



Grace Notes

FALL 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



In This Issue

- Harvest Home Dinner and Celebration
- Treble Tikes Music Class
- Mistletoe Marketplace
- Christmas Eve Worship Schedule
- Adult Small Groups & Fellowship
- Fun events for all ages
- All Naperville Book Read
- ...and much more!

CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 20 at Grace Church

In the early years after the devastation of WWII, the European and Asian continents were dealing with extensive hunger. Church World Service (now CWS) was born in 1947 in order to gather grain from Midwest farmers and ship it overseas. My father, Frank Dale Hartman, a Wheatland Township farmer, was a 1950 township chairman in what was called the Christian Rural Overseas Program (now called CROP). Fast forward to 1969 when the world-wide need to combat hunger remained. The first CROP Hunger Walk was started in North Dakota to raise money (rather than grain) to fight hunger with CWS.

Grace Church has been participating in the Naperville Area CROP Hunger Walk for over 40 years. In association with several other area churches and Monarch Landing, over \$41,000 was raised last year. 25% of the funds raised are allocated to local charities: Loaves & Fishes and Northern Illinois Food Bank. The remainder goes to support the global mission of CWS. They provide disaster assistance, food and nutrition programs, refugee services, and many more programs. Visit their website at CWSglobal.org.

This year, the Naperville Area CROP Hunger Walk kicks off at 12:30PM on Sunday, October 20 in the lower lot. You can help by joining the Grace Church Team or making a donation to a team member at Naperville Area CROP Walk Grace church. You can also write a check payable to "CWS/CROP" and place in offering plate. After the 5K walk through the neighborhood, the walkers will pack over 500 meal packs for Loaves & Fishes. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please contact Larry Hartman with questions at LEHartman@sbcglobal.net.



Post war CROP delivery



Noisy in the Pew: 5 Thoughts on Bringing your Kids to Worship

By Stefanie Abderhalden

Have you ever thought: I'd love to bring my kids to church service but they'd never sit still or they'd make too much noise and we'd be embarrassed? For those who have had those thoughts, I'm hoping to offer a new perspective on bringing kids to worship with hopes that more families can feel comfortable worshipping together at Grace.

My husband Erik and I have two young daughters, Lorelai (six) and Eliza (one). Our family typically attends the 8:00 service and during the 9:15 hour our oldest attends Sunday School while the adults attend our faith formation class.

Do we make it to service every Sunday morning? Absolutely not. Some days it's too much of a struggle to get two kids out of the house and we just come for the Sunday School hour. But we have made it a priority since our daughters were babies to attend worship together. It's part of our values as Christians that we worship together as often as we can.

I want to acknowledge that all families and kids are different. Some parents may be thinking, I look forward to Sunday School each week so I can go to service or adult faith formation and have a break from my kids! Others may worry about how their child would do in service and if it would be a manageable situation. These are all valid points and concerns. Each family must do what is right for them.

Here are my top five thoughts on bringing kids to church.

1. **Worship is Part of Being a Christian.** When our daughters attend church, they learn worship traditions, hear hymns, learn the Apostle's Creed and the Lord's Prayer, and partake in weekly Communion. These practices are so important to our faith they are done every week. Without participating, kids won't carry on these traditions. Sunday School helps kids grow in faith, but service is also an important way to worship God.
2. **Part of the Body of Christ.** Worship is an intergenerational experience. On Sundays, our girls worship with people of all ages and backgrounds. In daily life, children rarely engage in activities with all generations, as school, sports, and other activities are kid-focused with adults leading. In worship, we all participate together as the Body of Christ.
3. **Children can be Leaders.** An awesome thing about attending worship at Grace is that kids and families can be involved. Lorelai helps Erik usher, and we've been greeters. During Advent, our family reads the liturgy and lights the candles. Lorelai also sings in the Cherub Choir. Worship includes kids as helpers, which adults love, and kids feel needed. It's a win-win. Ask any minister how your family can get involved; they'll find a place for you.
4. **Jesus wants them there!** One of my favorite Bible stories is about Jesus and the children in Matthew 19. People bring children to Jesus, and the disciples try to send them away. Jesus intervenes, saying, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Jesus never intended for kids to be excluded from worship. I believe He'd love the babies babbling and the commotion of children.
5. **Progress, not perfection.** If your kids are like ours, they can be unpredictable. Some weeks they sit nicely, but most weeks it's tougher! My husband and I see worship as a learning process for our girls. Just like you wouldn't expect a child to finish a 5k on their first day running, we set low expectations for our daughter Lorelai when she was young. We'd aim to get through the first choir song or scripture reading, and if she got antsy, one of us would take her to the back or outside. Preparing her for service helped; we'd discuss what to expect and how she could participate. Often, she chose a special sticker book to work on during the sermon.

