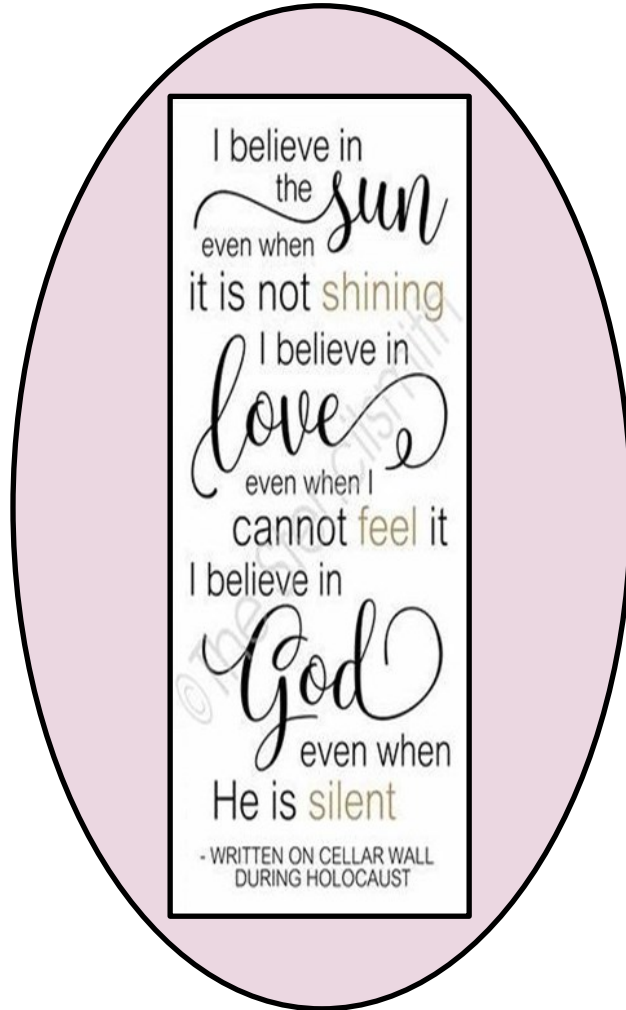




Grace Notes

719-395-8868 * gracechurchbvco.org

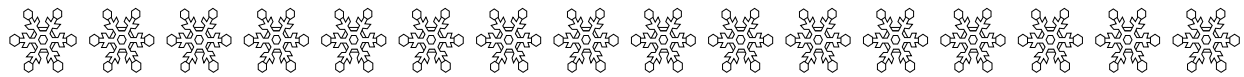
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What are you saying to God today?

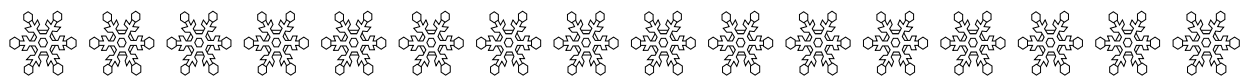
(FOLLOW THE PINK BOXES ON THE FIRST 9 PAGES)



We are moving towards Valentines Day, Ash Wednesday, and Lent. As we move into the season of Lent, I would like to invite you to consider your tradition or practices throughout this season. Do you have the tradition of giving something up? Or, do you intentionally pick something up during Lent? For many, Lent is a forty-day intentional journey. It is a time where we can reflect on Jesus' forty-days of fasting and temptation in the desert. A time to consider what would/could change in our lives if we intentionally focused on God for forty-days? What could we give up in an effort to grow closer to God, so we are not tempted by the idols of the world? What practice could we pick-up to grow closer to God? Regardless of your choice, it is a good season to find a way to grow closer to God. The traditions of Lent and the historical community events are a time to grow closer to God and closer to one another.

I look forward to picking up a habit of daily reading during Lent. I will do some additional devotional time each day, praying and petitioning for God to help me understand the desires for the church and how I can, in both my appointments, be an instrument of change and stimulate change for the better, as we seek to intentionally be instruments of God's presence, peace and grace.

