



Grace Notes is published monthly by Grace United Methodist Church in Joliet, IL.

GRACE NOTES

Volume 8 Issue 4

April 2020

Dear Grace Friends,

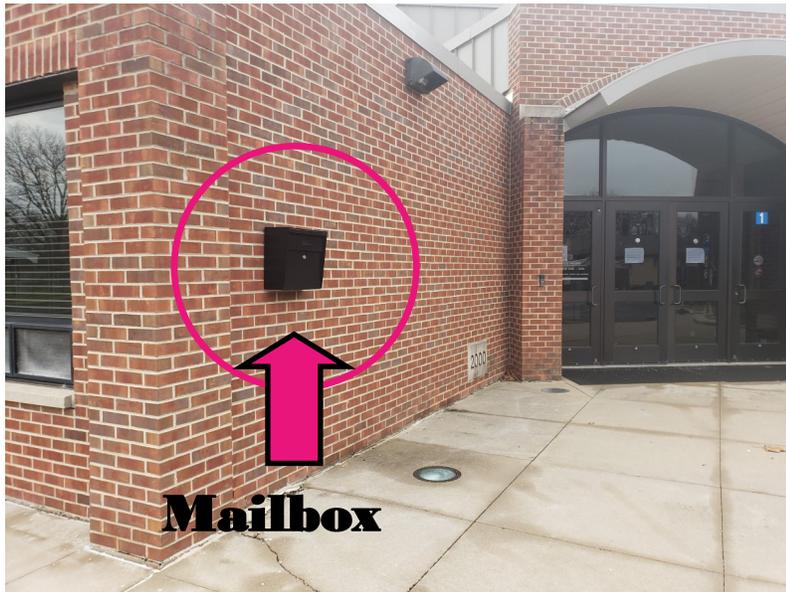
Haven't the last few weeks been strange? I never would've thought that we'd have to cancel church services because of a virus. Church Council closed Grace's sanctuary doors on March 22nd, and we won't be worshipping together this Sunday, March 29th or the first Sunday in April, the 5th, Palm/Passion Sunday. As good citizens of the State of Illinois, we as a congregation will be adhering to our governor's stay-at-home order, which is aimed at protecting people from contracting COVID-19 through the practice of social distancing. No one knows how long this pandemic will last, but as I now write on the morning of Thursday, March 26th, it seems unlikely that we'll be able to safely worship together even on Easter. Church Council hasn't officially decided that yet, but we'll get word out to all of you so there's no confusion about whether or not Grace is open on Easter.

In the meantime, we as a congregation will be meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday to worship together on Facebook Live, and starting

on Monday, March 30th, I'll be sending out a daily devotional reading using the lectionary texts for the week. I'm not sure what the format of the devotions will be yet, but they will also include a contemplative photo image by a member of our congregation. So, if you have a photo you think is contemplative, prayerful, or simply beautiful, send it to Sue, our Office Manager, and it might become part of a daily devotion.

Until we gather again, be safe, stay well, and remember that you're a loved part of Grace Joliet.

Blessings,
Pastor Fritz



P.S. Are you not comfortable making your pledges to church via an electronic system? Or, maybe you don't have a computer to do that? No worries! Grace has a locked mailbox outside on the wall next to the door where you can take a ride and drop off your envelope securely – you won't have to touch or see anyone! Of course, if you don't even want to get in your car, you can always mail in your envelope. The secured church mailbox will be emptied every day.

WILDERNESS ESCAPE VBS

Wilderness Escape Vacation Bible School will be June 15-19, 2020 from 9 am to 11:30 am. Children ages 3 years to 5th grade will be part of an exciting adventure where they will go back in time and learn from Moses what it was like to escape Egypt and survive in the wilderness. God's love guiding them every step of the way.

Many Volunteers are needed to make this adventure a success: Tribe Leaders, Assistant Tribe Leaders, Moses, Malachi, Registration, etc. Please contact Diane Morrow if you would like to be a part of this adventure at 815-482-2439.

HIS HOME

Thank you to everyone that supported me this year in sending me over to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Each year I get to go is a new and amazing experience and I love every minute of it. When I get to see the smiles on the kids faces it makes me smile and it fills my heart with love. Being able to go is the one thing I look forward to every Spring Break and I would not be able to do it without your help. I also would not know what to do if I could not go. Thank you so much again for your wonderful generosity and kind loving hearts.

Meredith Schroeder

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW will be canceling the April 14 Meeting, Picnic, and Program. The Mad Hat Sisters have cancelled as they are both social distancing.

Thank you, Cathy



<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2519196>

This is the link that will take you to our account. Please use this link when ordering anything off of Amazon so that Grace Church receives 0.5% of your order.

April Birthdays

- 4/01 ~ Erika Forsythe
- 4/03 ~ Joan Landers, Brian Parro
- 4/04 ~ Chris Whitney
- 4/08 ~ Amber Kolodziej
- 4/10 ~ Donald Lutz
- 4/11 ~ Barbara Hollis, Gary Hecht
- 4/12 ~ Christopher Storcz, Sheryl Caudle
- 4/13 ~ Matthew Meinhart
- 4/15 ~ Matthew Sabella
- 4/16 ~ Spencer Farrar
- 4/19 ~ John Renzi
- 4/20 ~ Andrea Schoenrock
- 4/21 ~ Shirley Balog
- 4/22 ~ Madison Fraser
- 4/24 ~ Gail Shaw
- 4/25 ~ Melissa Meinhart
- 4/27 ~ Paul Schroeder
- 4/28 ~ Rebecca Linko, Hannah Linko
- 4/29 ~ Eileen Hicks
- 4/30 - Emily Robertson, Ethan Dumas



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|--------------------------|------------------|
| Thomas & Sandy Cowgill | April 5th, 1975 |
| Bradley & Heather Linko | April 7th, 2001 |
| Tom & Kimberly Kinman | April 26th, 2008 |
| Justin & Samantha Farrar | April 27th, 2007 |
| David & Valerie Jelinek | April 27th, 1985 |
| Fred & Linda Jursinic | April 27th, 1975 |
| Mark & Karen Storcz | April 27th, 1984 |



MISSION OF THE MONTH

February Contributions

Your loose change contributions during the month raised \$106.31 for Daybreak Shelter and \$48.60 for the Ridgewood Food Pantry.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our mission(s) of the month.

Grace United Methodist Church

2020 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/15/19

	February		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$27,400	\$33,687	\$64,800	\$69,480
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,707	\$1,794	\$5,414	\$3,588
Pastor Pension & Insurance	\$7,585	\$8,427	\$15,169	\$15,830
Personnel	\$8,148	\$8,077	\$16,296	\$16,124
Administration	\$1,058	\$1,537	\$2,117	\$3,790
Programming	\$1,408	\$1,658	\$2,817	\$2,361
Church Buildings	<u>\$6,483</u>	<u>\$8,310</u>	<u>\$17,667</u>	<u>\$19,678</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,389	\$29,803	\$59,480	\$61,371
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	\$11	\$3,884	\$5,320	\$8,109

UMW 2020

There were sixteen women who enjoyed the United Methodist Women's spring auction and potluck on Saturday, March 7th. It was a fun morning bidding on many unique items, and the result was a generous boost to the funds for Grace UMW missional outreach. As always, the potluck and fellowship were superb! See the UMW bulletin board in the narthex for more pictures.



Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

Sunday, April 12

HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

8:00 am & 10:30 am