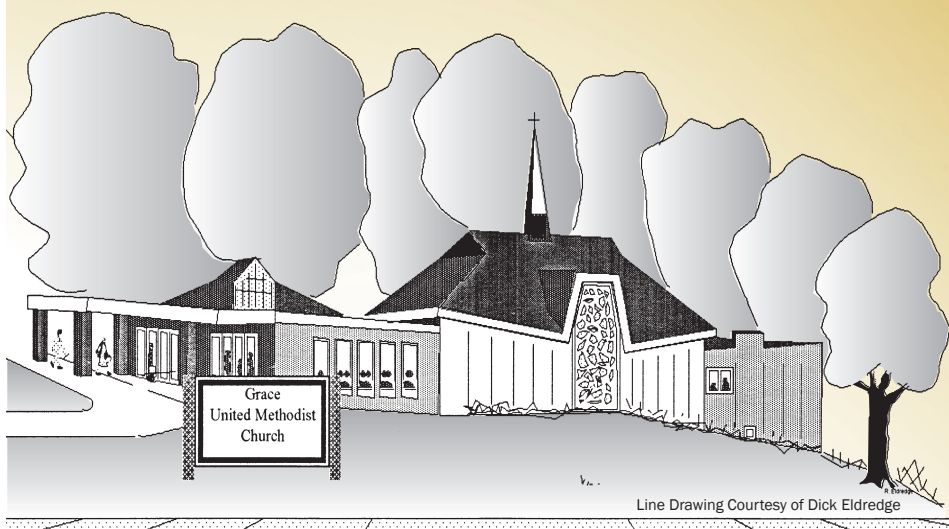


Grace

United Methodist Church

www.peopleofgrace.org



2020-2021 Guide Book & Directory

300 E. Gartner Rd. • Naperville, IL 60540 • 630.355.1748

Office Hrs: 9am-4:30pm Weekdays

Weekend Worship: Sat., 5pm • Sun., 8:00, 9:00, 10:30am

Grace United Methodist Church

300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville, IL 60540 (630) 355-1748
e-mail: hello@peopleofgrace.org Website: peopleofgrace.org
Facebook: facebook.com/gracenaperville
YouTube: peopleofgrace.org/Grace-YouTube

Office Hours

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday- Thursday
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday

Weekend Worship

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00, 9:00, 10:30 a.m.

Dear Friends,

I invite you to take a few moments to explore this edition of the Grace Church Guide Book. You'll find opportunities to grow, to share and to experience the joy of community. From the story of our history to the descriptions of our ministries and activities, you may find the ministry that will help you live out your call to love God and others. Find your place in the story that is Grace United Methodist Church.

The directory lists the People of Grace. Contact information is sacred because it identifies the people we are. We trust you will use the directory to make connections within the Church to glorify God and strengthen the body of Christ.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Cindy".

Rev. Cindy Marino

Grace Church Staff

Rev. Cindy Marino.....	Pastor.....	x3230
Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran.....	Associate Pastor.....	x3226
Pastor Mark Himel	Associate Pastor.....	x3240
Chamus Burnside-Savazzini	Director of Children's Faith Formation.....	x3241
Jill Mieszala	Childcare Coordinator	
Gaye Lynn Loufek	Youth Ministries.....	x3234
Ashley Pierce.....	Communications and Business Operations.....	x3250
Nicole Zaccaria	Open Doors Coordinator	
Sharon Ferguson	Administrative Assistant.....	x3223
Jill Hruska.....	Office Assistant.....	x3243
Phyllis Pepiot.....	Office Assistant.....	x3222
Paul Grysh.....	Maintenance Supervisor.....	x3225
Robert Bajlozi, Joe Schvach	Custodians	
Ron Laub.....	Facilities Manager	
Dan Wagner	Minister of Music.....	x3232
Vickie Wagner	Saturday Evening Worship Leader	
Lynn Leitzen.....		
.....	Director of Children's Choir Ministries, and 9 a.m. Gathering Leader ...	
.....		x3249
Sherrie Holdeman.....	Director of New Life Singers	
Claudia Winterrowd.....	New Life Singers' Pianist	
Val Dudley.....	Director of Grace Bell Ensemble	
Shelly Drescher	Co-Director of Cherub Choir	
Susan Riedinger	Co-Director of Cherub Choir	
Debbie John	Director of Children's Bell Ensemble	
Cheryl Ameiss	Director of Youth Bell Ensemble	
Sherri Nagy	Junior Singers' Pianist	
Claudia Hutchison.....	Director of Parent's Day Out	
Pennie Sawa.....	Assistant Director of Parent's Day Out	

