

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

# GRACE NOTES

Volume 10 Issue 2

February 2022

## “COME BEFORE WINTER”

As I write for Grace Notes, the temperature outside is frigid and the wind chill factor is below zero. I have tried unsuccessfully to explain to some of my friends in different parts of the world what winter is like in the Midwest. I often said that if they would like to visit, then “come before winter.”

Paul wrote his last Epistle to Timothy urging him to come as soon as he is able. “Do your best to come before winter.” He explains to Timothy his personal condition as his health was failing. He was in prison, a damp dungeon, and he longs for his cloak, his books and to see Timothy. Although many have deserted him, he urged that that it should not be counted against them.

Paul wrote that the Lord stood with him and strengthened him so that the Good News may continue to flourish. He greeted women and men along the journey who carried the message of Jesus Christ forward. In the midst of his own personal struggle, he sang a Doxology—“To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

We look forward to the singing of the birds, the bud forming from barren trees and the renewal of creation very soon. All of us have been affected by this Pandemic in a personal way. We have done things differently and adapt to the challenges before us and utilize the best practices available.

We continue to support the vital ministries of the church and staff. One of the church tellers, approached me one Sunday and said that “there were only a few of us today because of the inclement weather but the level of commitment is more than we have received in the past.” I was thankful for that extravagant generosity, the gifts from the heart. This is only one pathway of our commitment to God.

Paul addressed in his final letter the cost of following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. He insisted that God is able and gives us his grace. “Make every effort to come to me soon.”

Whether you are able to come and worship in person or remain at home to join the service on line, it remains our joyful presence. We invite God to make space in our lives. There are many opportunities to be a part of the work of God. And finally, Paul offered this benediction to Timothy and to all of us: *“The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.”*

Pastor Romir

## LOOKING FORWARD

March 2- Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30 p.m.

March 1- First Sunday in Lent

March 27- UMCOR Sunday

(United Methodist Committee on Relief)

Please prayerfully consider this second mile giving.

# Ridgewood United Community Pantry

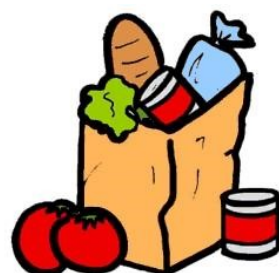
## Operations Summary -- 2021

### Operating Income

\$8,401.64	Cluster church groups (incl. New Lenox)
\$11,413.88	Grants (through NIFB)
\$71.22	Crop Walk
\$3,006.00	Individual donors
\$220.15	Northern Illinois Conference
\$330.50	Other sources
<b>\$23,443.39</b>	

### Operating Expenses

\$20,008.04	NIFB -- Food
\$1,800.00	Trinity UMC -- Utilities/space
\$373.00	Comcast -- Internet service
\$418.99	Diapers/wipes
\$100.00	Ahern Exterminating
\$1,274.07	Supplies (bags, boxes, stamps, etc.)
<b>\$23,974.10</b>	



### Service Provided by Month (Average)

163	Families served
678	Individuals served

### Families Served by Week (Average)

35	1st Wednesday -- New Lenox
41	2nd Wednesday -- Trinity, Ingalls Park, Hope
39	3rd Wednesday -- Grace
38	4th Wednesday -- Plainfield
32	5th Wednesday

### Pounds of Food Served by Source

73,653	EFP/CFAP -- Provided by US Government
14,976	TANF/ESFP/Grant Purch
31,226	Purchased from NIFB
31,637	Bread/Produce -- free from NIFB
<u>8,350</u>	<u>Donated (estimated)</u>
<b>159,842</b>	<b>Total</b>

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

38	EFP/CFAP -- Provided by US Government	\$0.00
8	TANF/ESFP/Grant Paid	\$0.00
16	Purchased from NIFB	\$12.26
16	Bread/Produce -- free from NIFB	\$0.00
<u>4</u>	<u>Donated (estimated)</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>82</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12.26</b>

