

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

**March 24, 2025**

## **UMCOR SUNDAY – March 30, 2025**

UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. Our efforts are targeted in places where natural disasters, war, or conflict have done so much damage that communities are unable to recover on their own. In addition, UMCOR helps communities in the United States and abroad prepare for emergencies and to reduce the risk of disasters through a roster of training programs. We also are involved in global development work. Specific programs address issues of health, sanitation, poverty, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security. Many development problems are interrelated, so UMCOR uses integrated solutions to address their root causes. UMCOR seeks to empower local hospitals, schools, churches, and other stakeholders by enhancing their capacity to address these issues.



♥♦Lionel Brown, ♥Chris Ukanwoke, ♥Diane Vitacco, ♥SofiaRose Curry (relative of Sing Larson), ♥Debbielee Thomsen, Cliff McBride (friend of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥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), ♥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

**A Big Welcome** to our newest members - Cherissae and Lionel Brown, Allison LaVoie, Janet Wilson, and Desrine Edwards who joined our Church on Sunday, March 23, 2025.

## **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 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** – Our current Pledge amount is \$123,424. Hopefully, 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 Marianne Pike and Bob DiSalvo for volunteering on March 30. Dates available for volunteers are April 6, 13 and 27.

**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.

**The Jean and Ken Larson Memorial Sunday was March 16th.** 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 any Sunday that you are able.*** There is a box labeled **Jean and Ken Larson Memorial Sunday** in the **Narthex**. Please continue to support this worthwhile tradition which has been going on for **49 years**.



**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 Monday, April 14, 2025.*

**Church School (3/23/2025).** The Passover meal was a family affair and a time of celebration of God's deliverance. Jesus chose to share the meal with his disciples. He sent them to prepare for the meal. The preparations included locating a place in Jerusalem to have the meal, removing items in the room containing yeast, obtaining a lamb and having it slaughtered by priests in the Temple, roasting the lamb, and preparing the meal. During the meal, Jesus announced his "hour" had come and indicated that one of his disciples would betray him. The disciples declared that they would never betray him. Judas asked, "Is it I, Rabbi?" Jesus knew his fate and the identity of his betrayer. He confirmed Judas as the betrayer, but the other disciples didn't understand. Jesus served the bread and the wine to his disciples. He told them, "Do this in remembrance of me." When we take Communion, we do it in remembrance of what Jesus did for all of us. Jesus' purpose, the forgiveness of all our sins, was accomplished by his death and resurrection. Jesus' sacrifice sealed the bond between God and people and established a new covenant. The Passover meal points to a memorial celebration of our deliverance through Jesus' death and life. *Janet Stone*



### **Wednesday Evening Lenten Services.**

We will continue to offer Wednesday evening services for every Wednesday of Lent 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.

**Blood Drive.** Thank you to *Bob DiSalvo* and his helpers for setting up, providing a delicious dinner (thank you Chef Bob) and cleaning up. Twenty-seven pints of blood were given to help save the lives of others. 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.**

## **CALENDAR**

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

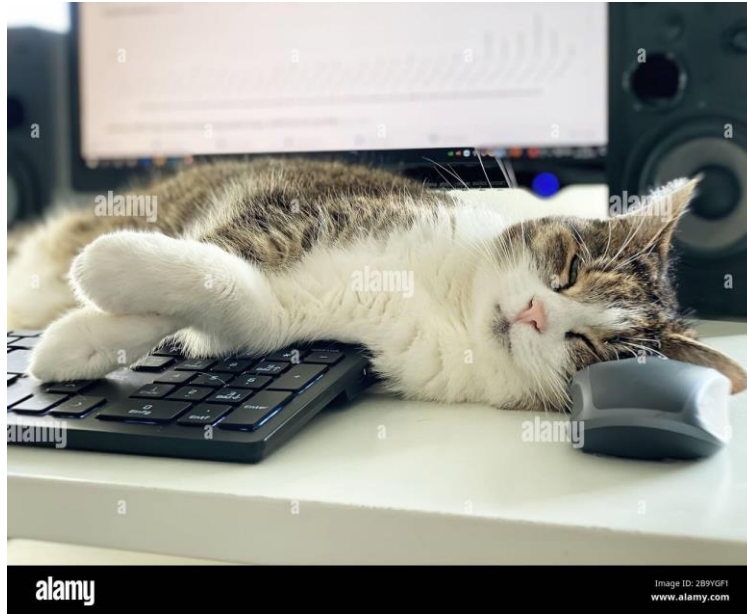
- \*Every Sunday – Church School 10AM/Church (except 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month-10AM/Educ Bldg)
- \*Every **Second Sunday of the month** – Healing Prayer Service after Church/Chapel (*Starting Date TBD*)
- \*Every **Wednesday** – Bible Study 7:30PM-9PM/Zoom (Same Zoom Link every week) *See above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

- \*Tuesday, April 1, 2025 – Trustees Meeting 7PM/BKR
- \*Sunday, April 13, 2025 – Church Council Meeting after Church
- \*Saturday, April 26, 2025 – International Potluck Dinner
- \*Saturday, October 25, 2025 - New York United Women in Faith Annual Meeting

### Upcoming Special Dates

- \***Sunday, April 13, 2025** – Palm Sunday
- \***Thursday, April 17, 2025** – Holy Thursday
- \***Friday, April 18, 2025** – Good Friday
- \***Sunday, April 20, 2025** – Easter
- \***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



Taking a break from work. Eileen