



GRACE NOTES

Volume 11 Issue 2

February 2023

“SEASON OF LENT”

The season of Lent begins with the

Ash Wednesday Service on

February 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

During Lent, let us recall the Psalm prayer of David : *But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psalm 59)*

It is possible that Jesus offered this prayer also in addition to what he said –“ I am the light of the world”. (John 8) We know nothing about the vocal range or timber of Jesus’ voice but it prompted one of the guards who were watching Jesus to say, “ No one spoke the way this man does.” It takes an open and willing spirit to fully embrace the love of God.

How is this season of Lent going to be different for you and me this year? I am certain that there are many different voices that call us to a deep and enduring faith. That legacy is something that cannot be taken away from us.

Maybe you can take photographs, selfies, an art project, erupt into a song, dance, read poetry, mentor, offer encouragement, seek

peace with justice and serve uniquely during Lent. The world will be much different by our words and presence.

We invite you for Lenten Study in person and via Zoom on **March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th** from 6:00 pm to 7:00 p.m. We will use the book , *Prayer in the Night*, by Tish Harrison Warren. The book is not required to attend the Lenten study.



May this season of Lent allow us to experience newness in the midst of changing times.

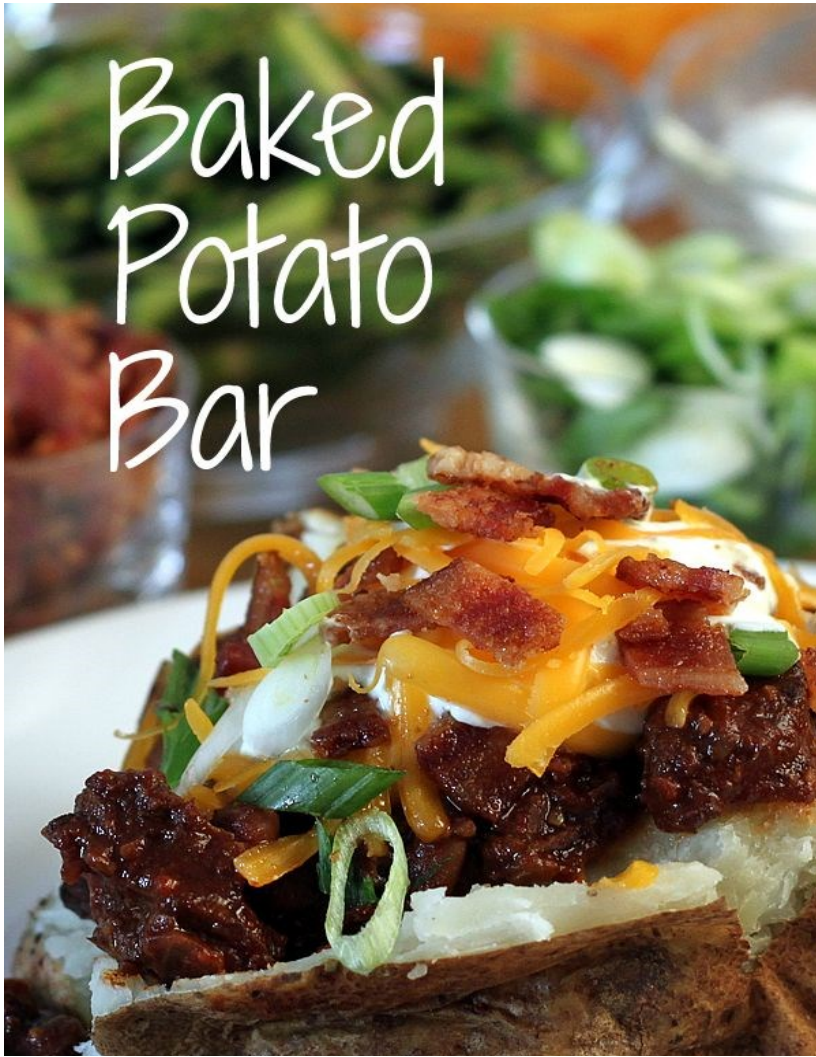
Pastor Romir

LOOKING FORWARD

February 22 - Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 p.m.