From Whence Did We Come

Grace United Methodist Church has its roots in the Evangelical Church. Jacob Albright was inspired by a Methodist class meeting to bring the Gospel to the German speaking people of Pennsylvania, which formed the Evangelical Association in 1807. Families came West, settled in Naperville, and held class meetings. They established Zion Evangelical Church and built their first church on Van Buren Street in 1842 and a larger church in 1859 on Ellsworth Street, now Community United Methodist Church. Northwestern College, now North Central College, had an Evangelical Church with worship in English at this time.

In 1890, members of Zion Church, the College church and others in the community organized an English speaking church incorporated as Grace Church of Naperville on December 22, 1890. The 103 members moved into their new wood frame building on March 8, 1891, which today is a home just east of Pfeiffer Hall on the campus of North Central College. The vital growth of the congregation caused the building of the brick church at Ellsworth Street and Van Buren Avenue, dedicated November 14, 1909. A fire prompted an addition and renovation in 1924.

The name Grace Evangelical United Brethren Church was the result of a merger with the United Brethren in 1946. Again outgrowing their facilities, and after rejecting a plan for an addition and taking into perspective the merger with the Methodist Church in 1968, these people of faith, mission and vision voted to move to a new site, which resulted in the building of the present edifice, dedicated March 14, 1971. In the next ten years the membership grew from 700 to 1900, and again space was needed. The new classrooms, Activity Center, expanded offices and narthex were completed in 1990, with the finishing of rooms for a Music Center and the installing of air conditioning and the elevator in 1995. In 2005, we completed a renovation of our hallways and classrooms and our sanctuary, with the installation of a new organ. In 2011/12 we celebrated the installation of several stained-glass windows from the previous building. In 2012, we approved a capital campaign for the funding of improvements to our parking areas, roofing, kitchen, building security, and signage, and much progress has since been made on those projects. In 2019, due to the generosity of the Glenna Holloway Memorial Fund, we were able to complete a three-phase renovation project at Grace that included the creation of an open floor plan style Gathering Space, a new main office configuration, update existing facilities to better meet the needs of those with disabilities and renovated our Children's Ministry and Parent's Day Out Areas.

At this time in 2020, we rejoice in what God has done through Grace Church in bringing people into the presence of God, the teachings of Jesus the Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Worship in Spirit and in Truth

Four services provide the “space of grace” for the Grace Church family. Designed to tell the Good News of God’s love in Jesus Christ, the message, music, and prayers draw upon the best in traditional and contemporary expressions of Christian worship.

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturdays

5 p.m. Reflective and uplifting, this ‘come as you are’ worship meets in the Activity Center. Set to the vocals of singer/songwriter Vickie Wagner, it offers a quiet setting to recharge in God’s love. There is also an American Sign Language interpreter for those who are hearing impaired. A brief message will focus on scripture each week. Holy Communion is served weekly. You will be fully welcomed in as food and fellowship is shared following worship.

Sundays

8 a.m. in the Sanctuary. This is the service you remember growing up! Traditional liturgy with the creeds and weekly Communion. The message is the same for all of our services and we enjoy traditional hymns. Two great choirs, the New Life Singers and the Grace Bell Ensemble, alternate Sundays. Families are welcome!

9 a.m. in the Activity Center. Enjoy coffee and food as you worship either at tables or in rows. With thought-provoking visual projections, interactive opportunities and meaningful messages, this service features music provided by the Grace Praise Team. Communion is served weekly. Families can enjoy music and fellowship together at the beginning and children can exit to attend Grace Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., or remain in worship with parents as desired.

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Every Sunday, the Chancel Choir fills the Sanctuary with the glory of classical choral music and familiar hymns. This service follows a formal worship pattern based on United Methodist tradition with heartfelt and thought-provoking messages. Communion is served on the first Sunday of every month. Families are welcome

6 weeks to 4 years old childcare is provided during Sunday worship services—7:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

The dynamic preaching ministry at Grace Church brings biblical, relevant, and thought-provoking messages. Messages and worship services are recorded for congregational use and available on the Grace website and the Grace YouTube page.

