

Grace Notes

SUMMER 2024 EDITION

Grace
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



WE GATHER



WE GROW



WE GO

300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville, IL 60540
630-355-1748 | www.peopleofgrace.org

Grace Notes

Grace United Methodist Church | 300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville, IL 60540 | 630-355-1748



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Outdoor Worship in the Field

August 4 & September 15 at 9:00AM

Worship with us outdoors on August 4 and September 15 at 9:00AM! Join us for music, Holy Communion, and God's great outdoors! Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on. There will be no 8:00AM worship on these Sundays. In the event of inclement weather, we will gather at 9:00AM in the Sanctuary. We will also have worship at 10:30AM in the Sanctuary and online at facebook.com/gracenaperville.



Save the Date! On Sunday, September 15, join us for the Fall Festival at 11:30AM to 1:30PM! Everyone is invited for this community event for all ages, including Belgian horse drawn wagon rides, petting zoo, crafts, face painting, and more! Stay tuned to more details and registration information.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Saturday, August 3
9AM to 12PM

Free Event for All Ages

Explore many trucks of all kinds! The first hour will be quiet for those who love trucks, but not the noise. Enjoy plenty of fun for kids of all ages! Event admission is FREE! Food will be available for purchase.

Register or volunteer at peopleofgrace.org/trucks
Registration is encouraged, but not mandatory. All are welcome!

Welcome, José Rosado!



We are excited to welcome José Rosado to Grace as our new Principal Organist/Pianist!

Since the beginning of his church music career around the year 2000, José has played countless services, weddings, funerals, and recitals in many churches spanning a total of nine denominations. This has taken him far and wide across Chicago and the surrounding suburbs.

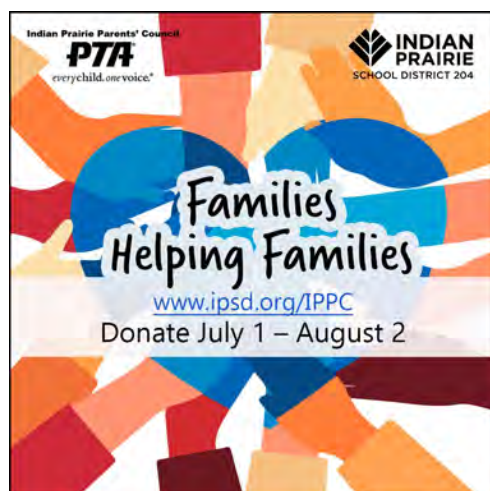
José's love for sacred and liturgical music is deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition of robust congregational singing and the great Anglican / Episcopal tradition of choral music and chant. This has greatly influenced his approach to solo organ playing and accompanying. It even helped him discover a love for singing. He now enjoys singing a wide variety of styles, from ancient to modern. Since 2011, he has enjoyed the great honor of singing with the renowned choir at St. Luke's

Episcopal Church in Evanston for Advent Lessons and Carols, Evensong, and choral concerts by invitation of Choirmaster, Andrew Lewis.

José was born and raised in Chicago, and is of mixed Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage. His love for classical music, the piano and the organ, was evident at a young age. At age 11, he and his mother attended Easter mass with some members of the Roman Catholic side of the family. José knew well that this would be a rare opportunity to finally see and hear a pipe organ in person. Upon entering the church he eagerly climbed the stairs to the organ loft and marveled as he watched the organist's hands and feet play upon the keys and pedals. From that moment on, he knew what he had been called to do. After mass, as they exited the church, he said to his mother, "Yo voy a tocar uno de esos cuando yo sea grande." / "I'm going to play one of those when I grow up."

José began private piano studies at age 13 and soon discovered a knack for playing by ear. His quest for knowledge was further aided by general music classes in high school. At age 16 he met Dr. Louis Playford, then Music Director at Christ Lutheran Church and later Second Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Dr. Playford was impressed by the knowledge that José had attained in such a short period of time and was so moved by his enthusiasm and interest in the organ, that he took it upon himself to teach and mentor him in organ technique and hymn playing for about five years.

José currently works full time in the aerospace industry. Aside from his passion for sacred music, he enjoys cooking, learning about cuisines from around the world, architecture, science, history, languages, and cultures. We welcomed José to worship on Sunday, July 7!



