

Due to the pandemic we are not going to produce an April Calendar/Leadership insert. We are trying to do our best in keeping our community informed. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL United Church of Christ

2801 Garfield St., Two Rivers, 920-553-1222

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 AM * CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 9:15 AM

WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG / unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com

Pastor Kim khenning1956@gmail.com Pastor Colie pastorcolie@gmail.com

APRIL 2020

Reflection of

Kim Henning

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:4-7

RESURRECTION

What would you say to a five year-old? Alyssa sat by my side Thursday evening as we looked at a picture of Fay’s Grandfather. Grandpa Rautmann was beloved. He enjoyed playing sheepshead. He was kind, he was gentle. He laughed easily. He chose to live a simpler life than many choose to live. He loved God and the church. And Grandpa was just a relaxing, easy to be with person. I miss him.

“Where is he?” Alyssa asked as we looked at his picture. “Grandpa Rautmann has died. He is no longer with us,” I responded. “What do you mean?” she asked. “Well, everyone will one day die. No one lives forever. You are growing older. I am growing older. And one day we will die. One day, we will die and we won’t be here anymore.”

“What happens then?” she asked. “Well, I don’t know exactly,” I said. “What I do know is that when we die, we go to be with God and Jesus. We know God will take care of us after we die. We’ll be ok because of Jesus. And we believe we will live together again after we die.”

Alyssa seemed satisfied with that. She changed the subject and then her brief attention span shifted to something else. How would you have responded to Alyssa?

The Christian faith has a unique and powerful message to speak: ‘This Jesus who was crucified has been resurrected!’ The world knows about death. Every day we are reminded about death’s reality. Some deaths seem tragic. Some deaths are totally unexpected. And some deaths seem like a gift. But know this: death is 100% certain. But Christians have a contrary word to speak: Be not afraid. Jesus is resurrected!

I am always a bit suspicious when someone says they don’t need church. Every Sunday of the year, the community of believers comes together to remember that death does not have the last word in our lives. The early church said it poignantly: “this man.....you crucified and killed. But God raised him up.” (Acts 2:23-24)

Jesus’ resurrection is not a metaphor. Jesus’ resurrection is a real event that has serious and joyful implications for believers. Death is not the end of the road. Death is not a terminal. “If the dead are not raised, then the dead are not raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins” (I Corinthians 15). You and I believe in a resurrected Jesus Christ.

I need to share one last thought. Jesus’ resurrection is real. But that is not all. The Apostle Paul also taught the church that Jesus’ resurrection is power. Jesus’ resurrection is more powerful than our sins. Jesus’ resurrection is more powerful than Covid-19. Jesus’ resurrection is more powerful than the pain of death. Jesus’ resurrection is capable of raising up the down-trodden, of giving hope to those who despair, and of infusing joy into those who know only of life’s drudgery and uncertainty.

“Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”



LEADING THROUGH A RAPIDLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT WHILE RESPONDING TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

As you may know, the [National Offices](#) are now functioning from a work-from-home environment. The building is closed for now, and will remain so until the Governor of Ohio dismisses the stay-at-home order.

We have been preparing for such a move, anticipating that this was a possible, if not inevitable, scenario. While there will surely be some glitches in our normal operating procedures, we want to state with full confidence that the work of the National Setting will continue. With our laptops, in-home wifi or personal hotspots, and most of the files and information stored in the cloud with password access, we feel that what we need is accessible to us.

We know that many of you reading this are working under similar conditions, and that many churches have converted their services to online spaces. We are all making timely and well-advised decisions about how to do the work we were called to do and protect the health of our families, faith communities, colleagues, and ourselves.

If you are looking for resources to assist your church in this challenging time, the staff at the National Setting has [created a page](#) to help. Along with the advice and communications being shared by your conference, the resources gathered at this page are proving to be invaluable for our churches as they struggle with what to do and how to do it.

We are maintaining our schedule of special mission offerings, including [One Great Hour of Sharing](#). The offering was scheduled to be taken on March 22, 2020. Given the rapidly changing environment, perhaps the One Great Hour of Sharing offering was not taken on the suggested date. Please know it is not too late. You can participate in the offering at any time.

