



Rev. Beth Petzke

Pastor's Corner

Which commandment is the first of all? Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." Mark 12:28b-30

Lent (the 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays) begins on Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of a journey of self-reflection and discernment that began back in the 11th century church.

For the first time in a while, the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, falls on Valentine's Day. What a fitting time to focus on our love for God. When we look to God for love, and not for the approval of others, we can not only turn ourselves around, but also be an example to the world of how to (re)turn to God.

Some faith traditions begin Lent by giving up something, Here at Grace, at Lent will begin on Valentine's Day, we will be focusing on looking for love in our Christian scriptures. There are many images where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can be found. Not the world's temporary "love" or "good feelings," or "satisfaction." We will look at the stories of Jesus to search for the real deal, real love. Much like last year, on the Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday, we will engage one another in worship, conversation, and a service project to show our love of God through giving love to others. Each of these Wednesdays (see schedule for details), we will begin with sharing a meal at 5:30 p.m. The Sunday School children and their families and the confirmation students will all participate with the congregation and friends of Grace. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a friend! We will be collecting offering to help defer the cost of materials for the service projects. Following a meal, we will have a brief time of worship, followed by a craft or creating a hands-on creation to extend God's love through us to those who may need to hear the Good News. All ages and abilities are encouraged to attend.

How can you be a part? These are several ways to join us in looking for love:

- Come and join us on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings!
- Provide a meal for one of the Wednesday nights in Lent. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. Meals can be homemade or bought.
- If you have ideas (craft, hands-on creation, or a group to benefit) or would like to help with the creations, contact me.
- Each week, we need someone to relocate the heart-shaped symbol for love to another location in the sanctuary. If you'd like to be a "relocator" (one week or the whole time), please see me.
- Share the invitation with a friend and join us on Sundays or Wednesdays, or both! It's a wonderful way to share love, receive love, and spread love.
- Watch for upcoming details, but here's a little preview to mark your calendar:

Wednesday, February 14th worship at 6:30 p.m. includes imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Wednesdays, Feb 21-March 20 begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner together, followed by worship and a service project.

Sundays, 10 a.m. worship Year round

Sundays* at 8 a.m. worship *First Sunday of the month October through June

Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. worship includes Holy Communion.

Good Friday, March 29 at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The evening service will include darkness.

Easter Sunday, March 31 worship at 10:00 a.m. will include Holy Communion.

Love is not exclusive to a holiday on the calendar. We love one another because love comes from God. Join us to give, receive, and share the love of God. All are welcome!

Pastor Beth

USHER SCHEDULE

Feb 4 8AM Betty Jones 10AM Casey Ter Maat/Jordyn Payne

Feb 11 10AM Larry & Deb Ter Maat

Feb 14 6:30PM Ash Wednesday - Maureen Faucher/Sandy Rabe

Feb. 18 10AM Suzie Bolling/Paul Green

Feb. 25 10AM Maureen Faucher/Sandy Rabe

Mar. 3 8AM Betty Jones 10AM Larry Ter Maat/Dan Montgomery

Mar. 10 10AM Mike and Lisa Rolloff

Mar. 17 10AM Margy Horneck and Karen Groth

Mar. 24 10AM Mike and Susie Wandschneider

GREAT ANNIVERSARY KICK OFF!

January 14th brought a very frigid day to Kohler - perhaps that day may very well turn out to be the coldest Sunday of all in 2024! But our day of celebration was truly a warm and wonderful celebration.

A special thank you to:

Everyone who braved the elements to be part of worship service and the luncheon.

Pastor Beth for the beautiful and inspiring worship service.

Senior Choir current members and alumni singing the special hymn "Love Grows Here".

Curt Joa for composing "God Is Here" and singing such a beautiful and heartwarming original song for this special occasion..

Maureen Faucher for the beautiful quilted cross currently on display in the sanctuary.

Dan Petzke for taking pictures throughout the day.

Sandy Rabe for the decorations and displays. And video of photographs which played during lunch.

Kelly Jensen Kasten for preparing the delicious meal.

Food Committee for making the preparations for January 14th and their help on Sunday.

A special day we will all remember!!