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The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated in community each week at our Saturday 5 p.m. service, and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month at our 10:30 service.

Baptisms are officiated by our pastors within our worship services. These are joyous occasions for our congregation as we covenant together to provide ongoing support for the baptism candidate. To schedule a baptism, contact Sharon Ferguson in the church office. She will extend your request to the pastors, one of whom will be in contact to arrange a time to meet with you for further conversation and to confirm your date.

Worship (8 a.m.) is broadcast on WONC, 89.1 FM, at 11 a.m. and through live-streaming at <http://www.peopleofgrace.org/live>. Bulletin are available on the Grace website for downloading.

Easy Access

Grace Church is conveniently located on Gartner Road, just north of 75th Street, and intersects the North/South streets of Modaff, Washington Street, Julian Street, Charles, Olesen Road, and Naper Boulevard, providing easy access to the church.

The church has off-street parking for nearly 500 cars. Many of those spaces are shaded by the fully-grown trees throughout the grounds.

Our main covered entrance (Worship Center) is on the upper level of the building and has automatic doors for handicapped accessibility, there is an elevator inside that entrance which accesses both floors of the building.

On Sunday mornings valet parking is available at the covered entrance (Worship Center).

Celebrate the Christian Year

Throughout the year, evening worship marks changes in the seasons. Advent Worship/Wreath-making prepares families for Christmas. On Christmas Eve six services celebrate the birth of the Savior. Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday Experience for families and a traditional evening service and concludes with Holy Week observances on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. On Easter Sunday, there are three worship services, plus a Saturday evening Easter worship.

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Music Ministry

Chamber Singers (Advanced Adults)

- For adults, highly select ensemble of about 16 singers.
- Led by Dan Wagner, Minister of Music
- Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7-7:25 pm.
- This advanced choral ensemble is for the highly motivated Christian choral artist with a strong voice and choral background.
- The Chamber Singers sing special events, concerts, and major works as scheduled and occasional worship services at Grace.

Requirements: a vocal audition is required. Singers must be able to sight-read and must have advanced vocal ability. While many members have operatic training, the Chamber Singers ensemble requires vocal flexibility, blend, subtlety and management of excessive vibrato.

Chancel Choir

- For adults.
- Led by Dan Wagner, Minister of Music.
- Rehearse Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m., during the school year.
- Primary choir for our 10:30 a.m. service.
- Presents major works and special seasonal events.
- A dynamic ensemble that sings a variety of pieces centered in standard sacred repertoire and masterworks, while venturing often into hymn settings, gospel, spirituals and other genres.

Requirements: a good choral voice, ability to match pitch, learn and hold a part, sing advanced repertoire with adequate preparation. Reading music is helpful. Though not all members are fluent readers, many are. A formal audition is not required but an informal meeting with the director is recommended. Prospective members are *always* welcome to visit a rehearsal to see what it's like.

New Life Singers

- New Life Singers is open to young adults and up.
- Led by Sherrie Holdeman.
- Repertoire includes traditional Christian music with a focus on various gospel styles.
- Rehearse Wednesdays at 7:15-8:30 p.m., in Room 161.
- Sing twice monthly at the 8 a.m. service and for occasional special services and events.
- No audition is required.

If you enjoy singing in a choir and are interested in singing with us, come join us at a Wednesday evening rehearsal. There is no audition required.



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Evensong Singers

- Young adults on up.
- Rehearse Thursday evenings.
- Sing or play special events and projects.

The Evensong Singers are church attenders and singers from the community who join us for major works or special concerts. This is ideal for the motivated singer who can be part of a short-term opportunity. Evensong Singers opportunities are advertised through Facebook, the church web site and church printed material. Check with the Minister of Music for upcoming events.

Grace Praise Team-Adult

- Young adults on up.
- Rehearse Tuesday 7:15-9p.m.
- Led by Lynn Leitzen, 9 a.m. Gathering Leader and Children's Music Director.
- Sing or play on a rotating basis.
- Specialize in contemporary worship leadership at Grace's 9 a.m. Gathering service.

