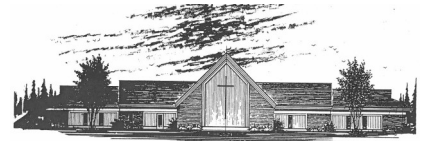




# Grace Connection



April 2024 Newsletter

Grace United Methodist Church



**Sunday Worship Service**  
is at 10:00 a.m.

*Communion is offered on the  
1st Sunday of the month.*



**Men's "BYOD" Meeting** on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM  
**The Book of Acts Bible Study** on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM.

**Celestial Bells Rehearsals** on Wed., April 3rd and 17th at 10:00 AM.

**Pastor Stephanie** at Heartland House conducting an In-person Service on Thurs., April 18th at 10:00 AM.

**Missions Meeting** on Thurs., April 18th at 11:00 AM.

**Seniors on the Move Panel Discussion** on Thurs., April 25th at 10:00 AM at the church.

*The March Newsletter is  
sponsored by a friend  
of the congregation*

The church office email has changed. If you need to get in contact with Cheryl at the church office, please use the following email:  
[cclauson@graceumcwautoma.com](mailto:cclauson@graceumcwautoma.com)

## THERE NEVER SEEMS TO BE ENOUGH

Rev. Jason Mahnke

Sometimes it flies, sometimes it crawls, but it always passes inexorably. We mark it, save it, waste it, bide it, race against it. We measure it incessantly with a passion for precision that borders on the obsessive. We are obsessed with it; we never seem to have enough of it; and yet scientists don't even know how to explain it. What is it? The answer is time.

We never seem to have enough time. A group of experts once got together to figure out how much time we should need to get everything done in one day. These experts got together and noted how much time was needed for exercise, hygiene, work, commuting, household chores, eating, entertainment, spiritual development, sleep, and family time. When these figures were all added together, the experts said that a human being needs 42 hours a day. That's not very encouraging.

- ◆ Of course, those are the things we're supposed to be doing every day according to experts. In truth, we add to that list as well. Consider that every day in the United States:
- ◆ 74,000 of us move to a different home and 22,465 move to another state.
- ◆ 36 businesses go bankrupt while 13,700 new ones start up.
- ◆ Americans purchase 38,082 new automobiles and trucks and smash 16,438. 2,266 couples get divorced while 6,578 get married.
- ◆ Dogs bite 12,329 people including 15 mail carriers.
- ◆ We eat 75 acres of pizza, 53 million hotdogs, 167 million eggs, 3 million gallons of ice cream, and 3,000 tons of candy.

The Psalmist tells us that "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." In other words, every moment of every second, and every second of every minute, and every minute of every hour, and every hour of every day is literally a gift from God. Unfortunately, in all of the hustle and bustle of our lives, we forget this. Instead, we are more often stressed out by his gift than thankful for it. Think about this: God gives to every one of us all the same amount of time in a day.

Sometimes it's just our perspective. What if we were to get up every morning and thank God and remember that "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." It wouldn't give us any more time, but maybe our perspective each day would change and we'd appreciate the gift of time a little more.

| Profit & Loss - Actual Versus Budget - February, 2024 |                    |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                                       | ACTUAL YTD         | BUDGET YTD         |
| Sunday Offerings                                      | \$37,737.00        | \$27,127.00        |
| Apportionment Giving                                  | \$3,426.00         | \$4,222.00         |
| Other Monies Offered                                  | \$5,133.55         | \$3,500.00         |
| Missions Income                                       | \$4,408.00         | \$7,000.00         |
| RaiseRight Income                                     | \$9,052.50         | \$2,000.00         |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                   | <b>\$59,397.05</b> | <b>\$43,849.00</b> |
| Payroll, Taxes & Ministry Exp.                        | \$21,651.00        | \$17,183.00        |
| Ministry Operating Expenses                           | \$9,961.44         | \$11,180.00        |
| RaiseRight Expense                                    | \$8,255.50         | \$4,000.00         |
| Missions Giving                                       | \$1,233.00         | \$1,250.00         |
| Apportionment Paid in March                           | \$2,111.00         | \$4,222.00         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                 | <b>\$43,211.94</b> | <b>\$37,835.00</b> |