**20% fewer families and individuals served in 2021 as in 2020**

**Roughly 20% more food provided due to US Government CFAP boxes**

**As in 2020, higher costs in 2021 paid primarily via state grants for food**

# **OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH**

## **December 2021 Income & Expense Summary** **Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/19/20**

	December		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>INCOME</b>	\$44,700	\$43,028	\$329,900	\$328,465
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Apportionment	\$12,906	\$1,954	\$34,400	\$23,448
Pastor Salary & Benefits	\$8,034	\$7,794	\$99,800	\$96,674
Personnel	\$8,577	\$8,289	\$105,750	\$80,893
Administration	\$1,059	\$890	\$12,700	\$11,201
Programming	\$1,050	\$1,145	\$12,600	\$7,369
Church Buildings	<u>\$5,516</u>	<u>\$4,591</u>	<u>\$85,400</u>	<u>\$80,322</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$37,142	\$24,663	\$350,650	\$299,907
<b>SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):</b>	\$7,558	\$18,365	-\$20,750	\$28,558

### Notes:

- 1) Income for 2021 was within 0.5% of budget. Pledge income was down about \$17k and the amount received from the endowment fund was \$7k less than expected, but that was offset by an additional \$20k in PPP funds and \$3k in un-budgetted building rental.
- 2) Expenses for 2021 were nearly \$50k less than budget. Major contributors were: \$12k by not paying the general church portion of apportionment (conference portion was paid in full), \$24k from not have a full staff for the entire year, \$5k for not spending the full program budget, and \$5k by staying within the building maintenance budget.
- 3) Cash flow was positive by over \$28k, which provides a bit of a cushion at the start of what might be a challenging 2022.



Thanks to Mission-minded folks who continue their outreach outside Grace walls.

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

(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 they work to reestablish permanent housing. Homelessness prevention services are also provided to individuals and families who are at risk of losing their homes.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR UM STUDENTS

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF) is accepting scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 academic year until March 1, 2022. Students who are members of The United Methodist Church and planning to attend a United Methodist-related school, college, university, or seminary full-time are eligible to apply. More information on eligibility criteria, the application process, and FAQs can be found at [umhef.org/scholarships](https://umhef.org/scholarships). Applications and supporting materials must be submitted/postmarked no later than **March 1, 2022**.

## Save the Date

February 25 2022 - Children's Choir

April 10, 2022 - Palm Sunday - Children's Choir

April 16, 2022 - Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.

April 24, 2022 - Bird Sanctuary Field Trip

May 15, 2022—Confirmation

June 5, 2022 - ASP Commissioning Day

June 11-18, 2022 - ASP Trip

June 20-23, 2022 - VBS

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

The theme for our Sunday School lessons in January were centered on the concept of a "Journey" as we watch Jesus grow from an infant to grow into his new ministry as the one God has called to fulfill the covenant promise. In each story, Jesus is given a choice on how to respond to new and challenging experiences. The bottom line is that as we grow up as God's chosen children - we must recognize what is good, right, and just. Sometimes these choices are scary, but we take courage to be like Jesus. We learn that God has called us to grow into our gifts and promises to be with us always on our journey of life. As one body of Christ, one family in faith - we are encouraged to invite our children to experience our ministry together so that all of God's children can feel God's presence in our lives and truly know what it means to fully love God and fully love our neighbor and God's children. For God says "You are my Child, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness." (Luke 3:22)





Les & Maria Cheney

February 20, 1983

Ubaldo & Shannon Rojas

February 23, 2020

## 40 DAYS OF LENT CHALLENGE

The 40 days leading up to Easter are traditionally dedicated to reflection, fasting and generosity. We are going to challenge and encourage YOU to give up something you love (like that coffee at Starbucks, your Coke at McDonalds, going out to eat every Friday night, or some daily/weekly expense) and put the money you would have spent on that luxury in a jar. We will bring our filled jars back to church as a donation on Easter Sunday. Empty jars will be passed out on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> (or you can use your own jar). Join the challenge...Focus on turning your heart and mind back toward God by giving up some small pleasure or indulgence and offer that sacrifice up to God through your donation to Grace.