Families Helping Families

Now through August 2

The Indian Prairie Parents' Council (IPPC), in partnership with District 204, is proud to announce the launch of the Families Helping Families program. This initiative is designed to support families experiencing hardships or homelessness by collecting monetary donations and gift cards. These donations will help under-resourced families at the start of the school year and during the winter holiday season. Community members can contribute **by visiting the online store** to purchase gift cards or make a donation. Your support makes a difference for families in our community. The program will run through August 2. For more information or questions about the program, please contact IPPC 1st Vice President and Unity Chair, Robin Schmidt, at rschmidt99@gmail.com.

Grace Notes Publications

Grace Notes is published on a quarterly basis. The deadline for submissions for the October 1 newsletter is September 20. We also welcome your announcements for the **weekly news, website, and blog**. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday at Noon to appear in the Friday enews. Please send your questions and submissions to communications@peopleofgrace.org.

Music Ministries at Grace!



Survey Says....

Music is important to Grace UMC! (No surprise there!)

It shows up over and over in this most recent branding survey just as it has in every survey ever taken at Grace. The music is a reason we come to church. It's also a reason we would invite someone to church. And the best part is everyone is invited to participate! The people in the choirs are just like you! They are men and women, young and old, with various levels of musical talent and knowledge, and different reasons for participating. Some enjoy the fellowship. Others, the challenge. And still others, the ability to serve and worship God. And for most, it's probably a combination. But did you know there are also emotional and physical benefits of choral singing (and ringing)? [Check out the latest scientific data here](#). Grace has many musical opportunities resuming in September. Check out the list below and contact the director for more information. All are welcome!

ADULT CHOIRS	Director		Start date	Rehearses	Location	Worship
Chancel Choir	Dr. Peter Jarjisian peter.jarjisian@peopleofgrace.org		09/05/24	Thursdays, weekly, 7:00-8:30PM	Sanctuary	Sundays at 10:30AM
New Life Singers	Shelly Drescher shelly.drescher@peopleofgrace.org		09/11/24	Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00PM prior to Sunday worship	Sanctuary	Typically 3rd Sundays 8:00AM once/month
Grace Praise Team	Lynn Leitzen lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org		09/03/24	Tuesdays, weekly, 7:30-9:00PM	Activity Center	Sundays at 9:00AM
Grace Bell Ensemble	Debbie John debbie.john@peopleofgrace.org		09/04/24	Wednesdays, weekly, 7:00-8:15PM	Rm 160	1st Sundays at 8:00AM & 10:30AM
CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIRS	Director	Grades	Start date	Rehearses	Location	Worship
Youth Choir	Shelly Drescher shelly.drescher@peopleofgrace.org	8th-12th	09/05/24	Thursdays, weekly, 6:00-7:00PM	Rm 161	Varies, ~once/month
Ring Tones	Debbie John debbie.john@peopleofgrace.org	8th-12th	09/08/24	Sundays, weekly, 7:00-8:30PM	Rm 161	Varies
Junior Singers	Lynn Leitzen lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org	4th-7th	09/04/24	Wednesdays, weekly, 5:00-6:00PM	Rm 171	Varies, ~once/month & Christmas and Mother's Day musicals
Joyful Ringers	Debbie John debbie.john@peopleofgrace.org	4th-12th	09/04/24	Wednesdays, weekly, 4:00-5:00PM	Rm 160	Varies, ~once/month
Cherub Choir	Sue Riedinger sue.riedinger@peopleofgrace.org	K-3rd	09/04/24	Wednesdays, weekly, 5:00-6:00PM	Rm 232	Varies, ~once/month & Christmas and Mother's Day musicals
Treble Tikes Music Adventure	Lynn Leitzen lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org	3yo- young 5s w/ caregiver	TBD	TBD	Rm 122	

Music Ministries at Grace! (continued)

The TOP 10 Reasons CHILDREN'S CHOIRS are Important for the Church!



COME, JOIN US!

Perhaps you've considered signing up for the children's choir at Grace but just weren't sure what you were signing up for or why you'd want to add one more thing to your already busy schedule. Here's a **TOP 10** list from an expert in the field and testimonies from some of our own choir families...

