

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



Church Website: 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

Phone: 320-243-3601

Pastor Jill Meents: jill@paynesvillegrace.org

Cell: 612-867-1979

Kari Schaefer, Youth Ministry: kari@paynesvillegrace.org

Cell: 701-866-7365

Jane Hartman, Office: jane@paynesvillegrace.org



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Note from our Pastor

Lent

Lent is a time to take the time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events
get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

*Taken from Ann Weems' book entitled
"Kneeling in Jerusalem"*



It is a tradition of Grace Church to decorate our Worship Space with Easter Lilies and spring flowers on Easter Sunday. If you would like to provide a plant in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out this form and bring it to the church office no later than Monday, March 25th so we can be sure to list their names in our Easter bulletin. If it's easier for you to email the information, please feel free to send details to the church office at graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org.

Please bring or have the flowers delivered to church by Friday, March 29th by 2:30 p.m.

IN MEMORY OF: _____
(someone deceased)

IN HONOR OF: _____
(someone living)

GIVEN BY: _____

**You may leave the flowers at church,
or pick them up after services on Easter Sunday**



Grace Youth News

Greetings!

The month of February flew by with lots of fun had by our kids! We had some great lessons & discussions. We enjoyed a performance by the Gumpets about "the greatest commandment". Grace Kids gave a performance of one of their favorite songs this year & did a fabulous job! Grace Kids made 40 Valentine's Day cards which were mailed out to various congregation members. We made our lent chains on Ash Wednesday & we took 19 kids tubing to Powder Ridge on President's Day. We had such a great month!

As we move into March, we continue to have a lot of fun things happening. This is an exciting time of year as the daylight hours are getting longer & we are anticipating spring.

During this season of Lent, Grace Youth (those in 6th-12th grade) will be taking a break from their lessons & completing some service projects, as well as doing some fun events too. This is always a fun time for our youth to give back to others. Our Grace Kids (those in K-5th grade) will spend most of March practicing for our annual Palm Sunday Drama. The parts will be handed out on Wednesday, March 6th. They will perform this drama on Palm Sunday, which is March 24th this year. The kids look forward to this drama each year. It is a pretty powerful experience for them to be able to see & portray what it was like for Jesus during his final days on this earth.

Finally, we will again be holding a Silent Auction to help those going on our next Mission Trip in Summer 2025. If you have any items, baskets or services that you would like to donate, please have them to Kari by March 6th. The Silent Auction will run from March 10th-March 24th.

Much Love,
Kari Schaefer

MARCH YOUTH EVENTS

Wednesday, March 6th

Grace Kids: Palm Sunday Drama parts handed out & drama practice

Grace Youth: Playing BINGO w/residents @ Koronis Place

Today is the deadline to donate items for the Silent Auction

Sunday, March 10th

Silent Auction begins

Wednesday, March 13th

Grace Kids: Palm Sunday Drama Practice

Grace Youth: Blessing Bag assembly & Cook-off Prep

Wednesday, March 20th

Grace Kids: Palm Sunday Drama Practice (dress rehearsal)

Grace Youth: Cook-off

Sunday, March 24th

Palm Sunday Drama Performance

Silent Auction ends at NOON

Wednesday, March 27th

Grace Kids: Simply Loved, Unit 3/Lesson 4

Grace Youth: Fill eggs w/candy

Sunday, March 31st

Happy Easter! Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:30 am

SILENT AUCTION - The youth will again be hosting a Silent Auction that will run from March 10th-24th. All funds raised will go into the Youth Mission Trip Fund. If you have any items, services, or baskets you'd like to donate please have them to Kari Schaefer by March 6th. All items are appreciated! The more items we get, the more we can raise for our Mission Trip. Thank you!



Easter Candy Donations

We are in need of candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held on Easter Sunday at 10:30 am. You can place the candy in the box by Kari's office. The older youth will be filling the Easter Eggs on Wednesday, March 27th, during Youth Group. Thank you!



Palm Sunday Procession of the Palms



On Palm Sunday, March 24th, all the children, and anyone who feels young at heart, are invited to participate in the Procession of the Palms at the beginning of the worship service. We will meet in the Fireside Room prior to the service.

March Mission

Food prices have been going up steadily in the past few years and that, coupled with other rising costs, has left many Minnesotans struggling with food insecurity.

For our March mission, Grace Church will be collecting peanut butter and jelly for the Paynesville Food Shelf. There will be a grocery cart available outside Kari's office to collect your donations. Spread the love!



Easter Sunday

March 31st

10:30 am



**Ages 2 years - 5th Grade
Meet in the Worship Space**

**Bring an empty basket to
collect the eggs.**

(This event will be held outside, weather permitting)



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 24th

9:30 a.m. Worship - Procession of the Palms
& Children's Drama

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

Last Day of the Silent Auction – Bidding closes at NOON

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

The Upper Room Experience

4 – 6 p.m.

Come anytime during these hours to receive Holy Communion.