Grace makes it easy to attend with kids. In the back of the sanctuary, you'll find bags with coloring and quiet toys. If they get too antsy, there's an area with a mat, rocking chair, and toys where you can still hear the service. The nearby Gathering Space also has a play area and bathrooms.

If you haven't before, let this be a nudge to bring your kids to worship. Attend the 8:00 service and then go to the faith formation hour. Adults can volunteer in Sunday School or attend an adult class. If 8:00 is too early, attend the 10:30 service after the faith formation hour. If you're a 9G participant, consider bringing your children to worship occasionally, or they can attend 9G when Sunday School is on break. Our congregation welcomes families and children, and there is a place for you in worship at Grace.

Grace Notes Publications

Grace Notes is published on a quarterly basis. The deadline for submissions for the January 1 newsletter is December 20. We also welcome your announcements for the **weekly enews, 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.

You're Invited!

Harvest Home Dinner and Celebration

Wednesday, October 16
6:00PM to 8:00PM

Welcoming our newest members & Honoring our 50-year+ members
Let's continue our 100-year annual gathering to thank God for our blessings!



Tickets are \$10 per person; maximum \$20 per family. Children under 12 are free. Available at the Church Office and at the Welcome Desk on Sundays or sign up online at peopleofgrace.org/harvesthome. Potluck Dinner with turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, rolls, and beverage provided. Families are asked to bring a dish (vegetable, salad or dessert).

Program presented by Feed By Starving Children. Offering will benefit Feed My Starving Children and their work feeding children around the world. A Grace member will match our total giving, so please give generously.

Blessing of the Pets

Saturday,
October 5
9AM



ALL
LEASHED
AND CAGED
PETS ARE
WELCOME!

Grace UMC Naperville
Lower Parking Lot

ANNUAL CHURCH LEAF RAKING

Saturday, November 2
(Rain Date November 16)
8:30AM

Bring rakes, blowers,
and tarps!
Fun for all ages!



Anticipating Chancel Choir Music for All Saints Day

Sunday, November 3

At the 8:00AM and 10:30AM services on All Saints Sunday, November 3, the Chancel Choir will offer four selections as we all celebrate the lives of loved ones.

- Sing Me to Heaven - Words by Jane Griner, Music by Daniel Gawthrop
- Requiem, op. 9 - Maurice Durufle
 - Mvt. 1 - Requiem aeternam (Rest eternal, grant unto them, O Lord.)
 - Mvt. 9 - In Paradisum (May the angels lead you into paradise.)
- O How Amiable -- Ralph Vaughan Williams, which concludes "O God, Our Help in Ages Past.



NaperVoice Fall Concert

Sunday, November 17 at 4:00PM

Everyone is invited to NaperVoice's Fall Concert "Gather In Gratitude 3: Everything Sings!" Naperville's philanthropic choir presents a concert on the theme of gratitude: for the land, the heavens, the waters and all living things. Our guest ensemble is the Spectrum Youth Choir of Plainfield. Proceeds benefit The Conservation Foundation. Tickets are available at napervoice.org.

Treble Tikes

Stay-at-home parent of a preschooler (or know someone who is)?
Daycare-giver for a Pre-K grandchild (or have a friend who is)?
Parent of preschooler with a flexible at-home work schedule?
Looking for free, quality activities with your preschooler?
Grace UMC can help!



Lynn Leitzen, Director of Grace's Children's Music program and certified teacher of Musikgarten Pre-K curriculum, invites you and your child to explore the world through song, movement, and play every Tuesday and/or Thursday at 1:00PM in Rm 122! Our first session is just beginning and runs through mid-December.

"Making music, joyfully and purposefully, provides a self-recognition in children that helps them to enjoy the act of learning." Those words from Dr. Lorna Heyge, the founder of Musikgarten, establish the basis for our children's music programs. The unique program allows caregivers to participate in a fun, energetic environment while instilling a love for God's creation and an understanding of music in their child. It also teaches life lessons including how to listen, get along with others, and prepare them to perform well in school.

The class is ongoing and open to all! We ask that you register at peopleofgrace.org/trebletikes and commit to attending as regularly as possible. If you have any questions about the program, contact Lynn at lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org.

Noisy Offering

Sunday, November 24

As we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving again this year, we are reminded to be grateful for the abundance given to us through the grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We have a warm place to lay our heads. We have plates filled with nutritious food. We have all the clean water we need. We live in safe neighborhoods. All things we take for granted. Many around the world do not, especially the children. They rely on the help of NGOs like Feed My Starving Children. And Feed My Starving Children relies on folks like us to raise funds and pack the meals.



It all starts on Sunday, November 24 with the Noisy Offering. The Children's Music Ministry will collect loose change (and, of course, dollar bills and checks) at all three services to help Grace secure a FAITH PARTNER status (\$5,000) for the 2025 FEED THE NEED MOBILE PACK on the weekend of March 1 and 2, 2025 at Benedictine University. We continue to be humbled by the generosity of the Grace congregation, and we expect this year won't be any different. Please plan to bring your donation to any morning service and watch for the opportunity to help pack the meals early in 2025. Together, we can "Change the World."