"I would say that we love choir because of the feeling of belonging it gives us in the church community, the friendships our children are making, and the amazing way they come together for the spring musical is such a magical time. We enjoy the performances so much and are always singing the songs together for months." - Julie Cooper

"You should join choir because it's a fun experience. And you should ask your friends to join. I think choir is fun no matter your age. Ms. Lynn is my favorite and she makes things fun!" - Lily Girard (Junior Singers grad, 2024)

"Choir is a place where everyone belongs and everyone contributes. No one sits on the bench! Kids develop musically, but also mature as humans. It's a unique opportunity to share their faith and learn about it all at the same time. Even our five year old who often looked to be not engaged is still singing the Battle of Jericho on repeat!" - Traci Weilemann

"Choir has been a great opportunity for my child to gain confidence, grow in her faith, bond with other kids her age at Grace and have fun!" - Lauren Duncan

"Lorelai really enjoys singing and loves coming to choir, meeting friends, and feeling so accepted and cared for by Ms. Sue and Ms. Lynn. She learns the music of our faith and also gets to learn what it means to share God's love by singing in services and concerts." - Stefanie Abderhalden

"There are so many reasons to join! As a parent, choir provides a safe space to explore music while expanding our kids' understanding of God and what the church community is all about. My kids have all had so much fun and have grown so much over the years. Choir provides them a place where they can be themselves and grow confidence in themselves, their abilities, and their faith." - Melissa Sautter

All children, starting as young as 3 with our TREBLE TIKES Music Adventure, are welcome. We offer choral programs for K-7th grade, and handbells for 4th-7th grade. It is a commitment, but worth it! We meet on Wednesdays for rehearsals during the school year with handbells meeting from 4:00PM to 5:00PM and vocal choirs (Cherub for K-3rd grade/Junior Singers for 4th-7th grade) from 5:00PM to 6:00PM. If you have a seasonal sports conflict, we allow choristers the ability to jump in and out as needed. In addition to singing and ringing in worship monthly, we spearhead Grace's Feed My Starving Children MobilePack mission project. We also have the privilege of presenting Christmas and Mother's Day musicals in Sanctuary worship each year. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Lynn Leitzen at lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org.

Grace Bell Choirs Welcome New Ringers!

Do you have experience ringing and a desire to be part of a great group of people? Do you know how to read music but you've never tried bells? Would you like to learn? Are you in 4th grade or above? High School? An adult? We have a place for you!



Grace Bell Ensemble is our adult group (though we happily welcome experienced teenagers). We meet once a week on Wednesday nights, from 7:00PM until approximately 8:15PM. We perform the first Sunday of every month from October to June, plus Christmas Eve. We are always looking for experienced ringers to be substitutes for both Wednesday practices and our Sunday performances, and occasionally we have openings for a regular position.

Joyful Ringers Bell Choir is for youth who are at least in 4th grade. No experience necessary! We meet every Wednesday at 4:00PM and perform about once a month. We will teach you everything you need to know. Every ringer is assigned a part to play, so regular attendance is important. Younger ringers are given "easier" parts to play, while the more experienced ringers are given the more challenging parts.

Ring Tones is an advanced ensemble group. Ringers are expected to have comfort with reading music and are willing to learn advanced ringing techniques. High Schoolers and adults who enjoy high school energy are welcome to join us on Sunday nights at 7:00PM!

Simply Ring: If you are an adult who has never rung before, or has limited experience, but would like to learn, please contact Debbie. With enough interest, we can restart our beginning adult group. No performing required! Just simply learning how to ring. (Rehearsals times are TBD)

For more information, contact Debbie John at debbie.john@peopleofgrace.org.

Children and Family Ministries



Children and Youth Summer Update

Faith Formation is so important for our walk with Jesus. Part of Faith Formation includes being in worship as a family and learning some of the worship elements. This summer in July and the first two weeks in August, we will be giving families the opportunity to worship together and grow together.

There will be opportunities for youth to take a leadership role by participating in worship. Look for an email from Gaye Lynn about those opportunities. There will also be the regular children's bags with some new items in them. Here are some special Sundays to keep in mind where we would not have had Sunday Faith Formation hour anyway:

July 21 - Growing in Faith Together - Parents/Grandparents together with children and/or grandchildren in Fellowship Hall

August 4 - Outdoor Worship

July 14, 28, and August 11 - There will be intentional family-friendly worship components but no Children/Youth Formation Hour. The nursery is open for those 4 and under.

