



GRACE NOTES

Volume 14 Issue 4 April 2026

One of my kids gets rather grossed out with blood and wounds. So instead of letting me know that they had hurt themselves, they threw a band aid on it and attempted to ignore it. However, they came to me one day and fessed up that they had hurt themselves and wanted me to look at it. Let's just say, it wasn't good. They probably had not taken the necessary steps to really wash it out and to keep a clean band aid on it as well as let it be uncovered from time to time to heal up. They thought that by ignoring it, it would just heal up on its own. When they actually looked at it, it was gross to see and then process of getting it healed up was uncomfortable to get it cleaned out and the damaged tissue removed.

This Lent, there is a group of individuals that chose to be part of our Lenten study: "Turning Over Tables" by Kathy Escobar. While I have preached on this book over Lent, I, in no way, can do justice to explore all the heavy topics represented in the book. Additionally, the book asks its readers to grapple with some difficult questions. I have been inspired by our two classes who have not only been willing to dive into such deep topics but also to wrestle with things that are uncomfortable and that may cause a variety of feelings to arise.

It is our human reflex to want to avoid things that are uncomfortable. We also can become overwhelmed by new information and the enormity of the world's problems. It is easy to shut down internally, slap a band aid on and hope for the best. However, these people have chosen to take the band aid off, to clean out and debride a wound and to come back again and again to do the necessary work for true health and healing.

Our Christian walk calls us to attend to those things that can be personal wounds as well as the wounds of the world. It is painful, it is messy. But it is the work we have to engage in to experience the new life that Christ offers us. We are about to enter Holy Week. It is a big ugly wound to look at the pain that Jesus' walked through his last Supper and the events of the crucifixion. There is betrayal, suffering, tears and death. It can be our desire to keep that covered and jump to Easter Sunday where all is healed and new life begins. But I would invite you to fully experience ALL of Holy Week so that you better comprehend just how incredible it is to be able to sing (with gusto, John Wesley says) "Loves redeeming work is done, fought the fight the battle won, death in vain forbids him rise, Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia."

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Laura

SPRING IS BLOOMING

Spring into action at the UWF Spring Auction -
Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 10am in Grace Place.

Our theme is “*Spring Is Blooming.*”

We’ll have fun making deals,

fun making choices,

fun fellowship to feed our souls, and

fun food to enjoy from the spring salad bar.

Bring a friend and an item or two for the auction.

This fundraiser helps support the UWF
missional outreach projects.

RSVP to Maida



FAITH AND WELLNESS

1st Sunday BP checks. Easter Sunday, thirty minutes prior to the start of worship, we are in the library ready to check your blood pressure.

Come and see us.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship

March 29th ~ 10:30 a.m. Service

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 2nd ~ 7 p.m. Service at Ingalls Park UMC

105 Davison Street, Joliet

Good Friday Worship

April 3rd ~ 7:00 p.m. Service

Holy Saturday

April 4th ~ 10:00 - 11:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt



EASTER SUNDAY

April 5th ~ 10:30 am

Worship





LUNCH BUNCHERS

March 17th ten Grace friends shared delicious food and fun fellowship at Dragon Light. Please join the group on April 21st at 12:30 pm at Jameson's on Black in Joliet.



8 UWF women met for their March 10th meeting and the filling of 30 Blessing Bags for distribution to Day Break clients.

Feed My Starving Children
555 Exchange Court
Aurora, IL

Saturday, May 16th
From 11:15 am -1:30 pm

If you would like to attend, please let Serena 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.



187th Northern Illinois
Annual Conference

Sunday, June 14 -
Tuesday, June 16, 2026

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

Vacation Bible School 2026 is scheduled for
Monday, June 22nd through Thursday, June 25th.
9:00 am—11:30 am Veggie Town Values
Collecting large plastic containers that look like pickle jars
(cheese puffs containers type)
--large empty appliance box
--empty refrigerator box
Contact **Serena Tesch-Moore** if you are interested.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 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
- 4/25 ~ Melissa Meinhart
- 4/25 ~ Melissa Meinhart
- 4/28 ~ Rebecca Linko, Hannah Linko
- 4/29 ~ Eileen Hicks



Congratulations
to Sandy Brazeal on her two new great granddaughters— Laynie and Lily (they are not twins).