Advent and Christmas Eve Worship 2024

Sunday, December 8 and Tuesday, December 24

We know many of you are already making your Christmas plans. Please make note of our Christmas Eve worship times which include a change of the 4:30PM service to a 5:00PM service allowing a much-needed breath between our two family-focused services. There will also be a special music-filled Sunday on December 8, as all services will have an abundance of festive carols and the 10:30AM service will feature the annual Children's Music Ministry Christmas musical "Light of the World" by Mark Patterson. Nothing says Christmas quite like a retelling of the nativity story through the eyes of our children.

Christmas Eve Services

- 12:00PM** - Traditional service with communion featuring special music from the Grace Bell Ensemble
- 3:00PM** - Experiential family-focused service with candle-lighting and music from the Children's Music Ministry
- 5:00PM** (formerly 4:30PM) - Family-focused service with candle-lighting and music from the Grace Praise Team
- 8:00PM** - Traditional service, candle-lighting, and music from the Youth Choir and RingTones
- 10:00PM** - Traditional service of Lessons and Carols, candle-lighting, and music from the Chancel Choir



Come to Mistletoe Marketplace Along with The Café!

Saturday, November 9 at 9:00AM to 2:00PM

Join the United Women in Faith for their biggest fundraiser for Missions event on Saturday, November 9 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM in Fellowship Hall. There will be many handcrafted items, quilted items, baked goods, and a silent auction of many wonderful items. While you shop, visit The Café for some tasty breakfast foods! The Café will be open from 9:00AM to 12:00PM in the Fireside Room!

Along with these items will be our 2024 Mission Quilt drawing. Each year the Quilters of Grace commit to creating beautiful quilt masterpieces in service of mission fundraising. This year's 100 inch x 96 inch quilt, "Happy Log Cabin," was pieced, appliquéd, and hand quilted by the Grace Quilters. To enter the drawing, you may make a donation and receive a quilt pattern. Donations will be \$1.00 for 1 ticket or \$5.00 for 6 tickets. Patterns will be available at the front desk after worship services on Sunday, October 20, October 27, and November 3. All proceeds benefit United Women in Faith Missions. The drawing will take place at Mistletoe Marketplace on Saturday, November 9. You do not have to be present to win.



Not able to attend Mistletoe Marketplace, but still want to donate to help support the United Women in Faith Mission projects? Donations can be made online by visiting peopleofgrace.org/give or by check made out to Grace Women in Faith and in the memo section, indicate donation for Mistletoe Marketplace. Checks can be mailed to Grace United Methodist Church, Attn: Grace UWF, 300 East Gartner Road, Naperville, IL 60540.

All proceeds from Mistletoe Marketplace and the Quilt Drawing, benefit United Women in Faith Mission projects that support women, youth, and children locally, nationally, and worldwide. Come and bring your friends and help us to provide hope, dignity, and a brighter future for these families. It is only possible with caring, faithful supporters like you! We look forward to your assistance in helping others in need. For more information, contact United Women in Faith President, Ruth Wills at ruthwills1@gmail.com.

Silent Auction Items Request!

Donations are needed for the Silent Auction at Mistletoe Marketplace on Saturday, November 9. New merchandise only please! Suggested items include:

- Gift Baskets: design your own or donate items and United Women in Faith members will create one (no alcohol please)
- Holiday Décor and Home Goods
- Sports/Entertainment Tickets
- Gift Cards/Certificates to local businesses
- Purses, Wallets, Totes
- Toys, Puzzles, Games
- Jewelry

All of the money raised will be donated to Missions. Beginning October 21, items may be dropped off in the containers marked "Silent Auction" by the cabinets in the Gathering Space no later than Monday, November 4. Contact Ro Willard at willardrj1@sbcglobal.net for more information.

United Women in Faith Meeting

December General Meeting - Tuesday, December 3

All women are invited on Tuesday, December 3 for the December General Meeting. Coffee and tea is at 9:15AM and the program begins at 9:30AM given by Elaine Pauls, "Nativity Collection from Around the World," and Our Cookie and Recipe Exchange. Come hear Elaine Pauls talk about her nativity collection from around the world. Following the program, participants are encouraged to share four dozen of your favorite/traditional homemade holiday cookies, (three dozen in a container or platter to display, and one dozen on a

plate to share), along with 30 copies of the recipes! The Leadership Team will provide salads for a light luncheon for a suggested donation of \$3.00. We hope you will join us in your holiday attire, if you like, for holiday fellowship, friendship and fun! All women are welcome! Visit peopleofgrace.org/uwf for cookie exchange guidelines.



Fun For All Ages!