August 18 - Sunday Funday Summer Bash at 9:15AM and Back to School at all worship hours to get backpacks blessed.

Please note: All other Children/Youth Summer Programming not on Sundays remains. Please check out the Friday emails and our website for details.

Nursery and Preschool Care

6 weeks to 4 years on Sundays at 7:45AM to 11:45AM in Room 130.

Parent's Day Out Program

We are very excited about our 2024-2025 School Year with our two new Directors. Limited openings are still available for the fall for 1-4-year-olds. You won't want to miss out on a great time for children to have cooperative learning through play with other children while caregivers have some time for themselves. Check out all of the information, registration form, and pricing at peopleofgrace.org/pdo.

Open House **Wednesday, August 21 at 9AM to 11AM.**

2024-2025 school year begins on **Tuesday, August 27 at 9AM** for 1-4 years olds by September 1.



Children Faith Formation for 4 years to 5th Grade

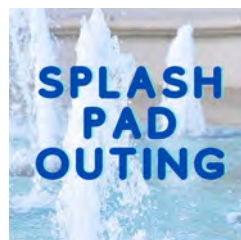
Sundays at 9:15AM to 10:15AM in Room 123.

KinderTot Fun Days

Mondays, July 22, August 26, & September 23 from 9:30AM to 10:30AM

Register at peopleofgrace.org/kindertot

Calling all kids under Kindergarten! Grab your favorite adult(s) and come have some themed summer/Bible fun! Each week will have a different theme that includes play, music, a story, a prayer, and building relationships with other KinderTots and their favorite adults. Friends and neighbors are invited and welcome to be part of the fun. It's a great time to hang out and get to know others in a play setting.



Baptism Reunion and Celebration: Splash Pad Outing

Saturday, August 10 at 11:00AM

Register at peopleofgrace.org/splashpad

Come be with other families at the Splash Pad. This is a time for us to celebrate with all of our baptism families from the past two years. Let's get together, meet one another, have fun at the splash pad, and receive some parent resources. Bring the whole family to the Splash Pad - either 95th St. or Wolf Road depending on ages of those participating. Click below to let us know if you are interested and how many would be coming in your family. Contact Pastor Kim Neace at kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org if you have any questions.

Sunday Fundays

Sunday, August 18 from 9:30AM to 10:30AM

Register at peopleofgrace.org/sundayfunday

Sunday Fun Days are themed Sunday school days on the third Sunday of the month at 9:15AM to 10:15AM. These are VBS style days. Children 3 years and fully potty trained and up are welcome and invited. (Regular Sunday school is still for 4-year-olds and up). Youth are welcome and invited to serve and have fun, too.

All in One Form for Children/Youth including Music Options

The Fall is upon us soon. Registration for the new school year is up and open. Please register your child/youth for all children and youth programming. This includes Sunday Fundays, KinderTot, Confirmation, Sunday mornings, and all of the music options for children and youth. Visit peopleofgrace.org/childrenyouth for information and registration.

Fun For All Ages!

Growing in Faith Together: Camping - Fireside Chats

Sunday, July 21 at 9:00AM to 10:15AM

Register at peopleofgrace.org/gift

Parents, grandparents, caregivers, and families are invited to the children and youth Faith Formation hour to be with their children, grandchildren, and youth. Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) is a gift of time for the family unit to learn and practice how to grow in faith together through a hands-on, interactive, and fun way to incorporate faith-filled and positive conversations into your daily routines. Let's have some camp themed fun!



Vacation Bible Camp Volunteers

Vacation Bible Camp is right around the corner on July 15 to July 19. We are still looking for a few more adult leaders for the classroom and recreation. It is a fun-filled week and everyone that is part of VBC gets their very own Camp Firelight shirt. Please contact Becky Blachford at vbs@peopleofgrace.org if you are interested in serving in this amazing way.

