

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

March 20, 2023

Words from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you on this sun-filled morning. As we begin week four of Lent, how goes it with your soul? Many of us have been fasting, others have taken on new practices. We are just past the halfway point. I pray you continue to grow and learn during our wilderness experience.

Today I want us to look at the acolytes and what they represent for us during our worship. Lighted candles remind us of Jesus who said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence of the candlelight reminds us of Jesus' coming not only into our world, but also, into our lives. Often it is the acolyte who lights the candles during worship.

The term "acolyte" comes from a Greek word meaning 'follower' or 'attendant' and may refer to anyone who performs ceremonial duties. Most commonly today, acolyte refers to one who lights and extinguishes altar candles. The two candles on the Lord's Table are seen as representing our belief that Jesus is both human and divine. Since ancient times, light and fire have served as reminders of God's presence to God's people. For a biblical example, read about God's appearance to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3). Acolytes carry the light into worship at the beginning of the service and carry the light out into the world at the end. This is to symbolize God's presence in the midst of the worshipping community and God's light going with us as we go out into the world.

Acolytes have been serving churches for many, many years. Today the role of acolyte is often filled by a child or youth; however, there are no age limitations on acolytes. In addition to lighting and extinguishing candles, acolytes may assist with Holy Communion, the offering, and other aspects of worship.

If you would like to serve as an acolyte, please be sure to talk to our Brother Mike P. for acolyte training!

Stay tuned for next week's *Church Life* to learn more about Baptism.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker



♥Victims of the Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, ♥Keith Ritchie (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥♦Debbielee Thomsen, ♥♦Jesse James Smith, ♥Randolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥†Mayorga Family, ♥Coleen Murray, ♥Loretta Lewis Zimmer and Bob Zimmer, ♥Ron Albretchen (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥†Family of Carol McKeithan (daughter, Pastor Debra Gallimore; son's Detrimius and Roberto; granddaughter Nyla Gallimore, Max; and Elmont congregation), - friends of Debbielee Thomsen, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥Kevin Brown (father of Naomi Brown), ♥†Family of Sylvia Obeng (cousin of Pat Eshun), ♥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, ♥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 March 2023

26 D. Nicosia

COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR April 2023

02 K Pearce

09 E. Fitch

16 D. Nicosia

23 M. Pershad

30 M. Pershad

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 or Mike Provenzano
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)

LENT SERVICE is at St. Marks's UMC on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The address for St. Mark's UMC is 200 Hempstead Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570. Their phone number is 516/766-2080. The service will be in-person and Zoom. **Here is the Zoom information:**

St. Mark's UMC Worship Service will take place online/on phone at 7:30pm.

To Join - click the link below for computer/cell phone video and audio.

zoom.us/j/812777011

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,812777011# US (New York)

+16469313860,,812777011# US

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 812 777 011

For phone (audio only) use * 6 to toggle mute/unmute

The meeting page on Zoom will be activated about 10 minutes before our service is scheduled to start. You will be placed in the "waiting room" and admitted to the service meeting by the host.

Coffee Hour.

Coffee Hour is being hosted by *the Diversity Committee* on Sunday, 3/26/23. Thank you.

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

Diversity and Inclusion Committee. In the upcoming months you will see posts from the Diversity and Inclusion Committee inviting the congregation to consider a thought provoking question that challenges you all to take action and enact change.

The month of March is Women's History Month and Disability Awareness Month. How do these two intersect?

In general, women across the globe are exposed to violence. The risk of facing gender-based violence increases for women with disabilities. Abuse can occur at home, via personal care assistants or health care professionals. The abuse can take the form of restricting medications, withholding or damaging assistive devices, inappropriate touching during dressing or bathing, or physical/emotional/sexual abuse.

Thus, fostering safe, accommodating, and welcoming environments for women with disabilities is something we should commit to as a congregation. The word "disability" encompasses a wide range of conditions and experiences with varying levels of visibility and severity. Think about ways disability might affect the women in your life, even if it's not visible. How can we make our church, our homes, and our workspaces safe and welcoming for these women?

How will you enact change? Let us know in person on 3/26/23 when the Diversity and Inclusion Committee hosts coffee hour.

Yours in Christ,

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee

News of Friends and Members. Debbielee Thomsen is looking for an apartment east of Valley Stream. If you know of any available apartments, please speak with Debbielee. Thank you.

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

MISSIONS COMMITTEE. Grace Missions Committee will be serving lunch at **Far Rockaway Mission** on Saturday, March 25. We will meet in the church kitchen at 10AM to prepare the sandwiches and bag the lunches. Anyone who would like to help make sandwiches and bag lunches is welcome to join us!

Church School. Today in Church School we heard the story in John 9 about Jesus healing the blind man and by healing the blind man, Jesus knew that others would see His light and want to follow it. We talked about our eyes and our heart, how we know that our eyes help us to see and we know that our heart keeps our blood moving and our body alive. So we figured that by using our eyes to see Jesus it will help us to open our hearts as well to help others. Ephesians 1:18 says in part, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you". When we prayed, we asked that Jesus help us to open our eyes so that we can love and serve those around us. *Janet Stone*

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 officially opening on Saturday, April 15, 2023**, and going forward will be open every Saturday from 10AM-2PM. **ALSO**, before their grand opening on 4/15/23, they are looking for volunteers to do some painting to really brighten up the

space. Pizza, soda etc. will be provided. Please contact Andrea, Maudlyn or the Church Office if you are interested. Thank you.

The Music Ministry of GUMC would like to thank Mike Provenzano for donating a full sized 88 key electric piano. We will make sure we put it to good use. The first project it will be used for is to rehearse with our Sunday School children for Easter. Calling All Parents, Grandparents, Aunties, and Uncles!! There is still plenty of time for the child(ren) in your life to sing with us this Easter Sunday. Simply click on the link below to learn our Easter Sunday selection. We welcome all youngsters.

<https://youtu.be/WZ3tnBMCWZU>

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, March 22, 2023 – Lent Service 7:30PM/Zoom & In-person
- *Sunday, April 2, 2023 – Palm Sunday 10AM/Zoom & In-person
- *Sunday, April 2, 2023 – United Women in Faith – after Church/Upper Lounge
- *Thursday, April 6, 2023 – Holy Thursday 7:30PM/Zoom & In-person
- *Friday, April 7, 2023 - Good Friday Co-Op Service GUMC Valley Stream 12N/Zoom
- *Friday, April 7, 2023 – Good Friday 7:30PM/ Zoom & In-person
- *Sunday, April 9, 2023 – Easter Sunrise 6:30AM/Church
- *Sunday, April 9, 2023 – Easter 10AM/Zoom

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.

Upcoming Events:

- *Saturday, April 15, 2023 – Thrift Shop Re-Opens for business!!
- *Sunday, April 16, 2023 – Getting to Know Each Other Coffee Hour and Bake Sale (UWF)
- *Sunday, May 14, 2023 – Music Sunday
- *Saturday, May 20, 2023 – UWF Social Justice Luncheon (Details to follow)

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



Eileen