2/1—Cheri Johnson

2/2—Carol Zettergren

2/4—Trudy Pearson

2/7—Don Zwiers

2/8—Patricia Daniel

2/9—Stella Guzman

2/10—Stella Slinkard

2/12—Katie Robertson, Lester Cheney,  
Sarah Osborne

2/14—Eleanor Findlay, Sean Renzi

2/15—Ashlyn Furto

2/17—Nelly Bessette, Frieda Clausen

2/18—Jacob Whitney, Ron Tucker

2/19—Lester Hareld

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

2/26—Morgan Orasco

2/27—Christopher Ray



## COMING SOON...

### A SHOE DRIVE FUNDRAISER!

Save any shoes/boots you planned on throwing/giving away. Watch for more information in next month's Grace Notes!



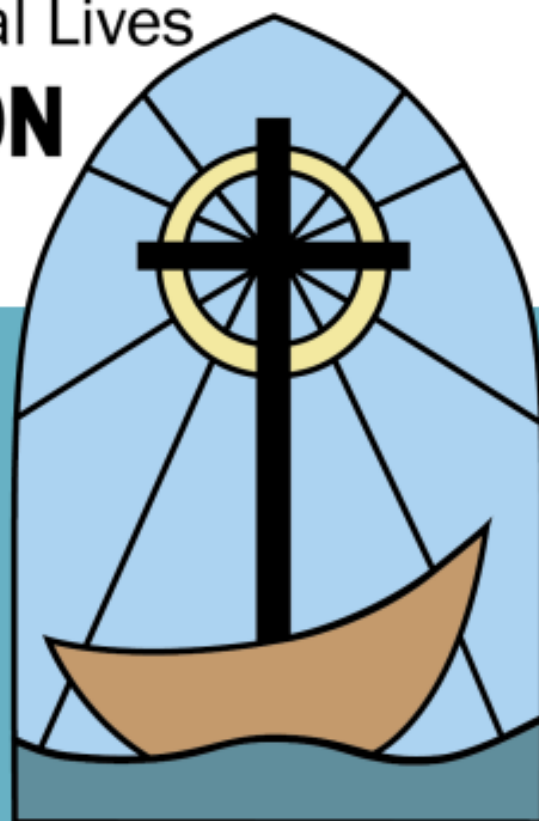
DECEMBER ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 8AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY	ADULT SUNDAY
Jan. 2	35	N/A	N/A
Jan. 9	8/40	14	2
Jan. 16	59	14	9
Jan. 23	51	12	2
Jan. 30			

# HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

Strengthening Our Spiritual Lives

## LAITY CONVOCATION 2022

Saturday  
**February 12**  
9:00 am - Noon  
**Online via Zoom**  
**Cost \$10**



### Featuring:

**Kara Lassen Oliver** Associate Publisher with The Upper Room

**Rev. Dr. Regina Bridges Davis** Spiritual Clinical Counselor & Ordained Deacon

**George Groves** NIC United Methodist Men President

Members of 4 local congregations of the NIC sharing new and exciting ministries  
Break out session to provide discussion and discernment

**Register: [www.umcnic.org/calendar/laity-convocation-2022](http://www.umcnic.org/calendar/laity-convocation-2022)**

Registration January 3 - February 3



**Northern Illinois Conference**  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**Board of Laity**

**Questions? Contact Mark Manzi**  
630.945.7479 [mmanzi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmanzi@sbcglobal.net)

# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 SPRC 	2 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	3 7 am Men's Breakfast 	4	5
6 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	7	8 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 	9 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	10 7 am Men's Breakfast	11 6:30 Cub Scouts 	12
13 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	14 	15 7am Daybreak Breakfast 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Daycare	16 11:30am Pantry 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	17 7 am Men's Breakfast	18	19
20 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	21 5pm Daybreak 	22 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 	23 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	24 7 am Men's Breakfast 7pm Church Council	25	26 Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet
27 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	28					

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

Worship Service—March 2, 7pm

ASH WEDNESDAY  
*Worship*