Judy Leonhardt, Event Chairperson, proud member since 2001

PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

Thanks for the paint job in our Fellowship Hall. Dave Billmann, Dan Montgomery and Pastor Beth and Dan Petzke.

Thanks to Paul Green—Redo of paint on ceiling duct work in East basement hallway and for the donation of snowblower pup.

Thanks to Jacob Groth—labor help in replacing stained ceiling tiles in Pastor Beth's office.

There are small property items that occasionally need a handy fix it person. If you are interested or have someone that you know who would be willing to help us. Please pass that contact information on to the office or someone on Property Committee.

Presently we need an electrician to get the outlets on the east wall of the Fellowship Hall working again.

A major project for 2024. There is a need to replace the pew cushions. A number of them are showing their wear and age with significant holes, etc. Do you have a resource or comment? Please do contact one of us on the committee.

Property Committee Members include Suzie Bolling, Karen Groth, Paul Green, Margy Horneck

FEB
MARCH



HOMELESS HYGIENE DRIVE

91.3/103.3FM The Family Radio Network asked for our help and yes of course, Grace will help!

Feb. 11 – March 3, 2024

Last year, our donations of hygiene and cleaning supplies helped local shelters and crisis programs through The Family Radio Network annual drive. **GRACE CHURCH** will support this again to **BE THE LIGHT** to benefit over **101** local crisis programs in **19** communities.

HIGH NEED ITEMS INCLUDE:

diapers cleaning products
feminine hygiene items deodorant
laundry supplies paper products
garbage bags

Your donations will support 10 agencies in Sheboygan County that work with homeless individuals and families.

Thank you for your generous support.



Church Council

Hello to my Grace Family!

This is the last note I will be writing as Grace Church Council president, but for sure not the last you will see of me. I plan to remain on the Property Committee, as well as throwing my church council time into getting Extending Grace up and running and an active part of Grace Church.

I am going to take an opportunity to explain to you what church council has meant and done for me.

During the pandemic, none of us had the opportunity to attend church in person and online church just wasn't my thing. It didn't mean I wasn't still making God a part of my daily life, but I fell out of the habit of church. Then when church reopened, I was very slow in returning. Church is a habit, and once you get out of the habit it is very easy to make excuses as to why you aren't going. I did come back a couple times and on one of those occasions, one of the church council members approached me and said there was an opening on council (someone had left before their term was up), and would I consider being on church council. Well, I had every excuse in the book-I'm too busy; I still work full time; I have aging parents and parents in law that I need to be there for, and the list of excuses was long, but I said I'd think about it. I stayed away from church a little longer, but I did think about it. I had been on church council before when I was working full time and still had three kids at home. I knew if I had found the time then, I could do it again. And I could see how our church was struggling. Many people had a hard time returning to the habit of church after COVID.

The next Sunday I was in church, the same person approached me and asked if I had thought about being on church council and I said I had, and I'd be willing to serve again. And so I began a two and a half year term on church council.

There are responsibilities and a time factor that go along with being on church council-I won't lie about that. There are once monthly meetings, helping with communion, planning for some of the "behind the scenes" things that happen at church (i.e. Pastor Beth's absences, Christmas schedule, etc.) and helping with activities that happen at church, but many of you help with those activities already.

Let me tell you what being on church council has DONE for me, though, because it has given me FAR MORE than I have had to give. It has helped me grow as a person in my faith, as well as my leadership skills. It has helped me get back in to the habit of church, which I didn't realize how much I missed until I returned. It has made me more committed to the life of Grace Church than I ever was before because it helped me see what an important part the church plays in the lives of people.

Grace Church has been a part of almost all of the most important days of my life, both happy and sad-my wedding to my husband of 33+ years; the baptism and confirmation of all 3 of my children; and the funerals of all 3 of my grandparents that I had known. Being on church council helped me realize how important Grace has been in my life and the life of my family, but also in so MANY other people's lives. Being on church council is just one small way we can all give back.

Our church is taking some steps towards revitalizing, but in order for that to continue, we need to get more people back in our doors, new people in our doors, and the people who attend pitching in and helping out as much as they are able to. One of those steps towards continuing to grow is keeping a full church council. There is one opening that happened in November, and then my opening that is happening at the end of January as my term ends. NO ONE has stepped forward to fill either of these openings. That leaves a huge burden on the 4 council members that are left. I ask you, I'll even plead with you, to please put your excuses aside and be on church council. I can't promise you it won't take up some of your time, but I can promise it will be a rewarding, enriching experience, and most importantly will help OUR church continue to move forward and thrive.