\*\*\*We had several large payments at the very end of the month. A deposit was made the first of March so the check-book balance is higher than reflected here.

| Account Balances as of February 29, 2024 |             |                                    |             |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Checkbook Balance                        | \$5,068.41  | Down                               | \$871.02*** |
| Savings - (includes the \$11,000)        | \$28,841.90 | Up                                 | \$4,312.75  |
| Memorial Fund - Thrivent                 | \$12,632.88 | Memorial fund incorrect in January |             |
| Scholarship Fund - Thrivent              | \$3,634.67  | Up                                 | \$31.05     |
| Bainbridge Fund - Thrivent               | \$26,999.56 | Variable Account (\$0.44)          |             |
| WI Foundation                            | \$68,169.95 | Interest & Increase in Value       | \$1,219.44  |

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND RESPONSE EVENT

The Faith Based Response to Human Trafficking Committee in conjunction with the St. Joseph Council of Catholic Women will host an informational event on human trafficking. This event will be held on April 14, from 1:00-3:00 pm, at St. Joseph Parish Hall, 364 South Cambridge Street, Wautoma. Terra Koslowski, from Damascus Road Project in Oshkosh, will be the guest speaker. She will present information on what human trafficking is and the role Damascus Road plays in the community.

Damascus Road works to educate members of the community. It works to locate victims and to advocate for them. Attendees will have a chance to assist survivors through donations of money and hygiene and toiletry products. The following are currently needed (PLEASE donate only regular sized products-NO hotel sizes, as these can be reminders to victims of their being trafficked).

Mesh Shower Scrubbies  
Contact Solution  
Boxed Tissues  
Makeup Cases

Cotton Face Pads  
Moisturizing Lotion  
Dental Floss  
Hair Conditioner

Makeup Remover Wipes  
Feminine Hygiene Wipes  
Denture Cleaner and Adhesive  
Body Wash

These necessities are then provided to trafficking victims free of charge.

For more information, contact Diane Ruhland 920-787-2259.

Jesus cares greatly for this creation; He made it. Jesus cares even more greatly for us; He made us. And Jesus never abandons what He creates. Jesus never abandons those He loves. We see this especially during the Easter season.

The first time Jesus raised someone from the dead almost seemed to happen on a whim. One time, Jesus was entering a town with His disciples and He saw a funeral procession. A widow was crying. She was burying her only son. The procession was carrying his body through the streets on what would look like a stretcher to us. Jesus said to the woman, "Do not weep." Then Jesus touched the stretcher and said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." The man sat up and began to speak (Luke 7). Jesus never abandons His creation, or us. He loves us too much.

The second time Jesus raised someone from the dead it was a little girl twelve years old. She was sick for a while, but it was too much, she died. Jesus entered the house with her family and neighbors wailing in grief. Jesus took hold of the dead girl's hand and said, "Child, arise." Her spirit returned, and she got up at once (Luke 8). Jesus never abandons His creation, or us. He loves us too much.

The third time Jesus raised someone from the dead seemed almost impossible. When Jesus arrives to Lazarus, it is the fourth day since he died. This is the day many Jews would regard as hopeless, no chance of any life again. Decay has set in. The body bloats, the body smells. Death has won, or so it seems. Jesus never abandons His creation, or us. He loves us too much. When Jesus arrived at Lazarus' tomb, the Scriptures say this,

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone" . . . he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out" (John 11).

Jesus is deeply moved by what we all go through in this life. He was so deeply moved He was willing to die on a cross in our place for our sins, so we won't die on a cross for our sins. And Jesus is so deeply moved by the creation He has made, and us whom He loves, that when He returns again, He will do the same thing for us as He did for Lazarus. Deeply moved, Jesus will stand above our remains and He will say the same words He has said for so many years, "Do not weep . . . child arise . . . come out!" and we will live again. Jesus will never abandon His creation. And Jesus will never abandon us, He loves us too much. Amen.

