

“No matter who you are or where you’re from, you are welcome here”

MESSENGER

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00a-3:00p
Closed Fridays, Holidays and Fort Zumwalt No School Days

Sunday Worship: Traditional Service-8:45 am
Contemporary Service-11:15 am

Community Outreach Programs:

Girl Scout Daisy Troop 2811

N.A.M.I. (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

Grace Preschool: 2 years-Pre-K (Please call 636-240-5856 for details!)

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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O’FALLON, Missouri 63376

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OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIS LOVE KNOWN TO ALL



Facebook.com/graceuccofallon



O’Fallon@WeAreGraceUCC

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

Student Pastor Annie Girresch will be preaching a series all through Lent. The planning of this series, her preaching, along with our response, will be the basis of her senior project with us as she works toward her Masters of Divinity. Pastor Annie is a student Eden Theological Seminary. Eden provides practical education for those preparing for ordination as many Christian denominations prefer the clergy is prepared with this professional degree. This degree combines both academic studies and hands-on practice to help their students, like Annie, learn and reflect on the practice ministry. To that end, Pastor Annie must do her senior project with us. As your pastor, I must tell you, I'm excited to see her in action and to read her final project. I'm also asking you to try to be in attendance to help with her project. Who knows, maybe we all learn something – I sure hope so!

As Always, Thank God for our Mutual Ministry and Sent with Love,
Pastor Polly (also known as pp ☺)

P.S. Our 2020 Lent and Easter Schedule is as follows:

2020 Lent & Easter Schedule

- Ash Wednesday, 26 February 7p – Pastor Annie Preaches
- First Sunday of Lent, 1 March – PP Preaches
- 4 March First Wednesday Lent Worship 7p – Pastor Annie Preaches
- Second Sunday of Lent Sunday 8 March – PP Preaches (NOTE: Daylight Savings Time Begins, Spring Forward)
- 11 March Second Wednesday Lent Worship 7p – Pastor Annie Preaches
- Third Sunday of Lent, 15 March – PP Preaches
- 18 March Third Wednesday Lent Worship 7p – Pastor Annie Preaches
- Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 22 – Pastor Annie Preaching (PP officiating nephew's wedding out of town)
- 25 March Fourth Wednesday of Lent Worship 7p – Pastor Annie Preaches
- Fifth Sunday of Lent, 29 March – PP Preaches with Special Guest Bryan Allen Demeritt
- 1 April Fifth Wednesday Lent Worship 7p – Pastor Annie Preaches
- PALM SUNDAY, 8:45a Palm Sunday Cantata and 11:15a Children's Program
- Maundy Thursday Worship April 9, at 7p with Pastor Annie Girresch leading a special the Lord's Supper Service
- Good Friday April 10 with Worship and Prayer at 7p
- EASTER SUNDAY 12 April – PP Preaches
Sunrise Worship 7:30a
Brunch 8:30a
Worship 10a
Egg Hunt 11:15a
- 13 April, Easter Monday-OFFICE CLOSED

A WORD FROM YOUR STUDENT PASTOR

We kicked off Lent on Ash Wednesday with a meditation on the Book of Daniel. In Chapter 1, Daniel and his friends have been selected by the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar, to be his special servants in the royal palace. As part of their training, they are to eat the king's food and drink the king's wine every day. But Daniel, a faithful Israelite, did not want to defile himself by eating the king's food because it was against the Torah custom of the Israelite people. So, he convinced the chief official to give him and his companions nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Ten days later, Daniel and his friends looked stronger and healthier than all the rest of the servants who had eaten the king's food! They were given spiritual gifts of knowledge, prophecy and vision and they became sought after members of the king's court.

Daniel's obedience to his tradition of not eating certain kinds of meat wasn't just blind obedience to a religious law. It had a powerful effect of helping him to keep his strength in God in a very complicated situation. Daniel's people, the Israelites, were oppressed by the Babylonians. To be selected for service in the royal palace among the powerful elite who were holding his people in captivity - now that was a dangerous tightrope to walk! On the one hand, Daniel could be lured into giving up his loyalty to his people for the newfound status and privileges he would receive. On the other, he could possibly influence the King to look favorably upon the Israelites, becoming their advocate in the halls of power.

