

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

**February 24, 2025**

## **Words from the Pastor**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

In just over a week, we will begin the Lenten season. This is a season of prayer, contemplation, and seeking God. While the Lenten journey calls us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow Jesus – we are able to do so with the hope of Easter and what our resurrected Savior promises us. One of the promises is that we will become a new creation, the old will go and the new will come. I know that in my own life, I see so many areas where I long to grow and change. I would like to suggest that the path to this new life can happen as we choose to focus on three areas of change during the season of Lent.

First, be diligent in our **attitude** toward Christ. Scripture says that those who “seek” will find. (Mt 6:33) If we hunger and thirst for Christ more than desiring pleasure, money, or success we are promised that we shall indeed find Him. Second, be diligent in your **commitment** to Christ. Jesus calls us to be his disciples, and the life of any disciple requires commitment. During Lent, commit yourself to attending services regularly, or maybe join our mid-week (Wednesday) Bible study and prayer service, or perhaps serve the church by joining the choir, helping with the thrift store, or participating in our bi-monthly prison ministry. Increase your level of commitment in some concrete way. Third, be diligent in renewing your **mind** to be like that of Christ. (Rom 12:1) Many people are fixed in their opinions and thoughts. But if God is truly going to change us from the inside out, we need a teachable spirit. This Lent, be open to the possibility that God wants to show you something new. Humble yourselves by having an open mind.

If we seek Christ with all our heart, if we commit ourselves to Him, and if we allow our minds to be teachable and moldable, I believe God will begin to bring about beautiful change in our lives. The old will begin to fade, and the new life that Christ promises of joy, peace, and love will flourish. May God be with you as we begin this journey toward becoming a new creation.

Pastor Kim



♥Jake Gunther (grandson of Jane Gunther), ♥Diane Vitacco, ♥SofiaRose Curry (relative of Sing Larson), ♥Families dealing with the California Wild Fires, ♥Edie Zipperlen, ♥Mary Flynn (mom) and Maureen Andersen (daughter), ♥Priscilla Caparelli (friend of Kim Neri), ♥Manny Kurz, ♥Cecil and Carol Walker (friends of Barbara Woodford), ♥†Ricky Barnette (friend of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Patsy Barnett (friend of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Everon Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Carol Whyte, ♥Winston Scarlett (brother-in-law of Maudlyn Scarlett), ♥Jennifer LaRochelle (friend of Kim Neri), ♥David Biegler, ♥Michael Kurz, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥Garvin Phillip (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Marilyn Eller (sister of Elaine Treske), ♥Jim Poch, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske, ♥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 - 2025**

**MISSIONS** – January/April/July/October 2025

**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY** – January 19, 2025

**UMCOR SUNDAY** – March 30, 2025

**EASTER** – April 20, 2025

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY** – May 4, 2025

**PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY** – June 15, 2025

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY** – October 05, 2025

**UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY** – November 30, 2025

**CHRISTMAS EVE** – December 24, 2025 (Wednesday)

**CHRISTMAS DAY** – December 25, 2025

### **COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2025**

**March 02 – Debbie Nicosia**

**March 09 – Everett Fitch**

**March 16 – Debbie Nicosia**

**March 23 – Marisa Pershad**

**March 30 – Marisa Pershad**

### **COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2025**

**April 06 – Debbie Nicosia**

**April 13 – Everett Fitch**

**April 20 – Debbie Nicosia**

**April 27 – Marisa Pershad**

**PLEDGES FOR 2025** – So far we have received \$117,784. We would like to reach a goal of \$150,000 to \$200,000. If you haven't already pledged, please consider helping us reach our goal. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex or you can call or email the Church Office and your pledge will be entered. Thank you.

**Please sign up for *Coffee Hour*, now known as FELLOWSHIP HOUR.** There is a sign-up sheet in the Bert Keller Room. Please use the sign-up sheet in the BKR or call the Church Office. Thank you to our Evangelism Committee for volunteering to host on March 2. We are looking for volunteers for March 9 and March 30. Thank you.

**PLEASE** put your **ENVELOPE NUMBER** on any of your donations (Check/Venmo/Zelle). This will help our Counting Teams and also help the Church Office to input your donation into the correct account.

**COME ONE, COME ALL!!!**



Join us for a **Pancake Dinner** on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, 2025, doors opening at 7:00pm benefiting the *Valley Stream Fire Department Burn Fund*. Shrove Tuesday is observed annually on the day before Ash Wednesday and is an opportunity for us to share with our congregation and community the beginning of our Lenten journey together. We will be serving all you can eat pancakes, sausage, coffee, and juice. Tickets will be available at the door, Adults \$20.00 and children under 12 are \$10.00.

**Church School (2/23/2025).** The Pharisees were very upset that Jesus was ministering to people they considered “sinners.” The Pharisees saw themselves as righteous men, and they despised the sinners. They had concluded Jesus could not be from God because God did not like sinners either. Jesus responded to the unspoken question, “What is God’s attitude towards sinners?” by telling a parable about the lost and found. A shepherd lost one of his one hundred sheep. He left the ninety-nine sheep to look for the one that was lost, because a sheep that strays away from the shepherd is in danger. The shepherd had compassion for his lost sheep. He didn’t get angry or punish the sheep. Instead, he had great joy when he found the lost sheep. When he returned the sheep to the sheepfold, he called his neighbors and friends to come celebrate with him because the lost had been found. A woman had ten silver coins in a piece of jewelry traditionally worn by brides. When she lost one of the coins, she searched her house carefully to find the coin. When the coin was found, she called her neighbors and friends to come celebrate with her. The sheep and the coin both had great personal value. With the words of these stories, Jesus paints a beautiful picture of God’s grace. Getting right to the answer of the question, Jesus says, “I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives...joy breaks out in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life (Matthew 15:7, 10).

