

# GRACE NOTES

*Volume 13 Issue 3 April 2025*

***Easter Sunday*** is just a few weeks away. I pray that this Lenten season has been a meaningful time for you—a season of embracing a new spiritual discipline or stepping away from distractions that often take your focus away from God.

One of the disciplines I have adopted this Lent is setting an alarm on my phone several times a day as a reminder to pause, take deep breaths, and engage in breath prayer. The words of my prayer change from moment to moment. Sometimes, I breathe in, saying, “*Fill me with your Spirit,*” and breathe out, “*Help me return to You.*” Other times, it might be, “*Breathe in hope... breathe out fear.*” These brief pauses help me still my heart before God. In those moments, I often realize thoughts and emotions stirring beneath the surface—things I may have been too busy to notice before. Perhaps this is why we often avoid silence; sitting with our thoughts and feelings can be uncomfortable. Yet, it is in those quiet moments that we make space for God’s presence to meet us.

As we approach Holy Week, there is a temptation to go about business as usual and simply attend worship on Sunday. Many of us are eager to move from the joy of waving palms on Palm Sunday straight to the celebration of Easter morning. But if we skip over the journey—Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples, his suffering, his sacrifice—we miss the depth of why we proclaim “*Christ the Lord is risen today! Hallelujah!*” on Easter Sunday.

This year, I invite you to fully engage in Holy Week. Slow down. Quiet your mind. Walk intentionally through the story of Jesus’ final days. As you do, may you experience the deep, abiding love of Christ in a new and powerful way.

*Pastor Laura*

# Holy Week

## *Palm Sunday Worship*

*April 13th ~ 10:30 a.m. Service*

## *Maundy Thursday Worship*

*April 17th ~ 7 p.m. Service*

## *Good Friday Worship*

*April 18th ~ 7:00 p.m. Service*

## *Holy Saturday*

*April 19th ~ 10:00 - 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt*

## *EASTER SUNDAY*

*April 20th ~ 10:30 am*

*Worship*





## BASKETS AND BUNNIES

Spring into action at the  
UWF Spring Auction -  
Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 10:00 am in  
Grace Place.

Our theme is “*Baskets and Bunnies.*”

We'll have fun deals to fill your basket,  
fun choices to bid on quick as a bunny,  
fun fellowship to feed your soul, and

fun food to enjoy at the spring salad buffet. Come and bring an item of two for the auction. This fundraiser helps support the UWF missional outreach projects.



Christian Education is collecting wrapped candy for the eggs. We thank you in advance for your generous donations to this fun filled hour and half. Takes longer to fill the eggs with candy than to find them. There is a box by the kiosk for candy donations.

The Hunt is April 19th 10—11:30 am

Please contact Diane Morrow for more information.





Lenten Pretzel Sunday  
was big fun.  
Our Sunday School  
children put their heart  
and soul into making us  
pretzels. On March 9th.  
Big thanks to the kids  
for making this a  
special day here at  
Grace UMC.



### **VBS Supplies needed**

The following craft supplies will be needed:

Clean Plastic Milk bottle caps

Yarn

Fabric Ribbon - Any size

Please put the items in the light blue plastic tub by the coat rack.

### **GRATITUDE CORNER**

We are grateful for all the opportunities for spiritual growth during the Lenten season.

### **UWF IN ACTION**

After the United Women in Faith's business meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>, the 13 women in attendance filled 30 one-gallon Ziplock's, "Blessing Bags" with useful personal items for folks at Day Break. The special bags will be delivered by our team who serves a meal there each month.

### **FAITH AND WELLNESS**

UPCOMING Activities:

- 1st Sunday BP checks. Thirty minutes prior to the start of worship, we are in the library ready to check your blood pressure. Come and see us.
- Walking with Jesus in Grace Place continues Mondays 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm. It's a great way to shape up for spring! Stretch, walk and gentle exercise with us—all at your own pace. Enter through the front doors of the church—just ring the bell.
- April 15th at 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch will meet at McWethy's in Romeoville (1700 W. Renwick Road) at 12:30 for fun, food and fellowship. Come, join us! RSVP to Pat Meyers or Barb Fisher.
- April 30th 12 noon Faith and Wellness Team meeting at Grace.

Easter Blessings!

Debi Shippy



**Feed My Starving Children**  
**555 Exchange Court**  
**Aurora, IL**

Saturday, May 3, 2025  
From 11:15 am -1:15 pm

If you would like to attend, please let Diane Morrow know.  
RSVP is needed by April 15, 2025. Please come and help pack nutritious meals for children around the world.

This event is for anyone aged 5 and up.



**Pizza with the Pastor**

Pastor Laura invites those who are interested in learning more about becoming members of Grace UMC to “Pizza with the Pastor” on April 13<sup>th</sup> after worship. It is an opportunity to learn more about United Methodism. Grace UMC and what all is entailed in becoming a member. Please call the church office or put your name on the sign up sheet in the narthex.



**LENTEN CHALLENGE**

Fill up our mason jars with your savings during Lent and return them on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds go to the churches’ General Operating Budget.

Still need a jar and want to participate? Plenty are still available.

Contact Jim Morrow

FYI: Last year we collected over \$1,400 during the challenge and hope to do better in 2025.



ASP Stock sales was in the month of March. Thanks to our generous congregation, our ASP 2024 Team will proudly represent Grace UMC this June.

