

GRACE NOTES

Volume 13 Issue 2 March 2025

Pastor Laura's Ponderings:

Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

When I first entered Seminary, the degree I was originally pursuing was "Pastoral Care and Counseling." I wasn't sure if I was going to be a Chaplain or perhaps provided Christian Counseling. Over the years in Seminary and through Field Education opportunities, God helped me clarify my call as an Elder and I switched my major to a Masters in Divinity. Pastoral care and being a chaplain are woven into my call as an Elder. Caring for one another is Jesus' command. It is not only for those who are ordained but a call to share Christ's love with one another. For these past several months, I have been humbled and honored to be invited into your stories, including those times of grief, loss, physical, emotional and spiritual pain. It is my commitment to empower everyone to claim their spiritual gifts and give them opportunities to use them. It is also my commitment to make sure that everyone is being cared for, even when they cannot get to church for a season or ever again. We are to extend the church when people are no longer able to physically come.

I've been doing some intentional prayer and planning around how to best care for one another. I've spoken with Staff Parish and received their blessing to have Debi Shippy be a Pastoral Care Assistant. Debi is a dedicated volunteer who not only helps coordinate our Health and Wellness Committee with Cathy Dubois but also has helped me lead bible studies and visit those who are in the hospital or are recovering from illness or surgery. Debi went to Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and served in the Northern Illinois Conference before transitioning back to working as a nurse. She joined Grace UMC in 2023 after returning to Illinois from Arizona. Debi has graciously offered to help me in any way I discern is a best use of her gifts. I am excited to have Debi to help with caring for our congregation.

In the coming months, we are also looking to create a "Carry the Light" ministry here at Grace. If you are interested in being a part of our visitation ministry and extending our church to those that cannot get out to church, please let Pastor Laura know. In the Spring we will be holding an information and training session. Watch the bulletins for more information to come!

Pastor Laura

FAITH AND WELLNESS

Please take care of yourself! Try to avoid becoming a victim of COLD weather or the very nasty flu viruses that are out and about.

2025 has begun with a flurry of activities:

- a very informative presentation by Mike Lucas and Pastor Laura on End of Life Wishes. Remember to turn in your forms to Pastor Laura.
- Another extremely informative presentation by Cathy DuBois. "A Heartfelt Discussion." Goal is to fee your heart for health and to know when your heart is needing help.
- 1st Sunday BP checks and Lunch Bunch outings continue.

UPCOMING activities:

- 1st Sunday BP checks. 30 minutes prior to the start of worship service, we are in the library ready to check your blood pressure. Stop in and see us.
- March 5th, at noon, Faith and Wellness Team meeting (rescheduled from February 12th due to snow).
- March 18th, 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch gathers at Dragon Light (1809 N. Larkin Avenue, Cresthill). RSVP to Pat Meyers or Barb Fisher. Come and join us for fun, food and fellowship.
- We're on the move again! In March we will be offering "Walking with Jesus" in Grace Place. It will be a way to get rid of those winter doldrums and get ready for spring. Monday's 11:30-12:30pm and Wednesday's 1:30-2:30pm. Come stretch, walk and exercise with us. Enter through the front doors of the church.

Stay faithful, Stay well, Debi Shippy



On Ash Wednesday, March 5th, Pastor Laura will be offering "Ashes to Go" from 7:00 -9:00 a.m. in the church parking lot. You can simply drive up to where Pastor Laura is standing, roll down your window and she will impose ashes on your forehead.

Ash Wednesday Service:

March 5th

7:00 pm Grace UMC

Please join us for a worship service with the choir on Ash Wednesday reflection & imposition of Ashes.



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

We have a need to order our Easter Sunday flowers early. We will have tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths available for a \$9.00 purchase each. 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 envelope available near the forms. Either place the envelope in the offering plate or drop it by the office. Flowers can be ordered until March 9, 2025.



Lenten Bible Study

Please join Pastor Laura and Debi Shippy for our Lenten Bible Study based on our sermon series "Steadfast Love: A Lenten Playlist". Wednesday's 6pm-7pm.

There is not a book for the study but please bring your bible.

Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



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 2024 apportionments in full.



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.

Community Office Hours

Please note that it will be offered ONLY on the 1st Thursday of this month. Please join Pastor Laura at her community office hours from 12:00-1:00 on March 6th at The Big Apple Café 106 N. Larkin Ave. Joliet.



Wilderness Escape

Vacation Bible School 2025 is scheduled for

Monday, June 23rd through Thursday, June 26th.

9:00 am—11:30 am

The following craft supplies will be needed:

Clean Plastic Milk bottle caps

Yarn, toilet paper tubes

Clean Metal bottle caps

Fabric Ribbon - Any size

baby food jars



Please put the items in the light blue plastic tub by the coat rack.

