

Grace Notes

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

September 2020

Resiliency Starts Small

By Rev. Cindy Marino

Grace UMC is still here. Our people are still giving, worshiping, meeting safely with one another, praying, studying, serving. That's because God designed the church to be resilient.

Over the millennia, the church has been hit with one disaster after another – war, persecution, natural disasters – but yet, still it remains. And more than that, it flourishes; it thrives.

Like a willow tree, planted by a flowing stream, it soaks up the water and bends with the wind without breaking.

In 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, the apostle Paul is speaking to the persecuted church in Corinth. He writes, “*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.*”

That's resiliency.

I've been trying to dissect that characteristic of resiliency. How did Paul maintain it? How and why do some emerge from disaster ready to take on the world while some simply crumble in its wake? Where in your life have you "bent" and where have you "broken." What was the difference?

I've noticed that many times, resiliency develops from small beginnings. Something as simple as a chance conversation with a neighbor can lead to the sharing of a concern which leads to an encouraging word or act of kindness, which leads to renewed trust in others and a new confidence in how that person is able to engage the world.

One small outdoor worship service in our field at Grace was an emotional reminder for us of all that we miss by being together in person, but it also built confidence that being together is still possible and fruitful. One phone call from one of Grace Prayer team members to a person in need led their family member to realize that a lifetime of faithfulness isn't washed away just because we get old. One small errand, one small letter, one small prayer; each feeds that underground stream from which we draw our strength.

These are the small beginnings of resiliency.

Grace UMC will emerge from these trying times stronger and more focused than ever before. We will have learned what is most important ... God's people and God's vision. Beginning smaller ... through small groups, smaller worship and focused mission, we will have simplified our lives together; and emerge with resilience into a future that is limitless. Praise be to God!

For I know the plans I have for you—this is the LORD's declaration—plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Organize, De-Clutter and Reduce Stress with UMW

United Methodist Women invites you to join them on Tuesday, September 1, at 9 a.m. for a Zoom conversation with Barbara Tischler, the Clutter Coach. During these strange and

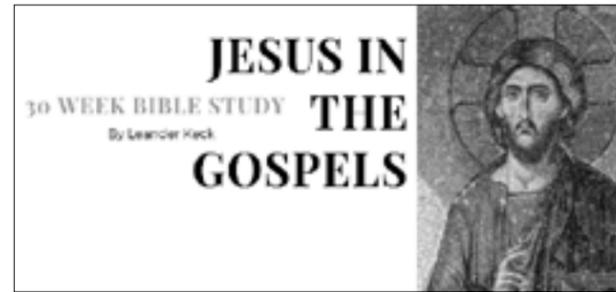
difficult times, when we find ourselves at home more than usual, it is easy to feel overwhelmed with all the things around you. Barbara will offer some practical and easy-to-implement tips on how to de-clutter and organize your home or office to aid in living your best life.

Barbara Tischler, mother of 2 boys, specializes in hands-on de-cluttering and organizing with individuals in their homes and offices. She strives to help people lower their stress levels and simplify their lives by helping them gain more control over their household and business environments. In 1996, Barbara established her business and has been successfully helping others ever since. She is an author and active member of the National Association of Professional Organizers.

To join us for this timely and informative meeting [click here for the Zoom link](#). Contact Phyllis Pepiot (ppepiot@gmail.com) for more information.



New!! Bible Study: Jesus in the Gospels (Beginning Thursdays, September 3)



We are very grateful to Pastor Doug Bowden and Sandy Bray as they will each offer a Disciple Bible Study of "Jesus in the Gospels" by Leander Keck. Both classes will begin on Thursday, September 3, and will run for 30 weeks.

Doug's class will meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m., and Sandy's class will meet on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Both classes will likely meet on Zoom but have plans to meet in person if possible.

All are welcome. [Register Now!](#) Books are available for purchase in the Church Office.

