



GRACE NOTES

Volume 14 Issue 3 March 2026

Pastor Laura's Ponderings:

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see,
so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

I was doing a hospital visit with one of our members. When I got there, there was a medical professional in the room so I waited outside until they were done. While I was waiting a nurse came up to me to see if I needed anything. I indicated I was there for a pastoral visit and was just waiting to give them privacy. The nurse, said, "oh they are so kind and do you know, they have their Bible with them in the hospital?! I never see that." I said that every time I had visited at different hospital visits, that they always had their Bible. That I know their faith is important to them and part of their daily life.

The person I was visiting had been through quite and ordeal and had every right to be cranky or short with the staff. Yet every interaction ended with "thank you."

I often have people tell me that they are not comfortable doing evangelism. We often have images of what that looks like. Some may be uncomfortable, in your face, you better turn your hearts to Jesus or else type interactions.

While evangelism can take many forms, I thought this was a perfect example of how to show people about what it means to be a follower of Christ: to be reading and absorbing the Word of God and then walking it out in your every day life. It may be a powerful witness than you think.

Pastor Laura Barkley

THANK YOU



The 2026 ASP team would like to thank the great people of Grace UMC for their gracious support in buying potatoes and making monetary donation to the mission trip in June. We were able to make a profit of almost \$1,000. We hope to made Grace proud as we become the Hands and Feet of God.



We are planning for our 2026 ASP Mission trip the week of June 6 – 13. We have 2 teams signed up and ready to go.

Teams include the following youth: Bri Anderson, Aden Guzman, Braydon Hocking, Landon Hocking, Paxson Hogg, Ben Meister, and Adriel Zepeda that will be led by the following adults:

Eric Anderson, Kara Hocking, Shannon Rojas, Ubaldo Rojas, Stephanie Meister and Steve Meister.

If you'd like to sponsor the **ASP team we are selling Stocks during March**. You can write a check to Grace UMC with ASP in the Memo. Your donation can be **dropped off at a table setup outside the office on Sundays**. You may also give through Vanco on the Grace website or see Steve Meister

Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support of this worthwhile mission and the youth of Grace church.

ASP STOCK SALE



It's almost the spring season. When you start to walk around your house in the morning with your hot cup of coffee in hand and plan your gardens.

With our 1st Quarter **Smithsonian Bird Friendly Certified Coffee** sale that benefits Grace United Methodist Church, you can achieve that great feeling and that great taste.

Thank you to the regulars who support this worthy environmental cause year around by purchasing their favorite Dean's Beans coffees at Grace's quarterly sales.

They are not only supporting preservation of habitat for hundreds of songbird species that nest in North America and winter in the coffee growing regions of Central and South America, but they are also helping fund Grace's missions AND enjoying premium shade grown coffee. But, not all shade grown coffee is the same. Ask Greg DuBois about that. Here is the next fundraiser schedule:

Sale Order Kick Off was February 22nd, Last Day to Order March 8th;

Pick up @ Grace March 15th



Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE ~~WORM~~ PRETTY FLOWERS!

Time to order our Easter altar flowers for Easter morning.

We will have tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. There will be artificial lilies in our display due to many folks who are allergic to lilies.

Please complete a form found at the back of the sanctuary on the usher's table. Place

the form and your money in the offering plate or drop it by the office. Flowers are \$9.00 each. Last day to order flowers

Is March 8, 2026.



Lenten Bible Study

Please join Pastor Laura and Debi Shippy for our Lenten Bible Study

“Turning over Tables” Tuesday’s at 10 am or Wednesday’s at 6pm.

Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



LENTEN JAR CHALLENGE

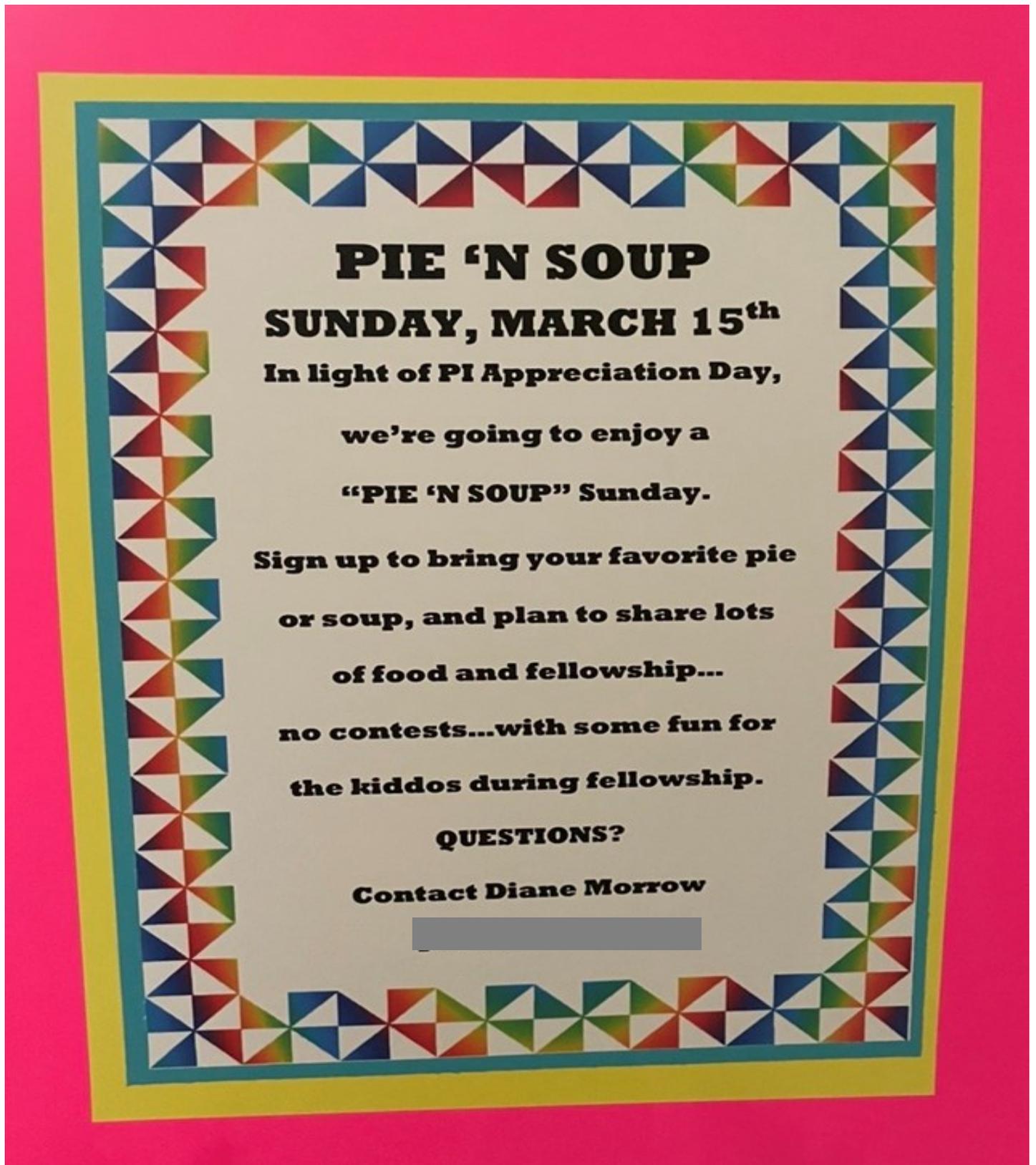
Fill up our mason jars with your savings during Lent and return them on Palm Sunday, March 29th.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH NEWS ...

- Student bowling event: Come on out for community and a fun time. Event is on March 7 from 11 am-1 pm at Joliet Town & Country Lanes. Make sure to RSVP by March 2.
- March 15 is a luncheon fellowship after service. On this day, there will be some fun activities for the kids afterwards so make sure to come for some good food and a fun time.
- The Easter season is slowly coming which means it's almost time for Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is a great opportunity for children to serve in the main service. There are a few areas where children can serve including handing out bulletins, helping collect offering, lighting candles, and Scripture reading. There will be an opportunity this Sunday as well for the kids to sing the doxology. A sign up sheet will be available this Sunday for students to sign up for where they would like to help.

