

**GRACE CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2801 GARFIELD ST.
TWO RIVERS**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:
8:00 & 10:30 AM**

**ADULT EDUCATION
9:30 AM**

**920-553-1222
WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG**

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



June 2, 2019

Worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion
Recognition of High School Graduates at 10:30 a.m.
Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

June 9, 2019---Pentecost---RED!!

Worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion
Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

June 16, 2019

Worship at 9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion
Adult Education at 8:30 a.m.

June 2019

Reflecting Together

Kim M. Henning

WHY YOU NEED THE CHURCH

Jean Vanier died last week. You maybe heard that announcement on Public Radio. By chance, our study classes are reading his recent book, "Living Gently in a Violent World."

Jean Vanier is responsible for organizing communities that care for men and women with disabilities. The idea of forming L'Arche communities ("The Ark.") came when Vanier visited an institution where 2 people with disabilities were pretty much ignored. He couldn't stomach that. In response, he purchased a house where he and the men could live. He believed that each human being deserves care and respect.

He writes, "..... we are not very austere or stressed, struggling to be heroes. We eat wonderfully, we drink merrily—of course Coca-Cola, orange juice and now again, wine and beer, moderately---we sing loudly and frequently out of tune, and we dance wildly and we play as much as possible. Feast days, birthdays are all occasions or parties and for fun..... The heart of L'Arche is to rejoice and to celebrate unity. We would like to be little signs of the kingdom of God, the Kingdom of love."

I first learned about L'Arche about 25 years ago. Henri Nouwen was teaching at Harvard. At Harvard he learned that this amazing school of higher education had become a burden to him. He was lonely. He felt empty. He was confused about his life's purpose. With all its popularity, the way of life at Harvard seemed contrary to the humility of Jesus.

Nouwen was invited by Vanier to serve as a chaplain at L'Arche in Toronto, where he then lived the rest of life in community with men who had disabilities. "Adam" is the book he wrote that describes life at L'Arche.

The church values the vitality of L'Arche communities. They are a bit like the clients at Emmaus Home who have twice visited us in Two Rivers. (A third is being planned!) Living with individuals with disabilities enables us to experience meaning that easily gets lost in the crazy haste of life. People with disabilities slow us down, and they help us to notice wonder and beauty.

But Vanier is clear: L'Arche is not paradise; L'Arche needs the church. The church practices life that announces the sacredness of each human being. The church reminds L'Arche and other such communities that no one is disposable or replaceable. Though we never do this perfectly, the church is where for the sake of Jesus we set ego aside and practice servant ministry. Paul taught that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female (genius or mental disability; my insertion)."

Which brings me to my last point: not only does L'Arche need the church; you need the church and I do too. No one is an island. Life that is pitiful is life that is self-absorbed. A Sunday does not pass that I do not regret something I've said and learn that I must improve my behavior. A Sunday does not pass that I have not learned something beautiful through the heart of a child. The church is that community of God's Holy Spirit that transforms us into gentler, more caring people. God have mercy, if any one of us thinks we can do that on our own.

PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE

Say, "Person with a disability" instead of "Disabled or Handicapped."

Say, "Person with Cerebral Palsy" instead of "CP or Spastic."

Say, "Person who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing" instead of "Deaf and dumb."

Say, "Person with an Intellectual Disability" instead of "Mentally Retarded or Retard."

Say, "Person with Epilepsy or Person with a Seizure Disorder" instead of "Epileptic."

Say, "Person who uses a Wheelchair" instead of "Confined to a Wheelchair."

Say "Person with Down Syndrome" instead of "Mongoloid or Retard."

Say "Person who has a Physical Disability" instead of "Crippled."

Say, ""Non-Disables" instead of "Normal or Healthy."

Say "Accessible Parking" instead of "Handicapped parking."

Thoughts from Pastor Colie

As I write this to you, I am on campus at Lancaster Theological Seminary (in Lancaster, PA), the school where I am working on my Doctor of Ministry degree. For the last 2 years, I have had a week on campus here each semester as I have learned and grown both personally and in skills for ministry and leadership. This week in particular is an exciting one as I am working hard at "honing in" on my dissertation topic. As you are reading this, it is likely that I am now on sabbatical -- and one of the primary intentions for this time away is to be working on my dissertation, so I thought you all might be interested in hearing a little bit what it is about!

I am part of a generation that is known as "Millennials". Although the term 'Millennial' is sometimes used interchangeably with 'young person', a Millennial is a specific generational designation. Currently, Millennials are between the ages of 23 and 38 -- some of us are not quite so young anymore! At all levels of church life (local churches, wider church meetings, even seminary schools), people are talking about Millennials. Mostly, the conversations are about how Millennials are leaving the church (or, many of them were never even in the church to begin with). When asked about their religious affiliation, 35% of Millennials say that are "nothing in particular". This is compared to the 21% of Millennials who identify as evangelical Protestants, 16% who are Catholic, and 11% that are Mainline Protestant.*** ("Mainline Protestant" is a group that would include us in the UCC, plus Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, and a few others). Even when controlled for factors like current age, these numbers are considerably lower than for previous generations.

