



GRACE NOTES

Volume 9 Issue 2

February 2021

As I write this brief article for Grace Notes, I am reminded of the Pandemic, the challenges that we face as a nation with the new President, and the mission of the church. As they say before, we need a “revival.” Lenten season invites us in that direction. Maybe a “soft” definition of revival is renewal.

We all know the common images for the season: ashes, fasting, prayer, service, generosity of the heart, and praise.

How can we be renewed in the midst of many life changing moments? I read the prayer from Psalm 46. It was addressed to the worship leaders in the gathered assembly: *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble within its tumult.*

When the drought hit India, and my daughter was working there as an advocate, I asked her how she managed to get by. She replied that she was given a bucket of water in the morning and she had to ration that for the rest of the day. When I was growing up, we have a manual water pump (to supplement our water from the city) and I recall “priming” the pump with water

so that the pump would function properly. There’s always a bucket with water and the habit was of course to make sure the bucket is filled with water for the next person. That was my first experience of generosity.

Imagine Jesus unleashing streams of living water within us, just as God unleashed water from the rocks in the desert land. As Paul said in his letter to Philemon, “One thing more, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored by you.” (Philemon 1:22)

God is steadfast. God is always renewing His creation. What is broken becomes beautiful. And so, I am hopeful this season of Lent because God will make everything new again. We go through this period of suffering but God will renew us

again to reflect His glory.

Pastor Romir

Ash Wednesday begins in February 17 and I invite you to join us for online worship service at 7:00 p.m., posted in Facebook. Please watch for announcements in your email about our Lenten Bible Study.





Friendship Sunday, February 14, 2021 1pm on Zoom

Do you have a special talent that you'd like to share with your church family? Maybe it's a talent we already know you have...great! Maybe it's a hidden talent we don't know you have...even better! Get ready to share your talents at our first ever Virtual Variety Show on Friendship Sunday, February 14th at 1pm via Zoom.

How this will work: You will email us to indicate that you have an entry for our variety show. Each entry will be allowed up to 5 minutes. You will be able to do your presentation live on Zoom, or pre-record and email us a tape recording (in the case that your entry cannot be done live on Zoom).

Your audience will be everyone who joins in the Zoom call from home to watch the program. A copy of the program will be emailed out the day before the event with a Zoom link so you can join in to watch and be excited about each new performer that our Emcee (Carl Bessette) will introduce!

Who can participate? ANYONE! All ages...there are no limits! We ALL have talents – maybe you just don't think you do. Here are a few examples to get your mind thinking of what you might be able to do:

Singing or Lip syncing

Create TIK-TOK video

Magic Show

Play an instrument

Origami

Favorite Drink Demo

Cooking Demo

Science Experiment

Juggling

Reading Poetry

Hula Hooping

Painting a Picture

Feel free to use props, costumes, or whatever you need to make your entry shine! Search 'virtual talent shows ideas' on google; there are a plethora of ideas for you to think about.

If nothing else, the people of Grace are creative! Use your imagination to be creative in your plans. We want to make this a fun-filled time for all participants and viewers. Invite a friend to join you in sharing your talent and/or invite your friends to watch how talented the people of Grace are...it's bound to be an exciting event!

All 'acts' must be submitted by February 10th (tell us what you are doing or your pre-recorded video) so that the program can be prepared for the big day.

Looking forward to hearing back from many of our church family! If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact one of the event coordinators below. We're happy to help!

Carl Bessette

Joanne Ray

Diane Parro

cbessette@comcast.net

joanne.ray@att.net

dparro@comcast.net



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Did you know that the Discussion Class of Adult Sunday School has been meeting every Sunday using Zoom? Every Sunday it is a great opportunity to get together with some of your fellow members and talk about whatever the topic of the week is. And the topic of the week can be anything. Each week a different member leads the discussion with the topic of his or her choice. Would you like to join in and see some Grace friends? Would you like to just try it out to see if you enjoy it? Email Lori Wait at lori.wait@comcast.net and you will be emailed the link to join in. Look forward to seeing you all!

DAYBREAK SHELTER

We are continuing to serve at Daybreak the 3rd Monday of the month. Due to Covid we are unable to take food donations until the church reopens. We continue to accept cash donations for food. Please send your donations to the church. Checks should be made out to Grace UMC with Daybreak written in the memo. Thank you for supporting this local mission.

Prepare for Take Off



Hello , welcome to flight 2021. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your attitude and blessings are secured and locked in an upright position. All self destructive devices should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. if we lose altitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by faith. Once your faith is activated, you can assist other passengers. There will be no baggage allowed on this flight. The captain (God) has cleared us for take off. Destination greatness.