Our concerns regarding the security of mail delivery has forced us to make the decision to have our mail held for the time being. That way it will not be returned as undeliverable or left sitting somewhere in an empty building where it has a danger of being lost or stolen. Any checks sent to the United Church of Christ National Offices will be held by our branch of the United States Postal Service until we can physically enter the offices again.

We also understand that many churches are unable to meet at this time and that this may mean fewer funds are collected. We know that is a possibility, but we also know that people who can will continue to be generous, especially when the call is to reach out to the vulnerable that subsist in the margins with few resources.

We ask for your prayers, as we daily hold you in our prayers. We will continue every day to give our best effort on your behalf. We thank you for your patience, understanding, and ongoing support for the work of the National Setting.

Faithfully,

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer

Dear Church Community,

I voted to cancel church services but I have a concern for meeting our church budget. We still need to pay the bills for the up keep of the church and pay our staff during this time.

We already had low financial support Sundays March 8 and March 15. It would be very helpful if you would either drop your church envelopes or offerings off at the church during office hours or mail them in during this time when we are not meeting. **Thank you**, in advance for your faith and support of our church. **Chris Blimel, Financial Secretary**

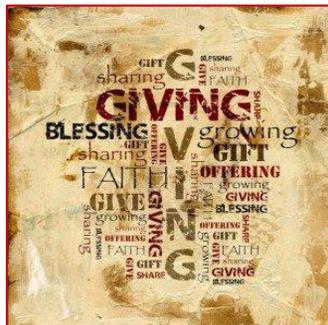
YOU CAN PAY YOUR PLEDGE OR GIVE A DONATION ON-LINE!!!

Grace Congregational Church has recently added the opportunity to provide On-Line giving to our members and friends. Of course, you can always send your pledge payment via traditional postal service. We encourage you to remember your pledge to the church if possible. If you are an electronic giver, nothing will change for you and we encourage you to stay with the traditional electronic giving as our fee rates are very low with USBank.

To donate on-line, do the following:

- Go to the Grace Church website at <https://graceucc.org>. Click on the word "Give"
- Next page, click on the sentence starting with "Click here to give....." You will be taken to Tithe.ly
- The first time you will need to click on "Sign Up" to create an account" with Tithe.ly. Enter your 1) Name; 2) e-mail address; 3) Input a password ; 4) Input a four-digit Pin Number. (*When you use Tithe.ly a second time all you need to enter is your e-mail and Pin Number*)
- Hit Submit – now you can start to give. You will be asked for your Pin number again.
- Follow the directions – you will need to enter a credit or debit card number. This will be kept on the Tithe.ly system.
- Input the amount of your donation and where it says "Please Choose" hit the drop down arrow and there are several options – Pledge, CAMP, Solar or Lenten are the ones in there now. We will add or change these options from time to time.
 - You have a choice to add the service fee to your donation. If you do not check the box, the church will pay for the service fee.
 - You can check the box for "Recurring Gift" – however due to the cost of on-line fees, the church would prefer that you use traditional electronic giving for recurring gifts.
- Hit Submit and you will be asked "Are you sure you want to donate to Grace Church" – Hit OK
- Done

We have tested this several times. If you have questions or trouble with this service, please contact Debbie Augustine, Administrative Assistant on Tuesday or Thursday, Linda Justema @ (920) 973-2411 or Pastor Colie at the church.



CHURCH CABINET

Moderator, Betty Becker, **Treasurer**, Linda Justema **Clerk**, Elizabeth Gauthier
Financial Sec, Chris Blimel **Trustee Chair**, Todd Moolenaar
Diaconate Chair, Joshua Willis
Board of Christian Ed Chair, Katie Ver Haagh
Mission & Outreach Chair, Joe DeGroot
Pastor Kim-Pastor/Parish Chair, Brian Boomgarden
Pastor Colie-Pastor/Parish Chair, Larry Peterson
Members-at-Large, Brianna Brixius & Joe DeGroot

STEWARDSHIP CORNER FOR GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 2020

Total 2020 Expected Pledges	\$379,175
Pledge Income Received during February	\$33,097
Pledge Income Needed (on average) to balance the budget	\$31,098
Loose Offering Received during February	\$317
Sunday School Offerings During February	\$26



Please Note: Our constitution prohibits us from using any proceeds from our Endowment Fund to support our day to day ministry at Grace Congregational Church. It is our church's expectation that our members are responsible for the support of this church's ministry as an act of faithfulness to God.

