



## MAY Meetings and Gatherings

- Choir Rehearsal:** Mondays, 5:15 PM
- Church Council:** Sunday, May 21, 12:15 PM
- Church Office Closed:** Memorial Day, May 30
- Finance Committee Meeting:** Sunday, May 21, 11:45 AM
- Food Safety Managers Class:** May 23 & 25, 5-9 PM,  
Murphysboro UMC
- Hands of Hope Crafters:** Mondays at 6:30 PM
- Korean Sunday School Class:** Sundays at 9:30 AM
- Learning in Retirement:** May 17, 9:30 AM
- MaTT Club:** May 7, 4:00 PM & May 21, 3:30 PM
- Praise & Prayer Small Group:** Sundays at 9:30 AM
- Reality (Victory Dream Center Youth):** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
- Southern Illinois Children's Choir Concert:** May 13, 4:00 PM,  
Grace Church Sanctuary
- Staff Meeting:** May 2, 16 and 30, 9:00 AM
- Toddlers and More Class:** Each Sunday during Children's Church.
- United Methodist Men:** Saturday, May 13, 7:30 AM,  
Murphysboro UMC fellowship hall
- Women's Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30 AM
- Women's Prayer Luncheon:** Saturday, May 6, 9:30 AM

*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/>.




# Grace Notes

News from Grace United Methodist Church  
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Veronica McMichael: Pastor of Christian Education & Discipleship  
Michelle Parker-Clark: Pastor of Congregational Care  
Marty McMichael: Sr. Pastor

### A LETTER FROM THE SR. PASTOR

Few holidays in our country really represent our faith well. This is unfortunate as we are foundationally a Christian nation. Nonetheless Mother's Day stands out among the litany of holidays. It is arguably among the most prestigious, finding meaning in all faiths and cultures. Despite the attack on womanhood, the value of a mother still rings true in our nation. Besides the birth and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, there is no date more sacred to me personally.

To be a mother is an exceedingly profound prospect. I think we take for granted what God has done in that respect. To be a life-giver, that is to nurture a life within yourself for 9 months, and then have the same pass through your body is no little miracle! But it doesn't stop there. A mother nurtures within and then has the capacity to continue that care from without, giving sustenance to her child from her body to ensure growth and immunity to sickness. What a wonder our God is expressed through mothers.

Mothering is more than a miracle of bodily functions. A mother is a woman of profound character that encompasses her entire household, transcending the care of the children, her nature is to make everything given to her explode with life. This includes her husband, certainly the children, and those who carefully watch her navigate the complexities of it. So that the Bible gives us a glimpse of the result therein:

*<sup>28</sup> Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. (Proverbs 31:28)*

To perceive mothers as simple servants is to diminish the meaning and necessity of women from the beginning of human history to our present time. God made so much in the hour of creation and His crowning achievement was man. However, there was an asterisk denoted after man's creation. God simply stated:

(Continued on page 2)

<sup>18</sup> *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. (Genesis 2:18)*

We witnessed the initial unveiling of a profound being which Adam would call 'Woman'; meaning sacred fire as unto a sacrifice and later he calls her mother of all living! Being a mother is not what women do, it is a sacred endowment from God that is who they are! No one, no group, or any movement can undue this act of God. The intrinsic power they possess is documented in Naomi's mothering of Ruth, the Prophetess Huldah's vitality expressed in her husband, and Jesus's mother, Mary, simple direction to the hosts of the marriage reception to do whatever her son tells them to do. As a result of a mother speaking, God acts against His own schedule and we witness Christ's first miracle of turning water to wine.

So, we take a moment in time to give thanks to God for the women He created to be mothers. Mothers who bare children, mothers who care for children they did not bare, and women who mother (matriarchs) their families. We honor you this month. Our pride, if we could possess any, is in the God that fearfully and wonderfully made you. Amen. Amen. Amen!

Sincerely yours,  
**Marty McMichael**  
Sr. Pastor

**Join us for VBS**

Come to **Grace United Methodist Church** on  
**June 25-29 at 6-8pm**, Come early for supper at 5:15!



**A Collaborative Event hosted by Epiphany Lutheran, First Lutheran  
Grace Methodist & Mt. Calvary**

- Be apart of a Roman family
- Visit Paul under house arrest
- Go to the Roman marketplace
- Fnd the secret underground church
- Sing new songs and have fun!



## May Birthdays

5/1 Amy Park  
5/2 Lena Hake  
5/10 Amy Wyatt  
5/11 Marianne Abrahamson  
5/11 Katie Hine  
5/18 Joyce Fligor



## Early June Birthdays

6/7 Pastor Veronica McMichael



May 2 Orville and Lena Hake (59 years)  
May 22 Revs. Bong-Choul & In-Sook Hwang  
May 22 Jamal and Dominique Kinchen

## Thank you and Congratulations



We are blessed and grateful to Yoonseo (Cuty) Jung and her mother, Dr. Seung Hee Lee, for their brilliant worship music. It is always an inspiration to experience your violin and piano offerings to God and our congregation!

For those who may not have heard, Cuty recently played at Carnegie Hall in a showcase of young piano competition winners, national and international. Congratulations and bravo, Yoonseo!



## United Methodist Men

Saturday, May 13, 2023  
7:30 AM Breakfast Meeting,  
Murphysboro UMC

Grace United Methodist Church Family,  
The flowers sent from the church for Donna  
were beautiful and greatly appreciated.  
Thank you from the family of  
Steve & Keri Stoodley



My cousins Lee Ann, Zach and I would like to thank everyone  
for the prayers, flowers and food after mom's passing. A spe-  
cial thanks to Pastor Marty, Pastor Michelle, and Larry Gilbert  
for all they did.

