



grace united

METHODIST CHURCH

3555 McFarland Road, Rockford, IL 61114

Grace Notes



May 2024

COMMITTEE NEWS:

Education: Looking for help with VBS: Set design, leadership for science, and preparing a simple meal. June 24th – 27th Contact Donnette Nailor at 815-985-9010. Thank you!!!



Finance: Because Grace UMC is experiencing a decline in revenue and the impact of inflation, the Finance Committee's main focus is reviewing our 2024 Stewardship Program including communication, pledge drive, budget and debt retirement. Where we discover that changes are necessary as we implement them, the congregation will be advised and, together with God's help, we can work to ensure the financial health of our church.

Missions: PB&J - We have now reached 117,000 PB&J sandwiches for Miss Carly's. Thank you to everyone who helps to make this happen each Friday morning at Grace.

Outreach Donnette Nailor has been busy writing grants to fund expanded learning experiences starting May 8th at 2:15 PM with the Wed. Grove Learning Garden. The expanded Reading Tuesdays (which include 0-to-5-year-olds) at the Grove will begin Tues, June 4th.

The RPS 205 Grant was approved. We are waiting to hear about the United Way "United for Literacy" Grant but are making plans to move ahead regardless. Join us to "Spread the Love" of Jesus, talking about & caring for the children by helping them in the garden or reading with a kid. The Grove at Keith Creek 690 S New Towne Dr Rockford, IL 61108. *Because we're expanding, we could use your talents/love of children. Look for more information soon.*
Who You Gunna Call? Donnette 1- 815- 985-9010

Rummage Sale: It's coming May 30, 31 & June 1!

Donations accepted May 3-24th during office hours. **Remember: all items must be clean & in working order.**

We always need help sorting, setting up, pricing, and working the 3 sale days (Thur and Fri 8-5, Sat 8-noon).

SPRC: Nursery Care Volunteers are needed to assist in the nursery on Sunday mornings and for special events. Please let our staff know if you are interested.

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

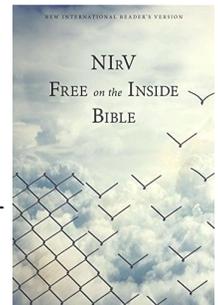
United Methodist Men Saturday, May 11, 2024: the United Methodist Men would like to invite everyone to breakfast. Steve Pearce will be speaking about the Titanic.

United Women in Faith meets on Tuesday, May 7 @ 1:00
Devotions: Julie Platt Hostess: Julie Platt

Ladies' Lunch Out on May 21 @11:30 at Baker Street Burgers

In May, United Women in Faith will be collecting reading glasses and ordering Bibles for Winnebago County inmates.

Worship: We are still in the midst of Easter Season. Thank you to all who helped with the tomb, palm trees, and crosses. We appreciate your willingness to climb ladders!



Pentecost is May 19th and our banners will change. Our next meeting is May 8 at 8:30am. Come if you are interested in how our church looks.

MEETINGS

CHURCH COUNCIL

May 15 @ 7:00

CONGREG. CARE

May 24 @ 10:00

EDUCATION

May 21 @ 6:30

FINANCE

May 15 @ 5:30

NO MISSIONS MTG.

OUTREACH

May 16 @ 1:30

SMALL GROUPS

May 22 @ 6:30

TRUSTEES

May 7 @ 6:00

UMM

May 11 @ 8:00

UW IN FAITH

May 7 @ 1:00

WORSHIP Meeting

May 8 @ 8:30

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 Jim Bailey
- 5/4 Dawn Anderson
- 5/6 Nicholas Whitmore
- 5/9 Kim Giss
- 5/10 Rosalie Sward
- 5/11 Harold Gifford
- 5/12 Jon Scardamaglia
- 5/14 Donnette Nailor
- 5/14 Rosalind Mausehund
- 5/15 Arlene Williams
- 5/17 Jan Sykes
- 5/18 Scott Anderson
- 5/24 Rob Wandell
- 5/27 Zach Whitmore
- 5/28 Taylor Anderson
- 5/28 Blake Wingo

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/5 Cathy & Craig Helgersen
- 5/6 Michelle & Bob Carroll
- 5/22 Christy & Mark McGowan
- 5/25 Pam & Harry Highland
- 5/25 Kathryn & Brian Crowley
- 5/26 Lorelle & Rob Wandell
- 5/29 Mellissa & Mike Slife

FROM THE PASTOR:



Those who know me well know that I am a huge Dodgers fan. In fact, I love team sports, and I believe there's a lot that we can learn from team sports like baseball, basketball, and football.

In Romans 12:3-8, Paul talks about the body of Christ and how we are to function as a team. Just like in team sports, the success of the team depends on the cooperation and function of each team player.

My hero in professional team sports is none other than coach Phil Jackson, the former head coach of Chicago Bulls. I think he was certainly one of the best coaches of all time. He was known

for his ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of his players and place them in the proper position to make the team successful.

When I think of a team sport's coach, I think of my job as a pastor of a local church. It is the pastor's responsibility to help each team member to discover their spiritual gifts, equip them to use their spiritual gifts, and to place them in the right position to help make the team successful. When everyone on the team does their job, the team is most successful.

And what I know is that the coach is **not** a star; **players are stars**. In no way, the coach can score goals or hit a home run or make a touchdown! In no way, the coach is going to shine as the **star**.

My job is to help you to be star players and make sure that, with ups and downs of church life, the church is focused on its purpose and mission.

When it comes to all of the players on the team, there are certain things that everyone needs to understand. In order for the team to function and be successful, every player, including the coach, must understand three basic truths:

Be Humble - "By the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought." (Romans 12:3)

Embrace Differences - "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function." (Romans 12:4)

Be Responsible - "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26)

God has put together a team. It is called **Grace UMC**. And God called me as its coach, the pastor, who is to help the team members to use their God-given gifts and abilities to function in such a way that it fulfills the mission and purpose of the church. And God has called each member to get into the game and use their gifts within the life of the church in order to ensure the success of the whole team.

Friends, I want you to be **star players**. Will you get into the game? Will you be a team player?

-Pastor Sejoon

Dear beloved congregation,

As we continue to grow together as a church family, we are blessed with countless reasons to celebrate the milestones and achievements of our fellow members. Whether it's a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or any other special occasion, each moment is an opportunity to rejoice and come together in fellowship.

We invite you to consider hosting a Fellowship Hour in honor of your family's special milestone. It's a chance for us to gather, share in each other's joy, and strengthen the bonds of community that unite us. Whether you choose to bring a simple treat or plan a more elaborate gathering, your generosity in hosting will be deeply appreciated by all.

Let's seize these moments to express our love and support for one another, to connect, celebrate, and create cherished memories together.

We've made it easier than ever to serve as host and will be there to help however needed so please reach out to Jim Egan who can help with scheduling your special hosting day.