Submitted by: Nancy Murphy

ONLINE COMMUNION

On **February 7** and **March 7** we will have online communion during the Grace virtual service at 10:30am. The elements will be pre-consecrated and contained in small baggies available for pick up just outside Grace entrance doors in a red cooler during the week prior to February 7 and March 7. Communion will be pastor-led during the Sunday services. If you are unable to pick up the elements, please contact the church office (815.725.7632), and elements can be delivered to you.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR FEBRUARY

- Feb. 1-6 communion elements out for pick up
- Feb. 7 online communion and Scouting Sunday during virtual worship
- Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday service online 7pm

Thank you for flying with us!



2/1—Cheri Johnson
 2/2—Carol Zettergren
 2/4—Lauren Forsythe, Trudy Pearson,
 2/8—Patricia Daniel
 2/9—Stella Guzman, Florence Ball
 2/10—Stella Slinkard
 2/12—Katie Robertson, Lester Cheney
 2/14—Eleanor Findlay
 2/15—Ashlyn Furto
 2/17—Nelly Bessette, Frieda Clausen
 2/18—Jacob Whitney, Ron Tucker
 2/19—Lester Hareld
 2/20—Denise McEvilly
 2/21—Arleta Gordon, Joan Norris
 2/22—Daniel Small
 2/23—Diane Morrow
 2/24—Valerie Jelinek, Dulcinea Cabreda,
 Isabella Cabreda
 2/25—Landon Hocking, Grace Petersen
 2/27—Christopher Ray



Les & Maria Cheney February 20, 1983
 Ubaldo & Shannon Rojas February 23, 2020

Ridgewood United Community Pantry Operations Summary -- 2020

Operating Income

\$7,962.63	Cluster churches plus New Lenox
\$11,657.48	Grants (through NIFB)
\$140.36	Crop Walk
\$4,125.00	Individual donors
<u>\$568.39</u>	<u>Other sources</u>
\$24,453.86	Total

Operating Expenses

\$20,749.61	NIFB -- Food
\$1,800.00	Trinity UMC -- Utilities/space
\$100.00	Ahern Exterminating
<u>\$429.98</u>	<u>Supplies (bags, stamps, boxes, etc)</u>
\$23,079.59	Total

Service Provided by Month (Average)

227	Families served
962	Individuals served

Families Served by Week (Average)

46	1st Wednesday -- New Lenox
53	2nd Wednesday -- Trinity, Ingalls Park,
61	3rd Wednesday -- Grace
51	4th Wednesday -- Plainfield
47	5th Wednesday

Pounds of Food Served by Source

102,097	EFP/CFAP -- Provided by US Gov't
12,265	TANF/ESFP/Grant Purch
45,785	Purchased from NIFB
24,083	Bread/Produce -- free from NIFB
<u>1,650</u>	<u>Donated (estimated)</u>
185,880	Total

Amount/Cost of Food Served to Each Family (Average)

37	EFP/CFAP -- Provided by US Gov't	\$0.00
5	TANF/ESFP/Grant Purch	\$0.00
17	Purchased from NIFB	\$8.47
9	Bread/Produce -- free from NIFB	\$0.00
<u>1</u>	<u>Donated (estimated)</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
68	Total	\$8.47

- Roughly twice as many families and individuals in 2020 as compared to 2019.
- 36 more tons of food delivered in 2020 as compared to 2019.
- Individual families receiving 18% less food per visit in 2020 vs. 2019.

Missions of the Month 2021

The GUMC missions plan for Missions of the Month and Holiday giving has been approved. These are the missions that were selected for this year.

**** The Sunday before the third Wednesday of Every Month** all loose coin offerings will be used toward support of the **Ridgewood United Community Pantry, Joliet, Illinois**. The food pantry operates every Wednesday in support of the Ridgewood area on the east side of Joliet. The funds will be used to supplement the pantry's budget for purchase of food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank for distribution through the pantry. Dates in 2020 are: Jan 17, Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 18, May 16, Jun 13, Jul 8, Aug 15, Sep 12, Oct 17, Nov 14, and Dec 12.

January – Red (pg. 6) Solar Oven Partners UMC (#418812)

The solar oven training and distribution program works in the Dominican Republic to provide the knowledge and tools to alleviate hunger through clean, affordable solar cooking. Primary activities are 1) education in the concept of solar box cooking to conserve family income and reduce clear-cutting of trees for fuel, and 2) training in the use of solar cooking. SOP has previously distributed over 10,000 solar ovens in Haiti.

February – (Local Benevolences) Daybreak Shelter, Joliet

Daybreak Shelter operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and provides emergency housing and supportive services to individuals and families who are homeless. Some participants in the program are in need of short-term housing, as a result of a situational crisis. Others need support services as the work to reestablish permanent housing. Homelessness prevention services are also provided to individuals and families who are at risk of losing their homes.

March – Yellow (p. 7) Tree of Life Ministry, Pierre, South Dakota (#123615)

This ministry with Lakota Native Americans addresses needs on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in South Dakota by “nurturing the body, strengthening culture, and enhancing the spirit”. This ministry provides groceries and meals to the hungry, repairs to substandard homes, and supports local teachers as they reclaim native culture and language.

April – (Local Benevolences) ASP

Funds collected will be used to help fund the ASP mission trip in June.