Requirements: an audition is required for singers and band members. Singers must be comfortable singing in a contemporary style with microphones, willing to learn music on their own as well as in rehearsal, have expressive leadership presence and a solo or near solo-quality voice. Band members must be able to learn parts for several pieces of music each week, be experienced in playing challenging music in a group setting, and willing to work on their music outside of rehearsals. Music reading is very helpful and, in some cases, required.

Youth Choir

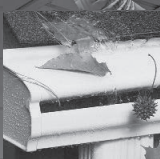
- Youth grades 8-12.
- Rehearsal Sundays at 12:15-1:30 p.m.
- Serves: various worship services, concerts and special events, annual musical in early spring.
- Presents a variety of choral music from the Renaissance to Global and Contemporary.

Youth Bell Ensemble

- Youth grades 8-12.
- Rehearse Sundays, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. in Room 160.
- Serves various worship services, concerts, special events.

Grace Bell Ensemble

- Young adults and up.
- Rehearse Wednesdays, 7:00-8:15 p.m. in Room 160.
- Serves: once a month presenting traditional handbell literature. Members of Grace Bell Ensemble also lead in liturgical bell tolls and provide leadership of orchestral chimes. Serves at 8/10:30 services.

[illegible]

Instrumentalists

Woodwind, Brass, String and Percussion players are encouraged to contact the Minister of Music, Dan Wagner so that the worship life of our congregation may be enriched.

Children's Music Ministry Graded program for K-7th August – May

WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS..... late August thru mid-May
4 - 5 p.m. Room 160..... Children's Bell Ensemble (grades 4-7)
5 – 6 p.m. Room 232 Cherub Choir (grades K-3)
5 -6 p.m. Room 171..... Junior Singers (grades 4-7)

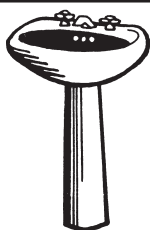
We welcome all children to experience the joy of singing and/or ringing, and the privilege and responsibility of leading worship. Choirs offer worship leadership across all service hours approximately once a month. The year culminates in a spring musical (typically presented Mother's Day weekend). Other special opportunities include caroling, Christmas musicals and concerts, and missional outreach. Seasonal and musical only attendance is also acceptable if a full year commitment is difficult. Come join us when you can as often as you can! Special-needs-children buddy system is in place too! Join us!

Become a Member

Grace members are committed and caring people! We invite you to consider membership in this family of faith. While membership is not required to participate in the life of the church, it does make the statement that you are ready to journey with the people of Grace UMC. Together we covenant to support the church and one another with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. Contact any of the pastors for more information or simply check the 'wish to join' box on the worship attendance pad and include the best way for us to contact you. We look forward to getting to know you better.

Grow In Your Faith

Those of every age can discover God's love and grow as a disciple by attending a Sunday School class at 9:15 or 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. For children's and youth programming, see pp. 12-14. All of our adult groups, outlined below, regularly welcome new members and visitors with open arms.



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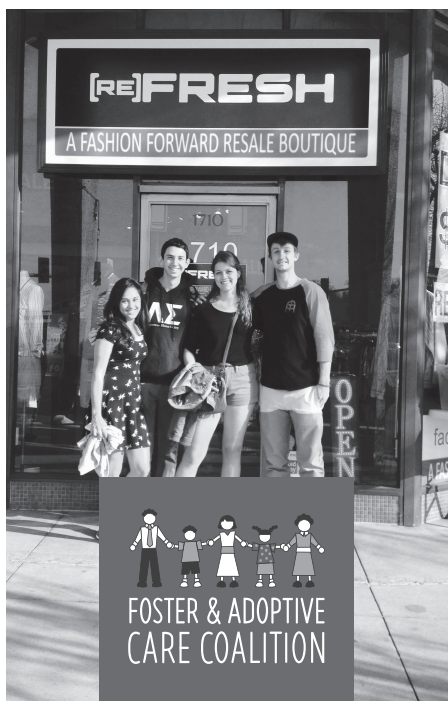
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Sunday Adult Formation Hour

(9:15 – 10:15 a.m.)

All-Church Faith Formation (Fellowship Hall): on the first Sunday, every other month, all visitors and members of Grace UMC are invited to come together in Fellowship Hall for a presentation and conversation on a wide array of relevant topics. Contact Pastor Daniel Cochran (daniel.cochran@peopleofgrace.org) for scheduling and topic information.

