

## Grace Mission Statement

*“Love God, love people, make disciples of Jesus Christ.”*



**Join Us for  
In-Person Worship or  
Online**

**Worship on Sundays 10:30AM**

To watch the recorded service through Facebook video visit our website at <https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleGraceUMC/>.

## april Meetings and Gatherings

**Children’s Church:** Every Sunday after Children’s Message in Worship

**Choir Rehearsal:** Mondays, 5:15 PM

**Church Office Closed:** Monday, April 10

**Easter Breakfast:** April 9, 9 AM

**Easter Worship:** 10:30 AM

**Food Safety Managers Class:** April 11 & 13, 5-9 PM,  
Murphysboro UMC

**Good Friday Service:** April 7 at Noon

**Hands of Hope Crafters:** Mondays at 6:30 PM

**Korean Sunday School Class:** Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Little Grassy Camp Work Day:** April 15, 9AM-3PM, lunch provided

**MaTT Club:** April 2 and 16 at 4 PM

**Praise & Prayer Small Group:** Sundays at 9:30 AM (except 4/9)

**Reality (Victory Dream Center Youth):** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

**Staff Meeting:** April 4 and 18, 9:00 AM

**Toddlers and More Class:** Each Sunday during Children’s Church.

**United Methodist Men:** Saturday, April 8, 7:30 AM,  
Murphysboro UMC fellowship hall

**Women’s Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

**Worship** every Sunday at 10:30 AM

# Grace Notes

News from Grace United Methodist Church

Carbondale, Illinois 618-457-8785

Web site: [www.carbondalegrace.org](http://www.carbondalegrace.org)

E-mail: [carbondalegraceinfo@gmail.com](mailto:carbondalegraceinfo@gmail.com)

Veronica McMichael: Pastor of Christian Education & Discipleship

Michelle Parker-Clark: Pastor of Congregational Care

Marty McMichael: Sr. Pastor



### A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

#### Are you ready to be resurrected?

The calendar tells us that Spring 2023 is upon us. However, just three days ago - on Sunday morning - as Mike and I got into our car to leave for church it began snowing. Did it make us doubt that Spring is really here? Perhaps! But, does it change the fact that Spring is coming? Not at all!

Part of God’s plan for nature is that trees and flowers lie dormant, and many animals hibernate, during the cold, dark, and harsh days of winter. It is as if they are resting up to be rejuvenated, or resurrected, in preparation for all of the excitement and activity that comes with Spring. Trees bud, flowers bloom, birds lay their eggs, and animals give birth to their young. It is as if the whole world closes the door on the dark days of winter and all creation comes to life again.

We are currently in the fourth week of Lent – a time to test and renew our faith - as we prepare for Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday which are quickly approaching. During Spring, nature’s beauty is everywhere giving us a distinct feeling of hope and optimism and a chance at a fresh start in life. This is very much the kind of feeling that the two disciples of Jesus must have felt when, as they approached Jerusalem, in Luke 19:30 Jesus said to them: “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So, in verses 35-38: they brought the colt to

(continued on page 2)

## A Word from the Pastor continued from page 1

Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down to the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

From this joyous celebration, the tide quickly turned as Judas agreed to betray Jesus, and after Jesus and His disciples had the Passover meal together and Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray, Jesus was arrested. And, just as with the season of winter, the cold, dark, and harsh days had now overtaken the disciples, and their rejoicing had turned to weeping, as their friend, their teacher, and their constant companion for the past three years was tried, convicted, and crucified. The disciples were afraid for their lives, they were confused, and now some doubted everything they had come to believe was true about Jesus – was He truly the Messiah? They thought Friday was the end but, Praise God, then came Sunday – the first Resurrection Sunday!

Just like the trees and the flowers that lie dormant during the winter, Jesus laid dormant in the tomb until the stone was rolled away, the light broke through, and death was defeated as the grave could hold Him no more! The crucified Jesus was now the resurrected Jesus – he was alive and it was spring once more. During the remaining days of the season of Lent may your lives come more into focus on Jesus – our resurrected King - and may your minds and hearts be resurrected as you seek to love and serve Him with a newfound excitement! Amen!

May you have a happy and blessed Resurrection Sunday!

*Pastor Michelle*



This year's **Special Easter Offering** will go to UMCOR International Disaster Response. Write your check to Grace UMC and write Special Easter Offering on the memo line. See insert for related article.

## April Birthdays

4/2 Paula Arthur  
 4/6 Cuty Jung  
 4/7 Jamal Kinchen  
 4/8 Louis Dunn  
 4/8 Ruby Dunn  
 4/10 Kamma Langin  
 4/10 Emily Vale  
 4/11 Connie Steudel  
 4/13 Deon Egner  
 4/18 Rev. In-Sook Hwang  
 4/19 Dorothy Frailey  
 4/23 Annabella Upton  
 4/24 Michael Arthur  
 4/25 Lauren Smith



## Early May Birthdays

5/1 Amy Park  
 5/2 Lena Hake

## April Anniversaries

April 10 Meungguk and Sunhee Park  
 April 27 Bill and Sharon Crain (60 yrs.)

## Little Grassy Camp Work Day: April 15, 9-3

Help us get camp ready for summer!

Lunch Provided

Register at [littlegrassy@igrc.org](http://littlegrassy@igrc.org) or 618-457-6030.