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

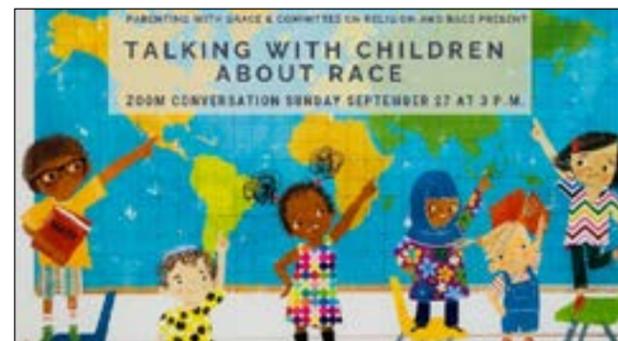
Talking with Children about Race

Parenting with Grace and the Commission on Religion and Race will present Talking With Children About Race via Zoom Webinar on Sunday, September 27, at 3 p.m.

According to a 2019 study between the Sesame Workshop and the University of Chicago, only 10 percent of parents discuss race often with their children. Using books, music, art, and conversation starters, presenters Jill Rye, MEd in Early Childhood Education, and Lindsey Wade, LCPC, will help families overcome the challenges of talking with children about race.

Challenges include: fears of introducing racial bias or creating racist children, worries that children are too young, uncertainty of how to organically introduce the topic, and respecting the child's own racial identity. Participants will learn how to start these conversations with their child(ren) at any age.

[Register Now!](#) Deadline to register is Friday, September 25. Contact Stefanie Abderhalden (stefanie.abderhalden@gmail.com) for more information.



All-Church Adult Faith Formation Gathering

Join Grace UMC for an all-church faith formation hour discussing "Moses and the Messiah in Matthew" with Pastor Daniel, live on Zoom at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 6. The pastors are preaching on the Gospel of Matthew throughout the fall.

This 1-hour live presentation and conversation will explore the key themes of Matthew's Gospel, focusing on how the author draws upon the story of Moses in the Old Testament to show us how Jesus brings a new law for Jews and Gentiles alike.

The session will be recorded for those who cannot attend on Sunday morning. All are welcome! Zoom link will be available online soon. Contact Pastor Daniel (daniel.cochran@peopleofgrace.org) with any questions.



Holy Smokes: Drive-Thru BBQ

We're going to have a Bar-b-Q!

Grace Church and the surrounding neighborhood will be filled with yummy smells on Sunday, September 13!

Please join us for this Youth Summer Missions drive-thru bar-b-q fundraiser between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Your order may be placed [online here](#) or contact the Church Office 630-355-1748 or gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org if you do not have online access.

Lunches available for purchase (payment due at pick-up: check made out to Grace United Methodist Church).

- Two Meat Chicken Meal for \$13
- Two Meat Pork Chop Meal for \$13
- Combo (1/4 Chicken & 1 Pork Chop) Meal for \$13
- Kids Meal (hot dog) for \$5

Much of the event will be just like we are used to: on the lower lot of Grace, drive-thru only, pick up a delicious meal. A few differences: No bag for your container (feel free to bring one from home for safe transport after pick up). No silverware provided. No individually packaged "sides." These measures have been put in place by 5B's catering to reduce the number of people who come in contact with your meal as it is freshly prepared that day on the premises.

Orders may be placed online in advance (preferred) or at the entrance on the day of the event. All proceeds will benefit Youth Summer Missions 2021. We hope to see you there! All are welcome--friends and neighbors too!



Save the Date! Virtual Mistletoe Marketplace

United Methodist Women are excited to announce, in a time when so many events are canceled, Grace United Methodist Church will have a Virtual Mistletoe Marketplace!

How does a Virtual Mistletoe Marketplace work?

Think about what you might have spent at Mistletoe Marketplace in the past, purchasing baked goods items, handcrafted items, baskets, silent auction items, quilt tickets, cards, ornaments, eating at the café breakfast and/or what it would have cost in supplies to create these items to donate. Then consider making that amount, or more, as your donation to the United Methodist Women. 100% of all the proceeds of this event will go to missions!

Why donate to Virtual Mistletoe Marketplace?

