



FEBRUARY

Volume 14 Issue 2

GRACE NOTES

Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8)

As we prepare to enter the holy season of Lent, memories return of last year's Good Friday service, *The Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Good Friday*. During that service, worship engaged more than words alone. Scripture was read and hymns were sung, while the sound of nails being driven echoed through the space. The sharp scent of vinegar recalled what Jesus received on the cross. Coins placed in our hands represented the lots cast for Jesus' clothing, inviting reflection on the many ways betrayal still happens. Through these tangible experiences, worship became something we encountered with our whole selves.

Each Sunday, the church is called to gather for worship together. It is easy for worship to become routine—words spoken out of habit, prayers recited without reflection, hymns sung without attention to meaning. Yet Scripture invites something deeper: "Taste and see that the Lord is good." God created human beings with senses, and worship offers space to engage them fully. When entering the sanctuary, attention can be given to the stained-glass windows or the worship art designed by Barb Fisher. The words of the Lord's Prayer and the hymns can be spoken and sung with intention. On Communion Sundays, the bread and the cup can be received slowly and reverently. Even a handshake or a hand on a shoulder becomes a reminder that faith is lived in community.

Spiritual life is not separate from physical life. Those who attended the Good Friday service were invited to experience, in embodied ways, what it might have been like to stand in the presence of Jesus on that painful day—when the worst thing seemed as though it might be the final word. Faith, however, proclaims otherwise. Good Friday and Holy Saturday were not the end of the story. Resurrection and new life are found in Jesus.

Worship invites intentional presence. As the doors of the church open each week, distractions and worries can be set aside. The burdens that need to be placed at the altar can be entrusted to Jesus. From there, worship can be experienced with heart, mind, and body—receiving again the goodness of God through every sense. May this season of Lent draw hearts and senses alike toward the living presence of Christ, where sorrow gives way to hope and death gives way to life.

Grace and peace,

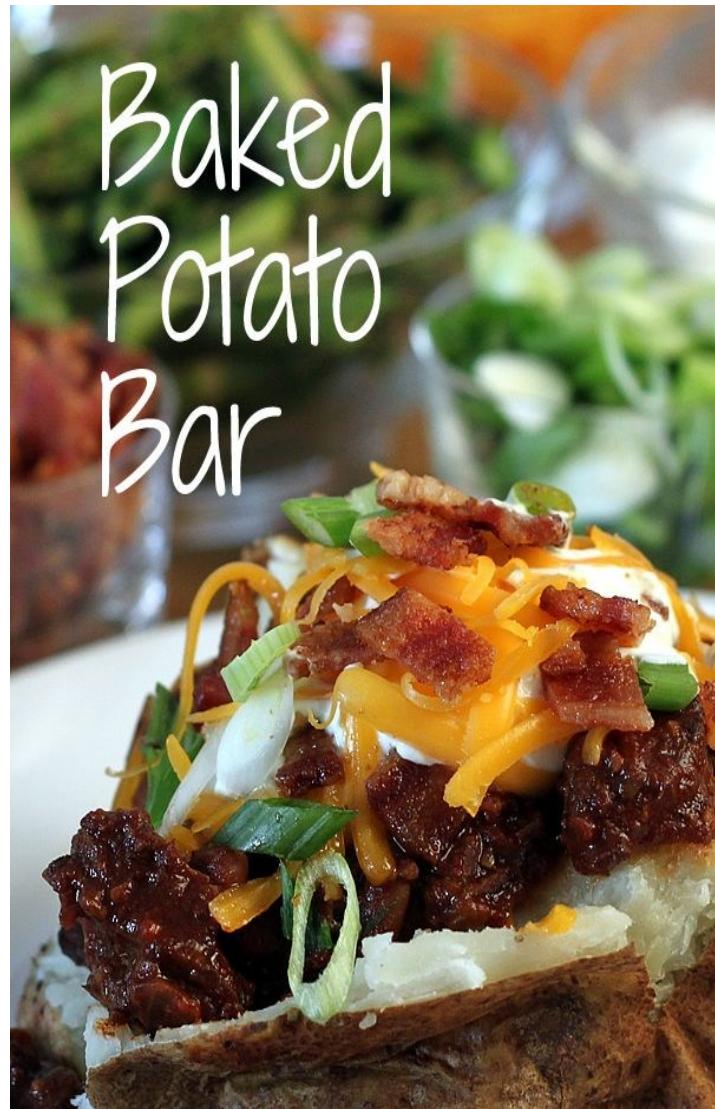
Pastor Laura



ASP 2026 Theme



Carry Out or
Dine In at
Grace Place
\$8 each
Your choice of
toppings



February 1st 9– 1 pm



Chili Cook-Off

Again, we will have our chili tasting.