One way to interpret Daniel's "fast" is that Daniel needed to keep himself clear about who he really served - not the King, but God. His fast allowed him to grow spiritually and to maintain a clear head so that he could become a powerful advocate for justice without getting distracted by the King's shenanigans.

As we journey through Lent, Daniel's fast can help us to deepen our discipleship. Lent is a time where we take up specific practices to help us go deeper in our relationship with God. And Daniel helps us to see that these practices can help us grow prayerfully in our ability to be a voice for God's justice in the world. This Lent, what is the king's food in your life, and how might you fast from it? What are the distractions that keep you from living your soul's purpose? What practice(s) can you commit to, to deepen your discipleship this Lent? Here are some ideas if you're having a hard time coming up with one:

- Fast from technology, social media, negative talk, or inflammatory news
- Fast from meat (Did you know that eating less meat is the single biggest way to reduce your impact on the environment? Check out more information here: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/31/avoiding-meat-and-dairy-is-single-biggest-way-to-reduce-your-impact-on-earth>)
- Set aside time each day to pray (even if it's just two minutes!)
- Pick a book in the Bible that you have never read and read a little bit every day
- Find images of God that don't look like you (i.e. another gender, race, or ethnicity) and put them up around your home
- Learn about a social cause that you care about and find a way to take action
- Create a sacred space in your home dedicated to prayer - like a prayer closet or an altar
- Spend time each day journaling about where you saw/felt God's presence in the day

Our Wednesday night Lenten series this year is called "Deepening in Discipleship." We'll be looking at hard issues and "touchy topics" as we try to understand more deeply some of the injustices that are embedded in the roots of our society and what God has to say about them. And we'll be growing spiritually as we practice the sacred art of journaling. Come out and join us at 7 pm on Wednesdays this Lent!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Annie Girresch

ATTENDANCE AND FUNDRAISING

JANUARY 2020: 352

JULY: 305

FEBRUARY: 329 as of 2/16

AUGUST: 306

MARCH: 349

SEPTEMBER: 461

(not including Wednesday Lenten Services)

APRIL: 406

OCTOBER: 344

MAY: 300

NOVEMBER: 322

JUNE: 450

DECEMBER: 527

Scrip Announcements!

In January \$14 was donated to Evangelism and \$14 was donated to the Capital Campaign. A profit of \$107.44 was made in January. Shop with scrip - www.shopwithscrip.com

Grace Marketplace

Grace Marketplace will occur on Saturday, April 4th from 9am – 1pm. There will be a variety of vendors there as the youth will be fundraising our way to the mission trip to Indiana this summer.

Evangelism

A meeting to plan out events such as Pride St. Charles will occur on Monday, March 15 at 7pm.

Right now we are collecting 1-inch wide ribbons around and 18 inches long for our Pride St. Charles display. Please contact Rev. Susan Shumway for any questions or suggestions.

Amazon Smiles 😊

You can designate Grace as your charity to receive a percentage of the amount you purchase at Amazon.

Culver's Fundraising Nights

Our next Culver's fundraiser will be on Tuesday, April 14. If you are unable to attend, please take a flyer and share with others to invite them as the youth will receive 10% of ALL sales from 5pm-9pm

Ink Jet Cartridge Recycling helps Camp MoVal Scholarship fund!

Any inkjet cartridge with a print head can be recycled, regardless of brand or type. Bring in your empty OEM inkjet cartridges (placed in the original box that you would have thrown away to keep it safe from spills and damages, or a

Ziploc bag) to church (Note: Epson cartridges cannot be recycled – they don't have a print head.). We get paid up to \$4 per cartridge. For any questions, please contact Cindy Rose.

Grace's Backpack Program

This month, please consider donating Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, Soup, Canned Veggies, and basically anything that would fit in a backpack without breaking or getting smashed. If you prefer we did the shopping for you, we will happily take your money donation to do just that. Thank you so much for supporting these children. In this country no child should ever go to bed hungry!

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

Needed for February: Canned Ham/Spam, Pudding/Jello, Chili, Toilet Paper. THANK YOU!

NOTE: Rev. Susan Shumway is a notary and is offering free notary services to church



Grace Opportunities

Every Child's Hope

Gifts will now be available all year long through Hope Chest for our young peoples' giving needs- Mother's Day, Father's Day, Birthdays, Graduations...and Christmas too! Please contact Sarah Dewesse, Volunteer & Community Relations manager, 314-427-3755 x299 or sdewesse@echmail.org. Mark items "Store/Sarah" or "Hope Chest/Sarah." (Pick up is also available).