VBC School Supply Collection

We will be collecting school supplies during VBC for some of our ministry partners who are under-resourced. We are asking the whole congregation to be part of this to support children. Please begin collecting and bringing in the following items:

- #2 Pencils
- Black or Blue Pens
- 12 count and 24 count Crayons
- 12 count Colored Pencils
- College Ruled Paper
- Single and 2 Subject Notebooks
- Backpacks



Can We Borrow Your Stuff?

We are looking to borrow some of your items for props for VBC. [Click here](#) to let us know that we can borrow your items.

Back To School

Sunday, August 18

It is that time to go back to school. Come to worship and get your backpacks, your purse, man bag, or wallet blessed for a new school year whether you go to school, work at school, work, or stay at home. Pick up a special item to remind you of God during the start of the new school year. It is a time of blessing. Invite students, teachers, and administrators you know from school to worship this day.



Faith, Food, & Fun: Olympics

Sunday, August 25 from 5:30PM to 7:00PM

Register at peopleofgrace.org/faithfoodfun

You are invited to this all-church event. This truly is for all ages. We will kick off the beginning of the school year together as the summer ends and fall begins with an Olympic theme. We will engage in faith and intergenerational fun together in Fellowship Hall as we run

the race toward Fall. Come and learn through fun, interactive ways with family-oriented, all ages activities. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

Vacation Bible Camp Prayer Partners

We have prayer bookmarks available for pick up at the Welcome Desk for VBC. They will be available through Sunday, July 14. Each child, apprentice, and adult's first name and last initial will be on the back of the prayer bookmark who have registered for VBC. Please sign your name on the sign up sheet to the appropriate bookmark/name you choose and they will pray for you, too. We ask that you pray for that person throughout VBC and they will pray for you as well. Thank you for being part of VBC in this way.



Grace Youth Ministry (G.Y.M.)



Side x Side Slide Show

Join us at a REUNION! All who participated on Side x Side and all who just want to learn more about what we did, are invited to join us on **Friday, July 12 at 7:00PM** in Fellowship Hall for a reunion and slide show. Come join us! Light refreshments will be served!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Shareholders, fundraiser attendees, cookie bakers, snack makers, and all who wished us well and prayed for us during the trip--we couldn't have done it without you! THANK YOU for your continued support and providing a trip that made memories for a lifetime. Side x Side was a HUGE success and we have YOU to thank for making it possible.

Family Worship for the Summer

All youth grades 6th-12th are encouraged to attend worship with their parents this summer. Worship is such an important part of spiritual growth and we are hoping that spending time together as a family in worship will strengthen relationships: both with family and God! In addition, learning about worship and the elements of worship is best accomplished when we serve in worship. During July and August (and any other month, really), youth are encouraged to take an active role in any of our worship services. Please [visit the SignUpGenius to sign-up](#) to serve as a scripture reader, an usher/greeter, to serve Communion, Opening Prayer and Breakthrough Prayer (reader), and Affirmation of Faith (Apostles Creed-reader). All are great opportunities to strengthen and share your faith.



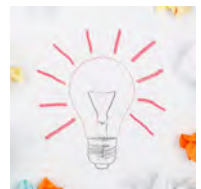
Summer Grace Youth Ministries (G.Y.M.)

Register at peopleofgrace.org/summerym

ALL YOUTH grades 6th-12th (and families if parents stay with younger siblings), any college students who are in the area, please join us for SUMMER G.Y.M. on **Wednesday, July 17** at Wilderness Falls for mini-golf, **July 24** for Kickball and Coke Floats at Grace, and on **July 31** for 9 Square in the Air and Nachos, also at Grace. Lots of fun and fellowship to be had. Please register for Summer G.Y.M. and come join the fun!!!! (If registering for your family, please include names and ages of those attending.)

Youth Leadership/Mentor Team forming for 2024-2025

All local college students, young adults and adults who are interested in partnering with youth are invited to attend a brainstorming meeting on **Monday, July 15 at 7:00PM** at Grace. Bring your best ideas! Questions may be directed to Gaye Lynn at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org.



Calling ALL College Students

We want to keep in touch while you are away at school, attending school locally, or entering the military or workforce. Please send your address for fall to the youth office at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org. You never know when a package or fun piece of mail might arrive!

Our Weekly Schedule



Weekly Faith Formation/Sunday School will resume on Sunday, **September 8, 2024**.