Your Generosity Beyond Grace Congregational Church

CAMPital Campaign---\$3553

United Church of Christ Special Offerings---\$1,020

Two Rivers Ecumenical Food Pantry---\$1,803

Hope House---\$970

Eden Seminary---\$565

What If? Foundation (Haiti)---\$1020

Pandemic

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times? Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling. Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life. Center down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.) Know that our lives are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.) Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart. Reach out your words. Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love— for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live.
By: Lynn Ungar

WOMEN OF GRACE NEWS AND NOTES

TENTATIVE Next meeting: Saturday, April 4th, 2020 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall

The Women Of Grace held their annual painting party after our meeting on Saturday, March 14th. About 20 women attended and did we have fun! Lots of creativity, laughter, and food to eat! A big Thank you to Donna Weier for leading this event. 😊😊

The Women Of Grace will be sponsoring the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper on April 9th. We will serve 3 different kinds of soup: Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheesy soup, Chili, and Chicken Dumpling soup. We will also be serving cheese, crackers, coffee, milk and water. This is a free meal and everyone is invited to attend! The meal begins at 6:00 pm and will lead right into the Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 pm. There is a sign up sheet on the Information desk to help with this event. Please sign up to help. Many hands make light work!

We realize that there still might be a lock down at this time and then this event will be cancelled. Praying, God willing, that the lock down will be disbanded and we can all enjoy fellowship with one another!

We have also decided that our annual day trip to Door County will be on Saturday, May 23rd, 2020. We will again visit the North Waters Bakery in Algoma, the Hands On Art Studio in Fish Creek, the Woodsman Market and the Door County Winery. More information to come. Sign up sheets for this event will be on the Information desk as of April 19th. Please join us as it is a great get away for the day, make new friends and another chance to be creative!

Remember, all women of Grace are members of Women Of Grace! You are always welcome at our meetings and events! Yours In Christ, Amy LeGreve and Fay Henning

GENERATION G

Generation G is currently meeting via Zoom on Wednesday nights! Each week Nicole emails out the invitation so we can connect online for a couple hours. Last week we shared our Pow, Wow, How's— read the bible, prayed and checked in with one another. It was the highlight of my week! If you haven't already been in contact sharing your info you can email nlherda@yahoo.com, text (920)242-8308 or reach out via snapchat. Being community looks a lot more like being in relationship with one another than meeting in a building and I'm so thankful for your example!

Due to Corona virus, all Seroogy chocolate orders are cancelled. If you prepaid, Nicole will be returning your money. At this time we are not planning on hosting our annual Easter breakfast. Should something dramatically change by Palm Sunday, we'll roll with it. Our focus is on everyone's health and safety first.

Parents if you have any questions please feel free to reach out via email nlherda@yahoo.com.

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT GROUP

Currently we are planning on meeting April 13 at 6:30pm so we can do our notarized paperwork for our June 20-27 trip to West Virginia. Right now, we have to be flexible. The Appalachia Service Project is working on flexibility and so are we. Right now the trip is still on so we need to get things organized. May 9th continues to be the date we are shooting for to do our practice build so plan on being there! Hopefully June 14th we will have our annual Woodland Dunes sendoff service out doors...

Should anything change you will hear from Wade, Keith and Nicole via email. Realize that we can also utilize Zoom for a meeting if we need to. (Plan B)



Application for "Member in Discernment"

Mark Schmitt, a member of our community, came before the Cabinet to indicate his interest in pursuing theological education. The Cabinet has endorsed Mark's calling from God, and have requested of the Northeast Association of the United Church that he become a Member in Discernment. Mark has been accepted as a student at Eden Theological Seminary.

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IS 5 FOR 5

Our church has a history of being committed to mission beyond the walls of 2801 Garfield Street. Long before Fay and I came into your midst we heard a story that we found nearly unbelievable.

Around 1980, Grace Congregational Church's pipe organ needed a complete renovation, a project that would cost about \$60,000. The members of this community participated in a well-organized fund-raising campaign. The organ was refurbished. And when the bills were paid, about \$5,000 remained. Now what? Should the church's transfer the money into our general fund because most everyone knows that when it comes to churches, money is often tight.