Halloween Costume Collection and Distribution

October 4 from 5:30PM to 7:00PM, October 5 from 10:30AM to 2:30PM, October 6 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Melissa Siomos has been a member of the Grace community her entire life. She grew up watching her family serve God and our church and this has given her the foundation for building a life of faith and community support. She began a Halloween Costume Drive that continues to grow. She has collected and distributed 100's of costumes each year and this ministry continues to grow. So, whether you could benefit from a free costume, have a costume to give, or know someone who could benefit from giving or receiving costumes, please contact her at mkloog@gmail.com. Bless others by donating gently used costumes or be blessed by shopping. Gently used, non-scary costumes of all sizes for children welcome.



Faith, Food, and Fun: Serving for CROP Walk

Sunday, October 20 from 11:30AM to 1:45PM

Register at peopleofgrace.org/faithfoodfun

This is a different type of Faith, Food, and Fun than usual, but just as exciting. The focus of the day is to think about Serving and be involved in supporting CROP Walk as a church. You can make a huge difference. We will have a simple meal of a boxed lunch, learn about CROP Walk, and the fun will be to help serve as part of CROP Walk by getting 100 bags prepped for Loaves and Fishes and a couple of fun games. Then, we encourage you to stay for the actual CROP Walk. So, come and learn and serve through fun interactive ways. Cost is \$10 per person or \$40 per household unit.



Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, October 23 from 6:00PM to 7:30PM

Register at peopleofgrace.org/treats

RAIN OR SHINE! All ages are welcome! Trunk-or-treat open to 0-12 year olds. Non-violent costumes are welcomed and encouraged. Come enjoy a safe place to trick-or-treat for candy and goodies! Bring your friends! Admission is free, but please register your attendance so we can plan accordingly.

Vehicles Needed for Trick-or-Treat "trunk-style"!

Register at peopleofgrace.org/trunks

Volunteers are needed to provide a "trunk" for our little ghouls and goblins to visit on Wednesday, October 23 from 6:00PM to 7:30PM on the lower lot of Grace. Help us surpass last year's goal of 25 vehicles!

Candy Donation Needed for Trunk or Treat

Perhaps you can't provide a trunk, but you would love to indulge a sweet tooth or two by donating candy for the event. Please bring individually wrapped candy and place it in the receptacle provided October 6 to October 20. Questions may be directed to Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org.

J.U.L.I.E.T.S. - Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together and Shopping

Friday, November 15 at 11:00AM

Register at peopleofgrace.org/juliets

Holiday shopping is the perfect reason to visit The Little Traveler in Geneva and benefit Youth Summer Missions at the same time. Join us (30 spots available) on November 15 at 11:00AM for a special lunch menu (\$16.00 per person) and a day of shopping. When our group reaches \$200.00 in receipt totals, 10% of all our purchases will be donated to Youth Summer Missions. Each person receives a welcome goody bag which will include a coupon for \$10.00 off a \$20.00 purchase (and may be used the day of the event). Choose your entrée for lunch when you register. Invite your friends who want to have some fun shopping for a good cause. Questions may be directed to Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org.

Christmas Adventure

Saturday, December 14 - Two sessions available 9:00AM and 11:00AM

Register at peopleofgrace.org/adventure

Grab your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors for this intergenerational fun morning by going on a Christmas ADVENTure to kick off ADVENT and prepare for Christmas. Enjoy a delicious breakfast, visit with Santa, create a Santa letter, and give it to him personally! Don't forget your phone or camera to take a picture! After breakfast, we will **ADVENTure** to the church seeking Christmas elements along the way. We will do an ADVENT craft and sing some Christmas carols together. There are two seating times available at 9:00AM and 11:00AM with limited seating at each session. Tickets are \$10 per person. Register by December 4!



Children's Faith Formation Updates

We have many updates in our Children's area that we are thrilled to announce.

- We give praise for our faithful leaders who lead each week. We also want to thank the people behind the scenes who work tirelessly doing preparation for Children and Family Ministry.
- We are thrilled to have grown our team with many new teachers/helpers in our Sunday Faith Formation hour (aka Sunday school). Welcome to the team: Jeff Louis, Tess Louis, Chuck Massey, Julie Massey, Mia Tapson, Pam Ford, and Erin Shannon.
- We opened up a new 2 to 4 year-old class at 9:15AM. We will all meet in room 122 for stations and music by Miss Shelly or Miss Sue. We will then go to 134 for the age-appropriate lesson, small group, and prayer time. Then, we will head back to room 122 for a craft and free play at the end.
- We have a new Prayer Station, journal station, as well as many hands-on stations that change each month with our series.
- We are implementing songs, story, and video lesson in our nursery at all three hours - 8:00AM up to 4 yrs, 9:15AM up to 2 yrs, and 10:30AM up to 4 yrs. The nursery area is also updated with some donated toys.
- All ages Nursery to 5th grade will be learning the same theme and story each week.
- Parents will be sent a devotional and take home verse each week to help them focus and connect the lesson with the children at home.
- We are excited to introduce our new birthday cart. Each week as children come to the Children's Welcome desk to check in, if they have a birthday that week, they can pick something from the birthday cart. We also would love to send a birthday postcard in the mail. So, please make sure we have your child's birthday.
- Thanks to the Foundation for their financial support which enabled us to make many upgrades:
 - a new sensory table that will change with the lessons/seasons
 - two new sensory/light tables and chairs for both the nursery and older kids. (One was donated from the company - thank you MEKA)
 - a new Tuff Tray for learning enhancements that has three levels of height for the various age groups.
 - two TV's - one in the Nursery and one in the 2-4 year old class to show our short video lesson and memory verse in sign language. Thank you to Terry Ackley for the gift of one of the TV's in honor of her husband, Tom Ackley.
 - a new rug for small group time
 - a new rug for the 9G worship space to create a welcoming, invitational environment

