

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

**March 25, 2024**

Dear Grace United Methodist Church community,

Grace and peace to you! As we embark on the sacred journey through Holy Week, let us draw closer to the heart of Christ and reflect on the significance of this season in our Christian faith. Holy Week is a reminder of the depth of God's love for us, demonstrated through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Amid the solemnity of Maundy Thursday and the sorrow of Good Friday, we are invited to walk alongside Jesus in his final moments, considering the sacrifice he made out of love for each one of us. It is a time for introspection, repentance, and deepening our connection with God as we reflect on the cross and the weight of our sins.

Even in our moments of deepest despair, we find hope in the promise of Easter morning. This joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection reminds us that death does not have the final word, and that through Christ we are offered the gift of new life and eternal hope. As we anticipate the dawn of Easter Sunday, let us hold fast to the assurance that God's love triumphs over darkness, and that the light of Christ shines brightly in our lives, illuminating our paths with hope and grace.

May we be inspired to embrace the fullness of the Easter message – from the pain of the cross to the triumph of the empty tomb. Let us walk together in faith, supporting and encouraging one another, as we journey from sorrow to joy, and from death to new life in Christ.

May the peace and blessings of Holy Week be with you all.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker



♥Manny Kurz, ♥†Family of James Keidel, ♥Jasmin Whittaker, ♥Rene Mondol (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥John Mirra, Jr. (son-in-law of Rosario and Luis Hooker), ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥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), ♥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), ♥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, ♥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 31 – Debbie Nicosia**

### **COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR April 2024**

**April 07 – Marisa Pershad/Team 1**

**April 14 – Marisa Pershad**

**April 21 – Debbie Nicosia**

**April 28 – Everett Fitch**

### **LAST CHANCE TO ORDER LILIES**



**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.***

**NOTE: There will be NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK. We will resume Bible Study on Wednesday, April 4, 2024.**

**Coffee Hour** – Thank you Pastor Hooker and family for hosting Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 24, 2024, The Ukanwoke Family will be hosting Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 31, 2024. Thank you. *Also*, volunteers are needed for April 7<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and April 28<sup>th</sup>!!

**Church School.** Today we experienced the excitement of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem, even as we know that this week in Jerusalem will result in his death. In **Luke 18:31-33**, Jesus told his friends, the disciples, that he would be killed in Jerusalem. Jesus and his friends knew as they entered Jerusalem that Jesus' life on earth was short. Jesus knew he was in danger as he entered Jerusalem, but he did not try to hide. He arrived, almost in defiance of those planning to kill him. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, crowds gathered on the road to greet him as people greeted kings in those days, by spreading their clothes on the road for him to walk on along with palm branches cut from nearby trees. As Jesus passed, the crowds shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" By riding a donkey instead of a horse, Jesus was saying he came in peace. A king would ride a horse if he were coming in war and a donkey if coming in peace. Jesus asserted he was a king of peace for all. There are many symbols in this story. Today we focused on the symbol of the palm branch and the ritual of waving palms on Palm Sunday. We know this is one way we can remember and praise God. *Janet Stone*

**Church School NOTE:** Next week is a **Family Worship Sunday** as it is Easter. Church School will resume the following Sunday.

**Children's Palm Sunday Presentation** - Thank you to Janah Whittaker-Roth, Madison Levy, Ava Brown, Jasmin Whittaker and Matthew Roth for sharing the story of Palm Sunday. They did a wonderful job which was very well received by the church audience!

## 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
- \*Every *Fourth Sunday of the month* – United Women in Faith

### **Upcoming Meetings**

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

### **Upcoming Events**

- \*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**