Since Easter is coming up, that means it's almost time for this year's Easter Egg Hunt. The event will have crafts, snacks, and a special guest! The event is April 4 from 10-11:30 am. Some extra help for the event is appreciated so if you are interested in helping contact me .

Serena Moore-Tesch



Signup sheet is in the narthex on the desk outside the church office. Join us after worship for fun and fellowship.

CONFERENCE NEWS tied to our Finance News

THANK YOU for your commitment to sharing your gifts for the good of our United Methodist Church and its ministries.

IN 2025, YOU GAVE \$5,056,797 - 80 PERCENT OF OUR BUDGETED GOAL - TO SUPPORT MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES.

THIS IS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE WE HAVE ACHIEVED SINCE 2016.

Together, we paid 81 percent—that is, \$1,082,126—of our General Church apportionments for 2025. (In 2024, we gave only 41 percent—that is, \$778,533.)

GRACE UMC FINANCE NEWS

Jay Wait reported at Church Council meeting that January was close to budget.

District Superintendent Wendy Hardin Hermann sent a note thanking Grace UMC for paying our 2025 apportionments in full.



Community Food Pantry

Wednesday, February 18th, 93 orders were filled by these amazing people. Thank you for volunteering your time and energy to help these people in need.



February 10th there were 12 United Women in Faith gathered in Grace Place for our blanket tying project. We tied 12 beautiful blankets that were blessed in worship at Children's Time on February 15th. Barb Fisher invited the children forward to learn the history of the Linus program and our involvement over the years. Our blankets will be delivered to Project Linus Blankets for distribution in local hospitals.

The Easter Egg Hunt is just around the corner.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 4th, 10—11:30 am.

Individually wrapped candy will be needed to fill the plastic eggs! Candy can be put it in the colorful donation box by the coat racks.

Lots of help is needed for that day, too. If you would like to volunteer and help, please see Serena Tesch-Moore, Chr Ed Director. Thanks for you help!

There will be crafts, story, snacks and a special guest!!



MISSION OF THE MONTH

March – US (p. 21) **UMVIM-North Central Jurisdiction (#901375)**

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is the official short-term volunteer sending agency of the United Methodist Church. The North Central Jurisdiction office is charged with resourcing individuals, teams, leaders and UMVIM projects within the jurisdiction. The office maintains a future teams list, sends out e-newsletters and maintains the National Project List. It also assists in Emergency Response Training (ERT) and VIM leader training.

DAYBREAK SHELTER

The March sign up sheets are up on the bulletin board leading into the sanctuary. Monday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 17th are the dates of our meals. All items need to be at church the Sunday before Daybreak. I would like to thank everyone who has supported this local mission during the past year. Here are some photo's of last months Daybreak dinner. Diane Lutz



Planning Ahead



SPRING IS BLOOMING

Spring into action at the UWF Spring
Auction—Saturday, April 18, at 10am in Grace Place.

Our theme is *“Spring Is Blooming.”*

We’ll have fun making deals,
fun making choices, fun fellowship to feed our souls, and
fun food to enjoy from the spring salad bar.

Come and bring an item or two for the auction.

This fundraiser helps support the UWF
missional outreach projects.

Questions: Call Maida



187th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Sunday, June 14 -
Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center
1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg Ill.

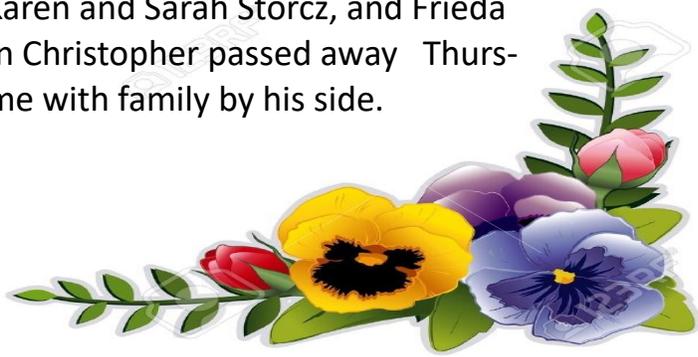
Vacation Bible School 2026 is scheduled for
Monday, June 22nd through Thursday, June 25th.

