

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

**March 11, 2024**

Dear Grace UMC Community,

Grace and peace to you in this Lenten time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. This week, let us keep thinking deeper into the significance of Lent and how it speaks to our faith journey.

The 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent a reminder that even in the midst of our struggles and atonement, there is always room for joy and celebration in God's grace. Let us rejoice in the light of God's love, even as we continue to walk the path of repentance and self-examination. Let us also consider the story of the prodigal son, a powerful reminder of God's unconditional love and boundless mercy. Like the prodigal son, we too have strayed from the path at times, but God is always there, ready to welcome us back with open arms. Let us turn our hearts towards God, seeking forgiveness and reconciliation, and finding strength in God's love.

In the words of Psalm 34:18, "*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those whose spirits are crushed.*" Whatever burdens we carry, whatever trials we face, let us take comfort in knowing that God is with us, guiding us through the wilderness and leading us to a brighter tomorrow.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us encourage one another to stay strong in our faith, to embrace the spirit of repentance, and to rejoice in the hope of Easter.

In Christ Service,

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker



♥Rene Mondol (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥John Mirra, Jr. (son-in-law of Rosario and Luis Hooker), ♥Veronica Stone (friend of Margo Morrison), ♥Everon Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Eugene (Gene) O'Brien, ♥Hedy Kling, ♥Gene Marks, ♥Declan Jurgens, ♥Crystal Richardson, ♥Pat Hamilton, ♥Michelle Hooker-Mirra, ♥Karen Kiernan ♥Carol Whyte, ♥Winston Scarlett (brother-in-law of Maudlyn Scarlett), ♥Patrick Curley (son of Debbielee

Thomsen), ♥David Biegler, ♥Vivian (4 months old) Peeples and sister Emilia (4 years old) Peeples, ♥Jennifer LaRoche, ♥Michael Ciampi (friend of Kim Neri), ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥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 March 2024**

**March 17 – Debbie Nicosia**

**March 24 – Everett Fitch**

**March 31 – Debbie Nicosia**

There is a **Board of Trustees Meeting** on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 7:45PM in the Bert Keller Room. Attendance is Important.



**Lilies.** If you would like to place a Lily in the Sanctuary for Easter in loving memory or in honor of a special someone, please fill out the order form (located in the Narthex) or email ([GraceVSNY@aol.com](mailto:GraceVSNY@aol.com)) me your request. The Lilies are \$14 each. Please make the check out to GUMC and either place it in the Offering Plate in a sealed envelope marked for the Church Office, mail it to the Church Office, or use Venmo/Zelle. If you have an envelope number, please note it either on the order form or on your check. *The deadline for ordering is Wednesday, March 27, 2024.*

**The Jean and Ken Larson Memorial Sunday is March 17th.** The Emergency Food Program, sponsored by the Long Island Council of Churches, had its beginning here at Grace Church in 1976 under the direction of Jean and Ken Larson with two appeals made for food throughout the year. In 1977, Jean and Ken Larson initiated a program of contributions to be made weekly, 52 times a year, and it continues until today. ***In their honor and memory, we would ask you to bring extra food on this Sunday (March 17th) – there is a box labeled Jean and Ken Larson Memorial Sunday in the Narthex. Money is also welcome as the Council can purchase food at lower prices than we can.*** Checks should be made out to Grace United Methodist Church, put in a separate envelope and marked for the Church Office. Please continue to support this worthwhile tradition which has been going on for **47 years**.

**BLOOD DRIVE.** Give life, Give blood, **on Tuesday, March 19, 2024**, from 3PM-7:30PM we will be hosting our SPRING BLOOD DRIVE in the Education Building gym. We have an opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters while we serve our Lord and Savior. Please give so others may live! Dinner will be served to all donors and their family from 5pm-7pm. Please help us serve our community and save lives of God's children, bless you. *Bob DiSalvo*

**Thank you Troop 109** for participating in our Service. We appreciate all your troop does for us. A special thank you to *Arvind Gajraj* for his heartwarming and educational presentation.

**Coffee Hour** – Thank you ***Diane Panzarino and Maureen Smyth*** for volunteering to host Coffee Hour this this past Sunday, March 10, 2024. Hosting this coming Sunday will be the United Women of Faith. We still need volunteers for Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!!

**Church School.** This week's lesson came from Luke 22:14–20 **The Last Supper.** The Passover meal was celebrated each year to mark the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. Jesus and his disciples would have observed Passover many times throughout their lives. This year, the Passover meal with Jesus would be different from others, but they did not know that. During this meal, Jesus gave thanks for the bread and broke it, and then took a cup and blessed it. Jesus used the bread and the cup, every day items, to remind the disciples of his body (the bread) and his blood (the cup), given for them, and for us. They have become symbols of God's love in Christian churches today. During communion, we recite the familiar words, "Do this in remembrance of me," and share the bread and cup to remember the life and death of Jesus. We all might practice and participate in communion differently. However, we can remember Jesus and his example by simply sharing a meal. Whether we share a meal with friends and family, or come forward to receive the elements in worship, we have the opportunity to remember. We discussed the importance of remembering Jesus and our faith in many ways, not just on Communion Sunday. We know that it is important to have faith rituals and that we can use our creativity to remember and keep our faith active anywhere we go. *Janet Stone*

**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)  
**(There is no Bible Study during Lent)**
- \*Every **Thursday** – Westminster Ringers 7PM/Church
- \*Every **Saturday** – Prayer Meeting 8AM/Zoom (Same Zoom Link every week)
- \*Every **Saturday** – Thrift Shop 10AM-2PM
- \*Every **Fourth Sunday of the month** – United Women in Faith

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- \*Tuesday, March 12, 2024 – Board of Trustees 7:45PM/BKR
- \*Sunday, April 21, 2024 – Church Council Meeting after 10AM Service

## **Upcoming Events**

- \*Wednesday, March 13, 2024 – **Lenten Service 7:30PM/St. James UMC/Lynbrook**
- \*Saturday, March 16, 2024 – Prayer Breakfast at Eagle's Wings Apostolic Ministry (9AM)  
~Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Hooker is a speaker~
- \*Sunday, March 17, 2024 – Jean and Ken Larson Memorial Sunday
- \*Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – Spring Blood Drive 3PM-7:30PM/Gym
- \*Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – **Lenten Service 7:30PM/St. John's/Elmont-VS**
- \*Sunday, March 24, 2024 – Palm Sunday 10AM
- \*Thursday, March 28, 2024 – Holy/Maundy Thursday 7:30PM/GUMC
- \*Friday, March 29, 2024 – Good Friday 12Noon - 3PM  
at St. John's UMC (Seven Last Words)  
**Good Friday 7:30PM/GUMC**
- \*Sunday, March 31, 2024 – EASTER 6:30AM Sunrise/GUMC  
EASTER 10AM/GUMC
- \*Saturday, May 25, 2024 – UWF Social Justice Luncheon
- \*Sunday, December 8, 2024 – Christmas Concert



**Happy St. Patrick's Day** ~Eileen~