

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**500 BUSINESS 23 W**  
**PAYNESVILLE, MN 56362**



**Church Website:** [www.paynesvillegrace.org](http://www.paynesvillegrace.org)

**Regular Sunday Worship Service Time:** 9:30 AM

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am-3pm

**Church Doors Open:**

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Friday 8am-3pm,

Wednesday, 8am-8pm

Sat 8-Noon, Sun 7:30am-Noon

**Grace Church Office:** [graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org](mailto:graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org)

Phone: 320-243-3601

**Pastor Jill Meents:** [jill@paynesvillegrace.org](mailto:jill@paynesvillegrace.org)

Cell: 612-867-1979

**Kari Schaefer, Youth Ministry:** [kari@paynesvillegrace.org](mailto:kari@paynesvillegrace.org)

Cell: 701-866-7365

**Jane Hartman, Office:** [jane@paynesvillegrace.org](mailto:jane@paynesvillegrace.org)

**APRIL 2024**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Note from our Pastor

A reminder to our Family and Friends at Grace Church...

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The assembly meets every four years to consider revisions to church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs for the next four years. It is also a time where all members are worshiping together and praising God for his love, mercy, and forgiveness.

The last time the General Conference met together was almost eight years ago. It was set to convene in Minneapolis, Minnesota, until the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the event until 2024. It will be held April 23 – May 3, 2024, at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

General Conference brings together lay and clergy delegates from four continents whose decisions will affect how millions of United Methodists do church for years to come. Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering, which is expected to attract about 5,500-7,500 people.

Think of the two-week gathering as a combination of a United Nations General Assembly, a U.S. congressional session and a time of rousing Christian worship.

For more information about General Conference and to watch the event “live” you can visit the website

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/a-beginners-guide-to-general-conference>

Blessings, Pastor Jill

# GRACE CHURCH SERVICE TEAMS

God gives each of us gifts and talents and calls us to put them to use. Consider your interests and abilities. Got the gift of gab? Think about being an usher or greeter. Do you love numbers? How about being an offering counter? If you have a talent for making things look nice, we could use you on the Banner or Flower Committee. There's really something for everyone!



We'll be making up the new 2024-2025 Service Team Schedules soon. Below is a list of areas where we really could use your help. Please indicate what you would be interested in (don't check if you're already a part of that team) and place this page in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. Each committee requests a one-year commitment (June to May).

- ☐ Ushering
- ☐ Greeting
- ☐ Scripture Reading for Worship Service
- ☐ Preparing the Elements for Communion
- ☐ Counting the Offering
- ☐ Flowers (setting out the flowers for church services)
- ☐ Banners (place banners in the Worship Space for the various church seasons and special events)
- ☐ Funeral Committee (set up and prepare for funeral meals)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you! A team leader will contact you with more information.*



Greetings!

We blinked and March is over. Yikes, time sure goes by quickly! Grace Kids spent much of the month practicing for their Palm Sunday drama & they did a fabulous job performing that. It is always so fun to watch them in action. This is a hard drama for them to perform but they handled it wonderfully!

Grace Youth completed several service projects during the month of March including assembling the Blessing Bags, playing Bingo at Koronis Place with the residents & making tie blankets which were delivered to the Paynesville Community Service Center. We also held our 3rd Annual "Cook Off" which is such a fun night to watch. There were 3 teams & they all did great!

We also held our annual Silent Auction which yet again was a huge success. We were able to raise \$3,078 to help those going on our next Mission Trip to Belize in summer 2025.

As we move into April our schedule doesn't slow down. Grace Kids & Grace Youth will wrap up their lessons for the year. The Confirmation students will finish their meetings with their mentors & start to work on their Confirmation Faith statements. We are excited to see them take this next step in their faith journey. Mark your calendars as Confirmation Sunday is May 12th.

It's hard to believe we're starting to work on our summer calendar & what is to come in May. We're busy here but we wouldn't want it any other way. God is good!

Much Love,  
Kari Schaefer

## **APRIL YOUTH EVENTS**

### **Wednesday, April 3rd**

Grace Kids: Simply Loved, Unit 1/Lesson 1  
Grace Youth: Fathom! The Wilderness Week 1  
7th Grade Confirmation: "Prayer Power"

### **Wednesday, April 10th**

Grace Kids: Simply Loved, Unit 1/Lesson 2  
Grace Youth: Fathom! The Wilderness Week 2  
7th Grade Confirmation: "Sharing Jesus"

**\*\*Pastor Jill will meet w/ALL Confirmands getting Confirmed this year in her office from 6:00-6:30 pm.**

### **Sunday, April 14th**

Grace Kids Chime Choir to perform during Worship

### **Wednesday, April 17th**

Grace Kids: Simply Loved, Unit 1, Lesson 3  
Grace Youth: Fathom! The Wilderness Week 3  
7th Grade Confirmation: "Faith in Action"

### **Wednesday, April 24th**

Grace Kids: Simply Loved, Unit 1, Lesson 4  
Grace Youth: Fathom! The Wilderness Week 4  
7th Grade Confirmation: "Eternity with Jesus"

### **Sunday, April 28th**

Gumppets perform during Worship

### ***Save the Date:***



Sunday, May 12th: Confirmation Sunday

Wednesday, May 15th: End of the year party

More details to follow!