The United Methodist Women relies on your financial assistance to maintain support of the many missions that benefit women and children locally, nationally, and internationally, especially in this time of great need. A few examples include: helping children/families find safe homes away from abuse, treating youth with addictions, educating young girls (not only boys) which involves removing obstacles like providing feminine products substitutes, providing relief in disasters, providing services to women coming out of trafficking situations, providing shelter and food for needy, and providing seeds, animals and training so widows may become earners. [Learn more about the missions that UMW supports here.](#)

When does a Virtual Mistletoe Marketplace start?

Starting November 1 through November 15, donations will be accepted by check made out to Grace United Methodist Women and mailed to Grace UMC, Attn: Grace UMW, 300 East Gartner Road, Naperville, IL 60540 or [online here](#). More details to come!

We look forward to your assistance in helping others in need. Contact Phyllis Pepiot (ppepiot@gmail.com) for more information.

Calling ALL College Students & 20 Somethings!

Please provide us with a current mailing address and email address for the fall. Grace Youth Ministry would like to stay in touch. In addition to potential snail mail surprises, we are committed to staying connected virtually. Watch for a Zoom schedule for us to gather from all parts of the country and the world! Tentatively, we plan to gather the first Monday of the month but will revisit this as we all begin to learn more about our fall schedules and academic commitments. Including you is only possible if we have your contact information.

All addresses may be submitted by mail to Grace United Methodist Church, c/o Youth Ministry, 300 East Gartner Road, Naperville, IL 60540 or email Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org).



Commission on Religion and Race (CORR)

What is CORR reading?

Guided by the Annual Conference Shepherding Team's goal to "Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching," our CORR members have been encouraging each other and Grace's membership to engage in ongoing self-reflection, cross-cultural sharing, and growth. In partnership with other Grace groups, we would like to share with you two book reviews each month that our members found inspiring or informative. Enjoy!

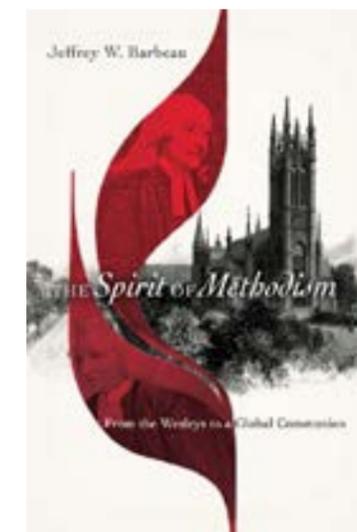
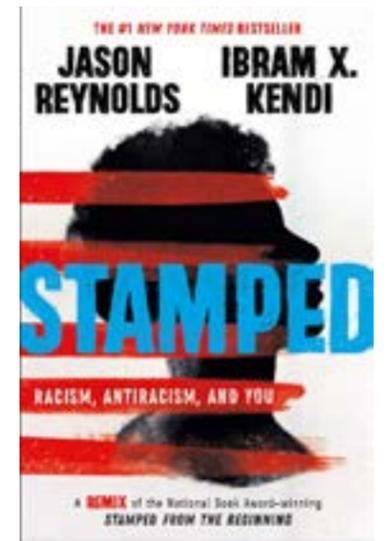
Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You

By: Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

Age range - Youth; Reviewed by: Lanie Patterson

Notice: Regarding recommendations for children and youth, each child is unique in their own development and sensitivities. You know your child or youth best, and we encourage each family to preview any book recommendation to make sure it is appropriate for your individual family.

In my history classes, there were many crucial historical events that were brushed over or weren't fully explained, and I never thought to question that. Stamped did a great job of presenting American history in a way that I wasn't taught in school; it pieced together events in history that explains the political, social, and economic environment that we live in today. Stamped opened eyes to how systems like slavery, even though it was abolished in the US over 150 years ago, still has an impact on present times, though not in the way we think. The idea of systematic racism may seem far-fetched to many, but when you take the time to look closer at certain functions and structures in our society, you start to see a pattern. This book's timespan starts in the year 1415 and ends today, in 2020. It's easy to think that we've come so far in getting rid of racism, but Stamped highlights ideas and events in a way that would say otherwise. I think reading this book allowed me to have more historical context to help me perceive the events that are going on today, and it has led me to have a basic understanding of the history of racism in our country. The topic of racism can be a difficult subject to discuss, but I am so grateful that our youth group decided to have a book club surrounding this book because I believe that it is a step in the right direction for a better future for all.