So, as I said, everyone is talking about Millennials, primarily with a concern for the future of the church. As church membership has declined in the last several decades, church leaders who are clergy and laypeople alike worry about if the church will continue on and what it will look like for future generations. When church folk talk about Millennials, often they are asking questions like: Why aren't they here? And what can we do to convince them to come back?

These are important questions to be asking, but I think that sometimes we focus so much on the Millennials that aren't in church that we miss the ones that are there. And I know there are Millennials active and engaged in church, because I am one of them! At Grace we are blessed with several folks who fall in to this 'millennial' age range who are a vital part of our congregation.

So, with all that as background, this is the question that I will be investigating in my dissertation research: *Among Millennials that are active in a traditional congregation, how and why have they made the decision to be engaged in a church, when so many of their peers have made other decisions?*

Because I want to compare millennials in the church with those outside, my research will involve identifying millennial sibling pairs where one sibling is an active member of a church and the other is not. Focusing on UCC churches within WI, I will be looking for sibling sets like this to interview and try to figure out why and how they have come to different decisions about church involvement.

Wish me luck! I look forward to sharing with you all soon more about what I am learning.

***Want to see where these numbers come from? See this article, or go online to the Pew Research Center and search for more articles about Millennials. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/05/12/millennials-increasingly-are-driving-growth-of-nones/>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP 2019
Last page of Newsletter

PASTOR COLIE BETTIVIA---SABBATICAL

Pastor Colie is on sabbatical DURING June and July. She is not available by phone or personal visit these two months. If you need any assistance, please contact Pastor Kim Henning at church (553-1222), at his home (553-2888), or by e-mail (khenning1956@gmail.com).

CHURCH CABINET

Moderator, Don DeBruyn **Treasurer**, Linda Justema **Clerk**, Rein Elias
Financial Sec, Chris Blimel **Trustee Chair**, Todd Moolenaar
Diaconate Chair, Zachary Peterson
Board of Christian Ed Chair, Katie Ver Haagh
Mission & Outreach Chair, Joe DeGroot
Pastor Kim-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jeff Harding
Pastor Colie-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jim Miller
Members-at-Large, Brianna Brixius & Joe DeGroot

Stewardship Corner for Grace Congregational United Church of Christ:

Total 2019 Expected Pledges	\$374,054
Pledge Income Received during April	\$31,663
Loose Offering Received during April	\$1,203
Sunday School Offerings During April	\$9

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 Gifts of Mission and Compassion (April)

Capital Campaign (Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center)	\$1,368
(\$2962 this year!)	
Lenten Offering: (Painting Pathways; CP Center; Morija Seminary)	\$1,971
(\$3383 this year!)	

A note from your pastor..... Thank you for caring. We will be able to send a check for over \$1000 to Morija Seminary which nearly covers the expense of one minister in Lesotho for an entire year. Thank you for recognizing the need and responding.....

April Expenditures:

\$2,668.50---Dues to the Northeast Association of the United Church of Christ
\$646---Van's Fire and Safety---inspection of our fire suppression system
\$360---Wisconsin Public Service)
\$206---Choir Music
\$3,500---Our Church's Wider Mission (a monthly commitment to the wider church)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

On Sunday, June 2 at its 10:30 worship service, our church will recognize our high school graduates. For some of these we were blessed to officiate at their baptism, 17 or 18 years ago. For some of these, we shared a week of Vacation Bible School as they were but young children. For some of these, we enjoyed time together in Confirmation Class, a trip to St. Louis, and maybe even the Appalachia Service Project. For all of these we applaud our youth and their parents at a significant time in their lives. Thank you, high school seniors, for allowing us to be part of your lives.

Autumn Buchholz, daughter of Aaron and Lynn Buchholz
Chuck Griffin, son of Jason and Brit Griffin
Parker Heimerl, son of Josh and Ashlee Heimerl
Donald Heinsohn, son of Bill and Jeanne Heinsohn
Austin Krueger, son of Heather and Mike Krueger
Adrianna Powalisz, daughter of Jack and Jeanne Powalisz
Emilee Rysticken, daughter of Craig and Nancee Rysticken
Kelcie Shimulunas, daughter of Katina Shallue and the late Christopher Shimulunas
Haley Tadych, daughter of Jamie and Karen Tadych
Alyssa Taylor, daughter of Wayne and Lisa Taylor
Ty Wichlacz, son of Todd Wichlacz and Andrea Wichlacz