February 26- First Sunday in Lent.

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th Lenten Study from 6:00 pm to 7:00 p.m.



February 5th
9— 12 pm

Dine In or
Carry Out

Dine In at
Grace Place

\$8 each

Your choice
of toppings



A reminder— We are still collecting shoes (and boots, sandals, anything you put on your feet) which will be picked up by an organization called Funds2Orgs. Shoes must be gently used without holes or tears in the shoes. This organization will pick up and pay us by the pound (yep...those heavy boots are great!) for the shoes we collect. Many of the shoes that they collect are shipped to Haiti (mostly), Honduras, Guatemala, Botswana, Cambodia, and other third world countries. Funds2Orgs works with people in these countries to help them start up small businesses (of selling shoes).

Thank
you ❤️

Dear church family, I would like to thank Pastor Romir and all of you who have contacted me and prayed for me. I sincerely appreciate all of you and your prayers as I recover. Nancy Murphy

**Thanks to
mission-
minded folks
at Grace
who make a
difference in**

GUMC, thank you so much for being so welcoming my first month 'on the job'. You all have helped me in so many ways. Learning a new job can definitely be stressful at times. Thank you for your patience as I learn names and faces. Adrienne Hartman

I want to express my thanks and gratitude for all the prayers, cards, etc. for my recent surgery and ongoing recovery. You are all very special and truly appreciated. Blessings to all, Lori Wait

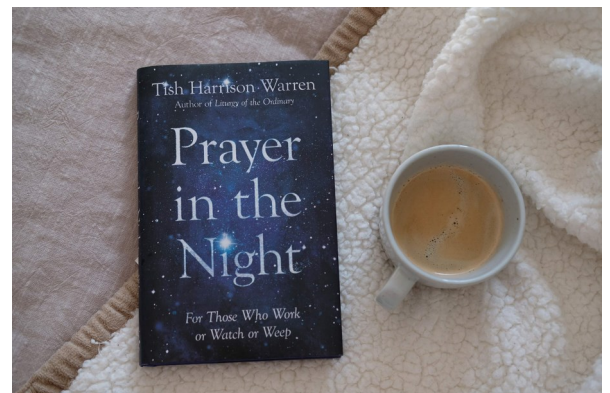
Save the Date - Strategic Planning Event Please mark your calendars for Saturday, February 11, 2023 to do the next step in Strategic Planning as a community of faith. We will meet in the Education Wing - Room 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Our pillars of faith are worship, discipleship, and mission supported by facilities. Our strategic goals are Generous Hearts, Missional Presence, and Innovative Engagement (use of technology, etc.). Our focus on February 11 is to refine our pillars and goals to include a description of ministry activities, when they are scheduled to occur, who are responsible, and what are the measurable outcomes. We also want to explore which approach to use to survey / interview / share the ideas with the larger community of faith to ensure that all have an opportunity for input. We are so very thankful for your commitment to Grace United Methodist Church and your willingness to serve and share your voice in this process. Hope to see you there! Blessings, Pastor Nancy



We invite you for Lenten Study in person and via Zoom on **March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th** from 6:00 pm to 7:00 p.m. We will use the book, **Prayer in the Night**, by Tish Harrison Warren. The book is not required to attend the Lenten study.

A sign up sheet for in person or via Zoom is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Restaurant Club is BACK! Come join us at Barrel & Vine (206 Main St, Lemont) on February 25th at 6pm. Reservations must be made to Diane Parro by Sunday, February 19th. Please email or text your reservation (dparro@comcast.net or 630-430-3808).



OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

December 2022 Income & Expense Summary Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/16/21

	December		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$35,400	\$37,414	\$271,500	\$310,783
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,128	\$19,152	\$25,536	\$25,536
Salaries & Benefits	\$16,424	\$13,361	\$208,908	\$197,384
Administration	\$1,175	\$825	\$14,100	\$14,349
Programming	\$1,070	\$276	\$12,850	\$6,670
Church Buildings	<u>\$6,711</u>	<u>\$5,200</u>	<u>\$90,950</u>	<u>\$83,912</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,508	\$38,814	\$352,344	\$327,851
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	\$7,892	-\$1,400	-\$80,844	-\$17,068

Notes:

- 1) Income in 2022 above budget by \$39,283.
- 2) Expenses in 2022 below budget by \$24,493; Apportionment paid in full.
- 3) Because 2022 budget was so far out of balance, deficit in 2022 was still \$17,068.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE READY FOR PICK UP!