All children are invited to the 9:15AM Faith Formation hour where you will be cared for, loved, and nurtured while learning the Bible lessons, forming your faith, and having hands-on fun.

If you have not registered your child yet, visit peopleofgrace.org/register to register them.



New Birth Ministry

We are excited to announce that we have a new ministry for babies who are born in our congregation. We have "Loved" onesies that we would like to give to all of the newborn babies. Please notify Pastor Kim on the birth of a child. We would love to visit and drop off a Loved onesie to remind them that they are "Loved by Grace."



Children and Family Ministries

Nursery and Preschool Care

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

Children Faith Formation for 4 years to 5th Grade

Sundays at 9:15AM to 10:15AM in Room 122.

Grow Curriculum for 2-year olds to 4-year olds and Kindergarten to 5th Grade (age by September 1, 2024).

Please note: there will be no class on 12/1/24, 12/22/24, 12/29/24, 3/30/25, 4/6/25, and 4/20/25. These are times to worship as a family.



Sunday Fun Days

Sunday, October 20 and December 15 from 9:30AM to 10:30AM

Sunday Fun Days are themed Sunday school days on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 9:15AM to 10:15 AM in Fellowship Hall. These are VBS style days. Children 3 years and fully potty trained and up are welcome and invited to Sunday Fun Days this fall. For those 2 and under are welcome with their favorite adult. Youth are welcome and invited to serve and have fun, too. If you have registered on the All In Form, look for an email with an RSVP each month. If you have not registered on the All In Form, please register at peopleofgrace.org/sundayfun.

KinderTot Fun Days

Mondays, October 28, November 25, & December 16 from 9:30AM to 10:30AM

Calling all Kids under Kindergarten! Grab your favorite adult (s) and come have some themed fall/ Bible fun! Typically on the 4th Monday from 9:30AM to 10:30AM. Each month 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. If you have registered on the All In One Form, look for an email with an RSVP each month. If you have not registered on the All In One Form, please register at peopleofgrace.org/kindertot.



Growing in Faith Together

Sunday, November 17 from 9:15AM to 10:15AM in Fellowship Hall

Register at peopleofgrace.org/gift

The best way to grow in faith is together with family. It is truly a G.I.F.T. Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) days are opportunities for parents and grandparents to come to the children and youth Sunday morning Faith Formation hour where we will all learn and grow in faith together. Come learn and have fun together as we learn about ADVENT and how to prepare and wait for Christmas as well as incorporate thankfulness during the holiday seasons



Buddies Needed

Are you looking for a new way to participate in the life of Grace? Do you have a heart for teaching? Do you have a passion for inclusion? The Open Doors Ministry is looking for buddies to support school-aged children and youth. Volunteer opportunities include Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Thursday evenings. Training is provided! You can volunteer as little or as often as your schedule allows. This is an amazing ministry to join! Please reach out to nicole.zaccaria@peopleofgrace.org with any questions.

Parent's Day Out

Parent's Day Out program which serves children ages 1-4 is off to a great start. The children are getting adjusted to their classrooms and meeting new friends. Our theme for October is Fall Fun! We have planned fun activities for the children centered around apples, squirrels, pumpkins, leaves and acorns, a few of the signs that Fall is here. We will be wearing our favorite sports team jersey's for the week of October 15 and we will be having a Fall Parade for the week of October 29. We will be having a food drive for Loaves and Fishes for the month of October.

Thank you so much for the generous and thoughtful donations from the Questors group. The children are enjoying the new toys and we are using all the supplies on a daily basis.

We still have a few openings available in our program this year for children and always looking for substitute teachers. If you know anyone interested, please have them reach out and call us at 630-355-6146.

Becky Clark and Stephanie Smith, PDO Directors



Grace Youth Ministry (G.Y.M.)



Faith Formation on Sunday Mornings

Grace Youth Ministry (G.Y.M.) is a place where non-religious and nominally religious pre-teens and teens can come to explore what it means to live a life as a follower of Jesus Christ and have the opportunity to choose to grow and live out their faith. Everyone belongs and is welcome!