NEWS FROM THE CABINET

On Sunday, May 5, the Cabinet hosted a meal for new members. Sponsors introduced our new members: Charles and Jan Lohmeyer, Troy and Nicole Thor and daughter Callie, Minda Kohlbeck and son Averick, Dorothy and Jerry Holschbach, Scott Schroeter and daughter Hallie, Robert Peaslee, Tyler and Ashley Mecha and daughter Emory, and Travis and Lindsay Haack and their children Khloe and Kambrie. Members of the Cabinet were introduced and said a few words about themselves and their roles on the Cabinet. We are grateful to the members of our Diaconate who set up, served and cleaned up after the meal, to Josh Willis for his home-smoked pulled pork, and to Cabinet members and their families who brought food for the potluck meal. Please help us welcome these folks and make them feel at home in our church family.

At our May 14 meeting we learned that our Trustees are working on a plan to help us fulfill the remainder of our pledged support to the CAMPITAL campaign for our church camps by the end of 2022. The Board of Mission and Outreach will be meeting soon to distribute the remaining \$20,000 provided by the Marie Christensen Shea bequest. Our Board of Christian Education is looking for helpers in the nursery this summer, and also for teachers and group leaders for the new rotation model planned for Sunday School this fall. Anyone interested in helping with Sunday School, or learning more about it is invited to a meeting planned for **May 28 at 5:30 pm**. The Women of Grace have been washing windows in the Fellowship Hall and educational wing. Around 20 have signed up to attend their day trip to Door County on May 25. The Earth Care Festival held on May 4 at UWGB Manitowoc County (which was organized by our Earth Care Ministry in partnership with the League of Women Voters and Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Fellowship) drew around 150 people and received high praise from those attending.

Pastor Colie is attending classes at Lancaster Seminary the week of May 19. She will return to church for the last week of May, before beginning her sabbatical in June and July to work on her doctoral project. She will be researching millenials in the church, and she is happy to explain more if you ask her.

Cabinet selected a Ministry Discernment Committee to work with Nicole Herda as she prepares for Christian ministry. The members are Renee Anderson, Brianna Brixius, Linda Justema, Hal Lexow and Todd Moolenaar.

At least 8 people have expressed interest in serving on a task force to explore becoming an "open and affirming" congregation. The initial meeting of this group is planned at **7 pm on May 29**.

The Cabinet does not plan to meet in June. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9 at 6 pm.

Submitted by Moderator Don DeBruyn on May 20

PASTOR PARISH MEETING FOR PASTOR KIM

The Pastor/Parish Committee discussed several topics at our last meeting. We discussed how blessed Grace Church is. So many talented members in musical areas. A growing vibrant membership. So many giving, caring members. Pastor said the St. Louis adult trip was enjoyable and inspiring. We also discussed the need for support for our Church Camps! The camps are a blessing, and need to be supported by our Church! Our last topic was a discussion on ways to make all people welcome at Grace Church. We will need to involve the membership in this important topic in the future.

DIACONATE OUTING

The diaconate will be doing a family fun day at Bay Beach park in Green Bay July 28th after church. We will meet up there around 11:30/12:00 as a group. We would like to do a picnic up there at that time, provide your own food/drinks. At 3:00 we will meet at one of the pavilions for ice cream. If anyone needs to car pool please contact a diaconate member so we can arrange rides.

WOMEN OF GRACE NOTES FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER

Special Dates to Remember:

PLEASE SAVE YOUR EMPTY ICE CREAM BUCKETS AND BRING THEM TO CHURCH BY JULY 10TH!

CALLING ALL BAKERS: We will need to fill 37+ buckets with cookies so please bake cookies and bring them to the church kitchen on or before July 11th! We hear that the ASP group's favorite cookies are chocolate chip. Please mark your cookie donation if they have nuts in them.

Thursday, July 11th @ 12noon in the Grace Congregational kitchen: We will be filling cookies in ice cream buckets for our ASP crew for their trip!

Next regular meeting will be at the end of August. We will let you know the date and time of that meeting in the **August newsletter**.

Seventeen women went on our day trip to Hands On Art Studio! We all had a terrific time and made some awesome crafts. The crafts the group chose to make were: metal garden stakes, glass stain garden stakes, sun catchers, glass jewelry pieces, painted glasses, pottery and mosaics. All these crafts turned out great! We plan to go again next year... we hope more women will join us!!

Have a great summer and please remember, that all women of Grace Congregational are members of WOMEN OF GRACE! Blessings, Amy LeGreve and Pamela Van Ess.

THANK YOUs FROM YOUR MUSIC DIRECTOR



Thank you to all of the youth and parents that helped with the musical this year. We are blessed to have the presence of young people in our church community! And we are grateful for their willingness to give up time on Saturday mornings and at home to learn the musical and practice together. Thank you to the parents who also gave up precious time to help out. We are so grateful!