Re-Group

Re-Group is a fellowship time for adults ages 18 (post high school) and older. All adults are welcomed to join us at any or all of the events. We meet informally at least once a month. Often we go out to eat a meal and fellowship together. Other times we meet at various activities. What this means is you can drop into any event, anytime you can join us. We have a fun time getting together with our Grace Family. If you have any questions or would like to host an event, please contact Ana Kniesel. The next Re-Group is on March 20 at Grace United Church of Christ from 7:20-10:20pm. Shayla Jackson will be hosting a Roaring 20s party! Please bring your 1920s attire and a snack to share. Please RSVP by using the signup sheet or by contacting Shayla Jackson at shaynyates@yahoo.com by March 15. Hope to see you all there!

National Alliance on Mental Illness

For more information, 314-962-4670 or www.namistl.org/programs-2/nami-family-to-family/

Every Child's Hope Ladies Aid

March and April: Easter candy and plastic eggs and art supplies for all programs. For more information please call 314-427-3755.

TIME AND TALENTS

Volunteering, offering a donation of time or a talent that may assist in an event OR using your place of business as a resource are just some ways to give without having to use your personal funds. Many companies have a charitable program in the form of either matching funds for donations or volunteer hours. Please check with your personnel department or check out http://nnedv.org/downloads/Other/Matching_gifts_companies.pdf for a complete list.

Adult Sunday School

You may sign up on the Ministries Opportunities board or just show up. We meet in the church office at 10a.

Cleaning Up O'Fallon

Welcome to Spring! We will have our first 2020 street clean up on Saturday March 14th. Meet at 10 am at church. We clean up a one mile stretch of Mexico. With about an hour of your time you can help tidy up O'Fallon, get some exercise and get to hang out with your fellow "Green Champions" here at Grace. Sign up if you plan to help on the board on the activity wall. That way you can be reached if necessary. We will reschedule if it is pouring rain, icy or if there is substantial snow on the ground.

Additional clean up days this year are May 9, June 13, July 1, Sept 12 and Nov. 14.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

One Great Hour Of Sharing

The theme this year is *Invest in Futures*. The scripture reference is 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. It tells us we are servants in the service of God, one planting, one watering, and God being the one who grows and nurtures it all. When we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we provide valuable support. Our church reaches people who suffer from emergencies, chronic poverty, and violence worldwide.

Among the support we give, water, sanitation and adequate nutrition top the list of resources needed. Assets such as irrigation systems, wells, latrines and wash houses change peoples' lives in amazing ways. Clean water and adequate facilities improve health and gives dignity to people at the same time.

What may seem like a small investment to us, yields amazing results worldwide. With water, sanitation and adequate food, children are more likely to attend school, and women, no longer searching for water, are able to earn money to contribute to their families' well-being and overall health. Together, we are co-workers in God's service, planting and watering seeds for God to nurture.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Please consider joining our music ministry as we prepare for our Lent and Easter services. Everyone is welcome to join choir. Risen is by audition only, and we are currently in need of a bass player for our regular 11:15 services.

Choir rehearsals:

Wednesday, February 26, 6 - 6:45 PM
Wednesday, March 11, 6 - 6:45 PM
Wednesday, March 25, 6 - 6:45 PM
Wednesday, April 1, 6 - 6:45 PM
Friday, April 10, 6 - 6:45 PM

Choir services:

Sunday, April 5, 8:45 AM
Friday, April 10, 7 PM
Sunday, April 12, all available services

Risen rehearsals:

Regular Vocal Rehearsals - Sundays at 10:15 AM
Saturday Intensive (band and vocals) - Saturday, March 28, 10 AM - 12 PM

From The Finance Office

Can you help us to ensure accuracy? Here's the thing during the past few weeks, the financial group has received donation envelopes with only an envelope number or a first name. Both of these situations pose a real problem. The way our current donation system works we do not use envelope numbers as identification. This is an issue for cash contributions. You see, with no name, there is no assurance that a cash contribution can be credited correctly. When you write checks, fortunately, they provide a name so your offering can be credited properly.

