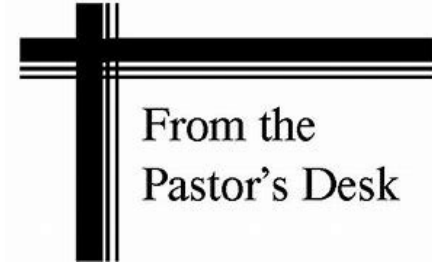


Grace United Methodist Church  
1718 Avalon Avenue  
Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799



## ***Via Dolorosa***

### From the Pastor's Desk

An ensemble of women sang “Via Dolorosa” to different gatherings especially during the season of Lent. All they had was a passion for music, an accompaniment tape and a portable sound system. My role was to hit the play button, adjust the volume and make sure the two microphones were properly plugged in. Their musical offerings were well received and the finale was the song “Via Dolorosa” popularized by Sandi Patti.

“Via Dolorosa” often translated as “Way of Suffering” is a processional route in the Old City of Jerusalem. Today pilgrims walk the route, reciting prayers along specific stops and a cross that leads the group forward. Traditions says that the path was used by Jesus, forced to march by the Roman Soldiers, on the way to Golgotha, where Jesus died on the cross. The winding route through old cobbled stones started from the place where Jesus was tried for high treason.

The charge was the claim, “King of the Jews”, although Jesus did not claim this title for himself. According to biblical sources a “cohort” which may consist of 300 to 600 Roman soldiers were assembled to further humiliate Jesus. Up to now, I cannot bear the thought of Jesus’ physical suffering. It is no wonder that the disciples urged Jesus not to proceed to Jerusalem because of this.

There are two scriptures that come to mind during Lent. One is from John 3:16, “ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so whoever believeth in him, will not perish but may have eternal life.” The other is from Romans 5:8, “God proves his love for us that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”

We have witnessed so much suffering in the world today. The Good News still resonates today and emerging to bring hope to the world. In the parsonage backyard, the crocuses are slightly visible and defying the frost of late winter. Surely there is suffering that all of us may in one form or another endure, but God has the final word.

The lyrics of the song “Via Dolorosa” says, “But He chose to walk that road out of His love for you and me.” Let us continue to journey together as a church because the story of God’s redeeming love is a story repeated in ordinary moments of our lives.

May God bless the Church,  
Pastor Romir



**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. – 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



BASKETBALL at GRACE PLACE IS BACK. Come on out on Wednesday evenings from 7-10pm for a pick up basketball game. Show off your skills or learn some new ones. Everyone's invited. It's for fun, exercise and fellowship . Hope to see you there.



# MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1 6 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:30pm Worship			2 7 am Men's Breakfast 	3	4	
5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 8am Worship/ Communion 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship/ Communion	6	7 6:30p SPRC	8 6 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	9 7 am Men's Breakfast	10	11
12 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	13	14 6:30 Daycare 6:30p Trustees	15 11:30am Pantry 6 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	16 7 am Men's Breakfast 	17 	18
19 Friendship Sunday and Pretzel Sunday 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	20 5pm Daybreak 	21 7am Daybreak Breakfast 6:30 Finance 7:00 Church Council	22 66 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	23 7 am Men's Breakfast	24 <b>Articles for April Grace Notes due into the office.</b> 	25
26 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	27	28	29 6:6 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	30 7 am Men's Breakfast 	31	



UMCOR sent multiple Emergency Response Teams to Selma Alabama following multiple tornadoes that went through in January. The response for the residents were coordinated out of the Church Street UMC in Selma. Church Street established a food kitchen and pantry, as well a place to provide donated diapers and other necessities. FEMA established a field office in their fellowship hall. A large number of the residents didn't have insurance to cover the damages.

Lyndle Burton, member of Grace UMC, joined an ERT team from the Louisiana Conference. The team placed tarps on roofs to prevent further damage (where appropriate), and removed debris from yards to gain access to homes or storage sheds.



## THANK YOU

The 2023 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 2023 ASP Mission trip in June. We have 2 teams signed up and ready to go. Teams include the following youth: Paige Anderson, Emmalee Boyer, Lili Boyer, Tessa Gray, Aden Guzman , Stella Guzman, Landon Hocking, and Nathan Rojas that will be led by the following adults: Eric Anderson, Kara Hocking, Sara Gray, Shannon Rojas, Ubaldo Rojas, 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, 1116 Cora St, Joliet, IL 60435

Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support of this worthwhile mission and the youth of Grace church.

# ASP STOCK SALE

## Gratitude's Corner

Thank you for your cards, prayers and concern during my recent hospitalization. It's great to have such a wonderful church family. Jean Lucas

Thanks to those who pray for our church, our staff, our members, our community, our world...God listens. Maida McCormick

Thank you for all who continue to provide food and monetary donations for the Ridgewood Food Pantry and DayBreak. These very important ministries of our church continues thanks to all of your generosity. Missions

Thank you to everyone who worked on the Statistical Report for the NIC. A very lengthy report that is due the end of February. Many hands make light work. Church Office



**A**nother bird friendly coffee sale for the benefit of Grace Church and our migratory birds started Sunday, February 26th. Last Sunday to order is March 12th with a pickup on March 19th. Greg will have a sign up sheet in the narthex on Sundays. Questions may be directed to Greg DuBois via email or in person. [grgdu-bois@comcast.net](mailto:grgdu-bois@comcast.net)



What's Happening at Grace Childcare!