Sundays at 9:15AM to 10:15AM for Junior High (6th-8th) & Senior High (9th-12th) in Room 234

Please note: there is no class on 12/1/24, 12/22/24, 12/29/24, 3/30/25, 4/6/25, and 4/20/25 for Family Worship Days.

G.Y.M. (Grace Youth Ministry) on Wednesday Evenings

A time for youth 6th-12th grades to explore what it means to be a follower of Christ. Through study, mission opportunities, serving opportunities, and fellowship gatherings, youth are introduced to a deeper meaning of a Christ-centered life and how a life of faith brings the promise of hope, help, and unconditional love for a lifetime. Friends and neighbors are welcome at all G.Y.M. events!

Midweek Recharge on Wednesday evenings in Room 234 at 6:00PM to 7:30PM

Simple dinner provided at 6:00PM to 6:30PM.

Life Application Devotion, Fun/Silly Games, Fellowship at 6:30PM to 7:30PM.

Please note: there is no G.Y.M. on 11/27/24 and 12/4/24.

Wacky Wednesday - Food, Fun, Fellowship—great time to invite friends!

October 30 - Halloween Celebration

November 20 - Turkeys

December 11 - Holiday Celebration

G.Y.M. Service Opportunities

October 16 - Harvest Home

October 23 - Trunk-or-Treat

Confirmation on Sunday Evenings

Confirmation is our response to baptism. In baptism, we recognize and celebrate God's gifts of grace, forgiveness, and love as we are welcomed into Christ's universal Church. During Confirmation we respond to God's gifts, learning more about God, Jesus, the Spirit, the Bible, and the Church but also exploring how to follow Jesus and how to actually be the church as God intends.



Informational Parent Meeting

All 7th, 8th, and 9th grade families interested in Confirmation are invited to gather on **Sunday, October 6 at 6:00PM** in the Gathering Space for an informational parent meeting (confirmands welcome too). Please RSVP at peopleofgrace.org/confirmation.

Class begins October 13

Sunday evenings at 6:00PM to 7:00PM in Room 234 for all youth in 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Includes Study, Field Trips, Fellowship, & Retreat. *Please note: there is no class on 12/1/24, 12/22/24, 12/29/24, 1/5/25, 1/19/25, 2/9/25, 3/2/25.*

Contact Pastor Eric at eric.blachford@peopleofgrace.org or Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org with questions.

Sunday, October 20 is going to be like a Cirque de Grace with SO MANY opportunities! Here's what's happening!



- **Naperville 1/2 Marathon** - Plan your travel to and from church accordingly. Worship at 8:00AM, 9:00AM, or 10:30AM as usual!
- **Sunday Funday** for children and youth ministries with a focus on serving with CROP Walk during 9:15AM to 10:15AM Faith Formation hour.
- **Children's Sabbath** will be recognized at all services. However, at 10:30 the children's choirs will be singing and we will have a guest speaker as we learn more about helping children everywhere, the true intention of Children's Sabbath.
- **Faith, Food, & Fun** (a week early and with a bit different format!) - Come join us at 11:30AM in Fellowship Hall! Enjoy a boxed lunch, fellowship, and help serve for CROP Walk through prepping and packing bags for Loaves & Fishes. Cost for lunch is \$10.00/person or \$40.00/household.
- Then OF COURSE, stay and walk in **CROP Walk** at 1:00PM to help raise awareness and provide funds for food insufficiency. Donations to CROP Walk may be made to the already forming Grace Team at peopleofgrace.org/cropwalk. Help us fulfill our goal of \$6,200.00.

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

New Connections meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM in Room 231. Gather with other adults in the 30-50 age range for weekly fellowship and discussion. Beginning October 6, we will begin a 6-week study of Context by Josh Scott. In this study, Scott delves into well-known scripture verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context. We'll watch a weekly video, have discussion, and spend time in fellowship and prayer. Contact Stefanie Abderhalden at stefanie.abderhalden@gmail.com with any questions.

Forum Class

Forum Class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM in Room 232. This faithful and welcoming group 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

Hearts on Fire gathers Sunday mornings at 9:15AM in Room 250 with a welcoming atmosphere to share in fun but challenging and meaningful discussions around faith and discipleship. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion! Contact Bob Pacanowski at bpacanoswki@franklinsports.com for more information.

Here are our upcoming studies:

- September 1 through October 6: Six-week study about Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessing by Matthew L. Skinner
- October 13 through November 24: Six-week study about Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton (Please note: We will not meet on October 20 due to the Naperville Half Marathon.)
- December 1 through December 22: Four-week Advent study about On the Way to Bethlehem by Rob Fuquay

Questors

Questors welcomes all adults on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM in Room 254 to participate in presentations/discussions on a variety of topics: contemporary living issues, religious history, Biblical studies, etc. Class offers mission and fellowship opportunities. Contact Betty Long at b-long6120@sbcglobal.net or Joan Bratton at joan@bratton.com for more information.