Put some on your baked potato along with
the other tasty toppings.

ASP 2026 Fundraiser - proceeds go to the 2026 ASP Mission Trip



Faith and Wellness

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1st Sunday of the month, BP checks. February 1st we are in the library for 30 minutes prior to the start of the our worship service. Come visit us and get your blood pressure checked.



COME JOIN US!

Remember how glorious the blankets are when we are finished!!!

You are invited to attend the United Women in Faith gathering on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 1:00pm. We will have a short business meeting and then we will hand-assemble blankets for our 2026 Blanket Project. As they say, "Many hands make light work." The blankets will be blessed in worship

2/15/26.



LUNCH BUNCHERS

February 17th at 12:30pm the Lunch Bunchers will meet at Fritz's Pour House Bar, 1511 Plainfield Rd, Crest Hill, IL 60435 . Menu is varied: fish, beef, chicken, pork, salads, sandwiches. Something for everyone's pallet. RSVP to Pat Meyers or Barb Fisher by February 12th.



Saturday, January 24th 30 of us that went to FMSC at the Aurora facility from 2-3:45 pm. We helped pack 108 boxes of food which is 23,328 meals that will feed 64 kids for a year!

Thank you to all who volunteered their Saturday and kindness. Diane Morrow



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Cheri Johnson	February 01
Carol Zettergren	February 02
Trudy Pearson	February 04
Stella Guzman	February 09
Stella Slinkard	February 10
Sarah Osborne	February 12
Katie Robertson	February 12
Cathy Downey	February 13
Eleanor Findlay	February 14
Ashlyn Furto	February 15
Nelly Bessette	February 17
Frieda Clausen	February 17
Jolene Johnson	February 17
Joan Norris	February 21
Diane Morrow	February 23
Valerie Jelinek	February 24
Barbara Jones	February 24
Landon Hocking	February 25
Christopher Ray	February 27
Laura Wagner	February 27

ANNIVERSARIES

Ubaldo & Shannon Rojas February 23, 2020

GRATITUDE CORNER ~

We are grateful for all the prayers and cares that flow abundantly at Grace church.



DECEMBER ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 8:30/10:30 AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
January 4	63		
January 11	4/73	20	38
January 18	4/84	27	16
January 25	4/58	26	17



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Prayer and Gathering 10am Blood Pressure screening 10:30 Worship POTATO BAR	2 6:30p SPRC	3 5-7p PlayPen Sports Grace Place	4 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	5 7a Men's Breakfast	6	7 9-noon PlayPen Sports Grace Place
8 8:30am Prayer and Gathering 9am Christian Ed 10:30 Worship	9	10 10am UWF mtg 5-7p PlayPen Sports Grace Place	11 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	12 7a Men's Breakfast Adrienne out of office	13	14 9-noon PlayPen Sports Grace Place 
15 8:30am Prayer and Gathering 9am Christian Ed 10:30 Worship— Blessing of the Blankets	16 <i>Presidents Day</i> Adrienne out of office 5p DayBreak	17 5am DayBreak 12:30pm Lunch Bunchers 6:30pm Finance ZOOM 5-7p PlayPen Sports Grace Place	18 11 am Food Pantry  7pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	19 7a Men's Breakfast	20	21 9-noon PlayPen Sports Grace Place
22 8:30am Prayer and Gathering 9am Christian Ed 10:30 Worship Bird Friendly Coffee sales start	23	24 10am Lenten Bible Study 5-7p PlayPen Sports Grace Place	25 6pm Lenten Bible Study 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	26 7a Men's Breakfast	27	28 9-noon PlayPen Sports Grace Place