## It's Coming! It's Coming! It's Coming!



Bible Study, Fun, Food and Fellowship  
 Be on the lookout, more information to come  
 If you have any suggestion or would like to be on the planning team  
 Please contact Pastor Veronica

## VBS returns to Grace UMC for ALL ages!

(youngest to adults)

When: June 25-29 (Sun.-Thurs), evenings

Where: Grace UMC Church

How: Rome and the Underground Church, visiting different "locations"



Thank you to Larry Dunlap-Berg for his efforts in transporting our donated mission items for Midwest Mission.

Thank you to Orville Hake and Meungguk Park for addressing several repair projects at the church. Your TLC and expertise are appreciated.

Thank you to Roberta and Jeff Williams for organizing events and food for events recently held at the church.

### “THE GIFT OF TIME”

#### 13th Annual MUMC Women’s Prayer Luncheon

**Saturday, May 6, 2023**

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Grace UMC, 220 Tower Rd.,  
Carbondale, IL 62901



For women of all ages, third grade and over.  
Child Care provided - only if registered

Please join us for a catered luncheon (Cutting Edge), with a featured speaker (Pastor Veronica McMichael), with special music by Alice Berry, a silent auction, door prizes, and a time of heartwarming fellowship with other women!

**Price is \$15.00 per ticket.** Tickets will be on sale from March 19th –April 23rd if tickets are still available. Reservations accepted for a table of six. **See Pastor Michelle for tickets.**

*Mark your calendar today!*

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Ecclesiastes 3:1



#### **Palm Sunday Worship**

April 2 - 10:30 AM

#### **Good Friday Service**

April 7 - Noon

#### **Easter Breakfast**

April 7 - starts at 9:00AM

#### **Easter Worship**

April 7 - 10:30 AM

#### *Easter Breakfast*

Sunday, April 9  
Starting at 9 AM



Biscuits and gravy provided. Bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet is on the welcome/sign in table in the church foyer.

The sign-up sheet is to give us a general idea of how many to expect and what foods need to be provided. As always, please come even if you can't bring a dish to share. And please come even if you don't know till the last minute that you are able to come.

Questions- contact Roberta Williams, Kay Eckiss or Flossie Langin

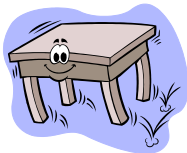


#### **Easter Surprise**

The Hands of Hope crafting group at the church will have special gifts for each person in worship on Easter Sunday.

## MaTT Club

*a place for kids and adults to gather with friends, old and new, at the table with Jesus*



At our March 5 meeting we talked about a HUGE picnic! During snack time I gave the children two fish sticks and five small bits of bread. I then asked the children to divide the food evenly among themselves. We agreed that this small amount of food was hard to divide among many and enable everyone to be filled. How did Jesus do that! During Bible exploration the children sat on a picnic blanket to hear the story of Jesus using one boy's lunch of two fish and five bits of bread to feed 5000 people. We talked about ways we, too, can share what we have with others and God will use it to His good. Some of the kids brought their favorite foods. Those that did told us about what they like to eat. Then we donated the food items to the food pantry. The kids finished the evening by making fish wind catchers.

On March 19 we talked about a time some children went to see Jesus. We discussed how we learn to love- from our parents and others who care about us. We also talked about how age is not important in God's work; God uses children to do God's work. During craft time the children made mirrors in a frame. The frame says "Jesus Loves (their name)". Then they decorated it as desired. Every time they look in their mirror they will be reminded that Jesus loves them by name.

In April we will be learning about Jesus' last meal with his friends, his death and his resurrection.

Thank you Flossie and Jamie for snacks in March.  
[Happy March birthday to](#) Timothy and Ms Flossie.  
 Happy April birthday, Kamma.  
 Thank you Kierra, Merit, and Kay for helping in March.



Thankful  
FOR YOUR KINDNESS

Many thanks to my church family and friends who remembered me with prayers, phone calls, text messages, cards, and good wishes following my knee replacement surgery. All were very much appreciated. May God continue to bless us all.

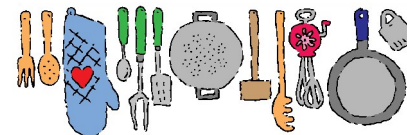
Thyra Russell



Our community needs our outreach with God's love. You or your church group are invited to help in these ongoing mission projects:

\* **The Warming Center** needs people to help sort donations. You can work for 1-2 hours on a Saturday. To volunteer, text 618 387 1697.

\* **Feed My Sheep soup kitchen** at Bethel AME Church prepares meals for The Warming Center. People are needed to cook and/or clean up. Volunteers can choose to help 9-12 in the morning on Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. There is a special need for certified volunteer cooks/food handlers. (See article below.) Please text 618 414 5077 for more information or to donate your time.



## Food Safety Managers Class

April 11 & 13, 5-9 PM

Cost is \$100, Murphysboro UMC, Room 204, to register call Murphysboro UM church at 618-687-2317.

## United Methodist Men

Saturday, April 8

7:30 AM Breakfast Meeting, Murphysboro UMC



Betty Jane Smith passed away March 23 at the age of 92. Her funeral service was held at Grace Church on Monday, March 27. Our heartfelt sympathy is given to Chris and to Betty's extended family and friends.