Sunday Mornings

9:15AM to 10:15AM

Junior High & Senior High Faith Formation

Wednesday Evenings

7:00PM to 8:00PM

G.Y.M. (Bible Study/Youth Fellowship)

Please contact Gaye Lynn at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org with questions or for more information about Grace Youth Ministries.

Join a Small Group

We have several faith formation opportunities for adults on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Take a one stop shop and sign up for all the faith formation groups by visiting peopleofgrace.org/adultgroups.

Sunday Morning Groups

New Connections (Room 227) is a casual gathering for coffee and conversation for 30-40-somethings. The group occasionally dives into deeper study. New members always welcome!

The Forum Class (Room 232) is a faithful and welcoming group that enjoys a spirited study of the scriptures as well as presentations from guest speakers, often incorporating discussion and thought-provoking audio/visual material. Contact Sandy Bray at braysnap@aol.com for more information.

Hearts on Fire (Room 250) gathers each Sunday morning with a welcoming atmosphere to share in fun but challenging and meaningful discussions around faith and discipleship. Contact Bob Pacanowski at bpacanowski@franklinsports.com for more information.

Questors (Room 254) welcomes all adults to participate in presentations/discussions on a variety of topics, contemporary living issues, religious history, and Biblical studies. Questors welcome visitors anytime. Contact Betty Long at b-long6120@sbcglobal.net or Joan Bratton at joan@bratton.com for more information.

Weekday Groups

Mondays

Sisters Study meets Mondays at 1PM to 2PM beginning in September.

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

Temple Builders meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00AM in the Activity Center for exercise and strength training.

Mondays & Wednesdays

Bible in a Year Group meets on Mondays at 6:00PM to 7:00PM and on Wednesdays at 10:00AM to 11:00AM. Join in anytime!

Tuesdays

Parenting with Grace Mom's Faith Formation Group meets on Tuesdays at 7:00PM to 8:15PM in Room 231. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Abderhalden at stefanieabderhalden@gmail.com.

Our Summer Study meets now through August 6. This small group is for moms of all ages and stages to come together, share experiences, and grow in faith. Join us for a light devotional study based on Disney. Our Fall Study begins September 17, and we will study the book *Women in the Bible* by Marina Hofman PhD. We will discover how women in the Bible respond to challenges, take bold actions to bring about justice, and triumph through adversity. We will explore leadership, character, perseverance, and the role of women in God's plan of salvation. Each chapter presents a fresh perspective and addresses faithfulness, redemption, and friendship. The accompanying study guide to each women's story provides insights and key questions to encourage thoughtful reflection and lively conversation.

Thursdays

Reel People Movie Discussion Group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 1:00PM to 3:00PM in Room 254.

Thursday Morning Bible Study Begins September 12



We, like the 180 and more members and friends of Grace Church, who are participating with Pastor Eric, in "The 2024 Bible Year Challenge," are inspired by this ministry, in this one particular way. As Pastor Eric reads the Old Testament, we are hearing the thoughtful questions many are asking about the Old Testament. All this violence and Israel's actions against its new neighbors in the Promised Land, are troubling for us. Is this all there is in the Old Testament? Serious questions for us, needing each other's help to find answers.

Old Testament, in two Disciple Fast Track Bible Studies of 12 weeks each, is our response to your questions about the Old Testament. We invite you to join us in these two studies, meeting in both Room 254 and on Zoom.

Thursdays, September 12 to December 5 at 9:30AM to 11:00AM - "The Old Testament"

Thursdays, January 9, 2025 to March 27, 2025 at 9:30AM to 11:00AM - "The Prophets"

The first sessions of the Old Testament study will cover the Theological Themes. "Creation, Sin, Covenant, Deliverance, Order, Atonement, Leadership, Security, Warning, Consequences, Wisdom and Hope." (12 weeks) The second sessions, will cover The Prophets Themes. "Return, Near, Hunger, Obey, Divine Purpose, New Covenant, Doom, Promise, Redeemer, Vision, Courage and Witness." (12 weeks).

Come join us on Thursday mornings. Our Disciple Study is a welcoming, warm fellowship. In 2023-2024, we covered "Jesus in the Gospels" and had 15 members. Best of all, we welcomed five new members to the study. We sincerely hope you will join us for this Old Testament Study. A warm welcome awaits you.

