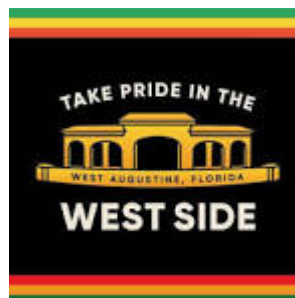


**OUR MISSION OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL—**

**Habitat for Humanity St. Johns and St. Augustine**

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian ministry that builds homes in the community. Habitat welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds and serves people in need regardless of race or religion. The plan for 2024 is to go from building 6 homes to 30 homes. This can be accomplished with your financial support.



**PRAISE REPORT:**

Thank you Grace UMC for your generosity to support *Pride in the West Side*. Together, we collected \$537.28. We are making a difference in our community. Don't forget to participate in the "hands on" opportunity with Pride in the Westside on Saturday, April 6th at 8 am. Meet at COGBF.

**GRACE NOTES - our monthly newsletter...**

**Grace Notes** is sent out via email monthly unless you request otherwise.

Upon request, printed copies of **Grace Notes** are mailed out.

Printed copies are located in the sanctuary.

You may also view the newsletter at [gracestaugustine.org](http://gracestaugustine.org).

Contact the Office 904-829-8272 or email Peggy

[office@gracestaugustine.org](mailto:office@gracestaugustine.org) to inform of your preference.

**Estimate of Giving for 2024 QR Code**



**General Giving QR Code**



Revs. Carolyn Williamson & David Williamson, Co-Lead Pastors

Peggy Namie, Office Administrator

Nataliya Birmingham, Treasurer

Mike Sanflippo, Music Director

Thomas Rogers, Organist

Jessica Chaulk, Contemporary Music & Youth Director

Martha Yamnitz, Children's Ministry Director

Max Haddock, Audio Visual/Sound Tech

Carrie Dean, Nursery Coordinator

Jeff Stevens, Building Maintenance Manager

*Meet Our Staff...*



**APRIL 2024**

**GRACE NOTES**

**Monthly Newsletter for Grace United Methodist Church**

***A Church for all generations, making disciples of next generations for the transformation of the world.***

**Spring Is Here!**

I recently saw that the rookery at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm is very busy. The first Great Egrets chicks have arrived and the herons, storks and beautiful pink Roseate spoonbills were all awaiting new birth. The azaleas have been blooming along with all the pollen in the air. The resurrection of Jesus at Easter marks the time for new life and re-birth.

At Grace we are going to be going through a time of Breakthrough Prayer where we will be seeking God's will for new life and rebirth of our community. Where does God want to break through and bring new life to Grace UMC? We all have our own ideas of things we would like to see happy but what about God? We figure starting with God is the best place to start.

The Church Council recently spent a day apart praying and crafting a breakthrough prayer for the whole church.

What is a breakthrough prayer initiative? It is a church wide prayer practice of adding a brief daily breakthrough prayer for everyone in the church. It is a simple way for the entire church to learn to seek and ask boldly for God to break through with fresh ideas, new hopes, dreams and God's preferred future for the church and community.

How will this work?

We will use our breakthrough prayer in every worship service, in every meeting and group that gathers.

We will be focusing on prayer in our preaching series.

We ask everyone to stop at 6 pm each day and take a minute to pray the breakthrough prayer. We will have copies for everyone.

We will start Sunday, April 7 (the Sunday after Easter) and on Sunday, May 19 (Pentecost Sunday) we will share breakthrough stories.

We would love for you to take a picture or video of you praying the breakthrough prayer wherever you may be- the beach, mountains, on a boat, in a restaurant, at the dinner table, working in your yard or wherever life brings you!

We want to see you praying for the future of Grace (just email them to [carolyn@gracestaugustine.org](mailto:carolyn@gracestaugustine.org)).

Join us on prayer walks!

We will meet for simple prayer walks around town. Everyone is welcome! Children can walk or ride their scooters as we take 30 minutes to pray around town. There will be no knocking on doors or stopping people in the streets. This will simply be walking, praying and getting to know one another. Join us weather permitting.

Sunday, April 14, meet at 5 pm in the church parking lot

Sunday, April 28, meet at 5 pm at the St Augustine Shores Riverview Club parking lot

Sunday, May 5, meet at 5 pm at the church parking lot

Does breakthrough prayer work? Yes! You can find many breakthrough prayer stories throughout scripture. Breakthrough prayer is a natural way for congregations to experience renewal.