On Sunday, January 28, 2024, the front page of The Gazette, Colorado Springs, headlines read "The changing church: some consolidate, some sell buildings and move, others close their doors." This is not only newsworthy, but noteworthy as we lean into where God is calling us as a church and as a faith community. I bought the Gazette (which I cannot remember the last time I purchased a print newspaper) so I could read this article since I have been invested in the idea of Fresh Expressions of Church and literally had just started reading a book called "Fresh Expression of People over Property", by Audrey Warren and Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. The idea that the church is changing is not a surprise to any of us who have been watching the changing demographics and decline of the church over the past decades. As society changes, we are invited to look at our resources and be good stewards of all the resources God has blessed us with. I am looking forward to reading the book and sharing some thoughts from the book as it looks at "Scripture, Stories, and Strategies to Help People of Faith Reimagine Their Space" – joining Grace on the journey we have begun and looking forward to the tools we can add to the toolbox as we continue to be in intentional conversations



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God, you are worthy of all my praise





A. My name is Inca. Who do I belong to?

Grace Church Dog Quiz

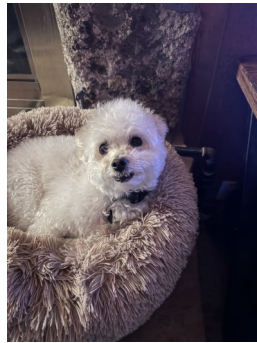
Answers on page 7.



B. My name is Baxter. Do you know who holds my leash?



C. My name is Freya. I stole my master/servant's seat. Guess who it is.



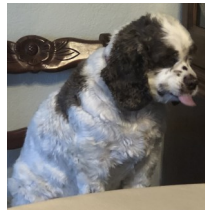
D. Hi, I'm Charlie. I bet everyone knows who my heart belongs to.



E. My owner calls me Gizzy. Any clue what the name of my owner is?



F. Yazzie tops this pair with Ollie being the foundation of this pic. No horsing around when trying to guess our owner.



G. I'm Max. Anyone know what excellent cook is my owner?



H. Hi, I'm Lemon on the right and the brute on the right is Bruce. Any idea who we house with? Quite the commute for us.



I. The speckled Maggie and the Yoda eared Molly. They only travel in their dog-limo truck. Guess who has the responsibility to spoil them.

?
I'm in awe of your goodness each day.

Article for February 2024 Grace Notes

Council Chat –

At our January Council meeting:

We discussed the proposed 2024 Budget [and approved it for presentation at the Annual Conference. Thanks to Becky and Paul for all their work on our Budget and Presentation formats.](#)

Thanks to Kim Prather for his time on the Council. He will continue on as our Jr Warden; in charge of maintaining our Buildings and Grounds.

Mike Williams has agreed to take Kim's place on the Council. He will be elected to the Council at our Annual Meeting.

It has been my honor to serve as Council Chair for the past two years. I am looking forward to serving on Grace Church in different ways – I will continue on the Council, and also as Event Coordinator as we move forward with renting out our Sanctuary and Parish Hall. Rev. Sherry has asked me to step up as Lay Leader, so I look forward to working with her in 2024.

At our Annual Meeting and Charge Conference:

We heard from both our Pastors about their ideas for the Coming Year. *Thanks Rev Christy and Rev Sherry!*

We heard and read about what our Committees accomplished in 2023. *It's amazing what a Church our size can do; and the fact that Outreach gave out \$15,000 is wonderful!*

We approved our Church Budget.

We elected Mike Williams to serve on our Council.

There are extra copies of our Annual Meeting Packet if you didn't receive and want a physical copy.

We heard from Chris Carr (Methodist District Superintendent) about what is happening at the District Level. We approved the 2024 Salary for Rev Sherry Ferriman.