Your 2022 financial giving statements are now available. If you haven't picked them up already, please stop by the table outside the church office and pick yours up today. Help us save \$ on postage expenses. Thanks, Jim Morrow



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

UWF FUNERAL LUNCHEON

After a long hiatus due to COVID, the United Women in Faith will once again offer the funeral luncheon for those who need and desire this service. You may notify the pastor of your interest. Pat Meyers is the Funeral Luncheon Coordinator. Her team will solicit meal items from congregation members, will set up for and serve up to 75, and will clean up afterward. A brochure is available from the pastor with details.



February 22 - Ash Wednesday

February 25 - Children's Choir

April 2 - Palm Sunday - Children's Choir

April 8 - Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.

May 21 - Confirmation

June 4 - ASP Commissioning Day

June 10-17 - ASP Trip

June 19-22, 2023 - VBS

HOME WORSHIPERS COMMUNION

The Worship Ministry Team is developing a ministry to provide communion beyond our church walls to those who are home worshipers. It is hoped that we can identify all those who would desire communion in their home on the first Sunday of each month, the same day we celebrate communion in worship services in the sanctuary.

If you would like to have communion delivered each month, let the church office know that. If you are a regular online home worshiper and would desire a supply for your use each month during worship time, that can be provided by letting the church office know. This ministry will have a need for volunteers who will deliver communion each first of the month as an ongoing "buddy" with a home worshiper. If you can be one of these angels, please notify the church office (815.725.7632).

Education Update

The focus of the Sunday School curriculum this month is Kingdom. We will explore how we, as children of God, are part of the Kingdom of God and that all living things of the earth, people and animals, are created in God's goodness. Each of us have gifts from God and we are to share that blessing with others so that all that we may meet may truly experience what it is to fully be loved by God and to love one another.

Our mission project this month for the children and the youth is to prepare for the Lent is Love project. Paper grocery bags with lists of needed canned and boxed foods and other essential supplies will be distributed and collected during the month of February. These items will be delivered and shared with families in need in the Joliet area through our local food pantries.

On behalf of the Youth, we want to thank you for your pickup and in person pre-orders for the Potato Bar Sunday on February 5, 2023. See you there!

Our Sunday School memory verse is Mark 10:14:

Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Our Youth class memory verse is Romans 4:20:

"Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God." The lessons focus on the essential truth that true love in its purest form encourages us to put our trust in God and see that God's love is always present.

Blessings,

Pastor Nancy



Ridgewood United Community Pantry

Operations Summary -- 2022

Operating Income

\$25,619.92

Operating Expenses

\$31,580.21

Service Provided by Month (Average)

191 Families served
665 Individuals served

Families Served by Week (Average)

40 1st Wednesday -- New Lenox
46 2nd Wednesday -- Trinity, Ingalls Park, Hope
49 3rd Wednesday -- Grace
47 4th Wednesday -- Plainfield
40 5th Wednesday

Pounds of Food Served by Source

36,339 EFP -- Provided by US Government
16,577 TANF/ESFP/Grant Purch
30,956 Purchased from NIFB
38,948 Bread/Produce -- free from NIFB
1,300 Donated (estimated)
124,120 Total

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

16	EFP -- Provided by US Government	\$0.00
7	TANF/ESFP/Grant Purch	\$0.00
14	Purchased from NIFB	\$13.78
17	Bread/Produce -- free from NIFB	\$0.00
<u>1</u>	<u>Donated (estimated)</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
54	Total	\$13.78

Families and individuals served continued to rise as 2022 progressed

58% of operating income in 2022 from Joliet grants, TANF & ESFP

27% of operating income from the churches that operate the pantry

12% of operating income from individual donors

3% of operating income from other sources

89% of operating expenses in 2022 spent for food and diapers

11% of operating expenses spent for building use, supplies & services

1) Although cash flow was negative for the year, we have been notified through the food bank that beginning next month we are likely to see more grant funding for food via grants from the latest American Rescue Plan Act, which we be helpful for 2023.