*Chris Smith*

Grace Church,  
Thank you for the cards, emails, prayers, and flowers that I re-  
ceived with the death of my mom, Helen F. Downey. She was  
101 years, 2 months, and six days young!

Thank you!

*Karen Downey*

Thank you so much to everyone who has been lifting me in  
prayer, sending me cards, and delivering care packages...I feel  
so blessed by my church family. The 9th of May will begin  
round three of chemotherapy. Please continue to pray and lift  
me up. God continues to walk with me

*Joyce Fligor*



Thank you to Roberta and Jeff Williams and  
the Hands of Hope group for organizing and  
working hard on the Easter breakfast and the  
Easter bunny treat bags for the whole congrega-  
tion. Double yum!

Thank you to Michael Arthur for providing his talented piano  
skills to accompany the choir for special Easter Sunday  
music. We deeply appreciated your loving offering, Michael!

### Grace Mission Statement

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

## Mother's Day

Mother's Day will be observed at  
Grace Church on Sunday, May 14.



This year we will collect names  
for both living and deceased mothers  
to be listed on the Remembrance

Notes included in the Sunday bulletins on Mother's Day. Re-  
membrance gifts will be given to Got You Covered, Inc., a not-  
for-profit corporation with a charitable purpose of providing di-  
apers, wipes, and other hygiene products for families in need in  
the Southern Illinois area.

Pastor Michelle is president of the not-for-profit corporation  
and it has been in existence since 2018. They distributed over  
30,000 diapers in 2022.

There will be a table set up in the lobby for the collection of  
names and a basket to make donations in honor of your mother,  
if you choose. The table will be set up Sunday, April 30, and  
the following Sunday, May 7.

**All adult ladies attending worship on May 14th will  
receive a small gift to honor the day.**



YAH (Young At Heart) on the  
Road will be traveling to the  
Bonnie Cafe on Tuesday, May 9.  
We will depart from the MUMC  
Church parking lot at 10:30 am for  
11:30 am reservations.

After lunch we will visit the  
Burks Family Alpaca Farm 10 minutes away. Participants will  
learn about alpacas and will have the opportunity to interact as  
much, or as little, as they choose with these adorable creatures.  
In addition, there will be alpaca merchandise available for view-  
ing. Please join us for a day filled with great food, fellowship,  
and some alpaca therapy!

## MaTT Club

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



April was filled with highs and lows as we studied Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem and his last supper. Then we went on to learn about his death, resurrection, and Pentecost.

On April 2 we started the evening with some "bread" games. We put bread puzzles together. Then the kids threw bread slices as far as they could. After that they held a piece of bread in their mouth and dropped it into a bread bag without using their hands. The highlight of that activity was one of our children losing their loose tooth in a piece of bread!

During Bible Exploration Time we talked about special meals shared with family and friends. The children shared special foods or activities that helped them remember loved ones. Karen Downey came and told the kids how communion is prepared and brought to the communion table. The children shared bread and juice and talked about things they remember about Jesus.

During craft time the children mixed edible paint (sugar, food coloring and water) and painted a slice of bread. Of course they ate it when they were done!

On April 16 we played some games using Easter eggs. The children arranged the eggs to spell out "He is Risen! Hallelujah!"

During Bible Exploration we heard the story about the women in the garden and hearing that Jesus was alive again. We also read about Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came, as a rushing wind and fire, upon the disciples and enabled them to speak in languages other than their own. We thanked God that many people that day, and since, heard about Jesus. Eventually the stories were written down and we are able today to read them. The children made pinwheels and used the wind of their breath to cause them to spin.

Thank you Sunhee and Merit for snacks in April.

Thank you Kay, Kierra and Merit for your help.

Thank you Karen for coming to tell us about communion.

Happy April birthday to Kamma.

Happy May birthday to Zac.

May will be a month of fun with our annual Mom & Me party on May 7 and family bowling on May 21. These activities will wrap up MaTT Club's 2022-23 year. - Flossie Langin

## Graduates

Congratulations to all of our spring graduates! Please take time to express your thoughts to these scholars:

Annabella Upton, graduating from Carbondale Community High School,

Brianna Upton, graduating from St. Louis University.



Vacation Bible School is coming to us next month! The entire congregation is invited! We will explore ancient Roman marketplaces, visit Paul under house arrest, and enjoy many other types of activities. Children, teens, and adults of all ages are welcome. Children younger than kindergarten age need to be with a responsible adult or family member.



VBS will be a joint event of Grace UMC and Epiphany Lutheran Church and their sister church, Mt. Calvary. Murphysboro UMC is also supporting the event.

Prefer to be a worker rather than an attendee? We need teens or adults to help with two simple meals that week. Or perhaps you might enjoy being a shopkeeper, help with games, take event photos, design props, set up tent canopies, help with games, or come to clean up after the final evening? All volunteer help is greatly appreciated!

WHAT- (VBS) Paul: Rome and the Underground Church

WHEN- Sun.-Thurs., June 25-29

WHERE- Grace UM Church

TIME- 6:00-8:00 P.M.

Come early at 5:15 P.M. for supper.

WHY- To share the impact that Jesus can have on lives

HOW- Wrapped in episodes of fun for all!



The Southern Illinois Children's Choir, K-9th grade, presents "Share the Light" on Saturday, May 13, 4 p.m. in Grace sanctuary. All are invited to join us for our spring performance and final concert of season.