Please remember that donation envelopes with only a first name pose the problem that we may have four Michaels or three Bettys. In my example you can see that several people can share the same first name. So ... the problem arises – which one of several possible donors am I to credit? To ensure you receive proper credit for your contributions, please use both first and last names on your envelopes or write checks. Additionally, we do not record the envelope numbers any longer because of the system we use. Thank you for your help so we can ensure our accuracy!

Respectfully, Fred Brunner

Kid's and Youth Stuff

Sunday School

Disciples – The children in Sunday School are learning about disciples from: the Bible, history, and modern day. Each child will choose a disciple, do the research, and then present some information on Palm Sunday. Join us on Sundays at ten o'clock!



In Sunday School we made apple smiles to remind us to talk about Jesus.



Safe Church Child Protection Policy

Grace has a document, updated and approved by the Church Council, which details the procedures in place to keep everyone safe. Just a reminder that during the ten o'clock hour on Sundays, only trained volunteers, students, and their parents should be in the youth area on the east side of the lower level.

SCUMY

March 13– Lock-In with Cosmic Bowling 7p-9a

March 27 – Grace's Marketplace Set-Up 5-7p

March 28 – Grace's Marketplace 8a-2p

NURSERY

There is a trained teen at second service each Sunday to care for the children in the nursery. The Nursery Staff includes Lexi Hagl, Mollie Garrett, Alexandria Fuehrer, and Melissa Megathlin. Look for their picture and biographies hanging on the Nursery door each Sunday. In accordance with Grace UCC's Safe Child Church Policy, we are requiring that **ONLY ADULTS** pick up children from the Nursery. Children/Parents are assigned a number that is used in the pick-up procedure.

Youth Activity

Youth will meet at Grace UCC on Friday, March 13th at 6:45pm. Once everyone is there, we will go Cosmic Bowling at Bowlero. The cost is \$20 and it will include 1.5 hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental, drinks, Cheese pizza, \$5 gift certificate, and a \$7 arcade card. Please sign up on the event board at Grace or let Rev. Susan Shumway know if you will be able to attend. As always, please contact Pastor Polly if cost is an issue and do not let cost affect a youth being able to attend.

BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

02 Amanda Brown	22 Lillie Shelton
02 Roger Miyasaka	24 Jeanie Ransom
04 Lindsay Kendall	24 Susan Shumway
04 Connie Smith	25 Maddie Moore
06 Avery Patterson Jim Hagl	25 Kenzie Moore
10 Michael Johnston	26 Melissa Schnarre
12 Shayla Jackson	30 Brian Ransom
13 Alex Fahnestock	
19 Gabriel Kniesel	

Spring Rummage & Bake Sale 2020!

The Spring Rummage Sale will be held on April 25th this year from 8 am to 1 pm. We will start accepting donations for the sale on March 15. Drop them off in the basement under the sign. Remember when you are bringing donations that this is a spring sale and our customers will be looking forward to summer. It would be best if you left your winter coats, sweaters, boots and snow shovels in your closet until our sale in the fall. When we receive these out of season items it creates extra work for our volunteers to sort them out and box them up and store them until the next sale. Thanks for your thoughtful consideration when bringing donations.

The first sorting day will be Saturday March 21 starting at 8 until we are done. Going out for lunch is likely to happen. Feel free to join us for an hour or all morning. Many hands make light work! We will be alternating workdays between Monday Mornings and Saturday mornings. Please watch the bulletin and Missy's weekly email updates for additional dates.

We are looking forward to lots of volunteers on Saturday April 25th to help with the sale and clean up afterwards.

Many thanks to Betty Warren and her entire team (you know who you are) for all the service they have provided for the past spring rummage sales. And Many thanks for their continued guidance, help and support as we transition new volunteers into the process. Thanks to all in advance for your patience as our new spring rummage & bake sale team learns what needs to be done.

Peace & Blessings, Kevin Boiles, Dana Buchanan, Sam Fahnestock and Cindy Rose

New Member Class

At Grace United Church of Christ "Our mission is to know Christ and make His love known to all." And our denomination motto is: "Whoever you are, and wherever you are in life's journey, you are welcome here!" We completely embrace that motto. This Grace family welcomes everyone with open arms and a kind heart as we strive to guide, join, help and faithfully encourage each other on life's journey.

