



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

GRACE NOTES

Volume 10 Issue 2 May 2022

HERITAGE MONTH

May is full of wonderful surprises. I see beauty in unexpected places as I removed leaves, branches and other debris from the winter. While most tulips are now in full bloom, there are yet many to emerge. In my usual parking spot in church, I was thrilled to see a cluster of tulips ready to emerge and show its beauty to the world. I want something to be permanent. A Sunday school student gave me "tulip paper." It was hand cut and a straw right in the middle. I set it aside with the wooden tulips I picked up from a sidewalk bazaar sometime ago.

I learned that tulips were cultivated as early as 11th century in Constantinople and later on became highly prized. Pink tulips symbolize happiness and confidence. Purple tulips symbolize royalty. Yellow tulips symbolize cheerful thoughts. White tulips symbolize forgiveness. These symbolisms are good stories for all of us to ponder in this post season Easter. I want something to hold on to for a while. As I was setting down the plants that I intend to replant in the parsonage front yard, a gust

of wind blew away the petals and leaves scattered in the small plot. What remains will still carry the next flower forward in its appointed season. "The flower fades, the grass withers, but the word of God will stand forever." (Isaiah 40)

This is our heritage. This month we will be celebrating "Mother's Day" (Festival of the Christian Home), Confirmation and Receiving New Members, Aldersgate Sunday (My heart was strangely warmed) and Ascension Sunday. Each of these events are like the petals of the tulips, showing joy, beauty and faith.

Please remember that our last Sunday School session is **May 22nd** with a picnic being planned. We will have **ONE SERVICE** on **May 29th at 9:30 a.m.** for the summer months.

I received with thanks the word offered to me by a parishioner whom I recently visited. "I love the Church." We have a story to tell and we must keep sharing the Good News of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. God blesses us in all seasons.

Pastor Romir Esguerra



Vacation Bible School

Are you ready to cook up some fun! Food Truck Party VBS is coming the week of June 20-24 2022! Join us for a week of fun as tasty Bible Stories come to life! Chefs will have a week of fun with some games, science experiments, creative crafts and inspirational music! Chefs ages 3 yrs. to 6th grade will be swept up in the celebration and "On a Roll with God"—ready to join God in the great work of changing the world and providing for those in need! Lots of help is needed so volunteer today! Please contact Pastor Nancy at 773-302-5583 or Diane Morrow at 815-482-2439



Undies for Everyone



All the month of May,

WE NEED YOU

(and new underwear!)

to help the United Methodist Women fill the bin with new underwear to send to the Tree of Life Mission in South Dakota.

All sizes for women, men and children are needed.



LENTEN CHALLENGE UPDATE

To date we have received over \$1900 in loose coin and small bills from your mason jar collections during Lent. Thanks to all of you that participated in our season fundraiser.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MISSION CHALLENGE

The NIC Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) to organize its annual conference collection drive for the most needed items at this time. Let's begin collecting items to fill the truck.

MMDC CURRENTLY URGENT NEED ITEMS:

- Liquid Laundry Detergent - 32-64 oz.
- Liquid Household Cleaner - 16-40 oz.
- Liquid Dish Soap - 14-32 oz.
- Blankets – Can Be Gently Used
- Toothpaste - 2.5 oz or larger
- Rulers (12" long with metric)
- Colored Pencils (12 pack)
- Scissors (student size)
- School/Stadium Bleacher Wood - (used to make school desks)

OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

February

2022 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/16/21

	March		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$19,300	\$18,749	\$66,400	\$84,288
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,128	\$2,128	\$6,384	\$6,384
Salaries & Benefits	\$22,334	\$21,976	\$55,182	\$53,305
Administration	\$1,175	\$799	\$3,525	\$5,117
Programming	\$1,071	\$99	\$3,213	\$1,042
Church Buildings	<u>\$6,712</u>	<u>\$9,122</u>	<u>\$25,488</u>	<u>\$28,434</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$33,420	\$34,124	\$93,792	\$94,282
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$14,120	-\$15,375	-\$27,392	-\$9,994

Notes:

- 1) Income above budget by \$18k due to early payment of a few pledges.
- 2) Expenses are tracking very close to budget.
- 3) Because the approved 2022 budget is not balanced, there are still challenges.

BIRD FRIENDLY COFFEE FUNDRAISER

Grace Church is holding another fundraiser featuring coffee that is grown in a natural setting that preserves habitat for resident and migratory birds that winter in Central and South America. Its Bird Friendly Coffee!

You and I can make a positive contribution to the environment by drinking Bird Friendly coffee. That is coffee that bears the logo from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center which certifies that the coffee is grown under their strict standards for habitat which includes native shade trees and organic methods.