Please let us know if you will join by no later than August 19, so that we can order the Study Manuals from Cokesbury and have them here by the end of August. Two manuals are required. Each is \$9.98. Register at peopleofgrace.org/adultgroups, or at the signup sheet at the Welcome Desk. Or, please also contact either Sandy Bray at braysnap@aol.com or 630-853-8347, or Pastor Doug Bowden at dbowden6@aol.com or 815-990-0187.

Fellowship and Support Groups

Racial Justice Group of Grace (Becoming Beloved Community)

Brown Faces, White Spaces: Confronting Systemic Racism to Bring Healing and Restoration by Latasha Morrison

The newly formed Racial Justice Group of Grace (Becoming Beloved Community) invites the People of Grace to join in a summer read for a book study that will **begin in September**. We encourage you to visit semicolon.com or [use this link](#) to read a description and purchase your copy from this black woman-owned small business. (Semicolon Books is based in Chicago and is committed to nurturing the connection between literature, art, and the pursuit of knowledge, while also using the power of words to better the community.) Get the book! Get reading! Watch for more information about the upcoming Book Study Discussion Group. Let us know you're in or ask questions by contacting Lynn Leitzen at lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org.



Over 50 Fellowship Group meets every other month for lunch with a speaker and discussion. You are invited to gather and meet some new friends or gather with some old friends. Enjoy a good meal, conversation, and a short program. We meet in Fellowship Hall at 12:00PM and have a catered lunch. Bring \$15.00 to pay for lunch. Register at peopleofgrace.org/over50. The next meeting is **Thursday, September 19 at 12:00PM** and the program is "Travelogue."

DivorceCare is a safe place where caring people come alongside you as you find healing from the pain of separation or divorce. At this 13-week, video-based support program, you will find helpful counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and practical tools for decision making. You will meet others who understand how you are feeling and the struggles you are dealing with. The next 13-week program meets on **Wednesdays at 6:30PM to 8:30PM, beginning on October 9** and continues through December 18. We will have a pause for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year holidays. Meetings will resume on January 8, 2025. There will be a \$10.00 fee which will cover the cost of the books and will be collected at the first meeting. We will have a special Surviving The Holidays group on November 20. Please [click here to register](#) and access helpful videos and other information. If you have questions and for more information, please contact Richard Newell at richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org or 630-947-9311.



Guys Gathering Together is a group for men who share common interests. Get out, eat, have fun, and have enjoyable conversations about various topics in a casual setting that impact each of us in today's world. The cost is \$15 per guy and includes a catered meal. Register at peopleofgrace.org/guys. Our next meeting is **Friday, October 11 at 6:00PM to 8:30PM**.

United Women in Faith Meetings

September General Meeting - Tuesday, September 3 at 9:15AM

9:15AM Coffee and Tea

9:30AM Program: Global Warming and Climate Change given by Ruth Ann Parsapour, United Women in Faith Missions Coordinator. Come and join us and learn what we can do to make an impact on our future! All women are welcome!

October General Meeting - Tuesday, October 1 at 9:15AM

9:15AM Coffee and Tea

9:30AM Program: World Thank Offering by Diana McIlvane, Spiritual Growth Coordinator. All women are welcome!

Mistletoe Marketplace - November 9 at 9:00AM to 2:00PM

Everyone is invited to the United Women in Faith Fundraiser for Missions in Fellowship Hall. There will be many handcrafted items, quilted items, Café, baked goods, and a silent auction of many wonderful items! More information to come!

United Women in Faith Book Group

Join the Grace UWF Book Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 12:45PM in person at the church with a ZOOM option to discuss the book of the month. Please contact Cathy Connor at cathy.connor.05@gmail.com for information and Zoom link. **Upcoming Book Discussions:**

July 24 - *First Ladies* by Marie Benedict

August 28 - *Blue Highways* by William Least Heat-Moon

Interested in learning more about United Women in Faith and our mission projects? Visit peopleofgrace.org/uwf or contact Ruth Wills at ruthwills1@gmail.com for more information. If you would like to join Grace United Women in Faith, or a monthly circle, contact Erin O'Brien at eobrien4344@sbcglobal.net or Chamus Burnside-Savazzini at chamusb@gmail.com for more information.