9:00 am—11:30 am Veggie Town Values

Contact **Serena Tesch-Moore** if you are interested.

Thank you for all of the cards, kind words, and donations our family received for the loss of our mother and grandmother, **Alice Jackson**. They were very much appreciated during this difficult time. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful church family!
 Cathy, Don, and Samantha Kazak

Our deepest condolences to Mark, Karen and Sarah Storz, and Frieda Clausen. Their son, brother, grandson Christopher passed away Thursday January 22nd, at his home with family by his side.



FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 8:30AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Feb. 1	90	28	14
Feb. 8	77	23	18
Feb. 15	75	26	18
Feb. 22	60	26	17
ASH Wed	44		





Jim & Joan Norris

March 21, 1964

Carl & Nelly Bessette

March 30, 1985



AN IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your
face,

The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his
hand.

May God be with you and bless you:
May you see your children's children.
May you be poor in misfortune,
rich in blessings.

May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your
home, And may the land of a friend
always be near.

3/2—Kelly Larson

3/3—Jaylon Barkley

3/4—Shelby Fraser, Payton Fraser

3/6—Ronald Thorndyke

3/8—Lucas Dolph

3/12—Nancy Bokoski

3/14—Carl Bessette

3/15—Kimberly Kinman

3/18—Meghan Dolph

3/20—Carson Cabreda

3/21—Taylor Shetina

3/23—Eric Leggett, Camdon Hocking

3/26—Bradley Linko

3/27—Zander Barkley, Nancy Murphy

3/30—Sara Coombs

3/31—Arthur Denkla



MARCH

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>1 2nd Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30am Prayer</p> <p>9 am Religious Ed</p> <p>10am Fellowship</p> <p>10am BP checks</p> <p>10:30 am Worship/ Communion</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>10am Lenten Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:15 Bells</p> <p>6:00p Lenten Study</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7 am </p> <p>Men's Breakfast</p>	6	7
<p>8 3rd Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30am Prayer</p> <p>9 am Religious Ed</p> <p>10am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>10am Lenten Bible Study</p> <p>1pm UWF mtg</p> <p>6:30p Trustees mtg ZOOM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:15 Bells</p> <p>6:00p Lenten Study</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 am </p> <p>Men's Breakfast</p> <p>6:30pm Church Council</p>	13	14
<p>15 4th Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30am Prayer</p> <p>9 am Religious Ed</p> <p>10am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>11:40am Pie 'N Soup Sunday</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5pm Daybreak</p>	<p>17 5am Day-break Breakfast</p> <p>10am Lenten Bible Study</p> <p>12:30pm Lunch Bunch—Dragon Light</p> <p>6:30pm Finance ZOOM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:30am Pantry</p> <p>6:15 Bells</p> <p>6:00p Lenten Study</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7 am </p> <p>Men's Breakfast</p> <p>6:30pm Daycare</p>	20	21
<p>22 5th Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30am Prayer</p> <p>9 am Religious Ed</p> <p>10am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Articles for April Grace Notes due into the office.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am Lenten Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:15 Bells</p> <p>6:00p Lenten Study</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7 am </p> <p>Men's Breakfast</p>	27	28
<p>29 Palm Sunday</p> <p>8:30am Prayer</p> <p>9 am Religious Ed</p> <p>10am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>10am Lenten Bible Study</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00p Lenten Study</p> <p>HOLY</p>	<p>2 7:00pm Maundy Thursday at Ingalls Park UMC</p> <p>WEEK</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm Good Friday Service</p>	<p>4 Holy Saturday</p> <p>10-11:30am Easter Egg Hunt</p> 