Grace Congregational Church made a bold decision. After welcoming some missionaries into our midst, this church's leaders learned of a need for pianos at Silliman University in Dumaguete, Philippines. It was an easy decision. The surplus money from our organ campaign was sent to the Philippines. Somewhere in the history files of our church (downstairs!!) is a photo of those pianos that was sent from the leaders at Silliman University.

From the beginning, our church has been committed to being a 5 for 5 congregation. In addition to Our Church's Wider Mission (Basic Support for the U.C.C.), the members of this church contribute to four special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, and The Christmas Fund. From the weekly offerings you give, \$42,000 is given to Our Church's Wider Mission. In 2018, members of Grace Congregational Church gave \$13,039 to the four all-church offerings.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Enclosed in this newsletter is an offering envelope to One Great Hour of Sharing, one of four all-church offerings of the United Church of Christ. Gifts given to One Great Hour of Sharing support health and human service projects in the United States and beyond. Most pertinent, gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support the work of Disaster Ministry. That should sound familiar to you because ten volunteers from Grace Congregational Church returned from a Disaster Ministry Project in North Carolina.

The top giving church for One Great hour of Sharing is First Church of Christ Congregational in Glastonbury, Connecticut. The next top giving church is First Congregational UCC in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. And the third top giving church is First Congregational UCC in Crystal Lake Illinois (where Chuck and Sue Mahan are now members!).

TWO RIVERS ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

1---Your food contributions are needed and appreciated. Please bring any food items (or monetary gifts) to church and we will get them to the pantry ASAP.

2----A Message from Paul Schmid: "Starting Friday, March 20th, the Two Rivers/Mishicot Ecumenical Pantry will only be able to distribute food to clients who call in advance to make an appointment to pick up a box of food. The telephone number is 920-793-5364. Clients will pick up their food at the pantry door. If you are off of work and not a regular client, you are welcome to receive food.



The safety and health of all guests and staff is always the highest priority at UCCI, consequently, all UCCI events at all three locations will be canceled through May 10th. We will monitor the situation and share current information via our website www.ucci.org
Glenn Svetnicka – Executive Director UCCI

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

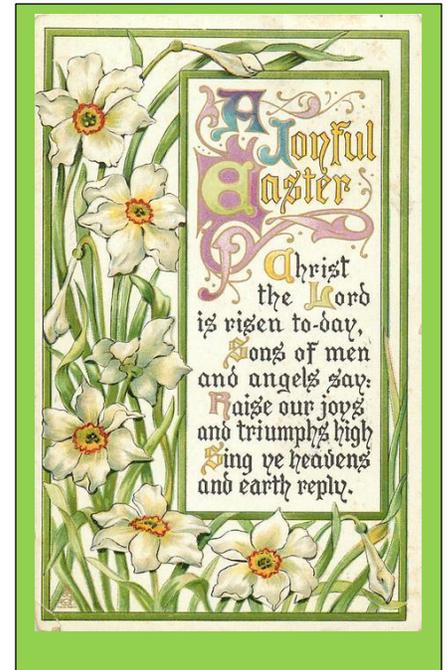
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 - Maria Hillmer | 12 - Lori Hansen-Stein
Drew Loomis
Landon Kakes | Briella Gauthier |
| 2- Ron Meissner
Destiny Krizek
Collin Gamble | 13 - Garrett Ruhbusch
Debbie Augustine | 27 - Rick Inman
Dylan Wichlacz
Alexis Veleke
Jessica Schroeder |
| 3 - Joseph Reinke
Jennifer DeWane
Stephanie Kakes | 14- Gail Trenholm | 28 - Michele Hearley
Jessica Sayeski
Melissa Dupke
Tara Tetzlaff |
| 4 - Mary Sayeski | 15 - Kristin Schuh
Joan Schmid
Charles Grumann | 29 - Shirley Spindler
Greg Moreau |
| 5 - Colby Moreau
Aiden Schanilec
Michael Duvall | 16 - Ginny Engstrom
Barry Grimmer
Laurie Burke
Casey O'Connor | 30 - Sue Geroso
Kathryn Ruhbusch
Jack Stradal |
| 6 - Joe DeGroot
Al Augustine
Heidi Springstube | 18 - Debbie Spindler | |
| 7 - Anne Reichel
ShayHampton-Gregory
Kim Larson | 19 - Amy LeGreve
Theresa Terp
Renee Anderson
Tracy Smith | |
| 8 - Aaron Buchholz
Cale Beyer | 20 - AudraHampton-Gregory
Ellen Lewellen | |
| 9 - Jeff Stoeger
Elijah Holschbach | 21 - Debbie Rhein | |
| 11- Beverly Mark | 22 - Jacque Linzmeier
Karl Schindl | |
| | 23 - Norette St Pierre | |

