



GRACE NOTES

Volume 9 Issue 2

March 2021

Lifeway Research has offered this interesting survey: 79% of people unchurched agree with this statement, "If a friend of mine really values their faith, I don't mind them talking about it." While this is not specifically about "prayer", most often our conversation especially during difficult times revolves around the value of being connected with one another and ultimately with God. During Lent, we model an effort to offer a sacred space in words and in practice.

How do we do that? We offer spoken prayer when possible or simply being present is prayer in itself. Through the years I have received prayer requests for the ordinary challenges that we face to the deep longings of the heart. There are times that prayer can become a cliché as in "you are in my thoughts and prayer."

Maybe this is the reason why Jesus in Matthew 6:5 offered this view, "And when you pray do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing and on the street corners to be seen by others; Mark 12:38, "They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect.." Jesus was offering another way to pray. I can of course identify with "wearing long robes" and "standing" as this is the pattern during worship. I may also offer long prayers from time to time!

In confirmation class we teach the basic pattern of prayer using the acronym ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. But I like what one author offered and easier to grasp: Wow, Help and Thanks. But when we pray, whether it is spontaneous or what we have been given by the church, we pray beyond what we can know and leave it there for God to sort out. It is our belief that God will respond according to His purposes.

We approach God not only with our strengths, but in our weaknesses. This is where our faith becomes our resource. Remember what Paul shared, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Jesus pulls us away from weariness and offers us rest. This is prayer. There is plenty to be upset about, plenty of loss to mourn, plenty to lament and you can add to the growing list.

When I was in the University and unable to attend regular worship service for two years because of the requirement to serve in the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Course) I missed the rhythm of the church. Then I discovered about a Vesper service and how I was refreshed spiritually. I met friends and developed a passion for serving the church.

During this season of Lent, as we pray for the church, the world and our Grace community, may we rediscover that faith comes as a gift and we cannot keep it for ourselves. Soon, the first flowers of spring, the Crocuses, will emerge and remind us that there is a path forward. I read that it is also called the "light bulb" flower because of its shape until it fully blooms.

Prayer is an expression of grace that we can practice. Sometimes we are gifted with the right words; other times we lean on the prayers handed down through the rich history of the church or as in most cases being present is prayer itself.

May God bless the Church and bring us to healing and wholeness in God's perfect timing.



January

2021 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/17/20

	January		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$33,200	\$56,414	\$33,200	\$56,414
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$1,954	\$1,954	\$1,954	\$1,954
Pastor Salary & Benefits	\$8,034	\$7,711	\$8,034	\$7,711
Personnel	\$6,937	\$6,824	\$6,937	\$6,824
Administration	\$1,058	\$1,650	\$1,058	\$1,650
Programming	\$1,050	\$696	\$1,050	\$696
Church Buildings	<u>\$10,317</u>	<u>\$8,414</u>	<u>\$10,317</u>	<u>\$8,414</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$29,350	\$27,249	\$29,350	\$27,249
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	\$3,850	\$29,165	\$3,850	\$29,165

NOTES:

- 1) Income above expectation due primarily to receipt of a \$19,762 PPP Loan
- 2) Expenses slightly below expectation in January

We celebrate the birth of Alaya Anne Tucker-Ustry, born February 5, 2021. She is the daughter of Callie Tucker and Ryan Ustry. The grandparents are Parker and Rhonda Tucker, and the great-grandparents are Ron and Peggy Tucker.



Thanks to those who make our

*Virtual
Worship*

services so special.



Lyndle Burton is setting up a Memorial Music Scholarship for Linda.

The address should anyone want to contribute would be as follows:

Baker University's Office of Development

PO Box 65 Baldwin City, Ks. 66006 Attn. Philip Hannon



God's Work Our Hands



March BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1—Loretta Plumley, Sarah Whitman
3/2—Kelly Larson
3/4—Shelby Fraser, Payton Fraser
3/6—Ronald Thorndyke, Kathryn Moore
3/8—Sarah Storcz, Lucas Dolph
3/9—Bobbie Edwards, Brad Schoenrock
3/12—Nancy Bokoski
3/14—Carl Bessette, Mark Daniel
3/15—Kimberly Kinman
3/16—Sandy Cowgill
3/18—Roberta Koche, Meghan Dolph
3/19—Joyce Wahl
3/20—Carson Cabreda
3/21—Taylor Shetina, Aaron Field
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



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

ONLINE COMMUNION

On Sunday, 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 starting today, March 1st through Saturday, March 6th. Communion will be pastor-led during the Sunday service Mar. 7. If you are unable to pick up the elements, please contact the church office (815.725.7632) by 3pm on Wednesday, March 3rd and elements can be delivered to you.

LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE

- Mar. 1-6 communion elements out for pickup
Mar. 7 online communion during virtual worship
March 28, 10:30am – Palm Sunday service online
April 1, 5:00-6:00pm – Maundy Thursday drive-by communion
April 2, 7:00pm – Good Friday service online
April 4, 10:30am – Easter service online followed by 11:45-12:30 – drive-by communion

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Tree of Life Ministry

Tree of Life Ministry, Pierre, South Dakota, addresses the needs of Lakota Native Americans 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.



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 SPRC	3 12am Record Music 6pm Bells Practice	4	5	6
<div style="background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> communion elements out for pickup </div>						
7 9am Sunday School 9:30am Adult Discussion 10:30am Worship	8	19 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Trustees	10 12am Record Music 6pm Bells Practice	11	12	13
14 9am Sunday School 9:30am Adult Discussion 10:30am Worship	15 5pm Daybreak	16 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Daycare Board	17 11:30am Ridge-wood Pantry 12am Record Music 6pm Bells Practice	18	19	20
21 9am Sunday School 9:30am Adult Discussion 10:30am Worship	22	23 6:30 Boy Scouts 7pm Finance	24 12am Record Music 6pm Bells Practice	25 6:30pm Church Council	26	27
28 9am Sunday School 9:30am Adult Discussion 10:30am Palm Sunday	29	30 6:30 Boy Scouts	31 12am Record Music 6pm Bells Practice			

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

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SAVE THE DATE

Easter
Egg Hunt



- * Egg hunt is 1030-1130 am at Grace pavilion.
- * Stories and egg hunt!
- * A special guest will be hopping by!



**INDIVIDUALLY
WRAPPED
CANDY DONATIONS**

Saturday. April 3 1030am - 1130am Grace UMC Pavilion