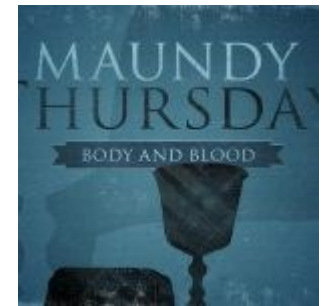
Two new teachers have been hired at Grace Childcare—Crystal and Michelle. Several toddlers have been transitioned to the two-year old room and several new babies will be starting to attend in March. Mid-year assessments are finished and the kids are enjoying the mild weather so that they can play outside!

## EASTER ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

**April 2 Palm Sunday** 8 and 10:30 am services. Return Lenten Jars



**April 6th Maundy Thursday** 7:00 pm Worship service



**April 7th Good Friday** 12—1:00 pm Prayers in the Sanctuary

**April 8th Holy Saturday** 10:00—11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt



**April 9th EASTER SUNDAY**

**Easter Service—8:00 am**

**Easter Pancake Breakfast**

8:30 - 10am

**Easter Service –10:30 am**

**HAPPY EASTER**



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

GRACE NOTES ARTICLE



Grace United Women in Faith met Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Twelve women shared the business meeting and created nine blankets for the Big Brothers organization. The blankets were blessed in worship the next day during children’s time.



Grace UMC welcomes home our ‘Snowbirds’. Welcome back to chilly Illinois! We hope you enjoyed your warm winter. We know with the grace of God, spring will be around the corner with warmer weather coming our way.



OUR CHURCH'S  
**FINANCIAL HEALTH**

Grace United Methodist Church

2023 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/20/22

	January		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>INCOME</b>	\$28,308	\$29,845	\$28,308	\$29,845
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Apportionment	\$2,317	\$2,317	\$2,317	\$2,317
Salaries & Benefits	\$14,887	\$14,561	\$14,887	\$14,561
Administration	\$1,221	\$2,183	\$1,221	\$2,183
Programming	\$933	\$1,096	\$933	\$1,096
Church Buildings	<u>\$10,809</u>	<u>\$7,057</u>	<u>\$10,809</u>	<u>\$7,057</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$30,167	\$27,214	\$30,167	\$27,214
<b>SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):</b>	-\$1,859	\$2,631	-\$1,859	\$2,631

Notes:

- 1) Good start to the year.

**FINANCES**



# God's Work Our Hands

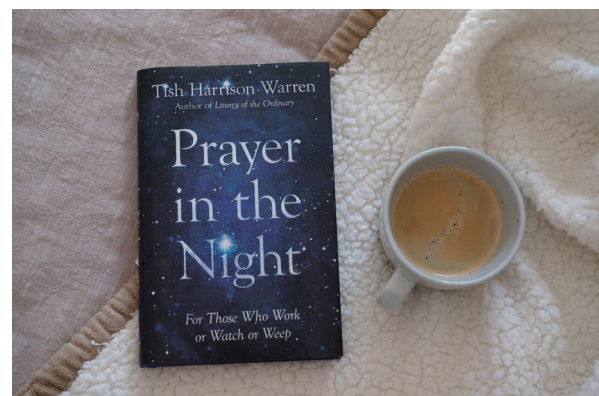
## LENTEN STUDY PRAYER IN THE NIGHT

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.

### In person and via Zoom:

- March 1 Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- March 8-Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- March 15- Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- March 22- Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
- March 29- Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.



## Treasurer Report

### SPECIAL THANKS

to our Treasurer, Jay Wait, who keeps up with Grace finances at all times and assembles budget data for each new year.

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

March – US

### 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.

### SHOE DRIVE has ended.

Thank you to everyone who supported our 'Shoe Drive'. The drive is officially over. Back in early February we sent out 78 bags of shoes! Each bag holds 25 pair of shoes. Many of the shoes that we collected 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). Again, thank you for making this fundraiser a huge success. Diane Parro



- Jim & Joan Norris March 21, 1964
- Edward & Vicki Bogucki March 24, 2005
- Carl & Nelly Bessette March 30, 1985



- 3/2—Kelly Larson
- 3/4—Shelby Fraser, Payton Fraser
- 3/6—Ronald Thorndyke,
- 3/8—Sarah Storz, Lucas Dolph
- 3/12—Nancy Bokoski
- 3/14—Carl Bessette, Mark Daniel
- 3/15—Kimberly Kinman
- 3/16—Sandy Cowgill
- 3/18—Meghan Dolph
- 3/20—Carson Cabreda
- 3/21—Taylor Shetina
- 3/23—Eric Leggett, Camdon Hocking
- 3/26—Bradley Linko
- 3/27—Nancy Murphy
- 3/30—Sara Coombs
- 3/31—Rae Hinton, Arthur Denklau, Emma Overpeck



## EASTER FLOWERS

Grace Church will decorate the sanctuary with flowers on Easter Sunday. The flowers may be in honor or celebration of a special event, in memory of a loved one or to the Glory of God. We will purchase flowers from Joliet Junior College at \$9 for hyacinths, daffodils & tulips. Lilies are \$12. If you wish to order flowers, please fill out an order form and include your check made payable to Grace UMC. Place in offering plate or drop off in the church office. Please take your flower home after the 10:30 Easter Service. Deadline for ordering is March 12th.

Barber Fisher



FEB ATTEN	WORSHIP 8AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Feb. 5	10/88	21	16
Feb. 12	12/73	21	20
Feb. 19	7/66	19	7
Feb. 26	12/72		