

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

February 13, 2023

Words from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A lawyer and a psychologist were talking at a party. "You and your wife get along very well," said the lawyer. "Do you ever have differences of opinion?" "Definitely," said the psychologist, "very often, but we get over them quickly." "How do you do that?" asked the lawyer. "Simple," said the psychologist, "I never tell her about them." -Michael Hodgkin

When I wake up around 4:30 am, one of the things I enjoy the most is watching the sun come up. It lets me know it's almost time for life to get going. I enjoy seeing the many colors and the feeling of greeting the day at its beginning. On clear days it's wonderful to see the sunrise and I am so thankful to God for the view. On cloudy mornings or even days where the weather doesn't allow for a clear view, it seems like something is missing. I can't recall a single time I have seen a sunrise and thought to say, "A little more orange over to the right, please," or "Would you mind giving us a little less amber in the background?" No, I enjoy the always different sunrises just as they are. I wonder how the same approach would work with people whom we love?

Tomorrow is Valentine's Day when many stop for a moment to consider the notion of love, and whether or not we are caught up in it, perhaps. I am drawn to these short considerations and how they inform my approach to people in general. To love one another doesn't mean things will always be easy, but it also doesn't mean we need not debate those whom we love about every small detail of disagreement. It doesn't mean that we should always want to be right and make sure others know how right we are. Perhaps the larger display of a loving spirit is allowing a wide enough berth for multiple opinions without jeopardizing a loving relationship. It's enjoying a Super Bowl with friends and strangers rooting for different teams yet still sharing that moment together. This is mirrored, perhaps, in the daily experience of a sunrise. We have seen them, yet no two are ever completely alike. They are all sunrises, each beautiful in their unique way.

I encourage you to remember to love one another. That isn't always easy, but it also isn't always hard. We all have the God given capacity to love one another but also to extend that love beyond our family, friends, and our church walls. In celebrating this day, let us share from the heart the love of God.

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker



♥♦Victims of the Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥♦Rosa Maria de la Cruz (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥♦Leonides Hernandez (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Ekow Eshun and mom, Pat Eshun, ♥†Family of Carol McKeithan (daughter, Pastor Debra Gallimore; son's Detrimius and Robert; granddaughter Nyla Gallimore; and Elmont congregation), - friends of Debbielee Thomsen, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥NYPD, ♥NJPD, ♥Kevin Brown (father of Naomi Brown), ♥†Family of Robin Geffken, ♥†Family of Sylvia Obeng (cousin of Pat Eshun), ♥†Family of Cosmo Whittaker (Excelencia Price's son), ♥Karen and Peter Kiernan, ♥Meagan Kiernan (daughter of Karen and Peter Kiernan), ♥Jennifer Morton, ♥Honey Knice, ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Audrey Weaver and Family, ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Patricia Sullivan (friend of Jenifer Hartig), ♥Jim Poch, ♥Christine Doeringer, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥People of Ukraine, Anne Mahoney, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske).
Note. Prayer List names will continue to be listed for two 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 FEBRUARY 2023

19 Pike (Pearce)
 26 Fitch

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS - 2023

MISSIONS – January/April/July/October 2023
HUMAN RELATIONS DAY – January 15, 2023
UMCOR SUNDAY – March 19, 2023
EASTER – April 09, 2023
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY – April 23, 2023
GOLDEN CROSS SUNDAY – TBD
PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY – June 04, 2023
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 01, 2023
UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY – November 26, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE – December 24, 2023 (Sunday)
CHRISTMAS – December 25, 2023 (Monday)

WHERE CAN YOU VOLUNTEER....

Church School – Contact Janet Stone
 Evangelism – Contact Andrea Owen-Boyd
 Thrift Shop – Contact Andrea Owen-Boyd
 Music – Call the Music Ministry Office (516/825-1940) Ken Richardson
 Missions – Contact Katherine Perkins
 Worship – Contact Kim Neri or Carol Provenzano
 Acolytes – Contact Tim Neri
 Ushers – Contact Mike Provenzano or Carol Provenzano
 Counting Team – Contact Marisa Pershad or Eileen Robertson

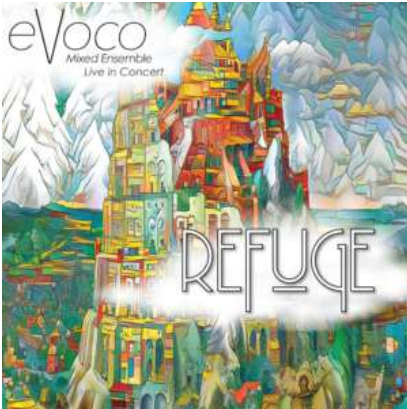
Hospitality – Contact Bob DiSalvo

Greeters – Contact Naomi Brown or Carol Provenzano

(Please call Eileen if you need contact information – 516/825-1182)

Coffee Hour. We are looking for more Volunteers for Coffee Hour. Perhaps one of our Committees could take a week – cookies, cake, cupcakes, etc.? If you have any questions, please see Bob DiSalvo. Thank you.

