although there is no cure, there are many tools that individuals with dyslexia can use to achieve success in all aspects of their lives. For instance, people with dyslexia are often able to demonstrate strong comprehension of text when it is presented in auditory form. There are many apps and websites that provide audio versions of the Bible, so if you, like so many, find the Bible challenging to decode, this may be an option for you! If you have any questions or would like some suggestions, please reach out to the Open Doors Ministry (nicole.zaccaria@peopleofgrace.org).

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2021 HARVEST HOME

Once again, COVID-19 has prevented us from gathering for our annual Harvest Home dinner and program in October, but we would like to carry on some of its traditions.

One tradition has been to honor our members who have been members of Grace Church for 50 or more years. Our mailing about Harvest Home has included recognition of those special members as well as our newest members since last Harvest Home.

Another tradition is the Harvest Home mission giving. We have designated UMCOR again this year as the recipient of this giving. The many weather-related disasters in our country and the help they are providing for our brothers and sisters arriving from Afghanistan have been overwhelming. Our help can help them provide these services. May we remember those less fortunate when we give thanks to God for our many blessings. Please call the Church Office (630-355-1748) if you have not received the mailing, which includes an envelope for your UMCOR donation.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER CORNER

By: Chamus Burnside-Savazzini,
Director of Children's Faith Formation

In the month of September, we blessed the backpacks of our children and prayed over all of the children AND those who will lead and care for them in daycares, nurseries, schools and other programs we entrust them to. I also pray these blessings over our parents who serve in the role of educator at home. We value and understand that prayer is powerful and God hears our prayers.

Each month of the 2021-2022 school year, I will add a prayer to our Grace Notes, specifically for our children. As we care for and lead them at Grace, at home and within the community, let's keep them all covered in prayer daily!
October's Prayer:

"Dear Heavenly Father, we come to you asking for your guidance as we raise up the next generation. We know that children mimic what they see, so help us to be the example of what we hope for them to be. Amen."



CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

By: Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, Director of Children's Faith Formation

We are delighted to start this new program year, and we know that God has plans that are bigger than we could imagine.

We also know that ministry is more effective when we have a strong, supportive team that understands that God does not require perfection, but rather a passion for serving for His glory!

We welcome all who are available and interested in serving in our Children's Faith Formation Ministry. **Currently, our hybrid Sunday School is held each Sunday from 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. in Room 123 and on Zoom.**

We have our nursery open from 7:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. every Sunday for children 2 years old and younger.

Please register as a volunteer or register your child using our one-stop registration that can be found at peopleofgrace.org/register.

Families should enter through the "Children's Center" entrance where temperatures will be checked and check-in will take place. We welcome all birth through 5th graders!

Contact Chamus (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) if you have questions or need more information.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION ADVISORY TEAM

By: Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, Director of Children's Faith Formation

As we all had to make adjustments over the past year and a half, I have had needed time to discern what God was telling me in regards to moving Children's Faith Formation forward at Grace UMC.

One loud message was that I will need a team of stakeholders to help revamp, bring new ideas and support the children as their faith is being formed at church and at home. I am envisioning this as a group that comes together

semiannually or quarterly via Zoom. If you have a passion for being a part of this important work, please email me (chamus@peopleofgrace.org).

We are definitely better together, and I am believing in faith that we will re-imagine what our Children's Ministry **can be together**. All are welcome, and I look forward to hearing from you!

11. 13. 21, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

MISTLETOE MARKETPLACE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MISSIONS

PEOPLEOFGRACE.ORG/MISTLETOE

2021 FALL FESTIVAL

Do you enjoy being out in the crisp fall air? Do you love having family time on Sunday afternoons? Would you like to feed a sheep or pet a chicken? Maybe take a wagon ride pulled by Belgian draft horses? Then come join the fun at Fall Festival on Sunday, October 24, 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. in the lower lot at Grace.

Tickets are required for attendance (ages 2 years & up, under 2 free) and may be purchased at peopleofgrace.org/fall-festival. Cost: \$5/each or \$15 for a family of 4. Families of 5 or more are asked to purchase multiple family packs.

Same day purchase will be available but advanced purchase is preferred. All activities, and lunch, are included in the price of the ticket.

Invite your friends and neighbors! All are welcome to enjoy an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship!



Additional attractions: Belgian horses, petting zoo, games, pumpkin painting, hay bale maze, lunch (hot dog, chips, sweet treat), and more!

Trunk-or-Treat Coordinator & vehicles needed!

If you have any questions (or to volunteer--and MANY volunteers are needed) please contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org).