Thank you to all of the people who shared their time and talent this year for special music. Your presence in this community is greatly appreciated!



EARTH CARE MINISTRY PLANS FIELD TRIP ON JUNE 22

Our Earth Care Ministry is organizing an educational field trip to the 30th annual Energy Fair presented by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association at their grounds in Custer, Wisconsin from June 21-23. The fair offers many workshops on topics like renewable energy, energy-efficient buildings, clean transportation, and sustainable farming and gardening, as well as on public policy and teaching children about the environment. There will also be exhibitors from the solar and wind energy industry, nonprofits engaged in environmental and social justice work, and electric vehicles on display. There are also fun educational activities for children and food available. The cost for a day pass is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and youth 13-18. Children 12 and under are admitted free as are members of the MREA. You can view the workshop schedule and learn more online at www.TheEnergyFair.org.

Custer is just east of Stevens Point on US Highway 10. If you would like to carpool with others from church, please contact Jim & Susie Miller by email (jim.susie.miller@gmail.com) or phone (684-4862). This is an opportunity to learn how we can better care for God's gift of creation and all people who depend on it.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Laurel Castro
Lisa Yanda
- 3 - Sheri Wagner
- 5 - Josh Rysticken
Shelby Gulseth
- 6 - Keith Barneson
Brittney Pham
Koral Rose Curkeet
- 8 – Laura Rozmarynoski
- 9 - Sue Kurtz
- 10 - Victoria Edinger
Scott DeRosier
- 12 – Brynn Hampton-Gregory
Greyson Hampton-Gregory
- 14 - Kim Henning
- 15 –Sophia Heuer
Dennis McCullough
- 16 - Debbie Timm
Sue DeKok
- 17 - Kendall Brey
- 18 - Bonnie Burmeister
Kathy Nichols
Jason Wargin
- 19 - Joy Schramm
- 20 – Caden O’Connor
- 21 - Jeanne Brey
Jessica Christensen
Rein Elias
Caleb Kurth
- 22 - Marcia Donlon
Chuck Griffin
- 23 - Joel Brey
- 24 - Jean Machut
Bracken Tadych
Michelle Taylor

- 25 – Tina Babino
Randy Edinger
Lauren Wargin
- 26 – Bill Freiberg
Andrew Nichols
- 28 - Lisa Onderbeke
Owen Moore
- 29 –Ella Basken
Marlene Markowski
Joshua Heise
Eric Kimmes
- 30 - Doris Swoboda
Gavin Stradal

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Jim Konitzer and Linda Justema
- 2 - Troy and Krystle Zich
- 3 - Bill and Carol Gruetzmacher
Robert and Laura Steeber
- 5 - Keith and Pamela Van Ess
- 7 - Ron and Joan Meissner
- 10 - Dan and Connie Blashka
Karl and Stephanie Kahlenberg
Josh and Stephanie Willis
- 11 Wayne and Jean Machut

- 11-Bob and Sue Brull
GaryandJennisa Novitski
- 12 - Rick and Colleen Inman
- 13 - David and Sarah Gallagher
Richard and Mary Halsey
- 14 - Chad and Mindy Bauknecht
- 15 - John and Mary Wallace
- 17 - Larry and Kathy Peterson
Joseph and Michelle Hearley
- 19 - Jason and Alanna Duvall
- 21 – Richard and Joan Dewey
Randy and Linda Edinger
Mike and Debbie Timm
- 22 – Collin and Sheri Wagner
Paul and Wendy Smith
- 23 – Craig and Sara Schuh
- 26 - Dave and Amy Loomis
Matthew and Kelly Grumann

**THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY TEAM OF
THE NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION of the
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**INVITE ALL MEMBERS,
FRIENDS AND CLERGY
to the**

**ORDINATION AND INSTALLAION
OF
DIANE CAYEMBERG**

**AS PASTOR AND TEACHER OF
BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
W4225 County Line Road, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019
3:00 P.M.**

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

HOSPITALIZED

Todd Moolenaar was a patient at Aurora Medical Center.

Randy Wilson was a patient at the VA Hospital in Milwaukee.

Isy Henrickson has been released from Aurora Medical Center.

Joan Dewey was a patient at Aurora Medical Center.

Sarah Coenen was a patient at Aurora Medical Center.

Andrew Nichols was a patient at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison.

OUR SYMPATHY

A funeral service for Dick Ertman was held on April 29th. We offer our sympathy to his wife, Helen, and their six children: Danny Ertman, Kay and Michael Hannes, Barry Ertman, Kris and Bob Miller, Susan Ertman and Randy Ertman.