Good Friday, March 29th

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Darkness

EASTER SUNDAY – March 31st

6:30 AM Sunrise Service at Salem Church

9:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service

No Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28th
COMMUNION IN THE UPPER ROOM

Please come and join us in the celebration of the Last Supper. You may come any time between 4 - 6 p.m., receive scripture readings and spend time in prayer in the worship space. Groups of 10-12 will be called to receive Holy Communion in the Upper Room during this time.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE
FRIDAY, MARCH 29th, 7:00 p.m.

Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness." The service of Tenebrae, as practiced in most Protestant Churches, is an adaptation of medieval Roman Catholic practices for each of the days of Holy Week dating back to the ninth century. For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.

It is a story of the suffering and death of Jesus from John's gospel and is divided into 16 readings. After each segment of the story is read, a candle is extinguished. After the fifteenth reading, which confirms that Jesus had died on the cross, the last of the 15 lit candles is extinguished or taken away, and a loud sound (called *strepitus* in Latin) is made to convey the sense of total loss of God's presence and the effect of the death of Jesus on the universe. The final story of the burial is read in near darkness. This is a very experiential service which will also include different types of music.

We will leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection. Please come as a part of your Easter experience!



RUTH CIRCLE for March will be held on Tuesday, March 12th, in the Fireside Room at 9:30 a.m. Ramona Frank will be giving devotions. Cindy Holmberg and perhaps a couple of Leprechauns will be hosting. The theme will be “Everything Green!”

NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY HERE AT GRACE CHURCH

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a national program that provides nutrition counseling and supplemental food coupons to promote good health for pregnant women and gives infants and children up to age 5 a healthy start to life. The Stearns County program is primarily based in Waite Park but many of the participating families in the western part of the county have transportation barriers and are unable to get to the main office.

A WIC representative contacted us in January to see if we might have a room they could use once a month for WIC appointments. The Trustees and Leadership Teams unanimously voted “yes!”

WIC nutritionists started meeting with their clients on Tuesday, February 27th in the Fireside room and will continue holding appointments on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you happen to see WIC participants or workers while you're here, please welcome them to Grace Church, and if you know of any low-income families that might benefit from WIC, let them know about the program! We'll have WIC brochures available (coming soon) at the Welcome Table or they can call 320-203-6942 for more information.



Dear Friends at Grace Church,

It is with mixed emotions that I must announce my resignation from Grace Church. My last day will be Friday, May 31st.

My husband, who was working in Maple Lake, has officially retired. The lease on our home in Clearwater is up in June and there is nothing to keep us in this area anymore. My kids and sisters all live in the Twin Cities and we're moving closer to them so we can more easily participate in family gatherings and activities.

I'm glad we will be closer to family, but it is so difficult to leave! I am so very grateful for my time at Grace Church and for all the wonderful people I have been privileged to work with and for!

Deeply ingrained in the congregation of Grace Church is a spirit of wide-open welcome and generosity. I pray that you will continue in that spirit, touching the lives of one another and your community as you have always done.

Best Wishes,
Jane Hartman



THANK YOU to everyone that had a hand in making the Ruth Circle January Bingo Mission at the Nursing Home a wonderful success. A special thanks to Vicki Lane and Helen & Jerry Olsen for joining me at the Bingo tables on Thursday afternoons. To my surprise, we all knew at least one person there. In addition, we met some delightful residents and a few fabulous volunteers.

Plus, a HUGE thank-you to TJ Backius, Mary Beek, Pastor Jill, Vicki Lane and Paula Lingl, for their assistance and encouragement on wrapping up the Bingo Mission with some Grace UMC Blessings and Prayer Shawls.

And finally, thank you to The Craft Group, Members of Ruth Circle, the Missions Team and all those involved with the Prayer Shawl mission. Of course, that would be the whole congregation!!
Love Always, Cindy Holmberg

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Pastor Jill and our wonderful church family. We would like to give you an update on Terry's health. There are no words to express how grateful we are for your prayers, concern, and encouragement. Terry recently had more testing done and on the very last day we had a God moment – they found his diagnosis! He was diagnosed with Small Vessel Heart Disease. The prognosis is good and can be treated with medications. Amen! It will take some time, but with your continued prayers and God's grace, this lengthy journey is moving forward! ~ Forever Grateful, Terry & Deb Thomsen

THANK YOU to everyone who signed up to donate blood and to those who helped staff the registration table and recovery area. The Red Cross was very happy to report they collected 35 units!

A HUGE THANK YOU! to everyone who supported our Youth Valentine Bake Sale on Sunday, February 11th. With your help we raised \$560.00. All of this money will be put into our Youth Mission Trip Fund & will be used to help those going on our next mission trip in Summer 2025.



WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Do you look at the prayer bookmark each Sunday? Do you keep it to put in your Bible, wallet, or purse? We're looking for ways to be more environmentally responsible and save paper, and also make our bulletin more readable, with everything in one place.

We are thinking about including those to be prayed for in the main part of the bulletin instead of on a separate slip of paper. Give us your opinion!

- ☐ I think that's a great idea! Please include the names of those to be prayed for in the bulletin.
- ☐ I like having a bookmark – please keep printing them.
- ☐ It doesn't matter to me one way or another.

Weigh in to the church office no later than Monday, April 1st. You can email graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org with your vote, drop this “ballot” off during office hours, or slip it under the office door if the office isn't open.