After the meeting the Council had a quick meeting to elect Officers:

2024 Council Members – Susan Shampine, Chair
 Jennifer Wright, Vice-Chair, Lay Leader (Methodist)
 Ann Taylor – Sr Warden (Episcopal)
 Ed Butler
 Peggy Finkowski
 Nancy Fox
 Dorothy Miller
 Mike Williams
 Judy Epperson, Secretary
 Becky Arthur, Treasurer
 Rev Christy Shain-Hendricks, Lead Pastor (Espiscopal)
 Rev Sherry Ferriman, Co-Pastor (Methodist)

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I'm amazed by your love for me.

From the Outreach Committee

February 2024 Outreach Grace Notes article

By Peggy Finkowski

Our committee would like to thank Kat and Kim Prather for their many years of great service and devotion to the Outreach committee. Kat is a wizard of the spread sheet and kept great records for us.

UMCOR = United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR is a nonprofit 501©3 organization. It assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. Last year we sent funds to help after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck in southern Turkey and northwest Syria.

This past September we sent funds to Maui (Hawaii) after the devastating fire. Funds were also designated to this Advance by one of the families of our congregation, thereby doubling our contribution. Our thanks for their demonstration of extravagant love.

Contact information:

Website: umcor.org

You can find a specific project/location (called an Advance) and donate to that specific project if you'd like. 100% of your funds go to the Advance, since UMCOR Sunday collects funds to cover the administrative costs.

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I'm amazed by the beauty of all your creation..

Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." When we sow generously, we reap generously. And remember, the blessings we sow

GRACE CHURCH MEMBERS MAKE NEWS

One of our own makes news here and across the pond!

Our own Evelyn Gottschall Baker traveled to England last week to attend the opening reception of an exhibit at the Stourbridge Glass Museum entitled “The Material of Time: Pate de Verre.” Evelyn is a well known glass artist and has come up with a technique that let her fire glass without using a mold, which has never been done. Evelyn had her “AHA moment one day while walking her dog Sieger near the Rodeo Grounds. There, she found some dis-



carded bones and thought she might make them out of glass someday. When she finally accomplished it, she received an Honorable Mention at Bullseye Glass’s Emerge in 2018—and thus giving her international recognition. The “Bones-Group” will become a permanent part of the museum’s permanent collection.

WAY TO GO EVELYN!!!!

Loose Threads and the Boys & Girls Club

This was a pretty good Christmas for several children in Buena Vista. Thanks to our own Loose Threads and the brainchild of Grace Garrett, a partnership was formed between our church and the Girls and Boys Club. After the Crafts Fair held Saturday, November 4th, instead of boxing up all the unsold and leftover items, they were brought to the Boys and Girls Club and set up so children could “purchase” them for their family and friends. It truly was a great idea that is planned for next year also.



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Thank you for loving me despite
all the mistakes I've made.

Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday Mashup

Because Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day this year, February 14 gives us a real clash of messages!

As stewards of both our personal lives and our greater world, what can we make of a day that, on the one hand says sweetly, "I love you," and on the other hand says sternly, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return"? How should we observe a day with such disjointed messages?

Putting them together, we can come up with some interesting responses.

Ash Wednesday tells us that our lives are finite and fleeting, a truth woven throughout the Bible. Psalm 103:15 says our lives are like the grass that flourishes and then is gone. Ash Wednesday also reminds us that we are in the hands of the creator God who decreed that our earthly lives begin and end in dust.

And although our culture revels in romantic love, the Bible gives us a wider vision of love that we can aspire to: love through care and concern for the world, for creation and those around us.

Putting the two messages together, we know there is no delaying our call to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and to provide for the least among us (Matthew 25:31-46).

With wars raging in Ukraine and Gaza, refugee crises across the globe and Covid on the rise (to name just a few problems), perhaps this can be the year you can send a "Valentine" someone who needs not only love, but food, medicine, shelter and clothes. Many reputable church charities would gladly use your contribution to help the neediest.

Who are the people in your church and community who need your love and your care? How can you, both individually and congregationally, love and assist them?

The diverse messages of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day give us a prime opportunity to grow in faith, love and discipleship –while there's time.

-Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2024, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.

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Thank you for protecting those
you love.