A funeral service was held for Terri Sosnosky on Saturday, May 4. Terri died on Sunday, April 28 at her home. Terri is survived by her husband, Bob; her daughters, Lauren and Megan; and her father, Glenn Schultz.

We offer our sympathy to Diane Leiteritz and her family as they grieve the death of her husband, Tod. Tod died on May 10, and a memorial service was held on Thursday, May 16.

We offer our sympathy to the Holschbach family as they grieve the death of their grandmother, Edna Hutterer. Edna died on May 13, and her funeral service was held, May 19th.



Hope House
of Manitowoc County **HOST WEEK**

Hope House The **next host week is June 23-June 30th**. Looking for generous volunteers to help. Let me Thank You in advance for your continued dedication to this project.

BAPTISM

May 12th 8:00 a.m. service of worship, sisters Khloe Eileen and Kambrielle Ann Haack were baptized. Their mother, Lindsay Michelle (Haag) Haack was baptized today as well. In addition to parents Travis and Lindsay, those celebrating with Khloe and Kambrielle include grandparents and great-grandparents: Jerry Haag, Tim & Ann Haack, Bill & Joyce Haack, Dave & Janice Morse, Eileen Perronne, and Lennie Weiss. Chosen as Godparents for Khloe are Jennifer Tuesburg and Seth Morse. Chosen as Godparents for Kambrielle are Heather Cudahy and Jaiden Haack.

May 12th 10:30 a.m. service of worship, Emory Mae Mecha, daughter of Tyler and Ashley Mecha, was baptized. Those celebrating with Emory today include her grandparents, Ron & Sherri Retzloff and Denise Mecha; and great-grandparents Mary Ann Simono, Tom Simono, Jack Retzloff, Roger & Darlene Hengel, and Frank Wiltman. Chose as Godparents for Emory are Brad Mecha and Tiffany Hanson

THANK YOU

I Asked for Eight Volunteers and got Ten! Thank you for all the people that volunteered and showed up to help put away food for the Letter Carriers Food Drive last Saturday, May 11th at TREP. Those that were there were Bill and Betsy Freiberg, Linda and Richard Langman, Mary Wallace, Lynn Hutterer, Frank Bauknecht, Mike Bauknecht, Karl Schindl, and Joan and Paul Schmid. Many hands make work light!

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON GROUP

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. **June 18th, at Kurtz's in Two Rivers at 11:30 a.m.** Contact Chris Blimel at 793-2204 or Sandy Monka at 553-2047 if you will be going.

INTRODUCTION OF MINDA KOHLBECK

Kathy and I are honored to introduce to you Minda Kohlbeck. And her son Averick. We first met Minda 3 years ago at our grandson Auden's piano recital shortly after she started dating our son Zak. They met on a blind date set up by a mutual friend. Minda is the only child of Dave and Penny Kohlbeck and her family is very important to her. She grew up in the Reedsville/Valders area and is a graduate of Valders High school. Some of you may recognize her from The Gil in Whitelaw, a supper club that was owned by her family for many years. She went on to college to pursue a degree in education but decided she wanted to work in finance. She is a Card Services Associate at Bank First in Manitowoc, a job that she loves. She also enjoys interior decorating and especially decorating their home. She has even been hired to decorate other peoples' homes. She is very nurturing and loving to Auden and Ashton, and loves attending their sports events. She is now a Purple Raider fan! She has gifted us with our 2 year old grandson Averick, and another grandchild due the beginning of October. And, October 26th she will officially become our daughter-in-law. When asked what brought her to wanting to join Grace, besides Zak and the boys, she said the first Sunday she visited Pastor Kim had a Baptism and it really touched her heart, and also, there was continued subtle encouragement from Pastor Colie. She also said the people are so warm, friendly and welcoming. Minda, thanks for making Zak and the boys so happy. Please join us in welcoming Minda Kohlbeck, soon to be Peterson, and Averick to our church Family.

INTRODUCTION JANE AND CHARLES LOHMEYER

Mary and I met Jane and Charles Lohmeyer some 15 years ago at the First Presbyterian Church in Manitowoc. We have been friends since. They were members of the church for 30 plus years and were active as deacons and on various committees. They have three adult children, two lovely granddaughters and two papillon dogs. They enjoy traveling and spending summers at their cottage in Door County.

Charles grew up near Washington, Missouri, graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a degree in Chemistry. He worked in the Midwest and moved his family to Manitowoc in the late 1970's. Charles started and managed the international sales and marketing department at Red Arrow Products and travelled throughout the world setting up local distribution channels for the company. Retired now, he misses his foreign friends, but does not miss the long airplane flights. He now enjoys gardening and baking pies (wonderful, by the way) as well as developing habitats for wildlife.