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Thomas & Sandy Cowgill      April 5
- Bradley & Heather Linko      April 7
- John & Becky Kabelis      April 22
- Tom & Kimberly Kinman      April 26
- Justin & Samantha Farrar      April 27
- David & Valerie Jelinek      April 27
- Fred & Linda Jursinic      April 27

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL

- 4/03 ~ Joan Landers, Brian Parro
- 4/08 ~ Amber Kolodziej
- 4/10 ~ Donald Lutz
- 4/10 ~ Chuck Pons
- 4/11 ~ Gary Hecht
- 4/12 ~ Sheryl Caudle
- 4/13 ~ Matthew Meinhart
- 4/15 ~ Matthew Sabella
- 4/20 ~ Andrea Schoenrock
- 4/22 ~ Madison Fraser
- 4/24 ~ Gail Shaw
- 4/25 ~ Melissa Meinhart
- 4/27 ~ Paul Schroeder
- 4/28 ~ Rebecca Linko, Hannah Linko
- 4/29 ~ Eileen Hicks

Christian Education is collecting **WRAPPED CANDY** for the eggs. We thank you in advance for your generous donations to this fun filled hour and half. It takes longer to fill the eggs with candy than to find them. There is a box by the kiosk for candy donations. The Hunt is April 19th 10—11:30 am. Please contact Diane Morrow for more information.

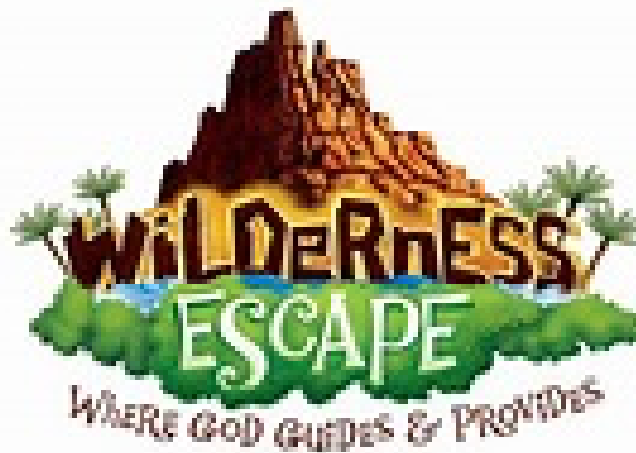
# Spring CLEAN UP

Spring is just around the corner which means that a spring clean-up of the church and grounds will take place on Saturday, April 26 at 9 am til noon. Join in the fun to spruce up our church for summer. Grab your rakes, pruners, buckets and rags or use church tools. All help is greatly appreciated. Mark your calendar now!

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
 Pastor Laura had 'Ashes to Go" Ash Wednesday morning in the parking lot. We had 52 people attend Ash Wednesday worship service at 7pm. It was a memorable start to Lent.



MARCH ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 8:30AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
March 2	2/87	21	19
March 9	3/72	30	18
March 16	3/85	31	17
March 23	3/98	28	17
March 30	2/70	30	16



Wilderness Escape Vacation Bible School will be June 23-26, 2025 from 9 am to 11:30 am. Children ages 3 years to 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be part of an exciting adventure where they will go back in time and learn from Moses what it was like to escape Egypt and survive in the wilderness. God's love guiding them every step of the way.

Many Volunteers are needed to make this adventure a success: Tribe Leaders, Tent Craft Hosts, Assistant Tribe Leaders and Tent Hosts, Storyteller, Recreation, Registration, etc.

Please contact Diane Morrow if you would like to be a part of this adventure.

**Grace**  
is Sufficient



**186th Northern Illinois  
Annual Conference**

**Monday, June 9 -  
Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

**Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center  
1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg Ill.**



# APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 1:00-2:00 P Walk- ing With Jesus in Grace Place 6:15p Bells 6p Lenten Study	3 7 a Men's Breakfast 	4	5
6 <b>COMMUNION</b> 8:30am Prayer 9 am Religious Ed 10 am Blood Pres- sure Screening 10:30 am Worship	7 11:30-12:30 P Walking With Je- sus in Grace Place	8  6:30p SPRC	9 1:00-2:00 P Walk- ing With Jesus in Grace Place 6:15p Bells 6p Lenten Study 7:30p Choir	10 7 a Men's Breakfast 	11	12  UWF Spring Auction & Pot- luck 10:00 a.m.
13 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>  8:30am Prayer 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 am Worship 11:40am New Mem- bers—Pizza with the Pastor	14  11:30-12:30 P Walking With Je- sus in Grace Place	15 6:00a DayBreak  12:30 pm Lunch Bunch meet at McWethy's	16 11:30am Pantry 1:00-2:00 P Walk- ing With Jesus in Grace Place 6:15p Bells 6p Lenten Study 7:30p Choir	17 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7 a Men's Breakfast  7p m Maundy Thursday service	18 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>  7pm Good Friday worship service	19  <b>10:00 am Egg Hunt</b>
20 <b>EASTER</b>  8:30am Prayer 10:30 am Worship	21 11:30-12:30 P Walking With Je- sus in Grace Place  5p Daybreak	22  6:30p Finance	23 1:00-2:00 P Walk- ing With Jesus in Grace Place  6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	24 7 a Men's Breakfast <b>May Grace Notes Deadline</b> 6:30p Church Council ZOOM	25	26 9-12p <b>Church Spring Clean Up</b>
27 8:30am Prayer 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 am Worship <b>11:40 am Worship mtg.</b> <b>12- 2pm CPR Train- ing</b>	28  11:30-12:30 P Walking With Je- sus in Grace Place	29	30 12:00pm Faith & Wellness Team mtg 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir			

# Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799



Bring May flowers

Ash/April Grace Notes 2025