Coming Home (Room 227): a seasonal group meeting during the summer and over the holidays designed for college students and young adults. Casual conversations are geared toward growing in fellowship and engaging with the intersection of life and faith.
Brentley Loufek (brentley.loufek@gmail.com)

The Forum Class (Fireside Room): a faithful and welcoming group that enjoys a spirited study of the scriptures as well as presentations from guest speakers, often incorporating discussion and thought-provoking audio/visual material. *Robin Schmuckal (robin.schmuckal@gmail.com)*

Hearts on Fire (Room 250): gathers each Sunday morning with a welcoming atmosphere to share in fun but challenging and meaningful discussions around faith, discipleship, marriage, parenting, etc.
Bob Pacanowski (bpacanowski@franklinsports.com)

New Connections (Gathering Space): a place for young adults and parents to connect through fellowship and formation. In addition to Sunday studies on everything from the scriptures to parenting practices, New Connections offers regular social gatherings. *Dr. Jeffrey Barbeau (jeff@jeffbarbeau.com)*

Portico Collective (Room 231): a welcoming “come as you are” group for all-ages, Portico is a safe place to wrestle with your doubts and questions. We meet on Sundays at 9:15 for a book discussion and on Wednesday evenings during the school year at 5:00 for a casual check-in conversation. *Traci Weilemann (traci.weilemann@peopleofgrace.org)*

Questors (Room 254): welcomes all adults to participate in Sunday presentations and discussions focused on the Bible and contemporary issues. Questors also offers an array of mission and fellowship opportunities. *Roger Hendrickson (rsh1458@sbcglobal.net)*

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE

Albright- Wesley SOCIETY

North Central College has been preparing new generations of leaders for the United Methodist Church for more than 150 years. Named to honor church founders Jacob Albright and John Wesley, the goal of the Albright-Wesley Society is to unite Christian faith with a commitment to liberal arts education.

For information on how you can support the Albright-Wesley Society visit

**[northcentralcollege.edu/
faitH-and-action](http://northcentralcollege.edu/faitH-and-action)**



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Additional Sunday Offerings

(10:30 – 11:30 a.m.)

Open Hearts and Minds (Room 232): a study group that invites all adults to explore the Bible and contemporary theology through a progressive lens, applying what we learn to real life situations.
Becky Lindsay (becky.lindsay524@gmail.com)
Bill Lindsay (wlindsay@mindsplash.net)

Round Table Conversations (Activity Center): an occasional gathering offered immediately following the “9:00 Gathering” contemporary worship service. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who attend this service to grow in faith and fellowship through small-group discussions around various topics.
Lynn Leitzen (lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org)

**You’ll find the most up-to-date list of all class offerings and locations printed in the weekly church bulletin insert (Grace in Mission). The Grace Guides are stationed at the entrances and will help you find the classrooms.*

***In addition to Sunday morning classes, there are a variety of other study groups meeting on weekday evenings and during the day. These are promoted and listed in the Grace in Mission bulletin insert on Sundays.*

Children/Education

At Grace UMC, we value and respect the role of the church in supporting the faith formation efforts of the family. We believe that providing faith based educational support is critical as we answer the call to share God’s word with the next generation. We offer a Faith Formation (Sunday school hour) on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. for children ages 3 years to 5th grade. Children must be able to use the restroom independently. During this time, children gather, share in praise and worship, practice serving and stewardship, pray, hear God’s Word, and participate in hands-on activities in an age appropriate setting. These efforts ultimately result in children putting their faith into action at a young age. Infants and toddlers enjoy a healthy, colorful environment with professional caregivers, 7:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. each Sunday morning. If for any reason we are unable to meet in our formal space, online connection will be provided.



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Children – Worship

Worship is a special time for the whole Grace family. There are special worship bags with activities for children at the back of the Sanctuary as well as sensory bags for those who may need sensory support items while in worship. You may request a sensory bag at any time. During the 8 a.m. worship service, a children's message is offered and at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service, children attend a portion of the service, including a children's message, then continue their worship together with the Children's Director and weekly volunteer team, or worship with their parents. Childcare for 6 weeks to 4 years old is available at all services in the nursery (room 130).