Contact **Diane Morrow** if you are interested.

Gratitude Corner

Thanks be to God for our faith community and our strong commitment to seek justice and mercy for all.



Bird Friendly

coffee sale for the benefit



of Grace Church and our migratory birds started in late February. The last day to order is March 16th with a pickup day on March 23rd. Sign up is in the narthex. Questions may be directed to Greg DuBois.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

On January 25, 2025, 34 people from Grace UMC went to the Aurora facility and packed food for Feed My Starving Children from 5 pm – 6:30 pm. At the end of our shift we packed 95 boxes of food that would provided 20,520 meals! There were other people there that worked with us. It was a great evening for a very worthy cause! The meals that we packed on January 25 was sent to Ukraine on February 3rd.





THANK YOU

The 2025 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 2025 ASP Mission trip the week of June 7 – 14. We have 2 teams signed up and ready to go.

Teams include the following youth: **Zander Barkley, Misa Escalante, Aden Guzman, Stella Guzman, Braydon Hocking, Landon Hocking, Paxson Hogg, 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 mail to: Steve Meister

ASP STOCK SALE

The Easter Egg Hunt is just around the corner.
The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 19, 2025.
Individually wrapped candy will be needed to fill the plastic eggs!
Would you please bring the candy and put it in the colorful
donation box in the coat rack.
Lots of help is needed for that day, too. If you would like to
volunteer and help, please see Diane Morrow.
Thanks for you help!



DAYBREAK SHELTER

The March sign up sheets are up on the bulletin board leading into the sanctuary. Monday, March 17th and Tuesday, March 18th 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





UWF BLANKETS

UWF women met on February 11, 2025, to assemble/tie blankets for the Linus Project which is a charitable organization that provides blankets for children in hospitals. Our women's group has done this for over a dozen years and we have created over 175 blankets. This year we had 14 blankets to be blessed in worship at children's moment on February 16th. Barb Fisher, UWF chair, presented the blankets for blessing with a story time for Grace children.



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who donated supplies to Grace Child Care. Everything donated was wonderful and we are using the supplies everyday. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Tina Mason , Director, Grace Child Care Center

Our condolences to the Gene Leggett family, Gene passed away on February 12th.

Our condolences to the family of Mary Preigh who passed away February 6th.

Our condolences to Melissa Bell Meinhart and family on the passing of her brother in law Bill Meinhart on February 5th.



FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 8:30AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Feb. 2	90	33	17
Feb. 9	74	29	19
Feb. 16	81	26	13
Feb. 23	61	23	24



Jim & Joan Norris

March 21, 1964

Carl & Nelly Bessette

March 30, 1985



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 Denklau

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.



MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 4th Sunday in Lent 8:30am Prayer 9 am Religious Ed	31 11:30-12:30 P Walking With Jesus in Grace Place					1
2 Communion 8:30am Prayer 9 am Religious Ed 10 am Blood Pressure screening 10:30 am Worship	3 11:30-12:30 P Walking With Jesus in Grace Place	4	5 7:30—9:00 am Drive through Ashes 12pm Faith & Wellness mtg. 1:30-2:30 P Walking With Jesus in Grace Place 6:00p Ash Wed	6 7 am  Men's Breakfast 12-1pm Pastor Laura's Community Office hour at Big Apple	7	8 11:0-0 am Mary Preigh Memorial Service at Dames Funeral home.
9 1st Sunday in Lent 8:30am Prayer 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 am Worship 11:40am Lenten Pretzel Sunday	10 11:30-12:30 P Walking With Jesus in Grace Place	11 1pm UWF mtg 6:30p Trustees mtg	12 1:30-2:30 P Walking With Jesus in Grace Place 6:15 Bells 6:00p Lenten Study 7:30 Choir	13 7 am Men's Breakfast 	14	15
16 2nd Sunday in Lent 8:30am Prayer 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 am Worship	17 11:30-12:30 P Walking With Jesus in Grace Place 5pm Daybreak	18 7am Daybreak Breakfast 12:30pm Lunch Bunch Dragon Light	19 11:30am Pantry 1:30-2:30 P Walking With Jesus in Grace Place 6:15 Bells 6:00p Lenten Study 7:30 Choir	20 7 am Men's Breakfast 	21 Articles for April Grace Notes due into the office.	22
23 3rd Sunday in Lent 8:30am Prayer 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 am Worship	24 11:30-12:30 P Walking With Jesus in Grace Place	25	26 1:30-2:30 P Walking With Jesus in Grace Place 6:15 Bells 6:00p Lenten Study 7:30 Choir	27 7 am Men's Breakfast 	28	29