2) The Trinity Church building is now on the market so the pantry will have to move in the relatively near future. The pantry board is looking but hasn't yet found a suitable location in the area.

Happy Anniversary

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

Happy Birthday

- 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
- 2/21—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



LOST AND FOUND

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A SMALL LOST AND FOUND HERE AT CHURCH? AMONG THE ITEMS THERE ARE PIECES OF JEWELRY: EARRINGS, RINGS, NECKLACE, BRACELET. GLASSES AND EVEN A HEARING AID. PAIR OF GLOVES AND A HAT. IF YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A FEW THINGS, PLEASE SEE IF THEY WERE FOUND HERE AT GRACE UMC.

BOX IS LOCATED ABOVE COAT RACK IN NARTHEX.



JANUARY ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 8/10:30 AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
January 1	39	N/A	N/A
January 8	10/75	22	12
January 15	14/75	18	15
January 22	12/66	18	10
January 29	10/69	20	10

United Women in Faith will meet

Saturday, February 18 at 10am in
Grace Place.

We will make our blankets for Big Brothers.



Bring your favorite
pair of sewing
scissors.

BREAKFAST AND LENTEN SERVICE

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Journey of Hope

A United Method-
ist Community

37W040 High-
land Avenue, El-
gin, IL 60124



On behalf of District Superintendent Rev. Jeffry Bross, Pastor Jarrod Severing, NIC UMM President George Groves, and District UMM President Jim Nelson, you are invited to participate in the 2023 Prairie Central District Breakfast and Lenten Service. Come to enjoy the worship, spiritual development, and camaraderie!

If you are planning to participate, please let me know your name and church by return email.

John Maxson jmaxson@aol.com

UMM Vice President, Prairie Central Dis-
trict



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Old T-shirts Needed!!



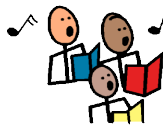





The theme for VBS this year is Hero Hotline. We need your old T-shirts to make Hero capes for the kids. Please bring your Large and Extra-Large T-shirts to Grace UMC. You can bring them now!! We will be cutting off the sleeves and the front.

We are collecting adult t-shirts in sizes : medium, large and extra large in the following colors: red, orange, yellow, blue, green , purple and black. There will be a collection box by the coatrack. Thanks for your help!

SAVE THE DATES For VBS!!!

Hero Hotline: Called together to Serve God VBS will be June 19-22, 2023 from 9 -11:30 am. Children ages 3 yrs. – 5th grade is invited to attend. Lot of volunteers are needed to make this outreach event a success!! We need teachers, assistant teachers, leaders for crafts, recreation, science, music, storytelling and snacks!! Please see Diane Morrow or Pastor Nancy if you can help.

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	2 7 am Men's Breakfast 	3	4
5 Communion Sunday 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship 9-1pm POTATO BAR	6	7 6:30pm SPRC	8 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	9 7 am Men's Breakfast	10	11 9:30am Strategic Planning Meeting Ed Wing Rm 5bul
12 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	13	14  6:30 Daycare 6:30 pm Trustees	15 11:30am Pantry 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	16 7 am Men's Breakfast	17  Articles for March Grace Notes due into the office.	18 10am UWF
19 BLANKET SUNDAY 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship 12-2pm CPR Training	20  5pm Daybreak Dinner	21 7am Daybreak Breakfast 6:30pm Finance 7:30pm Church Council	22 6:15 Bells 7pm Ash Wednesday service 	23 7 am Men's Breakfast	24	25
26 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	27	28				

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

Worship Service February 22nd 7pm

A graphic with a light purple and white background. The text "ASH WEDNESDAY" is written in a bold, blue, serif font. Below it, the word "Worship" is written in a large, purple, cursive script font.

ASH WEDNESDAY
Worship