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 - Tim and Ann Klein
19 - Barry and Diane Grimmer
24 - Aaron and Lynn Buchholz
26 - Randy and Jeanne Brey
26 - Gary and Kay Fencil

EASTER PLANTS GIVEN IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Clare Schuette | In memory of our son Rob |
| Paul & Joan Schmid | In honor of Children & Grandchildren |
| Chris Blimel | In Memory of mother Shirley Anderson and brother George Anderson |
| Bruce & Donna Fehrman | In memory of Ralph & Hilde Sieracki,
Jack & Shirl Fehrman
John & Morial Peaslee |
| Robert Peaslee | |
| Mike & Cheyenne Neville | In Memory of Howard Decker |
| Rick & Colleen Inman | |
| Nan Jagemann | |



GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

HOSPITALIZED

Al Augustine was a patient at Aurora Medical Center.

Nicole Herda was a patient at Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Hospital.

Connie Bruse has been released from the care of Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay

Bonnie Burmeister was a patient at Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay.

Bruce Suettinger's daughter, Megan was hospitalized at Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay

Barbara Davidson was hospitalized.

Randy Ammerman was recently hospitalized at Aurora Bay Care.

OUR SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to Bonnie Burmeister and her children as they grieve the death of Eugene Burmeister. He died on Friday, February 21.

We offer our sympathy to Kevin and Pam Wargin as they grieve the death of Kevin's father, Allan Wargin. Allan died Thursday, March 5. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, March 11th.

We offer our sympathy to Hope and Ron Boudnik as they grieve the death of Janie Macias. Janie is Hope's sister who lives in Texas. Her funeral service was held March 9th in Texas.

Anthony Bohman died on Thursday, March 12 at Holy Family Memorial Hospital. Due to the restrictions issued by our governor, a private family funeral service was held on Thursday, March 19. We offer our sympathy to Anthony's son, Jim and Shelby and their family.

The Rev. Donald King died on March 10. The Rev. King served congregations in Milwaukee, Kiel, Humbird, Fall Creek, Fountain City, Marshfield, the Ho-Chunk Nation, Philliips, and Merrill. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Sue..

BAPTISM

Cruz Edward Yanda, son of Nathan Yanda and Danielle Maley was baptized March 1. Grandparents include Lisa Yanda, Angela Kostoff, Robert Yanda and Barbara Alexandar. Saleena Gulseth & Matthew Yanda were chosen as godparents.

YOUR NEEDS? YOUR PRAYER CONCERNS?

The church exists to serve. If you know of someone we can pray for, please contact the church office or one of our pastors. If you are aware of a need that we can possibly meet, please let us know.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON GROUP CANCELED

Unless restaurants are open again and the government gives the go ahead to meet in groups.

~~We would like to invite ALL women of the church to our Women's Luncheon Group.~~

~~Announcements are usually in the bulletin and in the newsletter. If you need a ride we can usually provide it. April 14th 2020 @ Dali's in Manitowoc 11:30 a.m. Contact Chris Blimel at 793-2204 if you will be going.~~



Hope House
of Manitowoc County

HOST WEEK

Next Host week is April 19-25

In light of Coronavirus and the fact that the majority of our dedicated volunteers are over 65 years old, we may be calling upon your congregation's younger and non-at-risk volunteers to help us fill the overnight shifts during the next few weeks. Any shifts not covered by volunteers will be covered by staff, so any help we can get is greatly appreciated. A few volunteers have really stepped up to help us out for the next few days.

Thank you for your understanding and support!
Kristen Gresl Community Outreach Manager at 920-686-1436 or kgresl@hopehousemc.org. Have questions?? Please talk to Mickey Veleke or Betty Becker.