God is working in ways beyond our imagination, and we have the opportunity to join in.

Let's Pray!

(continued on next page)

Lord, open our minds and hearts to seek your direction for our church. May the Holy Spirit inspire us with new opportunities to boldly follow Jesus in service and love to all. Amen.

[graceaugustine.org](http://graceaugustine.org)



### Music News

March was a busy month! We hosted a collaborative concert on March 3 with the St Augustine Community Chorus and The Citrus Community Concert Choir. There were more than 100 singers and a nice audience turnout! We had a joint rehearsal and some fellowship time the day before.

On March 3rd the Grace Ringers rang a beautiful setting of "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley".

Thank you to our choir and instrumentalists for the beautiful cantata on Palm Sunday. We appreciate all of their work in helping to lead us in a special time of worship.



### Building Beloved Community Leaders: St. Augustine Pilgrimage of Truth and Reconciliation

This April 5-7 there will be 10-15 college students from the University of Florida coming to St Augustine for a spiritual pilgrimage that will inspire and support participants for the healing work of antiracism as an act of Christian discipleship. We will host them at Grace UMC. Pastor David Williamson and Pastor Laverne March will facilitate the journey.

St Augustine has a powerful story to tell of racial trauma and triumph. For some, this is a story that is well known. For others this is a story that has been a kind of hidden wound. The students are coming to learn our story, and we hope this inspires them to learn the story of their own communities better too.

As Jesus' followers we have all the grace and power we need to learn and tell our stories truthfully so that we may be healing-healers or Beloved Community Leaders.

The Prophet Jeremiah told the religious leaders in Israel that there's no way to heal a wound we insist doesn't exist. It's not helpful to go around saying "Peace! Peace! When there is no peace." (Jeremiah 6:14)

Jesus, of course, shows us the way to move close to the broken people/places and often ignored people/places with hope and power to rebuild, restore and renew.

Ephesians 1:14 says, "For Jesus is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us."

Beginning with dinner at GUMC on Friday, April 5 the students will journey together learning tools for having good cross cultural dialogue, attending to the emotional dimension of the work and learning to appreciate their own culture and that of others.

On Saturday the students will participate in Pride in the West Side, serving alongside our neighbors in West Augustine - an historic African American part of St Augustine that has a powerful story to tell. During lunch that day they will learn some of how West Augustine came to be what it is today and some of the efforts that community advocates are taking to change blighted conditions and build pride among residents.

On Saturday afternoon the students will be taking a 2 mile walk in downtown stopping at eight significant sites that offer opportunities to lament, rejoice, wonder, repent and consider ways God may be calling them to be a Beloved Community Leader where they live. The walk will end with a visit to the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center and then dinner at GUMC.

On Sunday morning the students will be invited to attend worship with a congregation that is culturally different from their usual experience. Then, we'll have lunch together at GUMC to process this experience and send them out with prayer and next steps.

This experience is made possible because of your hospitality, your prayers, your support for the ongoing work of building beloved community leaders. Please contact Pastor David if you would like to help provide food and/or participate in any of the pilgrimage. 407-415-7850.

### PRAYERS FOR AND FROM OUR CONGREGATION:

Names remain listed here for 30 days.

After which time, they are included in “*Unspoken Names*”.

We pray for the *Unspoken Names*, for our *Church*, for *First Responders*, for *Law Enforcement*, for our *Military*, for all those whose lives have been affected by natural disasters, and all people worldwide.

All *Medical Staff & Families* dealing with COVID.

All those in *Assisted Living or Nursing Homes*.

All those dealing with cancer and their families.



### INDIVIDUAL PRAYER NEEDS:

**L.H. McColskey** in Flagler Hospital with pneumonia (husband of Barbara McColskey).

Family and friends of **Arron Pippin** who died unexpectedly with a heart attack (former co-worker of Bernie Namie).

**Simone Williams** diagnosed with cancer cells in her eye and experienced an allergic reaction in her eyelid to the chemo (co-worker of Bernie Namie).

**Bill Wilder** diagnosed with cancer. We recently prayed for his son, Billy Wilder who was losing his eyesight (requested by Terry Steward).

**Sally Hall Williamson** fell and broke her hip. She is recovering from surgery on March 22, 2024 that she had on Monday, February 5th (mother of Carolyn Williamson).

Family and friends of **Irina Pilnoko** of Podolsk, Russia who died on March 15th (sister of Nataliya Birmingham).