Answers to The Grace Church Dog Quiz

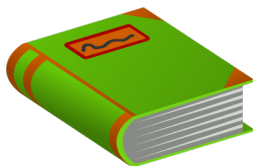
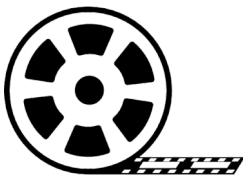
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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| A Peg & Jim Finkowski | F. Susan Shampine |
| B Jennifer Wright | G. Ampy Swart |
| C. Becky Arthur | H. Sherry Ferriman |
| D. Grace Garrett | I. Ann & Gary Taylor |
| E. Becky Arthur | |



On another (Grace) Note

What You're Watching

The AMERICANS on Hulu. A really thrilling drama that follows along the lines of the cold war era American and international history. Keeps you on the edge of your seat as you grow to despise some of the characters as they play their rolls on the screen. Six seasons with thirteen episodes per season. Watch the FBI battle against the spies sent to undermine the will of the US governments. Down side is that it does have violence, nudity, foul language, and plenty to irritate you.



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Thank you for creating good things
and keeping your promises.

**** Reminder ****

Next time you make a cake,
pie, cookies, etc., make
an extra for those
"unsponsored" coffee hours.



I was just
Thinking.....

My teacher told me not to
worry about spelling
because in the future there
will be autocorrect. And
for that I am eternally
grapefruit.

January at Grace



The Prayer Shawl Blessing



Warmer swimming here!



Guess whose back yard this moose strolled through.



It's not a rumble, it's Passing the Peace at Grace Church



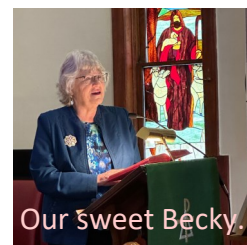
Rev Christy, Chris Carr, and Rev Sherry at the Annual Meeting



Guess who is fishing in Mexico.

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I love you, Lord.



Our sweet Becky.

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February Birthdays

- February 28 John Epperson
- February 28 Matthew Vish

February Anniversaries

- February 10 Ann & Gary Taylor

Flowers

- Feb 4 Deb Scherger/Neut Klusmire
- Feb 11 Allison Jubert
- Feb 18 Lent, no flowers
25

Coffee Hour

- Feb 4 Grace Garrett
- Feb 11 Allison Jubert
- Feb 18 Ann & Gary Taylor
- Feb 25 John & Judy Epperson

IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 1** Grace Women's Breakfast 9am
- Feb 5** Women's Bible Study
- Feb 12** 9:30 am
- Feb 19** Parish Hall
- Feb 26**
- Feb 14** Ash Wednesday Services
CUCC 6pm
- Feb 25** Prayer & Spirituality 1:15 am
- Feb 27** Graceful Readers 10 am Parish Hall
- Feb 21** Soup dinners at Grace for
Lent. 6 pm
- Mar 6** (Dinners on Feb 24, 28, and
March 13 at CUCC)
- Mar 20**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

WHOLE GRAIN BANANA PANCAKES (for diabetics)

Whisk in large bowl:
 1 c whole wheat flour
 1 c all-purpose flour
 4 tsp baking powder
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 1/2 tsp salt

Whisk in smaller bowl:
 2 large eggs
 2 c fat-free milk (I use 2%)
 2/3 c mashed ripe bananas (I use 3 bananas that
 have been frozen and then thawed)
 1 TBS olive oil
 1 TBS maple syrup
 1/2 tsp vanilla

Combine liquid into dry ingredients. Mix but not
 thoroughly.....should have lumps

1/4 c in hot skillet per pancake.
 Freeze between waxed paper

good stuff!!! From Chris Nervig

Spinach Balls From Janet Heinz

2 (10 oz) boxes frozen spinach, drained well

3/4 cup melted unsalted butter

1 medium onion , finely chopped

4 eggs

1/2 cup fresh grated parmesan cheese

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/4 teaspoon pepper

2 cups seasoned bread crumbs

Combine ingredients. Shaped into walnut-sized
 balls. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes or until browned,