Save March 11th & 12th in your calendar!!



Members of our choir will be in this concert. It will be a treat with a string ensemble and references to many aspects of Christianity and biblical stories including the Tower of Babel. Featuring Caroline Shaw's To the Hands and Gregory Spears' The Tower and the Garden, eVoco Mixed Ensemble is joined by string quintet-you don't want to miss this!

Please check out this link (copy and paste) for complete details and location.

<https://www.evoco.vc/concerts/>

REMINDER. Please remember to put your Envelope Number on your checks, your donation envelope or include with your Venmo or Zelle. Thank you.

News from Friends and Members. Spoke with Edie Zipperlen the other day. She wanted us to know that Charlie had surgery. Pastor visited Charlie at the hospital and reports that he is doing well. Charlie sends his thanks to everyone for their prayers and support.

Our **Souper Bowl Food Drive** was a huge success, thanks to the generous donations from our congregation! Many bags of food products were brought this week over to Holy Name of Mary and Sister Margie's Food Pantry. Additional food items were purchased using the \$450+ cash donations. They were most appreciative. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Janet Stone

Sunday School – Valentine's Day will be upon us this week, so our thoughts have turned to love. As children, we are thankful for the love we receive from our parents, and we are thankful for the love we receive from God, our Father in Heaven. Just as earthly parents provide guidance and boundaries, God our Father has provided us with the 10 Commandments. He has given us these commandments because he loves us and it is through obeying these commandments that we can grow as his children. In Church School this week, we reviewed the 10 Commandments and thought about how these commandments help us be better people and how as better people, we are able to share the love of God with others. Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

The **Diversity and Inclusion Committee** would like to reintroduce ourselves to the congregation and share our mission statement with you. Be on the lookout for future activities and/or events that we hope you all participate in.

Sincerely,

Crystal, Danny, and Jane

The mission of the Grace United Methodist Church Valley Stream Diversity and Inclusion Committee is to ensure inclusivity for all members of the congregation regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious beliefs, cognitive capability and physical ability. We pledge to do this through prayer, education, fundraising, open discourse, and by providing a safe space where the congregation can share its thoughts, beliefs, and experiences.

[CALENDAR](#)

Meetings: Please check the calendar below for which meetings are being held in-person or via Zoom. Thank you.

Weekly Meetings:

- *Every Sunday – Choir Rehearsal 8AM/Church
- *Every Sunday – Sunday School (in-person) 10AM
- *Every Wednesday – Bible Study 7:30PM-8:30PM/Zoom (exception – Lent)
- *Every Thursday – Westminster Ringers 7:30PM

Upcoming Meetings:

- *Monday, February 27, 2023 – SPPRC 7:30PM/Zoom
- *Wednesday, March 14, 2023 – Nursery School Meeting 7PM
- *Wednesday, March 14, 2023 – Board of Trustees 7:45PM/Zoom
- *Sunday, March 19, 2023 – Church Council after Church

Monthly Meetings:

- *Every Second Sunday – UWF after Church/Upper Lounge - In-person

Upcoming Events:

- *Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – Ash Wednesday 7:30PM/Grace sanctuary and Zoom
- *Sunday, February 26, 2023 – Scout Sunday 10AM
- *Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – Lenten Service 7:30PM/ Grace sanctuary and Zoom
- *Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – Co-op Lenten Service 7:30PM/Zoom and Floral Park UMC
- *Wednesday, March 15, 2023 – Co-op Lenten Service 7:30PM/Zoom and St. John's
- *Wednesday, March 22, 2023 – Co-op Lenten Service 7:30PM/Zoom and St. Mark's Rockville Centre

***Wednesday, March 29, 2023** – Co-op Lenten Service **7:30PM**/Zoom and St. Paul's Inwood

***Sunday, April 2, 2023** – Palm Sunday 10AM

***Thursday, April 6, 2023** – Holy Thursday **7:30PM**/Zoom and St. John's

***Friday, April 7, 2023** - Good Friday **12 Noon**/ Grace sanctuary

***Sunday, April 9, 2023** – Easter

***Sunday, May 14, 2023** – Music Sunday

***Sunday, December 10, 2023** – Annual Christmas Concert



Eileen