Weekday Groups

Sisters Study

All women are invited to join the Sisters Group on Mondays beginning October 7 at 1:00PM to discuss a new book that promises to help in the journey toward wholeness after loss. The author, Dawn Sanders, has traveled this path before and lived to tell the tale—not once but twice.



Temple Builders

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

Bible in a Year Groups

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!

Parenting with Grace Mom's Group

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 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.

Reel People Movie Discussion Group

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

Come join us on Thursday mornings. Our Disciple Study is a welcoming, warm fellowship. 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 session 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 session, will cover The Prophets Themes. "Return, Near, Hunger, Obey, Divine Purpose, New Covenant, Doom, Promise, Redeemer, Vision, Courage and Witness." (12 weeks). Two manuals are required at the cost of \$9.98/each. Register at peopleofgrace.org/adultgroups, or please contact either Sandy Bray at braysnap@aol.com or Pastor Doug Bowden at dbowden6@aol.com.

Fellowship and Support Groups



DivorceCare Support Group

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. Register at peopleofgrace.org/divorcecare and access helpful videos and other information. If you have questions and for more information, please contact Richard Newell at richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org.

Guys Gathering Together

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. Join us **Friday, October 11** for our next gathering. *Are you ready for a fun, high-energy night out?* This month, we're heading to Game Show Battle Rooms in Lombard for an epic evening of friendly competition! Meet at the church by 6:30PM to carpool, or arrive at the venue by 7:15PM. The event runs until 8:45PM. The cost is \$40 per person (prepay required). Register at peopleofgrace.org/guys. We'll split into two teams for an immersive game show experience, complete with a trophy for the winning team! After the battle, join us for more fellowship at Miller's Ale House if you're interested. If the cost is a concern, please don't hesitate to contact Bob at 630-240-2122 or BPacanowski@FranklinSports.com for assistance. Sign up today and get ready for a night of fun!



Surviving the Holidays GriefShare Program

Holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and other special days can be extremely difficult and are often dreaded by those dealing with grief. You are invited to attend a GriefShare program titled, "Surviving the Holidays" on **Sunday, November 24 at 1:00PM**. You will have the opportunity to spend time with others who know the deep pain of grief and who can better understand what you are going through especially during this holiday season. Register at peopleofgrace.org/griefshare. Please contact Pam Riley-Valesh at 630.234.1547 or Judy Cornett at 630.842.1912 with questions.

Over 50 Fellowship Group

Kick off the holiday season with the Over 50 Fellowship Group Christmas Program on **Thursday, December 5 at 12:00PM**, with a delicious catered lunch and program featuring the Stiletto Quartet, a women's barbershop quartet, including Grace's own Kim Blair! They are a registered quartet with Sweet Adelines International and are committed to promoting and advancing the musical art form of barbershop through education, competition, and performance. Since their formation in 2017, Stiletto has consistently received medals at each of their annual regional competitions. Their dedication and talent continue to captivate audiences as they share their passion for barbershop harmony! Don't miss this fun opportunity! Everyone over 50 is invited. Register at peopleofgrace.org/over50.



"Embracing Community" All Naperville Book Read

Wednesdays, October 2, 9, 16 and 23

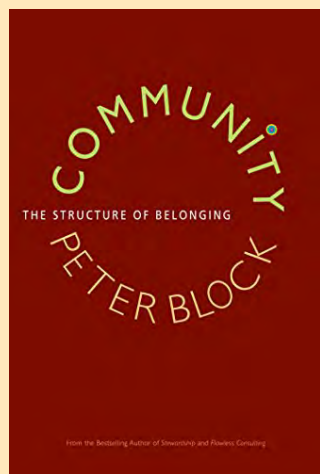
"Embracing Community" All Naperville Book Read

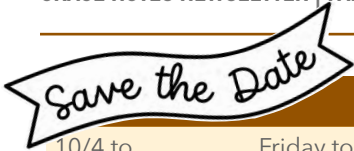
"In a true community, every person is a citizen, relationships are key, and focusing on what is possible is transformative,"

~ Peter Block, *Community, The Structure of Belonging*

The City of Naperville, Naperville Public Library, and Grace United Methodist Church invite you to join together in reading and discussing the book, *Community, The Structure of Belonging* by Peter Block. Groups across Naperville will gather to discuss on Wednesdays, October 2, 9, 16 and 23. The book is available at the library and wherever books are sold. We're grateful to Naperville DEI Director Geneace Williams for organizing us in such a way as to bring people together. Pastor Cindy will be facilitating the group here at Grace and would love to have you there! Learn more about the Book Read at

www.naperville.il.us/government/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/embrace-community/





