

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Mission statement: Grace United Methodist Church is a family of faith striving to share God's love with all people.

April 4, 2022

Words from the Pastor

Grace and Peace to our Church Family and Friends,

Last week, in our confirmation class we looked at parables in the Bible. Let us take a deeper dive into Jesus' use of parables. A parable is a short story that makes a point and teaches an important lesson to help people understand his messages. He also taught about God and God's kingdom in ways that his listeners could understand. He often began these parables by saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." or "the kingdom of heaven may be compared to..." The parables of Jesus embody much of his fundamental teaching. The parables were simple and memorable to survive in an oral tradition before being written down years after Jesus' death.

The parables are not isolated stories. They were nearly always told to answer a question or address a particular situation. Jesus' stories draw on the common daily life of first-century Palestine and is best understood in the context of written scriptures. It is, therefore, very important to study the context in which the biblical authors place them. As such we need to consciously leave out our twentieth-century Western world. We need to seek to grasp that truth firmly and not wander in the lush forest of speculation.

Parables almost always become windows into the heart and mind of God. They help us know Who God is. They reveal who we are. They become a mirror in which self-recognition produces self-understanding. They not only expose our condition, but also point to a divine remedy. Self-recognition without a divine provision would bring only discouragement. The parables bring encouragement, because in them we meet ourselves and our God.

There will be Zoom Disciple Bible Study and Lenten Services on Wednesday, April 6, 2022. Bible study will be 7:00-8:00 pm, and Lenten Service 8:00-9:00 pm. Disciple Bible Study participants will continue the study in Lesson 7. Scripture readings for April 6th are Judges chapters 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Zoom Confirmation Class will meet on Thursday, April 7, 2022. Meeting times are Thursday evenings at 6:00–7:30 pm, in April, and May. Confirmation Sunday is June 12, 2022.

Sunday, April 10, 2022, is Palm/Passion Sunday. The scripture readings are Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-28, (Palms readings) Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, (Passion readings) and Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49. Please read these scriptures to get familiar with the stories.

Our church is opened for in person worship service in the sanctuary. It was good to see members and friends who come to worship. Zoom and Facebook will continue at 10:00 am. We will continue to follow the COVID guidelines for in person worship. The Zoom worship service Meeting ID is 883 8493 0735, Passcode: 086482, Telephone # 1 929-205-6099. Zoom Sunday School is at 12:30 pm, Meeting ID is 886 7860 9822, Passcode: 673474, Telephone # 1 929-205-6099. Zoom invitation will be go out by Saturday. Please visit the church's website at GraceVSNY.org. From the website homepage you can visit the church's Facebook. Please share with your families and friends. Thank you.



Prayer List. †♥Family of Adam Doeringer, ♥Christine Doeringer, ♦♥Michael Provenzano, ♥Mason Baker (cousin of Debbie Nicosia), ♥Sherry Schutt (niece of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Thornton Stone (father of Brian Stone), ♥People of Ukraine, ♥Roael Cooke (brother-in-law of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Ramona Morrison (daughter of Margo and Vincent Morrison), ♥Averil Wallace (relative of Earl Boyd), ♥Neil Allen (son-in-law of Margo and Vincent Morrison), ♥Pastor Nation, ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Coleen Murray, ♥Velda Mathis (sister-in-law of Marianne Pike), ♥Maria Smith (mother of Rebecca Heyward), ♥Kenneth Richardson, ♥Kris Thomsen (cousin of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Nancy Roman (friend of Sing Larson), Emilia Peeples (granddaughter of Debbie and Joe Nicosia), ♥Alice Shubrick (friend of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Susan Short and her daughter ♥Sarah Short (friends of Nancy Wasek), ♥Faith Pollack (friend of Sing Larson), ♥Pearl Hamilton, ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Douglas Hayes, ♥Ulysses Ceazer (friend of Svetlana Hamlet), ♥Hensbert Neville Brooks (husband of Mahalia Brooks), ♥Kay Hartmann, ♥All United Methodist Women in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Maudlyn and Keible Scarlett, ♥Amy Cooke (sister of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Bob von Schmid (son-in-law of Adam and Christine Doeringer), ♥Kenneth Kurz (grandson of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Michael Kurz (son of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Airman Jayvee Kurz (grandson of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥Margo and Vincent Morrison, ♥Cyril (friend of Pat Eshun), ♥Samuel A. Dorsey (father of David A. Dorsey), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Everol Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥Bill Hammen (brother of Edie Zipperlen), ♥Rondolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥Health care workers fighting the Viruses, those who are suffering, and grieving families. **Note.** Prayer List names will continue to be listed for three weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information. † - Death in family, ♦ - New entry

COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2022

4/10 M. Pershad
4/17 K. Pearce
4/24 D. Nicosia

SPECIAL SUNDAY DONATIONS *in April*

EASTER SUNDAY – April 17, 2022

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS - 2022

MISSIONS – February/April/July/November 2022

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY – January 16, 2022

UMCOR SUNDAY – March 27, 2022

EASTER – April 17, 2022

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY – May 1, 2022

GOLDEN CROSS SUNDAY – May 8, 2022

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY – June 12, 2022

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 2, 2022

THANKSGIVING – November 24, 2022 (Thursday)

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY – November 27, 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE – December 24, 2022 (Saturday)

CHRISTMAS – December 25, 2022 (Sunday)

DONATIONS. *We continue to need your help in supporting Grace Church, especially during the continued threat of the viruses.* Your checks can be mailed to the church office or you can use **Venmo or Zelle**. Venmo allows you to make a direct deposit donation to Grace Church electronically. If you are already signed up, you can use this now. If not, it is easy to sign up. *Go to [Venmo.com](https://venmo.com) and follow the easy directions.* The Church is listed as Grace Methodist VS. Currently a good number of the congregation are using **Zelle** (*do not use the Church phone number, use the Church email address – GraceVSNY@aol.com*). More and more of our friends and members are using these avenues for their donations and we appreciate it. Thank you

Just for your info, you can also donate via Venmo or Zelle to our Special Sunday's (Missions, Student Day, etc.). In the memo line just notate Regular Offering and or Regular Offering and Missions. Also mention the amount you would like to give for each.