Jane grew up in Washington, Missouri as well and graduated with degrees in Psychology and Sociology. She, too, is now retired and enjoys volunteering in the community, serving as wardrobe mistress for the local Nutcracker production and volunteering at golf events. She also was deeply involved in showing dogs and chaired a large AKC dog show cluster some time ago.

Please join us Rein & Mary Elias in welcoming Jane and Charles to Grace Congregational. Thanks you

INTRODUCTION OF SCOTT SCHROETER & daughter HALLIE

So excited to introduce you to Scott and Hallie Schroeter. Scott has been a member of UCC his whole life starting out at St Pauls in Silver Creek and then St Johns in Manitowoc where he married his wife Jenny!

when asked what drew him to Grace Congregational, he responded, your grace. Hallie really likes Grace Congregational and it made it easier for me to get Hallie to church. But all around, the Youth programs and the opportunity women have to serve in the UCC.

Hallie is 11 years old and is a 5th grader at Madison in Manitowoc. She enjoys snow boarding and loves animals. She wants to be a vet some day and said she will always have a dog.

Scott is an Ag Bank Officer with Investors Community Bank. He grew up on a dairy farm and worked on a farm for 6 years with his parents. He has played sports his entire life and played football for Lakeland. He enjoys coaching and says, "sometimes a little encouragement from an adult can go a long way...a coach that encouraged/talked with him 5min/day, changed his life. He looks forward to helping with the Sunday School programming in the fall. Please help us Jon and Stacy Backus welcome them into Grace Congregational.

INTRDUCTION OF TROY & NICOLE THOR, daughter CALLIE

Good morning! I'm here today to introduce our new members, the Thor family. Troy currently works at Schaus Roofing and Mechanical. In his free time he is an avid hunter. Niki works as a claims specialist in Manitowoc and enjoys spending as much time as possible with her friends and family.

Troy and Niki were married in December of 2015. After years of prayers God blessed them with Callie in January of this year. In addition to Callie they have two fur babies, basset hounds named Riggs and Murray. They are currently in the process of selling their home in Valders and are looking for a home in the Mishicot area in order to be closer to family. This also led them to look for a church to call home in this area. Thus, they found themselves here with us at Grace and they report that from the minute Pastor Kim welcomed them with open arms they knew they had found the perfect fit for their family. As their friend and photographer I couldn't be happier they are here. I hope you all get to know Troy's witty sense of humor, Niki's sweet and caring personality, and that you enjoy watching Callie grow, seemingly every day, and love this family as much as I do. Please join me Jenissa Novitski in welcoming the Thor family.

INTRODUCTION OF TYLER & ASHLEY MECHA, daughter EMORY

Mandy and I have the special opportunity to introduce Tyler & Ashley Mecha and their beautiful baby girl Emory. Mandy has known both Tyler and Ashley almost her entire life. They are the perfect example that you do not need to be blood related to be family. They are both very compassionate about family and friends – always willing to lend a hand. They're both from the Manitowoc area. They were married in December of '17 and were blessed with Emory in November 2018.

Tyler is a Millwright at Miron Construction and has been with the company for 12 years. Ashley is a social worker at Lakeland Care. Ashley first started attending Grace through her previous employment and felt very welcomed and comfortable in the church. After attending the church together they decided that Grace is a perfect fit for their new family to grow in. It is with great pleasure that Todd & Mandy Moolenaar introduce Tyler, Ashley and Emory Mecha to you!

INTRODUCTION OF ROBERT PEASLEE

I would like to introduce you to Rob Peaslee. Rob and I met while attending the same church in Manitowoc. Rob was a member of his previous church for 68 years. He was an elder and helped with many other projects the church needed help with.

Rob is the owner of Grey Iron Foundry. This foundry has been in his family for many years and he is very proud to keep the family business going.

Rob was born and raised in Manitowoc, a graduate of Lincoln H.S. and furthered his education at Platteville. He graduated from Platteville with an engineering degree.

Rob and his wife, Vickie, love to travel. They go on many vacations each year and in the summer months spend a lot of their weekends up in Door County.

They do not have any dogs or cats, but they do have a parrot. The funny thing about this parrot is that you can throw a cardboard drink coaster in the air like a frisbee and the parrot will catch it and then play with it. So if you ever need help training a parrot, you know who to call.

I am very honored to welcome Rob Peaslee into our church family. Sincerely, Lori Waniger

INTRODUCTION OF TRAVIS AND LINDSAY HAACK

My name is Hannah Morse and I have the pleasure of being the sponsor for Travis, Lindsay, Khloe, and Kambrie Haack. Travis works at Broadway Automotive in GreenBay. Lindsay works at Styles here in Two Rivers as a hair dresser. Khloe is seven years old and is in first grade, and Kambrie is four years old. The Haacks have lived in five different houses in the past six years. They were finally ready to plant their roots somewhere, and they have now lived in Two Rivers for just over a year. They have chosen Two Rivers and are now choosing Grace Congregational UCC.