Thank you for considering giving of your time and talents to Grace Church Council. Even if you step forward after the annual meeting on January 28, whether it be a week or a month down the road, you will be welcomed and appreciated for doing so, and you will get so much in return. Just give it a chance.

Faithfully a member of the Grace Church family,

KAREN GROTH
Outgoing Council President



[Click HERE](#) for opportunities to serve your church OR if
Sponsorship of various items is more to your liking - look at all the opportunities here! You can sign up and pay online through easy link **[SPONSORS CLICK HERE](#)**

Hat & Mitten Tree at Grace



We collected over 20 pieces of winter gear for the Sheboygan Falls elementary and middle school children in need. They were so appreciative! Thank you!

Wedding Anniversaries February



8th Gordon and Sandra Horneck
9th Dan and Rev. Beth Petzke
19th Chuck and Ann Ebert
28th Robert and Diana Multer

CELEBRATING



2nd Nancy Christian
3rd Robert Multer
8th Shoshanna McKnight
10th Jean Limberg
10th Michael Skeris
11th Corliss Kummer
12th Lorraine Rolloff
15th Brenda Protzmann
20th Charlie Knepfel
24th Brandon Payne



WELLNESS CHECK

IF YOU ARE FEELING UNDER THE
WEATHER, PLEASE CONSIDER
JOINING US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE
AND TAKE CARE OF YOU!

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR EACH OF US
TO STAY HEALTHY AND REMAIN
SO. YOUR DILIGENCE IS
APPRECIATED IN THIS MATTER.

Thank you.



STEWARDSHIP

PROFILE

*"Why? Why do you support Grace
Church? Is Grace Church important in
your life?"*

by Rosemary (Mueller) Lohse 11/5/23

I've been a member of Grace UCC for most of my life. I went to Sunday School at an early age, sang in the choir as a teen and young adult, was confirmed, taught Sunday School, sat on boards and committees, was married here and had our children baptized here. Grace has been a vital part of my life. The church itself is a building but with many talented members. Members who use their time and talents to help others, provide for those less fortunate, be a friend to the lonely, and many other qualities Jesus taught us to do and be like him.

Time: I've always felt we can find time to do whatever is necessary and has to be done. We give of our time freely and without reservation. Time is precious to us, but more importantly, to others we give it to.

Talent: Talent is an inherent part of all of us, if we search for it. Talent can be and is part of who we are. Talent needs not to be lauded or praised. Each of us has talent to share with others. It can be singing, making soup, being part of fall cleanup, being a mentor to a confirmand or new member, being an usher or teaching Sunday School. The list of talents we share is endless.

Treasure: Treasure is what we give back to the church to keep the heat on, the water flowing, and the garbage picked up. It also pays for our leadership at the pulpit, leaders of the choir, in the office and custodial staff. We give to missions because we have been given much. It takes all of us to share in this responsibility at our own personal level.

Yes, we also give time, talent, and treasure to entities outside of church such as our favorite charities and committees, PTA, Girl and Boy Scouts, social groups, the list is endless. And these groups are essential to living our lives fully. But the church is different. We do what we do because Jesus said "feed the hungry, be a friend to the friendless, help the poor and in doing so you honor me and you will walk with God."

What does your stewardship profile look like?



A number of things that just 'happen' here at Grace. For those who give of their time and talent to make things happen - whether anonymously or accidentally not included here, please know that we are thankful for your efforts! Kindly let the church office know of any errors or omissions.

We Are Grateful For...