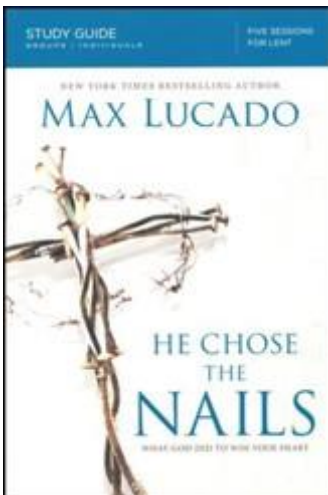


### **Ash Wednesday and Wednesday Evening Lenten Services.**

We will have an Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 8pm in the sanctuary. We will continue to offer Wednesday evening services for every Wednesday of Lent thereafter and leading up to Holy Week. Services will be an opportunity to draw closer to God during this Holy Season. Please join us for an intimate time of prayer and worship.

Spring 2025 marks the return of our beloved **Tenebrae Service** for the evening of Good Friday. The word "tenebrae" is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness," and the service is characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles as readings and music reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. The service typically culminates in darkness and a loud noise, symbolizing the closing of Christ's tomb. It is a somber and reflective experience that helps to prepare Christians for the celebration of Easter. Volunteers are needed to participate in this service. No special talent is required, just a willingness to participate in this beautiful tradition. If you have questions or wish to volunteer please see Bob DiSalvo, Pastor Kim or anyone on the worship committee.

**Looking for a way to help out and inspire others?** This might be the opportunity you are looking for! No specific skills are required, just a willingness to try something new! A substitute is needed for Church School on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Typically, there are between two and eight students, all of whom are lovely to spend time with. The lesson plan and materials will be provided for you and you will have the chance to experience the joy of sharing the stories of Christ with our youngsters! If you'd like to partner-up with someone, that's fine, but not necessary. If you are interested, please reach out to Janet Stone. Try it! You might be surprised by how blessed you feel after being with our young students! Thank you.



### **5 Week In-Person Lenten Bible Study**

Starting on Wednesday, March 12 at 7pm and continuing every Wednesday evening for five weeks, we will be starting an in-person Lenten Bible Study on the book He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart by Max Lucado. The book as well as a study guide will be available for purchase as we go through this study which has been specifically made to journey us through the Lenten season. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Pastor Kim at [pastoreumin@hotmail.com](mailto:pastoreumin@hotmail.com) or 646-468-9450. There will also be a sign-up located in the narthex on Sundays. ***Also, it is important to note that the weekly online Bible Study that currently meets every Wednesday evening will move to Tuesdays beginning on March 4 and last throughout the Lenten season.***



Dear Friends, Please join Pastor Kim and The Evangelism Committee for a **Special Coffee Hour** this Sunday, March 2nd as we celebrate, acknowledge and give thanks to our faithful members of our congregation who have lovingly supported our Prayer Breakfast and Hospitality Committee over the last 10 years. Your commitment, prayers, songs, gifts and hospitality have been so appreciated. Your Evangelism Committee members:

Mahala Holness-Brooks , Maudlyn Scarlett, Dr Tonia Ukanwoke, Andrea Owen-Boyd

Sending a **SUPER thank you** to everyone who donated food and money to our Souper Bowl collection! We delivered a carload of food and nine cases of diapers which were purchased with cash donations! The INN in Hempstead was grateful for the donations. Thank you for being so generous!

## **CALENDAR**

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

- \*Every Sunday – Church School 10AM/Church (except 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month-10AM/Educ Bldg)
- \*Every **Second Sunday of the month** – Healing Prayer Service after Church/Chapel (*Starting Date TBD*)
- \*Every **Wednesday** – Bible Study 7:30PM-9PM/Zoom (Same Zoom Link every week) *See above for temporary changes*
- \*Every **Thursday** – Westminster Ringers 7PM
- \*Every **Thursday** – Chancel Choir 8PM/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 Events**

- \*Tuesday, March 4, 2025 – Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Dinner 7PM/Gym
- \*Sunday March 9, 2025 – Scout Sunday
- \*Saturday, April 26, 2025 – International Potluck Dinner
- \*Saturday, October 25, 2025 - New York United Women in Faith Annual Meeting

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- \* Wednesday, March 5, 2025 – Ash Wednesday
- \*Sunday, March 9, 2025 – Daylight Savings Time begins
- \*Sunday, April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday
- \*Thursday, April 17, 2025 – Holy Thursday
- \*Friday, April 18, 2025 – Good Friday
- \*Sunday, May 11, 2025 – Mother's Day
- \*Monday, May 26, 2025 – Memorial Day
- \*Sunday, June 15m, 2025 – Father's Day
- \*Sunday, October 19, 2025 – Laity Sunday
- \*Sunday, November 2, 2025 – All Saints Day
- \*Sunday, November 2, 2025 – Daylight Savings Time ends



Eileen