

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

**January 8, 2024**

Dear Grace UMC community,

Grace and peace to you as we continue to step into this new year with God, we take time to reflect on the ways our ever-present God is revealed in every aspect of our lives. As the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins, let us be reminded that the journey of becoming the people of God is anything but ordinary—in word, thought, and action.

On Sunday, just before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we observe Human Relations Day. One of six special Sundays in the church year. It offers a unique opportunity for United Methodist congregations to raise awareness and funds for social justice initiatives and outreach to at-risk youth. Human Relations Day calls us to strive to become the people God is calling us to be and to work collaboratively to create a beloved community.

Consider how contributing a special offering this Sunday will be the initial step in our ongoing commitment to share the assets of our entire community—gifts, time, skills, money, expertise, and connections—so that together we are creating a beloved community. Together, let us strive to create a neighborhood, a city, a nation, and a world where everyone can flourish.

May this year be filled with the spirit of unity, justice, and love as we continue this journey together.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker



◆♥Carol Whyte, ♥Winston Scarlett (brother-in-law of Maudlyn Scarlett, ♥David Biegler, ♥Vivian (4 months old) Peeples and sister Emilia (4 years old) Peeples, ♥Mary Turbeville (cousin of Lenore Kurz), ♥Jennifer LaRochelle, ♥Michael Ciampi (friend of Kim Neri), ♥Thomas Neu, ♥Peggy Robinson, ♥Michael Kurz, ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥Carolyn O'Loughlin, ♥Suella Fredrick (friend of Lorna McKenzie), ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Garvin Phillip (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Marilyn Eller (sister of Elaine Treske), ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Jim Poch, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Milly 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

### **SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS - 2024**

**MISSIONS – January/April/July/October 2024**

**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY – January 14, 2024**

**UMCOR SUNDAY – March 10, 2024**

**EASTER – March 31, 2024**

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY – April 14, 2024**

**GOLDEN CROSS SUNDAY – May 5, 2024**

**PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY – May 26, 2024**

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 06, 2024**

**UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY – November 24, 2024**

**CHRISTMAS EVE – December 24, 2024 (Tuesday)**

**CHRISTMAS DAY – December 25, 2024**

### **COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE for January 2024**

**January 14 – Everett Fitch**

**January 21 – Debbie Nicosia**

**January 28 – Marisa Pershad (Team 1)**

### **COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE for February 2024**

**February 04 – Marisa Pershad**

**February 11 – Debbie Nicosia**

**February 18 – Everett Fitch**

**February 25 – Debbie Nicosia**

**Sunday, January 14, 2024, is HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY.** It is one of our Special Envelope Sundays. A Special Sunday envelope is in the Narthex if you need one. Human Relations Day strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.

**Book of Remembrance.** A Gift has been given in loving memory of Mary Gluck by Joan LoBello.

**Church School.** This week in Church School, we talked about Jesus's baptism as found in Matthew 3:13–17. When Jesus grew up, he was ready to begin his ministry. He went to the Jordan River to see John the Baptizer. John was baptizing people in the river. Jesus asked John to baptize him, but John tried to stop him. "I need to be baptized by you!" said John. Jesus said to John, "Please baptize me. It is important for my ministry." So, John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened to him, and he saw the spirit of God come down like a dove and rest on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my son, I love him. He makes me happy." The class talked about baptism, and what it means to be washed by water and the Spirit. We decided that every time we turned on our faucet, and let the water run through our hands, we would say "God loves me. God is pleased with me. God is happy with me." It's an easy way to remind ourselves of God's love.

*Janet Stone*

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

There will be a **Commemoration Service for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** at St. John's Methodist Church on Sunday, January 14, 2024, beginning at 5PM. The Church address is 2105 Stuart Avenue, Valley Stream.

**Coffee Hour** –This Sunday, January 14, 2024, **we are still in need of a Host!** If you are able, please call the Church Office, email [GraceVSNY@aol.com](mailto:GraceVSNY@aol.com) or just leave a message. Thank you. A Host is also needed for January 28, 2024.

## **CALENDAR**

### **Weekly Meetings, Rehearsals and Gatherings:**

- \***Every Sunday** – Choir Rehearsal 8AM/Church
- \***Every Sunday** – Church School 10AM/Church  
(except 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – 10AM/Education Building)
- \***Every Second Sunday of the month** – Healing Prayer Service after Church/Chapel
- \***Every Wednesday** – Bible Study 7:30PM-9PM/Zoom (Same Zoom Link every week)
- \***Every Thursday** – Westminster Ringers 7PM/Church
- \***Every Saturday** – Prayer Meeting 8AM/Zoom (Same Zoom Link every week)
- \***Every Saturday** – Thrift Shop 10AM-2PM

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- \***Tuesday, January 9, 2024** – Nursery School Committee 7PM
- \***Tuesday, January 16, 2024** – Board of Trustees 7:30PM/In-person-BKR  
(Zoom available if necessary)

### **Upcoming Events:**

- \***Saturday, January 27, 2024** – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Evangelism Prayer Breakfast

9999kakaklfkaj



**Eileen**