May – Cunningham Children's Home, Urbana, IL

Cunningham Children's Home strives to give hope to those who need it most—youth who suffer from serious emotional and behavioral challenges that have been caused by abuse, neglect, mental illness, and more. Cunningham provides expert care to help kids learn positive coping and behavioral skills, to achieve realistic academic goals, and to develop the life skills necessary to be successful in the community. It provides caring support and therapeutic intervention to close to 300 children, youth, young adults, and their families each year.

June – Green (pg. 11) Wesley Woods Conference Center (#5000046)

Wesley Woods provides facilities and staff for NIC Summer Residential Camps, Summer Day Camp, Adult and Youth Retreats, and numerous community service and missional projects. These funds are used to maintain and improve facilities, furnishings and equipment as well as to support specific ministry opportunities that sometimes arise.

July – (Local Benevolences) Lakota Indian Mission Trip

Funds collected will be used to help fund travel expenses for the Lakota Indian Mission trip in August.

August – Blue (pg. 12) Ridgewood United Community Ministries (#60000203)

This ministry initiated by Trinity United Methodist Church operates a food pantry serving two zip codes on the east side of Joliet. The pantry is open weekly, and clients can receive food once per month. Funds will be used to purchase food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and to help defray the operating cost of freezers.

September – (Local Benevolences) Right Here, Right Now

Funds collected will be used by the pastor to help meet immediate financial needs of members of this congregation.

October – Purple (pg. 16) Larry Kies (#09572Z)

Larry is a Technical Advisor working with the farm manager in developing the agricultural program at the Africa University in Zimbabwe. He is also involved in the agricultural practicals, as well as teaching classes in crop production and farm management.

November – (Local Benevolences) Will Grundy Medical Clinic

Funds collected will be sent to the Will Grundy Medical Clinic to support their mission of providing medical care for those in the community who cannot afford it.

December – Orange (pg. 7) Heifer Project International (#982532-1)

HPI is a worldwide self-help organization that provides livestock, such as heifers, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, bees, chickens, water buffalo and other animals, as well as agricultural services to more than 84 countries. Each recipient of an animal agrees to give the first female offspring to someone else in need, thus expanding the project.

Easter Envelopes –Blue (pg. 15) Rockford Work Camps (#60000234)

75% of the money collected will go to general budget with the remainder to this fund.

Rockford Work Camps is the best volunteer and mission site in the Northern Illinois Conference.

Mission groups from around the country stay in Rockford at local UM churches and do good work for nonprofits and families in need. Funds will be used to purchase materials for repairs in depressed neighborhoods.

Holiday Envelopes 2021 (Thanksgiving & Christmas) will go 75% to general budget with the remainder to two local ministries. The funds received by Missions will be split equally between **ASP** and the **Lakota Indian Mission Trip**.

White The white band, the Sister Church Relationship Band, has been removed from the Rainbow Covenant in 2017. This band was intended to promote United Methodist church-to-church and congregation-to-congregation connections through cooperative missions and ministries by establishing and/or maintaining a sister church relationship with another United Methodist Church anywhere in the world. We will continue our sister church relationship with: Trinity UMC, Joliet, IL

December

2020 Income & Expense Summary

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

	December		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$45,900	\$90,146	\$367,400	\$393,156
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,707	\$12,748	\$32,482	\$32,482
Pastor Salary & Benefits	\$7,585	\$7,513	\$98,600	\$97,776
Personnel	\$8,148	\$5,892	\$105,238	\$91,351
Administration	\$1,058	\$916	\$12,700	\$10,588
Programming	\$1,408	\$1,905	\$16,900	\$8,749
Church Buildings	<u>\$6,483</u>	<u>\$6,699</u>	<u>\$96,600</u>	<u>\$83,947</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,389	\$35,673	\$362,520	\$324,893
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	\$18,511	\$54,473	\$4,880	\$68,263

NOTES:

- 1) Identifiable (pledge) income was about as expected for 2020. The surplus was primarily due to receipt of a PPP loan which has been forgiven.
- 2) Budget expenses were nearly \$38k below plan, even when apportionments were paid in full.
- 3) For 2021, we do not expect a financial surplus. We do not expect additional PPP help, and do expect expenses to return to normal levels as the building is re-opened.



SPRC and the choir members would like to thank Andrew White for his time with us during the past 2 years. Andrew has submitted his resignation as Music Director due to the increased and ever-changing responsibilities of his full time job, this music director job, and his family obligations. Andrew brought much to Grace in his time here – most memorably the Milikin Choir tour visit which packed our church to the brim! Thank you, Andrew! We will miss your smiling face! Blessings to you always.

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

SAVE THE DATE

Easter
Egg Hunt



- ▶ EGG HUNT
- ▶ GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- ▶ FOOD & MORE

INDIVIDUALLY
WRAPPED
CANDY DONATIONS

Wednesday, April 8th

5:30–7:00 PM

Leesville College Park