The Spirit of Methodism

By: Jeffrey W. Barbeau

Age range: Adult; Reviewed by: Chamus Burnside-Savazzini

I have always been on a mission to understand the true relationship between the Bahamian Methodist Church I was raised in, and the United Methodist Church I am now a member of. Barbeau provides vivid descriptions of what was taking place at various times in Methodist expansion and captures historical events that connect how Methodism spread to various countries.

In chapter ten, when I saw the image of a medallion by British Abolitionist, Josiah Wedgwood, showing a male slave with stretched shackled arms and the statement, "Am I Not A Man and a Brother?," I thought about the many Methodist leaders that fought to abolish slavery including the African Methodists, who in their own despair and fear, still spread the Gospel and challenged those of European descent to remember that they too are Brothers. This was a reminder that when we see something (that is not right) we should say something. We should speak up as Christians and never be implicit in

response to inequality and matters of discrimination and racial injustice. Excellent read and encouraged me to put my faith into action, just as many of the African Methodists and others have who worked to abolish slavery.

A Day in the Life

By: Gaye Lynn Loufek, Director of Youth Ministries

Grace Youth Ministry has a long-standing tradition of traveling each summer on a mission trip, serving in partnering communities: sharing gifts, time, talent, and love. During that week of Side x Side, the team becomes a family through prayer, devotion, worship, hard work, sweat, laughter, and even tears.

One of the highlights of Side x Side is celebrating the high school graduates, those students who have been traveling with us from the time they were in eighth grade. These youth often come to us their first year and have never held a hammer or led a Bible story. By the time they are seniors, they are role models and leaders.

Though we were not able to travel, celebrating these fine young people was a priority for our Side x Side team. On Thursday, July 30, at 7 p.m., many of our team gathered in the lower parking lot of Grace for a socially-distanced "day in the life" of Side x Side.



Lauren Philistine, Senior Side X Side Member

In our short time together, we shared in a "morning" devotion, completed two mission projects, shared in worship, and honored our seniors with a traditional college student-led worship and the gifting of senior blankets.

Each person in attendance received a personalized mission bag. With the supplies needed in the bag, we were able to create masks for youth experiencing temporary homelessness living in group homes with KidsAboveAll (formerly ChildServ)*, and personal cards to be delivered with food/supplies for elderly folks receiving assistance through the Common Pantry in Chicago**.



Senior Side X Side Members

Words of wisdom were shared with our seniors by parents, Side x Side attendees, siblings, & friends. We closed our evening with a Side x Side staple--popsicles. Even though our time in the mission field was cut short this summer, God has a way of bringing us together when it counts the most. May we always remember who we are and whose we are!

* Learn more about KidsAboveAll (formerly ChildServ) at

www.kidsaboveall.org

** Learn more about Common Pantry in Chicago at

www.commonpantry.org/

Construction Along the River

By Betty Long, Board of Trustees Member

The City of Naperville has contracted for a Riverbank Stabilization Project from Gartner Road south to Abrahamson Court, and the project is well underway. Parallel to the river runs a 36" interceptor sanitary sewer line, and erosion along the northeast riverbank was threatening its stability. It would be an environmental disaster if it leaked into the river. The principal reason for the project is to preserve this sanitary sewer line, now and into the future.

Most of the trees along the bank have been removed, and the bank contoured to a more gradual slope. Large rock cobbles have been added. Above the rocks, the banking will be seeded with native plants that develop deep roots to hold the soil.

Grace Church granted the City a construction easement for the contractor to store equipment and materials on our field. On our property, the pond had eroded against the interceptor sewer pipe, as well, and was draining around—not through—its outlet pipe. In a cooperative spirit, this is also being addressed by the City as part of the project.

The project has been completed and our field is restored.



River Construction

Grace Children and Youth 2020

[Click here to Register Children and Youth for Fall!](#)