Summer - Vacation Bible School

Every summer, Vacation Bible School sees hundreds of children participate in a weeklong morning program for children aged 3 years through entering 5th grade. Students entering 6th-8th grades serve as Apprentices and youth entering 9-12th grade are invited to serve as class or activity leads or supports. VBS is normally held from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. each day. If for any reason we cannot meet in person, an online connection will be offered. Bible stories, music, crafts, drama, and mission projects help children learn more about our Christian faith and make the important connection to God's word and their lives. The United Methodist Women of Grace host a VBS Family Night the Thursday of VBS week to offer a time of food, family, and fellowship. We are thankful for this UMW Outreach in support of the VBS program.

As a church, we do not know who God has called us to raise up, but we do know that each child has value and purpose and we will support making sure they know that! If you need additional information please contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, Director of Children's Faith Formation at chamus@peopleofgrace.org

Service/Fellowship Groups

Special educational and mission events and/or service projects are provided for children's participation throughout the year.

Youth

Youth gather on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in Rooms:

- Room 227 Confirmation (8th Grade)
- Room 233 Junior High (6th & 7th Grades)
- Room 234 Senior High (9th - 12th Grades)

Wednesday evening G.Y.M. (Grace Youth Ministry) for Junior and Senior High gathers from 7-8:30 in Room 234 (during the school year) for an informal time of fellowship, fun faith exploration, life application studies, and worship.

Additional ministry opportunities/programs include Wacky Wednesday fellowship,; retreats; local mission opportunities; serving in worship; service projects; mission trip fundraisers; a junior high at-home mission in the Chicago region; high school week-long away summer mission trip; and serving as teen helpers for Vacation Bible School.

Confirmation

Confirmation is open to all youth entering the 8th or 9th grades. The class begins in August, when the school year resumes, and concludes with Confirmation Sunday Worship in the spring. Classes meet each Sunday morning from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in room 227, with additional dates for field trips, service opportunities, and retreats.

As Confirmation students discern whether to make a commitment to the church, they embark on a focused but age-appropriate study of the Bible, church history, worship, discipleship, and mission. Throughout the year, students will participate on field trips to other faith communities in order to learn more about our neighbors and, simultaneously, more about our own tradition. Students will also participate in worship services and community service opportunities, in addition to working closely with an adult mentor. Fellowship is a particularly important part of the Confirmation Program, so students will have additional opportunities to build relationships with one another and other members of the church community. Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek, Director of Youth Ministries, (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) or Pastor Daniel Cochran (daniel.cochran@peopleofgrace.org) to receive more information.

Parish Life

“Reel People” and other Movie Groups meet monthly for discussion after viewing a movie. For questions about the daytime discussion, call the Trondsens at 630-637-8731. There are two weekend groups. On the 2nd Saturday the Andsagers (630-904-0819) coordinate, and on the 3rd (check with Church Office at 630-355-1748).

Over Fifty Fellowship

A social group for people over the age of 50 meets at noon for a by-reservation lunch and program on the second Thursday of each month during the school year. Contact Martha Sanders at 630-357-6453.

Dinners for 8

Mixing of long-time and new members takes place four times a year. Each person or couple is asked to “host” once each year. The host decides on the date and type of activity. Other participants help supply the food. You will meet with a new group of eight each time. Contact Alice Mann at 630-369-5455 if you would like to join or serve as a substitute. Sign-up for full participation takes place in early September.

United Methodist Women

Faith*Hope*Love In Action

United Methodist Women is a group of women in fellowship and mission, related to United Methodist Women nationally.

Grace Church United Methodist Women meets monthly (not April, June, July, August, and November) as a large group for study, fellowship and business. In addition, five circles (small groups) as well as a craft group, quilting group, prayer shawl ministry and book discussion group meet for supportive relationships, study and service.

The whole UMW Unit meets at the church on the first Tuesday of the month, usually at 9 a.m. Childcare is provided for those requesting it. Watch the weekly *Grace in Mission*, monthly *Grace Notes* newsletter or on the website at <https://www.peopleofgrace.org/umw> for details.

Circles typically meet on the 3rd Tuesday morning and evening and third Wednesday morning of the month. Childcare is provided by reservation for all UMW activities.

For further information, call:

Presidents..... Phyllis Pepiot, 630-253-6326
nominated for 2021..... Candy DeGarmo, 630-881-0607
Child Care Christine Freeman, 630-220-8728
Membership..... Merrilyn Schultz, 630-717-1491

United Methodist Women Circles

Mary Circle - meets third Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. in a member's home. Call Ruby Allen, 630-355-2008, for more information.