God's Blessings,

Rev. Stephanie J. Taylor





Our Grace "Caravans of Caring" have shown our love to 42 Hispanic families on Saturday, March 23rd. Three groups went to the mobile home parks and homes in and around Wautoma with groceries, gifts for children, and Easter cards in English and Spanish. I believe we spread God's love and caring to over 175 souls this Easter season.

**Thank you to the monetary donors and to the worker bees.**

Habitat for Humanity is hard at work in Wautoma. We will have a speaker telling us all about the new home and the Restore Shop on Sun., April 7th.



Human Trafficking is a horrible problem in our world and right here in Wisconsin. Grace, Hope Lutheran and St Joseph's are assisting the local committee as they prepare an informational program at St Joes on Saturday, April 13th. Check out the article in this newsletter and watch the church bulletin for the time and try to be there. We all can help by being aware of the dangers.

**Once again, THANK YOU, GRACE.  
WE HOPE YOU HAD A BLESSED EASTER.**

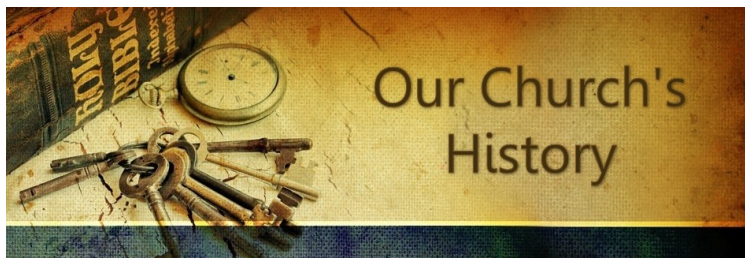


Grace will be providing a meal for the teens at Treehouse in Wautoma on Tuesday, May 7th. If you would like to provide a portion of the meal or a monetary donation towards the meal, please get in touch with Judie Bat-terman. Read the excerpt below from Treehouse's last newsletter.

#### **SUPPORT NIGHT LESSON PLANS - TREEHOUSE CULTURE**

- 1) TreeHouse is a Safe Place: Teens will understand their commitment to TreeHouse support group rules and how it is essential to TreeHouse being a safe place and sharing the TreeHouse culture with new teens.
- 2) TreeHouse Truths: Teens will understand we build a caring community by supporting one another through listening and sharing feelings. By embracing and affirming the TreeHouse truths.
- 3) United in Our Differences: Teens will create the TreeHouse culture through open and honest communication because open communication helps us grow.
- 4) Removing Masks: Teens will create the TreeHouse culture by embracing and sharing love without strings. To help create by loving others without strings.





### HI, WELCOME TO HISTORY 101

Phyllis Grebe, Church Historian

The Raymond Church, also called "Little Church by the River", was located on County YY, Dakota township. It was southwest of the White River dam. The building is still there but used as a summer home. The Raymond Cemetery is across the road from the church building.

This church was dedicated on July 11, 1893. The pastor was Rev. Rochelle. Thomas Henry Wedge was the church volunteer janitor.

Some of the church members were Silas Booth, George Wilcox Sr., Sidney Currier, Allen Deuel, and Delbert Raymond. Mr. Currier donated the land on which the church was built.

See you next month!

### SENIORS ON THE MOVE First Event – Thursday, April 25th



#### FIGHT THE SCAMMERS!

Join **State & County** experts for a discussion about spotting scammers on the phone, on the web, in emails and more!

Our first Seniors on the Move of the season will be a little different. We won't be moving at all!!! We will be having it right here at the church and will be talking about scams and fraud that is out there and ways to prevent it. This will also be open to the public and will be advertised as such. There will be four or five panelists talking each for 10 or 15 minutes and then there will be a time for questions.

Coffee, juice, fruit and fresh baked goodies from the Bread Bar in Coloma will be served. The event will start at 10:00 AM and will be finished by about noon. Another change for this event is that we will NOT be going out to lunch as a group afterward. In addition, there will not be a sign-up sheet for this event. We hope you can all make it.

The committee is finalizing many exciting day trips for this season. They will typically be the fourth Thursday of each month. Information will be in the Grace Connection and church bulletins as details become available.