**Paula, Bernie, Peggy, and Robert Namie** as they embark upon a new venture in life!

Family and friends of **Mickey Powers** who died on March 8th (husband of Diane Powers).

**Pam Levesque** suffering from a herniated disc causing immense pain in her back and hip (Northeast District Administrator).

### GUMC WEDDING PARKING & GENERAL PARKING LOT INFORMATION

When a wedding takes place at Grace UMC, please note that the 16 spaces to the right of the parking lot as you enter the parking lot (West Side) is reserved for the wedding party only! Church members are not to park there!



GUMC members are allowed to park anywhere in the lot free of charge at any time with a GUMC Parking decal.

### LADIES OF GRACE...

Ladies of Grace, you are invited to join us for a new 9-week Bible study beginning on **Wednesday, April 3, 2024 from 10 am to 12 Noon in the Wesley Room**, as we watch and study *The Chosen*, Season 3, *The Way of the Chosen*. Invite your friends and family! All ladies are invited, whether they are members of Grace or not!

**Discover what it means to belong to and be blessed by God.**

The third season of the groundbreaking television show, *The Chosen*, picks up with how Jesus' followers apply His teaching to their lives.

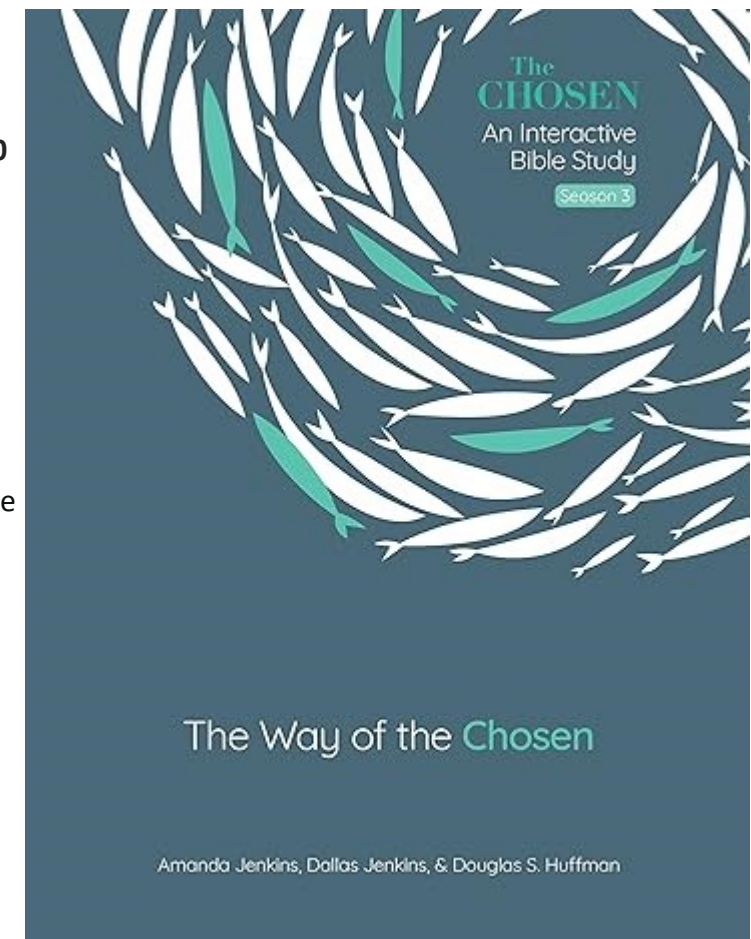
*The Way of the Chosen* is an eight-lesson interactive Bible study for individuals or small groups that works in tandem with each episode of the show. In modeling “the narrow road that leads to life” it includes:

- Forgiving the way Jesus does
- Going when and where He says to go
- Grieving what He grieves
- Standing firm on His words and character
- Delighting in the things that please Him
- Asking because He says to
- Welcoming those He welcomes
- Trusting His will and way

Readers will be challenged to move from knowing who Jesus is to living out their faith by going the way of the Chosen.

This will be a *come when you can* study. If you miss an episode, you can still enjoy the next. The study guide is optional, but highly recommended as it works in tandem with each episode of the show and offers script excerpts, quotes and illustrations from each episode, scripture to provide lesson context, conversational features to invite Bible knowledge, and much more!