Martha-Esther Circle - meet at the call of leader at various places for fellowship and service. Free childcare; call Chris St. John, 630-548-5737, or Kelly Carey, 630-723-1818, for more information.

Priscilla Circle - meets third Tuesday at 7 p.m. in a member's home. Call Teri Heyson, 630-357-7052, for more information.

Sarah Circle - meets third Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. in a member's home.
Call Janet Hilsenbeck at 630-961-1345, for more information.

Ruth Circle - meets third Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. in a member's home.
Call Pat Smith at 630-983-1129 for more information.

United Methodist Women Groups

Book Group - meets fourth Wednesday at 12:45 p.m. in a member's home. Call Mary Abe, 630-355-1030, for more information.

Craft Group - meets periodically. Call Kathy Carey at 309-361-6022, for the next dates and needed supplies.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - meets 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Questions may be directed to Barbara Hoch at 630-420-1156.

Quilt Group - meets Mondays at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room at Grace.
Call Sandy Bray at 630-420-0923, or Nancy Lindberg at 630-364-2801 for more information.

Free childcare is provided for all UMW activities. Please call Christine Freeman, our childcare coordinator, at 630-220-8728. Please give us as much notice as possible.

Fellowship of Christian Men

Men gather for fellowship, study and social activities on four Friday evenings throughout the year. For more information contact Bob Pacanowski at 630-355-0804 or BPacanowski@FranklinSports.com.

Mission - A Priority of Grace

Grace Church exhibits its commitment to mission by giving to budgeted mission projects, taking special offerings, and supporting "hands on" ministries...

Each month, family and friends of Grace UMC are urged to give either food or monetary gifts to three pantries in Naperville, Aurora, and Chicago. All gifts go a very long way to helping our neighbors in need.

These food drives are coordinated by the Hunger Committee at Grace UMC. Please contact Elaine Dugan for more information (elainedugan4@gmail.com).

Grace UMC also supports Hesed House in Aurora, the largest homeless shelter in all of Illinois. Members can either prepare food to send to Hesed House or volunteer in person to assist the shelter. Please contact Larry Hartman for more information (lehartman@sbcglobal.net or 630-269-3004).

Through the Commission on Religion and Race, Grace UMC supports a number of programs that assist minority communities in our area. They provide annual scholarships to college students at North Central and work to address local and systemic issues of racism in Naperville. Please contact Jill Rye for more information (jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org).

In the fall, Grace UMC participates in the annual CROP Hunger Walk and at Christmas we support Heifer International. In February, we participate in a community-wide meal packing effort with Feed My Starving Children, and our youth collect food items for “Souper Bowl” Sunday. Please contact the pastoral staff for more information on these seasonal opportunities.

For “hands on” projects such as work camp experiences involving youth and adults at a site out of state, contact Gaye Lynn Loufek (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org). Grace also works with other churches and institutions in the western suburbs to build new homes for families in Aurora. To assist with a Faith Build project, contact Rick Loufek (rick.loufek@gmail.com).

Through giving, Grace UMC supports national and international missions and missionaries and education for ministers; provides financial assistance to historically African-American United Methodist Colleges; assists with the development of the UM university in Africa; supports interdenominational activities, the Episcopal office, and the administrative work of the general church. See www.umcmmission.org and www.umcnic.org for more information.

Prayer/Special Needs

Prayer Ministry

An active prayer ministry encourages everyone to use the Grace Church list of persons requesting prayer published in church bulletins and to attend weekly prayer meetings on Mondays, 3-4 p.m., in the Chapel. The Chapel is open for private prayer most hours when the church is open. They also pray for member families once a year. Those who have special prayer requests may fill out a prayer card, found in the pews, and leave it in the box at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, or you may call the receptionist in the Church Office 630-355-1748 at other times.

Mobility Aids

Parking spaces are reserved for drivers with special needs. Ushers will provide valet parking for those who need that service. A covered drive-up entry is available for comfortable access to the upper level. Ground level entrance is available at all levels of the church. An elevator and ramps provide access to Fellowship Hall and the lower level. Washrooms are wheelchair accessible. Wheelchairs are available for use at the church. Two sets of doors allow handicapped persons to enter the building unassisted. The doors are on the left side of the Worship entrance as you enter the building, and on the lower level at Fellowship Hall Entrance.