### AN EASTER HYMN HUNT

Morning has broken, let there be delight! Quickly, hurry to breakfast, come let us eat!  
Put on jeans and a jacket, shoes on your feet. I want to be ready when we get to the street.

Shall we gather at the river or go straight to the park? Oh soon, very soon our excitement takes spark!  
The judge gives the rules to trust and obey. Come all of you children...get set..Steal away!

On eagles wings, our feet do fly, with each egg we find we utter our cry!  
Open my eyes that I may see where to put them in the basket. Don't leave it there!

When the day was past and over, on our homeward trail, Through it all many wondrous memories prevail.  
As a family we were singing..right from our heart, Lord, this is my song...how great thou art!

There are 17 names of hymns or first lines within the writing. Can you find them all?

#### Answers

|    |                              |     |                                |
|----|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Morning Has Broken           | 10. | On Eagles Wing                 |
| 2. | Let There Be Light           | 11. | We Utter Our Cry               |
| 3. | Come Let Us Eat              | 12. | Open My Eyes                   |
| 4. | I Want to be Ready           | 13. | Leave It There                 |
| 5. | Shall We Gather at the River | 14. | When the Day Was Past and Over |
| 6. | Oh Soon, Very soon           | 15. | This Is My Song                |
| 7. | Trust and Obey               | 16. | How Great Thou Art             |
| 8. | Come All of You              | 17. | Don't Leave It There           |
| 9. | Steal Away                   |     |                                |

### THE ETERNAL GOODNESS

John G. Whittier

I know not what the future hath  
Of marvel or surprise,  
Assured alone that life and death  
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak  
To bear an untried pain  
The bruised reed he will not break,  
But strengthen and sustain,

And so beside the silent sea  
I wait the muffled oar;  
No harm from him can come to me  
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where his islands lift  
Their fronded palms in air,  
I only know I cannot drift  
Beyond his love and care.

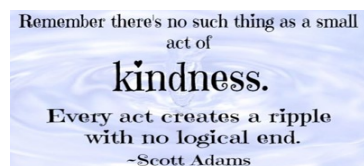
### ACTS OF KINDNESS

Reverend G. Austin

A promising world is built on small acts of kindness and compassion. Every day we have the chance to make someone's lift brighter with a helping hand, an encouraging word, a smile.

We could also weaken the other person's day by complaining about the world and always talking about our personal problems. Or, we can be more positive in our conversations and therefore be a source of strength to those around us.

In the long run, these small acts of love added all together may be of more significance than any grand, earth-shaking deed."





| Sun                                              | Mon       | Tue                                                                                       | Wed                                      | Thur                                                                                                                  | Fri       | Sat       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                                  | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b><br>9:00 AM Men's<br>"BYOD"<br><br>10:00 AM Bible<br>Study - The Book of<br>Acts  | <b>3</b><br>10:00 AM Bells<br>Rehearsal  | <b>4</b>                                                                                                              | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b><br><i>Communion</i><br>10:00 AM Worship | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br>9:00 AM Men's<br>"BYOD"<br><br>10:00 AM Bible<br>Study - The Book of<br>Acts  | <b>10</b>                                | <b>11</b>                                                                                                             | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b><br>10:00 AM Worship                    | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b><br>9:00 AM Men's<br>"BYOD"<br><br>10:00 AM Bible<br>Study - The Book of<br>Acts | <b>17</b><br>10:00 AM Bells<br>Rehearsal | <b>18</b><br>10:00 AM Pastor<br>Stephanie In-Person<br>Service at Heartland<br>House<br><br>11:00 AM Missions<br>Mtg. | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b><br>10:00 AM Worship                    | <b>22</b> | <b>23</b><br>9:00 AM Men's<br>"BYOD"<br><br>10:00 AM Bible<br>Study - The Book of<br>Acts | <b>24</b>                                | <b>25</b><br>10:00 AM Seniors<br>on the Move Panel<br>Discussion                                                      | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b><br>10:00 AM Worship                    | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b><br>9:00 AM Men's<br>"BYOD"<br><br>10:00 AM Bible<br>Study - The Book of<br>Acts |                                          |                                                                                                                       |           |           |