The study guide can be purchased at Hobby Lobby (if available). I have two copies available for \$11.70 (as of 3/20/24), or you can order it through Amazon, with Free Shipping if you have Amazon Prime. If you would like a study guide but do not have Amazon Prime, let me know and I will be happy to order one for you. We hope you will join us in fellowship as we watch and discuss *The Chosen*, Season 3, together! For more information or to sign up, contact Debra Gibson at [dgg0613@yahoo.com](mailto:dgg0613@yahoo.com) or 904-540-3649.



## GROUPS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN APRIL:

**WORSHIP SERVICES** Sundays at **9 am and 11 am**

**FELLOWSHIP TIME**—10 am between the 9 am and the 11 am worship services in the Fellowship Hall

**SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**—Sundays 9:50 am—10:50 am in Person, Wesley Room & via Zoom

**BISCUIT BOYZ/Men's Group**—Mondays at 9 am, Wesley Room & via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83795795360?pwd=YTI4VEpZNVlTM2w5QzZKRlRTzJlJ0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 837 9579 5360

Password: Biscuit

One tap mobile 13017158592,,9513014547#,1#,571733#US

**BOY SCOUT TROOP #243**—Mondays at 6:30/7 pm, Brusaw Hall/Boy Scout Hut

**TRUSTEES MEETING**—Monday, April 8th at 6:30 pm

**PRAISE TEAM**—Mondays at 3:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

**UPPER ROOM PRAYER CIRCLE**—Tuesdays at 9:30 am—11:30 am, Wesley Room

**STAFF MEETINGS**—Tuesdays at 10 am, Fellowship Hall

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**—Tuesdays at 12 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/96076302991?pwd=eTIMNExGKzFKc2YwUDITVOUvUkVQUT09>

Meeting ID: 960 7630 2991

Passcode: 254042

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**—Tuesday, April 16th at 4 pm

**GRACE KIDS**—Sundays at 9 am & 11:00 am, Upstairs

**Wednesdays** at 5 pm—6:30 pm

**YOUTH**—Sundays at 11 am— 12 pm, Youth Room (Upstairs)

**Wednesdays** at 5 pm—6:30 pm

**BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY** - **Wednesdays** at 5 pm - 6:30 pm

In-person in the Wesley Room & virtually using this Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81757191393?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81757191393?pwd=r0sscYwL949W_RJUtdBYwQvgT5T81S.1)

[pwd=r0sscYwL949W\\_RJUtdBYwQvgT5T81S.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81757191393?pwd=r0sscYwL949W_RJUtdBYwQvgT5T81S.1)

Meeting ID: 817 5719 1393

Passcode: 746729

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**HANDBELLS**—**Wednesdays** at 6 pm

**CHANCEL CHOIR**—**Wednesdays** at 7 pm

**CHURCH COUNCIL**—will not meet in April

**DINING WITH DIGNITY**—**HOSTING** at Grace UMC on Friday, **April 19th** at 6 pm

## We are looking for a Financial Secretary.

This is a volunteer position.

Basic skills required - basic accounting skills, knowledge of MS Excel, knowledge of Quickbooks is a plus. Will oversee counter activities, assist with pledge reporting for stewardship, and finance reporting. Member of the GUMC Finance Committee. For more information contact Carolyn Williamson: [carolyn@gracestaugustine.org](mailto:carolyn@gracestaugustine.org) or Mark Vander Veen: [mwv320@gmail.com](mailto:mwv320@gmail.com)



## GUMC WORK DAY

Cleaning out closets and storage areas: The GUMC staff and Trustees will be having a “clean up” day on Tuesday, April 23, starting at 10:00 am. All church members are invited to help!



# April

## **To my Grace family,**

I don't have the words to express my gratitude for all of your prayers for my daughter, Dawn.

Recently, she finally was able to be seen by another neurologist for a second opinion. He does not feel her case to be as severe as originally diagnosed. There is definitely an issue, but he feels after other neurological testing is done, a more accurate diagnosis can be determined. More importantly, his plan of treatment is significantly less invasive. This journey is not over for us, but it is less frightening. For now, we wait for the results of the EEG and will move forward from there.

I believe with all my heart, it is the power of your prayers that has changed the direction of my daughter's life. Humbly, from my entire family, especially from Dawn, we thank you.