OCTOBER

10/4 to 10/6/2024	Friday to Sunday	Halloween Costume Donations & Distribution		Fellowship Hall
10/5/2024	Saturday	Pet Blessing	9:00AM	Lower Lot
10/9/2024	Wednesday	DivorceCares	6:30PM to 8:30PM	Room 231
10/11/2024	Friday	Guys Gathering Together	6:30PM to 8:45PM	Game Show Battle Rooms in Lombard
10/13/2024	Sunday	Confirmation Starts	6:00PM to 7:00PM	Room 234
10/15/2024	Tuesday	All Church Conference	7:00PM	Room 254
10/16/2024	Wednesday	Harvest Home Dinner and Celebration	6:00PM to 8:00PM	Fellowship Hall
10/20/2024	Sunday	Naperville Half Marathon	7:00AM	Downtown Naperville
10/20/2024	Sunday	Children's Sabbath		
10/20/2024	Sunday	Sunday Funday	9:15AM to 10:15AM	Fellowship Hall
10/20/2024	Sunday	Faith Food and Fun: Serving for CROP Walk	11:30AM to 1:45PM	Fellowship Hall
10/20/2024	Sunday	Crop Walk	1:00PM	Lower Lot
10/23/2024	Wednesday	Trunk or Treat	6:00 PM to 7:30PM	Lower Lot and Field
10/28/2024	Monday	KinderTot	9:30AM to 10:30AM	122,123, FH

NOVEMBER

11/2/2024	Saturday	Annual Church Leaf Raking	8:30AM	Church Grounds
11/3/2024	Sunday	Daylight Saving Time Ends - <i>Set your clock back an hour before you go to bed!</i>		
11/5/2024	Tuesday	Voting for Election	All Day	Fellowship Hall
11/9/2024	Saturday	Mistletoe Market	9:00AM to 2:00PM	Fellowship Hall
11/13/2024	Wednesday	PDO Thanksgiving Feast	12:00PM to 1:00PM	Fellowship Hall
11/17/2024	Sunday	Growing in Faith Together	9:15AM to 10:15AM	Fellowship Hall
11/17/2024	Sunday	Naperville Concert	4:00PM	Sanctuary
11/19 & 11/21	Tues & Thurs	PDO Thanksgiving Feasts	12:00PM to 1:00PM	Fellowship Hall
11/20/2024	Wednesday	DivorceCares <i>Surviving The Holidays</i>	6:30PM to 8:30PM	Room 231
11/24/2024	Sunday	Grief Share <i>Surviving the Holidays</i>	1:00PM	Room 254
11/24/2024	Sunday	Noisy Offering	All worship services	Sanctuary & AC
11/25/2024	Monday	KinderTot	9:30AM to 10:30AM	122,123, FH
11/28 & 11/29	Thurs & Fri	Thanksgiving Holiday - Church Office Closed		

DECEMBER

12/5/2024	Thursday	Over 50: Christmas Program	12:00PM to 2:00PM	Fellowship Hall
12/8/2024	Sunday	Children's Christmas Musical	10:30AM	Sanctuary
12/14/2024	Saturday	Christmas ADVENTure	9:00AM & 11:00AM	Fellowship Hall & AC
12/15/2024	Sunday	Sunday Funday: Christmas Party	9:15AM to 10:15AM	Fellowship Hall
12/16/2024	Monday	KinderTot: Christmas Party	9:30AM to 10:30AM	122,123, FH
12/17 to 12/19	Tues to Thurs	PDO Christmas Parties	12:00PM to 1:00PM	Fellowship Hall
12/18/2024	Wednesday	Blue Christmas Service	6:00PM	Sanctuary
12/24/2024	Tuesday	Christmas Eve Worship Services	12:00PM 3:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM & 10:00PM	Sanctuary
12/25/2024	Wednesday	Christmas - Church Office Closed		
12/29/2024	Sunday	One Worship Only	9:00AM	Sanctuary

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 October, November, and December. Learn more at peopleofgrace.org/missions.



October 2024 Pantry Collection

This month's pantry collection will benefit Loaves and Fishes. They are able to provide clients with a better selection of healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. 35% of the food provided is rescued from local grocers each week; 35% is donated; and 30% is purchased. Please continue to place food in the entryway box or donate.



November 2024 Pantry Collection

This month's pantry collection will benefit Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry. They serve 1300 people weekly. One father reported that "the feeling of security is what we experience when we know that we have enough food for our family for the next day." Please help families in need to gain that secure feeling by donating.



December 2024 Pantry Collection

This month's collection will benefit Marie Wilkinson Pantry. They are happy to report they have moved to a temporary location on 922 N. Lake Street in Aurora while they expand their Highland Avenue site so they can better serve the 1000 families that visit each week.

Parents of College Students



It's just about time for our college aged students to finish their first quarter and we love checking in with them. Please forward the address of your college aged student so we might be in touch in the coming weeks. Please send your student's address to the youth office at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org. You never know when a package or fun piece of mail might arrive!

Grace Notes Monthly Newsletter

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www.peopleofgrace.org
We Gather | We Grow | We Go