You will find a fundraiser booth in the Narthex where you can select from 5 different coffees to order. The last day to order is 05/01/22 and the coffee can be picked up on 05/08/22. Make your check payable to Grace Church and give to Greg or Cathy DuBois, Jim Morrow or mail to the church office.

With your purchase of this coffee, Grace Church gains a few bucks for its missions, the environment and wildlife win and you win by drinking rich flavorful coffee.



DAYBREAK SHELTER

May will be the last time we serve Daybreak until the fall. Thank you for your financial support during this year. Hopefully next year we will be able to accept food donations. At this time we will continue to prepare the meal at Church and deliver to Daybreak.

Diane Lutz

RESTAURANT CLUB IS BACK!

Please join your friends from Grace on Saturday, May 7th at 6pm at Traverso's (2523 Plainfield-Naperville Rd, Naperville) for some good food and great camaraderie! RSVP to Diane Parro at 630-430-3808 or dparro@comcast.net by Sunday, May 1st.



PRAYER PARTNERS NEEDED

The 2022 ASP team would like to thank the Grace congregation for their faithful and generous donations to the ASP Stok Sale in March.

The ASP team is looking for individuals who would be willing to be a prayer partner with a member of the ASP team during the week we are on the mission trip in Magoffin County, KY (June 11-18).

Youth members: Chloe Anderson, Paige Anderson, Cyrus Angel, Lili Boyer, Tessa Gray, Reyna Guzman, Stella Guzman, Landon Hocking, Nathan Rios

Adult leaders: Eric Anderson, Kara Hocking, Steve Meister, Shannen Rios

For anyone wanting to be a prayer partner, contact: Steve Meister at steveo0151@aol.com or 815.409.2729

MISSION OF THE MONTH

May – NIC (Kids Above All (#50000011))

The mission of this agency is to protect, heal and educate children and families so they can build better lives. "Kids Above All" is also an agent for increased advocacy for equal justice, equal rights and equal opportunity for all kids, in every community. In addition, it offers home-based early childhood and daycare programs to address a growing need in communities across the Chicago area.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

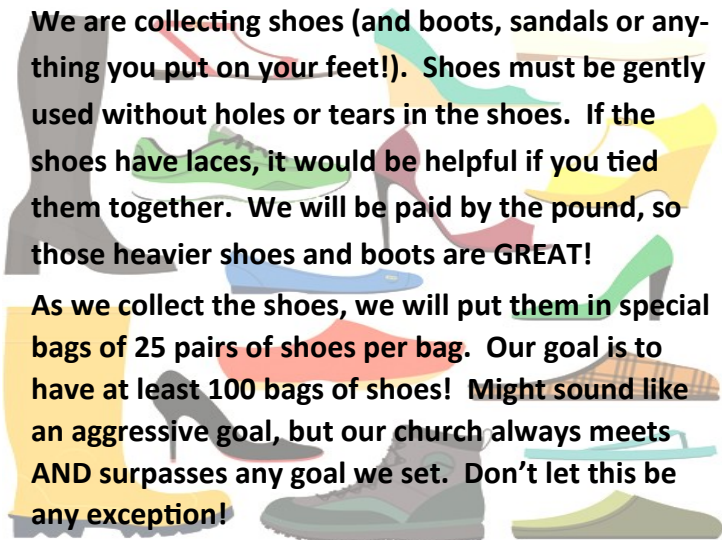
Teacher Appreciation Day

The Sunday School team invites families and church members of all ages to join us for a Sunday School Picnic with fun and games at noon on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at the Pavilion. In the event of rain, we will meet in Grace Place.

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING YOUR CLOSETS!

We are collecting shoes (and boots, sandals or anything you put on your feet!). Shoes must be gently used without holes or tears in the shoes. If the shoes have laces, it would be helpful if you tied them together. We will be paid by the pound, so those heavier shoes and boots are GREAT!

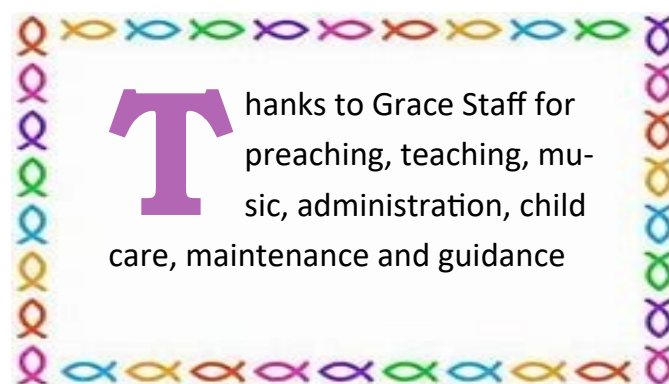
As we collect the shoes, we will put them in special bags of 25 pairs of shoes per bag. Our goal is to have at least 100 bags of shoes! Might sound like an aggressive goal, but our church always meets AND surpasses any goal we set. Don't let this be any exception!



