

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

**March 18, 2024**

Dear Grace United Methodist Church community,

Grace and peace to you as we find ourselves nearing the culmination of this sacred Lenten journey. Throughout Lent, we have reflected, prayed, and sought to draw closer to God through acts of repentance and spiritual discipline. As we continue this journey, let us remain strong in our commitment to growth and renewal.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus reminds us of the importance of perseverance in prayer: "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1). As we enter this final stretch of Lent, let us hold fast to the discipline of prayer, trusting that God hears our every word and sustains us through every trial.

Reflecting on our journey thus far, let us take time to acknowledge the moments of grace and transformation we have experienced along the way. Each step we take brings us closer to the joy of Easter morning, where we will celebrate the victory of life over death and the promise of new beginnings.

As we prepare for Holy Week, let us encourage one another to finish this journey strong. Let us support each other through our spiritual disciplines, lifting each other up in prayer and offering words of encouragement to sustain us on the path ahead. Together, let us press on toward the goal, confident in the promise of God's faithfulness and love.

May this fifth week of Lent be a time of deepening faith, renewed hope, and abundant blessings for each of us. Let us emerge from this season with hearts fully prepared to embrace the joy of Easter and the endless possibilities of new life in Christ.

With prayers for strength and perseverance,

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker



♥Family of James Keidel, ♥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, ♥Pastor Debra Gallimore (friend of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Roberto Gallimore (friend of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥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, ♥Mary Turbeville (cousin of Lenore Kurz), ♥Jennifer LaRoche, ♥Michael Ciampi (friend of Kim Neri), ♥Michael Kurz, ♥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 24 – Everett Fitch**

**March 31 – Debbie Nicosia**



**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.*

**Sad News** – Jane Keidel Rosen notified us that her brother *James Keidel* passed away on Friday. He was the son of Charlotte and Richard Keidel. There will be a memorial service for James at 2PM on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Saint Stephen's Church located at 353 Main Street in Ridgefield, CT. Our sincere sympathy is extended to James' entire family and friends.

**Coffee Hour** – We still need volunteers for this Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. If you would be able to volunteer on the 24<sup>th</sup>, please either email [GraceVSNY@aol.com](mailto:GraceVSNY@aol.com) or call the Church Office (516/825-1182). Thank you!!

**Church School.** Our lesson this week is from Luke 22:39–46, **Praying in the Garden.** The Bible story begins after Jesus and the disciples have shared the last supper and gone to the Garden of Gethsemane. While his disciples sleep – despite Jesus' instructions to pray – Jesus goes to pray. Jesus knew his death was coming soon. He didn't want to die, and he was probably sad and anxious. He prayed that God would present him with a solution so he wouldn't have to die, but he also knew it was up to God. After praying, Jesus was visited by an angel. The angel set his mind at peace, and Jesus knew what he had to do. In the story, Jesus provides us with a model for prayer, taking his sadness and his fear and turning it over to God – as we are taught to do. Jesus asks for what he wants, but ultimately prays for God's will to be done – as we also are expected to do. The children learned that no matter what is happening, they can pray to God and God will hear them. They can go to God with what is hard, just like Jesus did. It might not change the outcome or take away something painful that has already happened; however, it can bring comfort to know that God goes with us and is present in the middle of our fear and sadness. *Janet Stone*

**Prayer Breakfast Saturday March 16, 2024.** We give thanks for the ministry of Evangelism as Pastor Jeff delivered the message at the Eagle Wings Apostolic Annual Prayer Breakfast in Stamford Connecticut this past Saturday. Our Annual Prayer Breakfast at Grace was birthed out of this ministry started by Pastor Sherleen Harding in Stamford, Connecticut. We give thanks for the faith to carry on. We showed up to support Pastor Jeff and to build on the ministry. God is good, and his goodness is running after us. Amen *Andrea Owen-Boyd*

## **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**

**\*Sunday, April 21, 2024 – Church Council Meeting after 10AM Service**

### **Upcoming Events**

**\*Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – Spring Blood Drive 12N-10PM/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**



**Eileen**