2024 Lenten Study

Join Bishop Lanette Plambeck and the Dakotas and Minnesota Conference Appointive Cabinets in a Lenten study around the book *Multiplying Love: A Vision of United Methodist Life Together*, by Paul Chilcote.

Every week between Ash Wednesday, (Feb. 14) and Holy Week, and then throughout Holy Week, the Minnesota Annual Conference will feature a series of videos on their website:

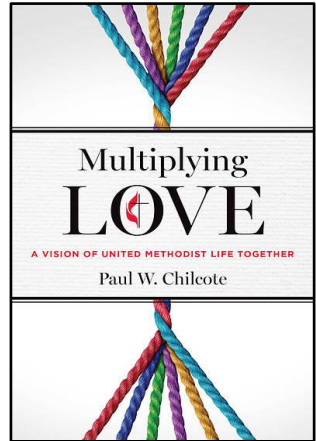
<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/2024-lenten-study>

A final Easter video message from Bishop Lanette Plambeck will be released during Holy Week.

The book, which you can purchase at [Cokesbury.com](https://www.cokesbury.com) or wherever you prefer to get your reading material, invites us to explore the power of the Wesleyan approach to the gospel and a compelling case for the future of The United Methodist Church.

Our world needs love during these desperate days of radical polarization and division. Our United Methodist churches yearn to embrace love more completely because God first loved us. We invite and encourage you to participate.

NEEDLECRAFT CLASS – The Grace Church Needlecraft Class meets every Thursday from 3 – 5:00 pm in the Fireside Room. All are welcome! Bring a craft and a friend and join in the fellowship with others. Questions? Contact Marilyn Herzberg or the church office.



FINANCE UPDATE

Foundation Report

December Ending Balance:	\$ <u>1,044,344.13</u>
January Ending Balance:	\$ <u>1,041,687.52</u>
	\$ (2,656.61) Loss

Grace Church

December Ending Balance:	\$ 37,870.59
January Expenses:	\$ <u>24,908.29</u>
Balance	\$ 12,962.30
January Income:	\$ <u>19,707.77</u>
	\$ 32,670.07
Less Deferred Amount:	\$ 15,641.40
January	\$ 17,028.67
December	\$ <u>19,719.83</u>
Loss	\$ (2,691.16) Loss

2023 GIVING STATEMENTS – It has come to our attention that some of you did not receive a giving statement for 2023. If you have not yet received your statement and need one for tax purposes, please contact the church office and we will be sure to get one out to you as soon as possible! We apologize for the oversight!

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 to check out what's happening this summer at your Minnesota United Methodist Camps!

Here you will find information on:

- Available camps and events
- How to register for camp
- Campership information and application
- Staff and volunteer opportunities
- Ways you can support your 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

Early Bird Discount*

Register for camp on or by April 30th and receive a \$25 store credit that can be used for snacks at the canteen or items from the store during your time at camp.

Bring-a-Friend Discount*

For each new camper you or your child brings to camp, your event fee will be reduced by \$25. New campers will have a great time at camp, you'll save some money, and everybody wins! This is our way of thanking you for helping us make camp even better! Simply mark the Bring-a-Friend Discount portion of your online registration form. Camp staff will apply the discount after your friend registers for camp.

** See the website for details on discount*



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 1	Gary & Evie Smith
March 2	Ryan Frank
March 4	Deb Butkofski
March 5	Avery Press
March 7	Holli Gregersen
March 8	Payten Schaefer
March 9	Delores Schoenherr
March 10	Harrison Person
March 12	Jaxson Kampsen
March 16	Carol Ramler, Lilly Smith
March 17	Connie Keller
March 18	Chuck Hunter
March 19	Vicky Frank
March 20	Linda Johnson, Harper Person
March 21	Sara Whitcomb
March 24	Tim Bruntmyer
March 26	Mary Beier
March 29	Julie Schultz, Krista Kotten, Eli Bukowski
March 30	Jerry Dittman, Amy Person
March 31	Delores Heitke, Addie Holtz, Jack Schaefer



READERS:

March 3	Jessica Karpinske
March 10	Terry Thomsen
March 17	Deb Thomsen
March 24	Cindy Holmberg
March 31	Kari Schaefer

GREETERS:

March 3	Jim & Lois Elseth
March 10	Sue Korman, Beth Moerke
March 17	Roxann Bergstrom, Debbi Schmidt
March 24	Jim & Gretchen O'Fallon
March 31	Mike & Steph Hemmesch

COUNTERS:

March 3	Mary Beek, Sue Drager
March 10	Mike Nehring, Betty Freiling
March 17	Carolyn Swyter, Betty Freiling
March 24	Jim Elseth, Betty Freiling
March 31	Mike Nehring, Sue Drager

USHERS: Head Usher - Gene Schultz 320-293-1395
Month of March – Leta Stafford, Deb Bengtson

BANNER COMMITTEE: Gretchen O'Fallon

WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT TEAM:

Gretchen O'Fallon, Betty Freiling

COMMUNION STEWARDS:

Linda Johnson, Roxann Bergstrom