If you are interested in joining with like-minded open and accepting people please plan to join us for the next New Member's Class on Sunday, 15 March at 10a. We will talk about our denomination, our church, and our responsibilities as those who follow Jesus. The first new members of 2020 will join at on Palm Sunday, 5 April at 8:45a or 11:15a. Looking forward to meeting with you!

PROJECTED CALENDAR FOR MARCH

MARCH – Mission of the Month – One Great Hour of Sharing

SUNDAY 1: Birthday Sunday, 1st Sunday of Lent with Music Minister Jon Garrett Preaching, Risen Practice

10:15a

2: Grace Life 7p

3: Community of Practice 11a-2p

4: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p, 1st Lenten Worship 7p

5: Crafty Corner 9a

6: OFFICE CLOSED (FZ No School Day), World Day of Prayer

7: Gateway ONA at Parkway 9a-2p, Men's Group 8a

SUNDAY 8: Daylight Savings Time, 2nd Sunday of Lent, (Missy in NV 8-13), Risen Practice 10:15a

9: Preschool Spring Break-3/13, FZ Spring Break-3/13, Worship Design 7p

10: SCUM 12:30p, St. Charles Polling

11: Staffing 10a, POP 4:15p, Choir Practice, 6-6:45p, 2nd Lenten Worship 7p

12: Crafty Corner 9a

13: Youth Cosmic Bowling 6:45-9:15p

14: Cleaning Up O'Fallon 10a

SUNDAY 15: Messenger Deadline, 3rd Sunday of Lent, Eggs set out for donations for hunt, begin receiving Rummage Sale items, Risen Practice 10a

16:

17: St. Patrick's Day, NAMI 7p, Council 7p

18: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p, 3rd Lenten Worship 7p

19: Crafty Corner 9a

20: Roaring Twenties Party 7:20p-10:20p

21: Rummage Sale Sorting 8a-12p

SUNDAY 22: 4th Sunday of Lent with Pastor Annie Preaching, Risen Practice 10:15a

23:

24:

25: Preschool Grad Pictures, Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p, Choir Practice 6-6:46p, 4th Lenten Worship 7p

26: Preschool Graduation Pictures, Crafty Corner 9a

27:

28: Rummage Sale Sorting 8a-12p, Risen Practice 10a-12p

SUNDAY 29: Daisy Scouts 4-5:30p, 5th Lenten Sunday, Youth host All-Church Prayer Path 10a & 12:30p, Risen Practice 10:15a

30:

31:

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone involved in making Culver's Night on 4 February another great success!

Thank you to all for your special memorial donations in memory of Norman Clements:

**Belinda Miller
Rev. Susan Shumway
Rich Mattox
Carol Strassner
Art & Dot Johnston
Fred Bruner
Carolyn Sexton
Sandy & Michael Silger
Wendy & Deryck Whiteley
Judy Harris
Cathie Sanzoterra
Betty Warren
Randy & Pastor Polly McWilliams
Carole Hasten
Cathy Blake
Adele Jones
Donnell Gaertner
Ed & Connie Smith**

**In Memory of Patricia Muench:
Pastor Polly McWilliams**

Prayer List

Sara Andler, Jim Bausch, Pastor Beebe, Betty's Dog Sadie, Dan Birchen, Kevin & Sandy Boiles, Ellen Brinkmann, Linda Broch, Dana Buchanan & family, Bill Buchanan, The Clements Family, Don & Mary Lou, Sheila Engelmeyer, Duane Francis, Shirley Franz, Krysten Gray, Russell Hammers, Sandy Harris, Rob Irby, The Family of John Jowders, Randy McWilliams, Helen Meyer, Sheila Nirk, Jen Norman's Mom, Sarah & Henry Ramos, Robin, Scott, John Scotto, Erin Skaggs, Mary Beth Stassner, Barb Tackett, The Tavernier Family, Debbie Teson & Family, Willie Vogel, Dennis White, Nicole Whiteley, Kelsy Wong, China, Illness, Those involved in the car accident on I-64, Those homeless, Our Military Men, Women & Families, Kids who are bullied, Government Leaders & all Americans, Those who have no prayers offered for them.

In Care

Betty Bauer, Liz Birchen, Jan Sutton, Bernice Watson