United
Women
in Faith


 Save the Date

JULY

7/15/2024	Monday to Friday	Vacation Bible Camp	9:00AM to 11:00 AM	All Rooms including Sanctuary
7/21/2024	Sunday	Growing in Faith Together	9:15AM to 10:15 AM	Fellowship Hall
7/22/2024	Monday	KinderTot	9:30AM to 10:30 AM	122,123, Fellowship Hall as needed

AUGUST

8/3/2024	Saturday	Touch a Truck	9:00AM to 12:00PM	Lower Lot and Field
8/4/2024	Sunday	Outdoor Worship (No Children/Youth/Adult Formation)	9:00AM	Lower Lot and Field
8/10/2024	Saturday	Baptism Reunion: Splash Pad Outing	11:00AM	Splash Pad
8/18/2024	Sunday	Sunday Funday & Backpack Blessings (203 - 8/15 & 204 - 8/22)	9:15AM to 10:15 AM	Fellowship Hall
8/21/2024	Wednesday	Parent's Day Out Open House	9:00 AM to 11:00AM	Rm 122, 131-138
8/25/2024	Sunday	Faith Food Fun	5:30PM to 7:00PM	Fellowship Hall
8/26/2024	Monday	KinderTot	9:30AM to 10:30AM	122,123, Fellowship Hall as needed
8/27-29/2024	Tuesday to Thursday	Parent's Day Out begins	9:00AM to 1:00PM	Rm 122, 131-138

SEPTEMBER

9/8/2024	Sunday	Men's Cohort Testimonies		
9/8/2024	Sunday	First day of Sunday School and choirs singing		
9/15/2024	Sunday	Fall Fest & Outdoor Worship (no Sunday Funday or Children/Youth/Adult Formation)	9:00AM	Lower Lot and Field
9/19/2024	Thursday	Over 50: Travelouge	12:00PM to 2:00PM	Fellowship Hall
9/23/2024	Monday	KinderTot	9:30AM to 10:30AM	122,123, Fellowship Hall as needed

OCTOBER

10/11/2024	Friday	Guys Gathering Together	6:00PM to 8:30PM	Activity Center
10/16/2024	Wednesday	Harvest Home Dinner and Celebration	6:00PM to 8:00PM	Fellowship Hall
10/20/2024	Sunday	Sunday Funday	9:15AM to 10:15AM	Fellowship Hall
10/20/2024	Sunday	Crop Walk		Fellowship Hall
10/23/2024	Wednesday	Trunk or Treat	6:00 PM to 7:30PM	Lower Lot and Field
10/27/2024	Sunday	Faith Food and Fun	5:30PM to 7:00PM	Fellowship Hall
10/28/2024	Monday	KinderTot	9:30AM to 10:30AM	122,123, Fellowship Hall as needed



July 2024 Pantry Collection

This month's collection benefits Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry. They report that summer demand for food is higher since children aren't in school and can't rely on the free meal programs to keep them healthy and nourished. Every penny needed to feed their clients comes from donations.



August 2024 Pantry Collection

This month's collection benefits Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry. Clients visit either their West Pantry on Highland Ave or their East Pantry behind the East Aurora High school once a week to supplement their household's nutrition. Many clients are children, seniors, low income residents and persons with disabilities. Many are employed but don't earn enough to make ends meet.



September 2024 Pantry Collection

This month's collection benefits Common Pantry. Their executive director, Margaret O'Connor, told us recently that our donations help to provide emergency food, home delivered groceries, weekly lunch, and other forms of assistance when crises hit their north side neighbors. They really appreciate our continued support.

Each month, please give generously to Grace's Love Loaf at the Welcome Desk or by donating via Push Pay at peopleofgrace.org/give and choosing the "Love Loaf" option. Below are the recipients of the collections for July, August, and September. Learn more at peopleofgrace.org/missions.

Save the Date!

**Harvest Home Dinner
and Celebration**

**Wednesday,
October 16**

6:00PM to 8:00PM

More information
to come!



*Grace Notes
Monthly
Newsletter*

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We Gather | We Grow | We Go