Wondering How You Can Help the People of Ukraine?

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to **Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery**. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>
- By toll free telephone: 888-252-6174
- By check with “Advance #982450-Ukraine” written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 or given at or through any United Methodist church

One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.

The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Global Ministries is in touch with the Church's leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in Ukraine.

Zoom Sunday School. We had 8 kids and 13 in all for Zoom Sunday School April 3. In the younger kids' lesson, we heard the story about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and people waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna.” (Palm Sunday is April 10.) Then Kim Neri led us in singing, “Shalom, My Good Friend,” “This is the Day that the Lord Has Made,” “Sing and Celebrate,” the Palm Sunday song, and “Allelu.” In the older kids' lesson, we read some verses from the old and new testaments of the Bible and talked about God healing our troubled world. We listened to the song, “Heal Our Land,” on YouTube. Please join us next week!

The new Grace UMC Website is now live! Please check it out at <https://www.gracevsny.org> (same website name as before). One good thing about the new website is that it should display well on a phone, tablet, or computer screen. You will find the weekly order of worship and church newsletter posted there, as well as a link to Facebook for viewing worship services. There is also an enhanced calendar feature that allows you to display it by month, week, as a list, or by category. Be sure also to check out the dropdown menus at the top of the home

page for more content. We welcome feedback and suggestions. You may contact Katherine Perkins at katherine.lowe.perkins@gmail.com. Thanks!

HOLD THE DATE!! We are having a Retirement Dinner for Pastor Nation on Thursday, May 19th. It is being held at the Coral House located at 70 Milburn Avenue in Baldwin (516/223-6500). The cost per person is \$80 and the event will last from 6PM-10PM. We are looking forward to celebrating with Pastor and Desmond as they begin their new journey. Invitations have been sent out. RSVP is requested.

Save The Date for United Women in Faith (UWF) formerly known as UMW. We shall be having the UWF Day/Fundraiser Event on 5/8/22 during church service.

CALENDAR

Meetings: Our Church re-opened on March 6, 2022. Several of our groups will also begin to meet in-person. However, please check the calendar below for Zoom meetings. Thank you.

Weekly Meetings:

- ***Every Sunday** – Choir Rehearsal 8:15AM/Church
- ***Every Sunday** – Zoom Sunday School
 - 12:30PM – Younger Kids will have a Bible Lesson and Fellowship
 - 12:45PM – Older Kids will join the Younger Kids for singing
 - 1PM -1:15PM – Older Kids will have a Bible Lesson and Fellowship
- ***Every Wednesday** – Junior Choir 4:30PM-5PM/Church
- ***Every Wednesday** – Rainbow Ringers 5PM-5:30PM/Church
- ***Every Wednesday** – Bible Study 7PM-8PM (Zoom/FB) during Lent
- ***Every Wednesday** during Lent – Lent Service 8PM (Zoom/FB)
- ***Every Thursday** – Westminster Ringers Rehearsal 7:30PM/Church
- ***Every Thursday** – Confirmation Class 6PM-7:30PM/Zoom

Upcoming Meetings:

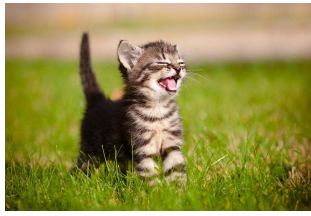
- ***Tuesday, April 12, 2022** – Worship Committee 8PM/Zoom
- ***Monday, May 16, 2022** – Church Council Meeting 7:30PM/Zoom

Monthly Meetings:

- ***Every Second Sunday is Youth Sunday** until June 12, 2022 (Church/Zoom)
- ***Every Second Monday** – UWF 7:30PM/Zoom

Upcoming Events:

- ***Sunday, April 10, 2022** – Palm Sunday 10AM (Zoom/FB/In-Person)
- ***Thursday, April 14, 2022** – Holy Thursday 8PM (Zoom/FB/In-Person)
- ***Friday, April 15, 2022** – Good Friday 2PM (Zoom/FB) and 8PM (Zoom/FB/In-Person)
- ***Sunday, April 17, 2022** – Easter Sunday 10AM (Zoom/FB/In-Person)
- ***Sunday, May 8, 2022** – Mother's Day (All Day!)
- ***Sunday, May 8, 2022** – UMF Fundraiser during Church
- ***Sunday, May 15, 2022** – Music Sunday 10AM
- ***Thursday, May 19, 2022** – Retirement Dinner for Pastor at the Coral House/6PM
- ***Sunday, June 12, 2022** – Confirmation Sunday
- ***Sunday, June 19, 2022** – Father's Day (All Day!)



Eileen