- The music talents from Carol Skeris and Audrey Braatz who help provide beautiful accompaniment for worship services recently when Mary Ann Bichler is unable to be present at the organ. We are blessed to have you and send you special thanks.
- The many, MANY hands that turned out to help with refreshing the decor at Grace, as we transition from Christmas to Epiphany and soon to Lent. Did you know that the Daughters of Grace is a group designed for those that were unable to meet/support the then Women's Group that met during the day for whatever reason. I didn't know that until reading the minutes of long ago while researching history. I'm writing this so that you know you don't need to be a "daughter of" anything or any one - or even female - to be a part of this team. Basically, this group gathers when a task is needed to be done - no meetings, no president, no committee. Just worker bees and boy do we need them (you)!
- Sponsors in February: Altar flowers on February 11 are provided in memory of Gerald Rolloff (Mike's dad) from Mike and Lisa Rolloff.
- The 100+ purchasers of Kringles - we came close to beating last year's sales but the profits are no less appreciated as we work to meet the budget. Thank you to all to participated!
- Thank you to the generosity of our members and friends of Grace for supporting the giving tree with donation of winter gear for the children of Sheboygan Falls younger ages schools.
- Thank you to the Church Council. This dedicated group gathers each month to review the business of the Church and sees that committee work progresses.
- For our ushers and all personnel that just show up and make sure we provide a warm welcome to our guests and members each time we gather. May God bless you for your display of Christian care to others by giving of your time and talent.

Our Hearts Overflow...



And speaking of giving time and talent - how can we ever begin to show our appreciation to Judy Leonhardt for her exceptional organization and follow up skills to ensure the 100th Anniversary Celebration events are a success? *One can never fully appreciate gifts that come from the heart of another. What we can do is be supportive, offer OUR services and not wait to be asked.*



And to the wonderful Kelly Jensen Kasten, Grace member and clearly a Ninja warrior of the culinary kind! As gifted as Judy (above) in organization and attention to detail, we can echo the extraordinary gifts of Kelly with creating culinary delights with all the "keep calm and carry on" dignity you can imagine. *What a blessing to be on the receiving end of such a lovely luncheon. Thank you Kelly (and Dan).*



And Pastor Beth and Rev. Schroeder. Independently and together, they are of one mind in having served Grace church through many seasons. To absorb their personal reflections (along with those of Rev. Heintz and Rev. Hamilton) was one of my favorite memories of the day. To quote the message so eloquently written and performed by Curt Joa, "God is Here." *He is in the notes sung, in the words written, in the memories shared, in the breaking of the bread, and in Grace's future. "God is Here."*

Time and Talent – sharing a little history on the quilted cross in the chancel.

My sewing/quilting inspiration comes from a variety of different avenues. My husband, Richard and I have a camper near Fremont and from mid-April to mid-October I join a group of ladies every Friday at a quilt store in Waupaca and we sew together. They have encouraged me, given me ideas and suggestions. They also help to spend my money when new fabric arrives.



I came across this pattern after having talked about Grace's anniversary celebration and spent the summer sewing it together, added the church name and dates to the original pattern, and wondered how I would quilt it. Researching one of my favorite embroidery sites, I came upon a design with doves. How fitting as Grace has a dove with its logo. On closer examination of the quilt, you will notice a dove in each of the corners and a dove at the four corners of the cross. Total completion time about two months. The label on the back reads: "Remembering the Past, Honoring the Present and Welcoming the Future" – an embroidered dove – and signed it "a gift of love by Maureen Faucher."

SEWING – is a passion I have had since middle school. I owe much of my skill and accuracy to my mother who also sewed. She would guide and correct me when my project was not to her standards. I learned to rip and repeat until I got it right.

While sewing, quilting and applique can be tedious, time consuming and test my patience, sewing is my relaxation, a time to create, let my mind wander, and read a book or two while the machine does its thing.

Being able to share my sewing talent with our church family warms my heart.

God Bless,

Maureen



ASKING
— for —
HELP

HELPERS

NEEDED

HELPERS

NEEDED

March 29 - Good Friday

Ushers for the 1PM and 6:30PM worship services.

February 18 and March 24

Readers - of Liturgy and Announcements at 10AM worship.

Please speak with Pastor Beth or the church office if you can help out.



Grace United Church of Christ
500 School Street
Kohler, WI 53044

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

God is Here



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-4PM Wednesdays and 9AM-1PM Thursdays
Phone: (920) 452-6795 OR [Email:GraceUCCKohler@gmail.com](mailto:GraceUCCKohler@gmail.com)
[Website:https://graceucckohlerwi.wixsite.com/website](https://graceucckohlerwi.wixsite.com/website)

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Grace Church is an accepting community of faith, committed to growth through change."

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