5/4—John Renzi
 5/7—Carrie Butler
 5/8—Cindy Caswell
 5/9—Jim Norris
 5/10—David Black, Jim
 Morrow, Emma DeBartolo
 5/11—Diane Lutz,
 Isabella Ray
 5/16—Jean Lucas, Jason Meister
 5/19—Jeannine D’Orazio, Connie Schroeder
 5/20—Mike Fisher
 5/21—Dylan Deardurff
 5/22—Calli Rupsis
 5/25—Deborah Larson, Owen Salerno
 5/28—Quinn Page
 5/31—Thomas Zettergren



Thomas & Carol Zettergren	May 8, 1965
Don & Cathy Kazak	May 23, 1987
Jim & Diane Morrow	May 23, 1987
Ed & Caryn Young	May 23, 1970
Richard & Beth Osborn	May 26, 2012
Eric & Nancy Leggett	May 29, 1976
Brian & Joan Landers	May 31, 1975



Sign-up to greet people as they enter the building before the 10:30 am services. Greet people entering the building, look for new faces in the crowd, offer to show people around. You will be the one to make people feel welcome! Two people may sign-up to share the Greeting duties each Sunday. This is an important ministry. We only have one chance to make a first impression!



APRIL ATTEN	WORSHIP 8AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY	ADULT SUNDAY
April 3	12/78	15	13
April 10	10-101	15	11
April 14	52	Maundy	Thursday
April 15	12	Good	Friday
April 17	13/133	8	1
April 24	10/69	10	11

Confirmation

The congregation is invited to celebrate the Confirmation of our Class of 2022 into membership of the church at our 10:30 worship service on May 15, 2022.

CLASS MEMBERS BEING CONFIRMED ARE:

- Tessa Gray, daughter of Sara Gray and Florana Rocha.
Her mentor is Nelly Bessette.
- Stella Guzman, daughter of Shannen and Ubaldo Rojas.
Her mentor is Diane Morrow.
- Landon Hocking, son of Kara Hocking and Scott Lorenz.
His mentor is Steve Meister.

Everyone is invited to a reception immediately following our worship service to welcome our new members. Congratulations to our confirmands and their families.



GRACE KIDS AND YOUTH CORNER NOTES

The Sunday School Kids and Youth were actively engaged in the Worship Life of the congregation. Together with the adult choir we sang the "Psalm Sunday: Sing Hosanna" anthem, led an opening hymn procession for Psalm Sunday and Easter Sunday, and brought forth our 40 Day Challenge offerings.

Our Easter Egg Hunt day was an exciting time to share the Resurrection message with our children, the children from the GUMC daycare, and extended children guests from the community and the church family at large. In total, we had approximately 30 children attend, plus their families. We had art zones, bible story time, a snack zone, hula hoops, super deluxe bubbles, chalk art, and the Egg Hunt. Special thanks to our Grace Youth and adult members of the congregation for their assistance, especially: Rebecca Linko, Hannah Linko, Nathan Ubaldo, Reyna Guzman, Stella Guzman, Aden Guzman, Tessa Gray and her friend Izzy, Landon Hocking, Diane Parro, Donna Robertson, Diane Morrow, and Scott Lorenz.

The Sunday School Team also wishes to thank

Mr. Greg Dubois for leading us through an exploration of the Birds of the Bible on April 24, 2022. Because of a severe rain storm, Mr. Greg converted the Nature Walk into a PowerPoint presentation in our Education Wing which was attended by over 30 people (children and the young-at-hearts). The walk itself will be rescheduled soon.

Planning ahead, our Sunday School Team is preparing for the end of the Sunday School program with a Teacher Appreciation Sunday and Picnic on Sunday, May 22, 2022. The Youth will be invited to an Ice Cream Social also on May 22, 2022. Looking ahead, Vacation Bible School and ASP Sunday are coming up in June. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pastor Nancy or Diane Morrow for VBS and Steve Meister for ASP.

Theme for May: "Proclaim: To Share Out Loud What You Believe in Faith"

Blessings to you, Pastor Nancy



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 SPRC 	4 6 pm Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	5 7 am Men's Breakfast 	6	7 6pm Restaurant Club At Traverso's
8 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	9	10 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 	11 6 pm Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	12 7 am Men's Breakfast 	13 6:30 Cub Scouts 	14
15 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship Confirmation	16 5pm Daybreak 	17 7am Daybreak Breakfast 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Daycare	18 11:30am Pantry 6pm Bible Study 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	19 7 am Men's Breakfast	20	21
22 Sunday School Picnic 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	23 5pm Daybreak	24 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30  Finance Committee	25 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	26 7 am Men's Breakfast 7pm Church Council 	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship	30  MEMORIAL DAY	31 6:30 Boy Scouts				

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