**A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the Easter drama on Palm Sunday! I want to thank Jim & Betty Freilinger & Gretchen O'Fallon for helping to create the set & costumes. Thank you to David Herzberg for running the sound & lights, Faye Paster for playing the piano. Thank you to my adult helpers Gretchen O'Fallon, Vicky Frank, Jim & Betty Freilinger, Deb Thomsen & Steph Hemmesch for keeping the kids quiet, helping them get ready and out on stage when they need to be. And finally, a big thank you to the kids. I am so proud of you! This is a hard play to perform, and you did it! Thank you for working hard and practicing your lines so you were ready for Palm Sunday. Much Love! Kari

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who donated money and items towards our February mission project, which was Blessing Bags. With your help we were able to assemble 53 Blessing Bags! Our goal was 30, so this was a great number! We do have extra assembled bags so if you'd like to take a couple to keep in your car & give to people in need, there is a box with them located outside Kari's office. Thanks Again! ~ Grace Missions Team

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated items, services, or baskets, as well as everyone who purchased these amazing items from our Youth Silent Auction this year. With your help we raised \$3,078 to help those youth going on our next Mission Trip to Belize in Summer 2025. We are beyond grateful to all of you & are so humbled by your generosity. Grace Youth

**THANK YOU FROM PAYNESVILLE ELEMENTARY** - The Grace Missions Team applied for a grant through the Conference & were

awarded some money in which they used to supply our Paynesville Elementary Teachers with snacks during conferences in March. The following is a “thank you” from them:

“Thank you so much for the generous treats on Friday! Our staff greatly appreciated the thoughtfulness and goodies. I hope you have a great week!” ~ Mrs. Akerson, Elementary Principal



**SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULES DUE MAY 1**

Service Team leaders, please be sure to submit your new 2024-2025 Service Team schedules to the office no later than May 1st so that the schedules can be sent out to members before June 1st. Thank you!

**RUTH CIRCLE** for April will be held on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, in the Fireside Room at 9:30 a.m. Roxann Bergstrom will be leading devotions. Ramona Frank and Paula Lingl will be hosting.

**APRIL MISSION**

During the month of April, the “Grace Missions Team” will be collecting Women’s Hygiene Products. There will be a collection box located outside Kari’s office. All items donated will be delivered to the Paynesville Community Service Center and distributed throughout our community. You may also give monetary donations through the plate offering, just mark “April Missions” in the memo line of your check.

*Items Requested:*

- |                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Women’s Underwear       | Depends |
| Bras (variety of sizes) | Tampons |
| Deodorant               | Pads    |
| Lotion                  |         |

Thank you for your generosity! ~ Grace Missions Team

# Finance Update

## Foundation Report

February Ending Balance:	\$ <u>1,060,676.62</u>
January Ending Balance:	\$ <u>1,041,687.52</u>
	\$ 18,989.10

## Grace Church

January Ending Balance:	\$ 32,670.07
February Expenses:	\$ <u>21,273.83</u>
Balance	\$ 11,396.24
February Income:	\$ <u>20,700.21</u>
February End Balance:	\$ 32,096.45
Less Deferred Amount:	\$ 16,186.43
February	\$ 15,910.02
January	\$ <u>17,028.67</u>
Loss	\$ (1,118.65) Loss
Year to Date:	
January	\$ (2,691.16)
February	\$ <u>(1,118.65)</u>
	\$ (3,809.81) Loss

---

## SUMMER CAMPING

It's time to make your summer camping plans at Camp Minnesota! Online registration is open. Pick up a brochure at the Welcome table (between the church office and Kari's office) or visit [www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org) to check out what's happening this summer at your Minnesota United Methodist Camps!

Remember, Grace Church has camperships available for up to 75% of the cost of camp, **up to \$200**. Just write 'Grace Church, Paynesville' as your church on the Campership Application.





# April

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April 1	Bob & Vicki Lane, Kinley Stanger
April 2	Steph Hemmesch, Brad Schultz
April 3	Leta Stafford
April 4	Mike Hemmesch
April 6	Bob Stoneburner
April 7	Gary Herzberg, Dean Herzberg
April 9	Raya Schaefer, Dale Negen
April 11	Braydon Gray, Vicki Lane
April 14	Linda Brink, Paxten Schaefer
April 17	Liam Putzke
April 18	Lena Block
April 19	Mayson Peterson, Isaac Utsch
April 21	Casey Hopfer
April 22	Sylas Schultz
April 25	Joseph Lingl, Art Rittenhouse, Doug Stade
April 26	Luke Recknor
April 28	Sandi Danielson, Remington Damhof, Jim & Deb Butkofski
April 29	Cary & Becky Peterson



READERS:

April 7      Nathan Loso  
April 14     Deb Thomsen  
April 21     Linda Liestman  
April 28     Linda Brink

GREETERS:

April 7      Tom & Nancy Deadrick  
April 14     Bud & Leola Wendroth  
April 21     Gary & Evie Smith  
April 28     Jim & Gretchen O'Fallon

COUNTERS:

April 7      Carolyn Swyter, Betty Freiling  
April 14     Jim Elseth, Jane Burr  
April 21     Gary Smith, Bonnie Schwartz  
April 28     Mary Beek, Sue Arend

USHERS:    Head Usher - Gene Schultz 320-293-1395  
Month of April – Don Frank, Scott Schaefer

BANNER COMMITTEE:    Deanna Fuchs

WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT TEAM:

Gretchen O'Fallon, Betty Freiling

COMMUNION STEWARDS:

Byron & Deanna Fuchs