

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 20, 2023

Words from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I sit down to write on this cool February morning, I am reminded of John Wesley's heartwarming Aldersgate Experience in 1738. At the age of 34, Wesley had returned from a difficult and discouraging mission trip in America and found himself questioning his faith. On the evening of May 24, he went to an evening worship service in London, which he reflects on in his journal writing:

"In the evening I went very unwittingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while the leader was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Wesley had been actively engaged in ministry before his heart-warming experience that evening on Aldersgate Street. Like Wesley, we may find ourselves questioning our faith at different times in our lives. Even Jesus' faith was challenged in the wilderness where he fasted and prayed for 40 days.

Our 40-day Lenten journey begins this month on Ash Wednesday, as we repent of our sins and are marked with the sign of the cross, signifying that we all belong to Christ. Lent is a season of repentance, a time to return to God and re-focus our lives on living like Jesus. How will you return to God this Lent? There are lots of ways to do so. Some people fast by cutting out some thing(s) in their lives that distract them from God; others take something on for Christ, while others devote themselves to prayer. Here's a list with several ideas:

Top Ten List: THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, Instagram, Facebook, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray.


9. Start a prayer rhythm. Say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear a siren, or check your e-mail. Before you text/call/email someone, pray for them.

8. **Read one chapter in the Bible each day.** (Matthew's a good book to start with. Psalms, too.)
7. **Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (*maybe even yourself.*)**
6. **Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee.** Give the money you save to UMCOR to help folks in crisis.
5. **Create a daily quiet time.** Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer.
4. **Cultivate a life of gratitude.** Write someone a thank you letter each day/week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.
3. **Be kind to someone each day.**
2. **Pray for others you see** as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.
1. **Volunteer** one hour or more each week with a local shelter, nursing home, prison ministry or your local church.

However you decide to spend this Lenten journey, I hope your heart is warmed with love for God!

In Christ Service,

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker

 ♥Victims of the Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, ♥♦Coleen Murray, ♥Ron Albretchen (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥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

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

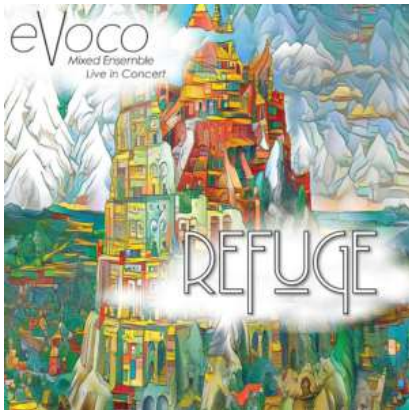
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY – April 23, 2023
GOLDEN CROSS SUNDAY – TBD
PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY – June 04, 2023
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 01, 2023
UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY – November 26, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE – December 24, 2023 (Sunday)
CHRISTMAS – December 25, 2023 (Monday)

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.

Evangelism. Our Evangelism Committee continues to accept donations of T-Shirts, Socks, Underwear, Paperback Books, etc., for Prison Ministry. You may leave your donations in the box marked Prison Ministry in the Narthex of the Church. Thank you in advance for your help.

Thrift Shop – They are accepting donations now. You may leave them at the outside door. The Thrift Shop will be announcing shortly when they will officially open.

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-9PM/Zoom (exception – Lent)
- *Every Thursday – Westminster Ringers 7:30PM

Upcoming Meetings:

- *Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – Ash Wednesday 7:30PM/Zoom & In-person
- *Monday, February 27, 2023 – SPPRC 7:30PM/Zoom (Special Link)
- *Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – Lenten Service 7:30PM/ Zoom & In-person
- *Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – Lenten Service 7:30PM/ Zoom & In-person
- *Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – Nursery School Meeting 7PM
- *Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – Board of Trustees 7:45PM/Zoom (Special Link)
- *Wednesday, March 15, 2023 – Lenten Service 7:30PM/ Zoom & In-person
- *Sunday, March 19, 2023 – Church Council after Church
- *Wednesday, March 22, 2023 – Lenten Service 7:30PM/Zoom & In-person
- *Sunday, April 2, 2023 – Palm Sunday 10AM/Zoom

***Thursday, April 6, 2023 – Holy Thursday 7:30PM/ Zoom & In-person**

***Friday, April 7, 2023 - Good Friday Co-Op Service 12N-3PM/Zoom**

***Friday, April 7, 2023 – Good Friday 7:30PM/ Zoom & In-person**

***Sunday, April 9, 2023 – Easter Sunrise 6:30 AM**

***Sunday, April 9, 2023 – Easter 10AM**

NOTE: All of our Church Services will use the same link that we have been using. This includes Ash Wednesday, and our Lenten Services. Other meetings such as Bible Study will have their own link.

Monthly Meetings:

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

Upcoming Events:

***Sunday, February 26, 2023 – Scout Sunday**

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

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



Eileen