If you need additional help, ask an usher or Grace Guide. Those with temporary loss of mobility may borrow equipment like crutches, canes, walkers, etc., by calling the church office at 630-355-1748.

Hearing Loss

Saturday services are signed for the hearing impaired. A new hearing assistance system is operational for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

Impaired Sight

Large print hymnals, scripture and bulletins for any worship service are available from an usher upon request.

Illness/Home-bound

The 8 a.m. Sunday Services are broadcast at 11 a.m. on WONC, 89.1. Bulletins for all services are available on the Grace website at <https://www.peopleofgrace.org/publications>.

All Sunday services are also, live-streamed via the website at <https://www.peopleofgrace.org>. For those with respiratory problems, the building is air-conditioned. Those who are confined to their homes may request a regular visit from Grace Home Visitors by calling Jayne McCallister at 630-643-1083.

Open Doors Ministry

The Grace Open Doors Ministry brings together the parents, families and caregivers of those children and youth who have special needs, whether physical, emotional, cognitive, or other. ODM sponsors several programs throughout the year in support of children and youth with special needs and their families. Contact Nicole Zaccaria at odm@peopleofgrace.org.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are lay members of Grace Church who have completed 50 hours of training. They provide a listening ear for those who have problems or concerns. In the Fall of 2020, a new Training Class is planned. To apply or for further information call our Stephen Leaders, Pam Riley-Valesh at 630-234-1547, Ruth Wills at 630-667-1031, or Ginnie Battle at 630-864-2454.

Health and Wellness Ministry

The Health and Wellness Ministry continues to develop programs and ideas that will benefit all members of the Grace Church family. The Ministry sponsors blood drives and special events throughout the year, such as a health fair open to the community. Being a professional in the medical field is not a requirement, and the group is looking for members with a variety of backgrounds to be represented in this ministry. If you have any questions, please call Barb McCarthy at 630-579-4588.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of Grace Church was started in April of 2005. This group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the church. Prayer shawls are the tangible evidence of God's love and care, stitched with prayer, and given to anyone who needs to be wrapped in prayer. They comfort, console, and give blessings to those who receive them as well as those who make them. Questions may be directed to Barbara Hoch at 630-420-1156. To request a prayer shawl, contact the Church Office at 630-355-1748.

Cancer Support Ministry

The Cancer Support Ministry meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m. It is a spiritually based support group for anyone who has been touched by cancer, whether you have been recently diagnosed, are in treatment currently, or are a 10-year survivor. Loved ones and caregivers are also invited, as cancer touches their lives as well. Much time is spent sharing and supporting one another, and special programs are planned by the group. For more information contact Health and Wellness Ministry Chairperson Barb McCarthy at 630-579-4588.

Support Groups

Grief Support Group

Grace offers grief support in a small group setting for those suffering the loss of a loved one. Contact Pastor Mark Himel at 630-355-1748, Ext. 3240 or mark.himel@peopleofgrace.org.

Other Ministries

Parent's Day Out

This program provides childcare for 1-4 year olds one or two days per week, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., during the school year on Mondays-Fridays. In the summer, three separate 2-week sessions are available. Contact Claudia Hutchison at 630-355-6146.

Exercise

Temple Builders, a women's exercise class, has been meeting at Grace for more than 50 years. This group meets MWF from 9 -10a.m. in the Activity Center and is composed of members and non-members. For more information call Char Gregory, 630-769-6166.

Grateful Yoga

Grateful Yoga Ministry is a faith-based gentle yoga practice that encompasses fellowship, readings, and prayers. This group meets every Monday at 7 p.m. in the Chapel and is composed of members and non-members. For more information contact Jane Abe at abzabe@msn.com or Gail Lindsay at christinegp56@gmail.com.

Alanon

Alanon offers support and hope to family members of alcoholics. They meet every Tuesday evening, 7:30 p.m., at Grace Church. For information call 630-627-4441.

CoDA

Co-Dependents Anonymous meets every Thursday evening, 7:30 p.m. at Grace. Call 630-927-3333.

For updated information or further details on Grace Programs

The monthly newsletter (Grace Notes) and weekly worship bulletin insert (Grace in Mission) give details of coming events. You may also consult the Grace Church website at www.peopleofgrace.org.