



grace united

METHODIST CHURCH

3555 McFarland Road, Rockford, IL 61114

Grace Notes

April
2024



COMMITTEE

Congregational Care invites all to hear guest speaker *Abby Minert*, Program Director with St. Croix Hospice who specializes in the care of dementia patients. Abby will share her expertise with us so that we may better understand this disease. Please join us on April 12, 2024 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall at GUMC.

Education: It's coming in June! "At the Farm--Growing in God's Love" VBS will be evenings from June 24th – 27th. This is an opportunity to share the love of God with families from the community. Please make a list of families with youth & children that you encounter...neighbors, family, friends. If every person in our church invited just one family and 1/2 of them came to VBS, it would be amazing!

Finance: Grace UMC's gifting revenue as of Sunday, March 17, totaled \$55,124.14 which was about \$9K below our expectations. We continue to encourage our faithful pledgers to keep current with their 2024 pledge commitment. The Finance Committee anticipates deficit spending during 2024 and any additional shortfalls will make the use of our financial reserves even more costly.

Missions: Thank you to all who helped us to supply and deliver 70 Easter bags for the Jubilee Center clients.

Also, thank you to everyone who supports our church mission of making 700 PB&J sandwiches every Friday morning for Miss Carly's. To date, we have made and delivered over 114,000 sandwiches. If you would like to help, show up at 8:30 on a Friday morning & we'll put you to work!

Small Groups is offering a new study for Spring! *Wresting with Doubt, Finding Faith* by Adam Hamilton will be offered Mondays at 6:30, Wednesdays at 10:00, and Thursdays at 10:00, starting April 8-10. Books are \$12 and available in the office on a first come, first served basis.

Trustees: Spring Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 4th from 8:00-11:00. Jobs for all ages and abilities!

United Methodist Men will have a breakfast, Saturday, April 13, at 8:00 AM. Men, please join us for food fun and fellowship.

United Women in Faith will meet on Tuesday, April 2nd at 1:00. Sue Michaelsen will be leading the program "Improve Balance & Comfort with Tai Chi"

Devotions: Karen Messley Hostess: Sharon Bielefeldt Ladies' Lunch Out will be April 16 @11:30 at Long Horn

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 7th when we'll learn about Rockford Urban Ministries.

Worship: As you read this, Easter Services will be over. We hope you have enjoyed the banners and the aisle runner of Palm Sunday and the variety of services on Easter. Thank you to all the volunteers we had helping us change out the banners and other Easter season adornments. It is great to have someone who is willing to climb a ladder! Our Easter banners will remain until May which is when we celebrate Pentecost. April is a quiet month for Worship Committee so we will not be meeting.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Carole Baloun
Caitlyn Wingo
- 4/2 Will Alldritt
- 4/3 Alice Workinger
Sandy Hopkins
- 4/4 Emerson Hawkins
Wanda Wittbecker
- 4/5 Deb Blackwell
- 4/6 Fran Grenert
- 4/8 Caitlin Waddell
- 4/9 Robert Myers
- 4/11 Katie Flaherty
- 4/15 Pam Sisler
- 4/18 Ann Petta
- 4/19 Jim Krueger
- 4/2 Asya Mausehund
- 4/23 Lee Jang
Jo Ferroli
- 4/24 Sharon Bielefeldt
- 4/26 Elliette Wingo
- 4/27 Bob Raley
John Rogers
- 4/29 Sue Wenger
Denise Alldritt

MEETINGS

CHURCH COUNCIL

April 17 @ 7:00

CONGREG. CARE

April 26 after PB&J

EDUCATION

April 16 @ 6:30

No FINANCE

MISSIONS

April 24 @ 9:00

OUTREACH

April 17 @ 1:30

SMALL GROUPS

April 17 @ 6:00

TRUSTEES

April 2 @ 6:00

UMM

April 13 @ 8:30

UW IN FAITH

April 2 @ 1:00

No WORSHIP Meeting

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/4 Melissa & Jon Whitmore
- 4/15 Jo & Lou Ferroli
- 4/23 Deb & Bill Werner
- 4/24 Lelah & Buzz Krominga
- 4/25 Kim & Jeff Giss
- 4/26 Dawn & Scott Anderson
- 4/29 Sue & John Wenger



**TOWN HALL
MEETING for Grace
Church Outlook after
worship on April 14th.**

FROM THE PASTOR:

God has a plan for how His church is to be organized and function. It's not about bureaucracies or rules or power or human control; it's all about **humility, servanthood** and **joyful contribution**.

Paul discussed it to the church in Corinth: **"Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."** (1 Cor. 12:1, 7)

In other words, God gives to people who follow Jesus **spiritual gifts** (God-powered, God-chosen abilities) for you to build up the church and serve other people in ways that will bring fulfillment to you, and goodness and growth to people.

Paul referred to the church as the human body: **"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."** (1 Cor. 12:27)

God has given every single one of you more than one spiritual gifts, and He wants you to **use it** to serve the church and do your part in Christ's body. That means, **without YOU** practicing your spiritual gift, the church body doesn't function in the way that it's supposed to do.

Since it is important that everybody who is part of the church identifies and serves with their spiritual gifts, I'm going to launch a **two-part sermon series with Spiritual Gifts** after Easter.

Everybody who is in Christ has spiritual gifts. And everybody has been invited to serve. If you're not finding a way to serve in the body of Christ, but you're a follower of Jesus, you're missing a deep part of God's calling on your life, and the body is missing out on one of its significant members.

Friends, you are part of the body of Christ. And you matter.

-Pastor Sejoon



APRIL

April 7—Youth Missions lunch fundraiser (new date)
April 13—Youth Ice Skating
April 14—Youth Group @ 5:00
April 28—Youth Group @ 5:00

MAY

May 4—High School Senior Dinner Celebration
May 12—Youth Group @ 5:00
May 26—Youth Group @ 5:00

Dementia & Memory Loss
Presentation

April 12, 2024 @ 10:30

All are welcome!



Contact Us:

by phone (815)637-4561

Or by email:

office-graceumcrockford @comcast.net



Like us on Facebook!



Ladies Lunch Out

Tues, April 16 @ 11:30
at LongHorn Steakhouse
Contact: Sandra Chhatpar
(815) 312-6989



Please note that our youth spaghetti fundraiser has been moved up one week to **April 7th**. This will be a free will love offering after worship. All proceeds will go to our summer work camp and Youth mission project in conjunction with Christ United Methodist Church.