Luann Peck

*Prayer*  *changes things*

## BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF APRIL:

4th: Lydia Hazen  
5th: Linda Evans • Avie LaHatte • Eli Wolfe  
7th: Joyce Lundgren  
8th: Asher LaHatte  
10th: Judy Bechtold • Mary Rieder  
11th: Jeff Haddock  
12th: Mary Cummings  
13th: Marshia Hewitt • Anita Madigan  
14th: Bob Schiavone  
16th: Audrey Jarrard  
17th: Jackie Wolfe  
18th: Roger Carlson  
19th: Jan Ruch  
20th: Alex Hales  
22nd: Harriet Conkey • Robin Osgood  
25th: Jack Bailey  
27th: Vee Markel  
28th: Tammy Nadbielny  
29th: Art Holden



## ANNIVERSARIES IN THE MONTH OF APRIL:

1st: Tom & Linda Ringwood  
15th: Richard & Debra Gibson  
25th: Sterling & Penny Colee  
30th: John & Joan Kaiser



## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR APRIL:

April 7th — Available  
April 14th — Warmington  
April 21st — Available  
April 28th — Pastor Robert Hornback



The 2024 Altar Flower Calendar is located in the sanctuary.  
Sign up there or call the Office  
904-829-8272 or email Peggy at [office@gracestaugustine.org](mailto:office@gracestaugustine.org)  
to sign up for providing altar flowers in the sanctuary.  
(\$30 Total for the two arrangements).  
Make Checks payable to: Grace UMC & in the Memo line  
write flowers & the date for which you wish to  
provide the flowers.

If your name is not listed in the "Birthdays" or "Anniversaries" and it should be, please contact Peggy Namie in the church office via phone 904-829-8272 or email [office@gracestaugustine.org](mailto:office@gracestaugustine.org) Thank you!

## DEADLINES FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS IN APRIL:

### →Weekly Saturday Church Wide Email—

submissions are due by **2 pm on the Wednesday prior to the Saturday CW Email**

**April 6th Church Wide Email**—submissions are due by **2 pm on Wednesday, April 3rd**

**April 13th Church Wide Email**—submissions are due by **2 pm on Wednesday, April 10th**

**April 20th Church Wide Email**—submissions are due by **2 pm on Wednesday, April 17th**

**April 27th Church Wide Email**—submissions are due by **2 pm on Wednesday, April 24th**

### →Newsletter Submissions:

For the **MAY 2024 ISSUE OF GRACE NOTES**—

**submit by 2 pm on or before FRIDAY, APRIL 19th**

Send submissions to Peggy Namie, Office Administrator at [office@gracestaugustine.org](mailto:office@gracestaugustine.org)  
**Your observation of these deadlines is greatly appreciated!**

**THANK YOU!**

# Grace Kids News



Grace Kids thanks everyone for supporting our Easter Art Night and Chili Cook-Off! I am writing this newsletter before the actual event, so I can't brag about how many of you attended or how much you donated to our camp scholarship fund. But I have no doubt your support was strong and wonderful as it has always been in the past! We thank you for your generous support of our kids, their families, and the financial help needed to send our kids to Warren Willis Camp each summer for a week of great fun and learning!

## Grace Kids

During the months of April and May, Grace Kids on Wednesdays will be learning about the Bible. In April, Grace Kids on Sundays will be learning the parable of the Prodigal Son, what it teaches us about God, and how that story relates to our lives.



## Join Us at GUMC

Sundays - 9:00 & 11:00  
Wednesdays - 5:00-6:30  
Fridays - 10:00-11:00

Contact Martha Yamnitz at 904-501-9043 or [Marthayamnitz@gmail.com](mailto:Marthayamnitz@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to join our great team of volunteers!

## Summer Dates



Dates for your summer calendar!

- **School Out for Summer:** Kids last day is May 24th. Our Wednesday Grace Kids do not meet during the summer while the kids are out of school. Our last Wednesday Grace Kids will be held on May 22nd and will resume in the fall.
- **Vacation Bible School:** July 22 - July 26
- **Summer Camp at Warren Willis:** July 1- July 6
- **Kids Return to School:** August 12th, so our Wednesday Grace Kids will begin meeting again on Wed, August 14th.

## Creation Care Tip from the Kids...

Earth Day is celebrated in April and we would love for everyone to find one way to do their part by helping protect this beautiful world God created!

- Get Hooked on Earth Day is a family event at the Tillman Ridge Landfill
- Lullaby of the Rivers Festival at Vilano
- TrailMark Earth Adventures free family event
- Party for the Planet at the Alligator Farm, also a free family event