INTRODUCTION OF DOROTHY AND JERRY HOLSCHBACH

My name is Austin Holschbach and I have the pleasure of being the sponsor of Jerry and Dorothy Holschbach. They have both become well accustomed to Grace starting as far back as my confirmation. Since then, they have attended more frequently and volunteer often. They have, most recently, decided to become members. Even though they have just become members, Jerry and Dorothy are very active in the church. They both attend bible study on Mondays while Dorothy is also a part of the Women of Grace. The Moon Beach relaxing weekend is a part of their list of trips, for the past few years, where they have brought 8 of their 12 grandchildren. But, most recently, left them behind on the adult trip to St. Louis. Jerry and Dorothy are great additions to Grace.

A THANK YOU FROM A PAST NEW MEMBER

Dearest Grace Congregational Friends....

As most of you know I have been in the hospital & now healing at home. I got an infection in my artificial knee and had to have my knee removed until the infection was gone. I received a card in the mail from Pastor Kim inside was a gift card to Pick N Save. The person who gave this wanted to remain anonymous but I just wanted to thank them.

So THANK YOU!

If all goes well I am scheduled June 24th to get my new knee! Keep me in your prayers Love Sarah Coenen

A quote from Sarah: Patience is the healthiest ingredient of our life...Always pray and never give up!



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - GENERAL SYNOD 2019

June 21 - June 25, 2019 / *Wisconsin Center* - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

General Synod is a gathering of the United Church of Christ that occurs every-other year. For the first time in our church's 62 year history, General Synod is gathering right here in the State of Wisconsin. (Pastor Colie is a Wisconsin Conference Delegate to General Synod! Bravo!)

If you are interested in this gathering, you may go on-line (Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ---General Synod) and register as a visitor or as a volunteer. The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ needs 200 volunteers to assist with hospitality (at the airport, at the Wisconsin Center, at the Train station); ushering; child-care; and more. If you are interested, you can register through our conference's web site: www.wcucc.org

A small group of us from Grace Congregational Church are planning to attend the Sunday events at General Synod. We will depart at 11:00 a.m. from our church's parking lot and drive to the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. There is no cost (except parking) to come to General Synod on Sunday, June 23. The worship service begins at 2:30 (Traci Blackmon preaching) and guests are welcome to come earlier or to linger after worship to peruse the exhibit hall (near the worship center). At about 4 p.m., the United Church of Christ is hosting an outdoor festival about 3 blocks away at a park. Food trucks, music, art, and crafts will be on-site..... We will head back to Two Rivers about 6 p.m. Interested? Speak to Pastor Kim Henning!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION EXPRESSED BY PASTOR KIM

EMPATHY DEFICIT

Since the 1960s researchers have been studying the empathy levels of young people. They noted a sharp decline around 2000, and by 2007 they found that young people were 40% less sympathetic than the previous generation. Their empathy appears as another form of tribalism; they tend to be empathetic only toward people like themselves (NPR, April 15).

ICE MELTS

Between 1961 and 2016 glaciers lost 9 trillion tons of ice, resulting in a global sea level rise of 27 millimeters, slightly over an inch. About 335 billion tons of glacier ice melt each year, causing the seas to rise by about one millimeter. "Globally, we lose about three times the ice volume sorted in the entirety of the European Alps---every year!" says glaciologist Michael Zemp (University of Zurich, April 8).

MISSING WOMEN

Only a fourth of the people involved in international nuclear nonproliferation talks are women. They reject the idea that women are more dovish than men. However, there's evidence that in negotiations women tend to be more collaborative and cooperative. They are also less likely to be overconfident than men in the field, which reduces the risk of rash actions leading to nuclear devastation (Foreign Policy, April 15).

SISTERS IN ACTION

JP Morgan recently announced it would no longer finance private prison corporations like Geo Group Inc. and Core Civic. These two companies had had a role in detaining immigrants on the southern border, and they have been charged with allowing physical and sexual abuse and providing poor medical care. The campaign to dissuade JPMorgan from private prison financing was spearheaded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood, New York (Catholic News Service, March 10).

SHORTFALL

Each religious congregation would need to raise an additional \$400,000 each year for the next ten years to make up for the proposed cuts to anti-hunger and antipoverty programs in the 2022 federal budget. "While religious congregations and charities play an important role" in meeting human need, "federal programs provide ten times more in food assistance," said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World (Bread for the World, March 13).

Emmaus Homes

Our friends in Two Rivers,

THANK YOU for the wonderful visit. I hope you found your time to be valuable and that you learned more about Emmaus as a ministry.