MARCH ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 8:30AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
March 1	4/80	21	19
March 8	5/74	30	18
March 15	6/70	24	16
March 22	4/72	20	16
March 29			

NIC Conference ~ Repair the Harm Final Update

THANK YOU! Northern Illinois Conference collected 100 percent of our \$754,348 responsibility! The Boy Scouts of America settled a lawsuit related to accusations of sexual abuse of children. The United Methodist Church has chartered BSA troops or packs over the years and were assessed liability. The denomination agreed to raise and contribute \$30 million over a three-year period to a fund created by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to compensate survivors. The church also committed to supporting the healing of survivors and to continuing its work to end sexual abuse of young people. Of the \$30 million committed by The United Methodist Church, the amount allocated to the Northern Illinois Conference was \$754,348. In the Northern Illinois Conference, the Repair the Harm to Children campaign was created by the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration and the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with Bishop Dan Schwerin, to address the needs of survivors in three ways: listening to and providing healing for survivors, contributing our fair share to the survivor fund, and strengthening safeguards to prevent harm in the future.



Pledges and donations were requested from churches and individuals from Sept. 2023 through Dec. 31, 2025, to support restorative healing for survivors. We are grateful that 108 churches and 212 individuals participated in this endeavor. This giving is above and beyond apportionment and mission link contributions. Because of the generosity of these churches and individuals, apportionment funds were not used to pay our portion to the Boy Scouts of America.

• Albany • Algonquin: Christ • Alsip: Christ • Antioch • Arlington Heights: Church of the Incarnation • Arlington Heights: First • Aurora: Bethany of Fox Valley • Aurora: Wesley • Barrington • Belvidere: First • Bensenville: First • Bolingbrook: Friendship • Brookfield: Compassion • Buffalo Grove: Kingswood • Carol Stream: St. Andrew • Cary • Chicago: Berry Memorial (Clsd.) • Chicago: Renewed Hope • Chicago: Resurrection • Chicago: South Lawn • Chicago: South Shore • Chicago: St. Mark • Chicago: Temple • Chicago: West Ridge • Coleta • Crystal Lake: First • Des Plaines: First • Dixon: First • Downers Grove: First • Durand • Earlville • Elgin: First • Elgin: Journey of Hope • Elmhurst: Christ • Elmhurst: First • Esmond • Evanston: First • Evergreen Park: First • Forreston: First • Freeport: Faith • Freeport: Harmony • Galena • Geneva • Glen Ellyn: First • Glencoe: North Shore • Glenview: Glenview • Grayslake: United Protestant • Hampshire: First • Harvard: First • Hebron • Hinckley: First • Hinsdale • Homewood: St. Andrew (Clsd.) • **Joliet: Grace** • Joliet: Hope • Joliet: Trinity • LaGrange: First • Lake Bluff: Grace • Lansing: First • Leaf River • Libertyville • Lombard: First • Milledgeville • Morrison • Mount Morris: Disciples • Mount Prospect: Trinity • Naperville: Community • Naperville: Grace • Naperville: Wheatland Salem • New Lenox • Northbrook: Northbrook • Oak Lawn: First • Oak Park: Euclid Avenue • Orangeville • Oregon • Orland Park: Faith • Oswego: Good Shepherd • Oswego: Wellspring • Ottawa: Epworth • Ottawa: First • Palos • Park Forest: Grace United Protestant • Park Ridge: First • Pecatonica • Poplar Grove • Reynolds • River Forest • Rockford: Beth Eden • Rockford: Brooke Road • Rockford: Court Street • Rockford: Grace • Rockton • Roscoe • Schaumburg: Our Saviour's • Shannon: Bethel • Sycamore • Triumph • Villa Park: Calvary (Merged) • Waterman • Wauconda: Federated Church • West Chicago: First • West Dundee: First • Wheaton: Gary • Wilmette: Trinity • Winthrop Harbor: North Prairie • Woodridge • Zion: Memorial

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15p Bells 6p Lenten Study 7:30p Choir	2 Maundy Thursday 7 a Men's Breakfast 7pm service at Ingalls Park UMC	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7pm Good Friday worship service	4 10:00 am Egg Hunt
5 EASTER 10am Blood Pressure Screening 10:30 am Worship	6	7	8 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	9 7 a Men's Breakfast 	10	11
12 8:30am Prayer & Gathering 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 am Worship	13	14 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch meet at McWethy's	15 11:30am Pantry 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	16 7 am Men's Breakfast	17	18 UWF Spring Auction & Potluck 10:00 a.m.
19 8:30am Prayer & Gathering 10:30 am Worship 11:40am Worship Committee mtg	20 5p Daybreak	21 6:00a DayBreak 12:30pm Lunch Bunchers—Jameson's 6:30p Finance via ZOOM	22 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	23 7 a Men's Breakfast May Grace Notes Deadline	24	25
26 8:30am Prayer & Gathering 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 am Worship	27	28	29 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	30		