When everyone arrived and handed me your donations of gift cards, towels, and home décor, I was unable to fully take in just how much you were giving! WOW! Our clients are going to LOVE going out to eat and will benefit from the new items for their homes. Our managers know who has a need and will distribute this accordingly.

I also heard that you purchased pizza for our Emmaus folks as well---we really appreciate that. I know the clients had been looking forward to the outing.

We are pleased that Emmaus can continue to stay connected to Grace and many of our UCC partners. In this new season of inclusion, it remains vitally important.

We appreciate your generosity and loving hearts.

Shawna O'Toole, Director of Development

REFLECTIONS ON A ST. LOUIS TRIP.....

On April 28, fifteen adults from Grace Congregational Church left for a five-day trip to St. Louis. The individuals in our group included Jerry Holschbach, Dorothy Holschbach, Betty Becker, Hope Boudnik, Chris Bauknecht, Frank Bauknecht, Fay Henning, Bruce Fehrman, Donna Fehrman, Don DeBruyn, Linda Langman, Joan Taddy, Keith Barneson, Cheryl Barneson and Kim Henning.

Why was this trip valuable?

The church is more than a building in Two Rivers and a ministry that gathers men and women together for worship and education.

Why was this trip valuable?

Our church depends mightily upon the education that Eden Theological Seminary provides. We spent two and a half hours with President David Greenhaw who taught us the history and challenge of training men and women to become pastors.

Why was this trip valuable?

We visited Pilgrim United Church of Christ, a ministry that serves maybe 50 individuals on a Sunday morning. And yet Wednesday adults from this community serve lunch to between 75 and 100 individuals for food and fellowship.

Why was this trip valuable?

We learned at the Deaconess Foundation about the challenges that children face every time a legislature or city council chooses to cut funding for education or health care. For 60 minutes we received an education about children being by-passed at the expense of bigger arenas or high-end coaching contracts.

Why was this trip valuable?

We visited the St. Louis Cathedral and received a nearly two hour (unheard of!) presentation about the work and history of the Roman Church in St. Louis.

Why was this trip valuable?

We visited Caroline Mission and took note of the commitment the United Church of Christ has made to children from low-income families. Children are fed. They are taught. They are taken places (like the zoo) that they would never otherwise get to experience.

Why was this trip valuable?

We visited Every Child's Hope. How is the church to respond to youth who are suicidal? Or to youth who must be removed from their families? The church continues to uphold the sacred responsibility of caring for the vulnerable as we attempt to give youth the best chance of being successful.

Why was this trip valuable?

18 hours of travel/talking time! Priceless. Dinner together at the Spaghetti Factory. Priceless. Lunch with students at Eden Seminary. Priceless. A pastor-led tour of a Greek Orthodox Church. Priceless. Lunch at Pilgrim United Church of Christ with others coming in off the street. Priceless. Listening to adults who have the same fears that youth have when they go up the Arch. Priceless. Listening to each of our adults tell a story about a stained glass window at Eden Seminary. Totally Beautiful! Listening to the life experiences of people at Emmaus Home. Beautiful. Thank you. Thank you.



The group inside the Chapel at Eden Seminary



Standing in front of the old Emmaus home



President David Greenhaw

Vacation Bible School: God Invites YOU!

A Call for Volunteers

From August 5th through 8th (4pm-7:30), Grace Congregational Church is providing a Vacation Bible School that will share the stories of how God calls us to grow our faith and reach out to care for others. We hope to provide an experience that will be educational, memorable, and fun.

For VBS to be successful, we need the support and leadership of our congregation—adults and youth (starting ~7th grade or older). Can you help us?

Name: _____ (Youth—Age: _____) Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

We are glad to have you as a volunteer for all 4 days or just for part of the time.

Please Circle the Dates You Are Available:

Monday, August 5 --- Tuesday, August 6 --- Wednesday, August 7 --- Thursday, August 8

Yes, I would be willing to:

work in any job you need me too!

help with prep work before VBS: making name-tags, doing publicity, setting up or decorating the church and classroom space.

teach in one of the classrooms (the same material will be taught multiple times over the evening.)

be a helper in one of the classrooms.

be a family leader (an adult who leads our children from one activity to the next, and interacts with the children throughout the evening, but is not responsible for teaching or lessons.)

be a helper to one of the family leaders.

help with game-time activities.

work in the kitchen.

help in the craft area, assisting children with the day's project.

be a shepherd. This task requires the person to be in the hallways and circulate among the children, insuring a safe atmosphere.

be an actor at opening time or closing worship.

traffic control at the end of each day so we can have our closing worship on the lawn in front of the crosses.

Please return this form to Pastor Colie Bettivia by May 12

Questions? Contact Pastor Colie 553-1222

pastorcolie@gmail.com