



# The Messenger

## April 2024

### Rector's Message

Alleluia! Christ is risen! And Jesus' resurrection is not the only one to be celebrated.

Last fall I gave a lot of thought to the words scrawled on the back wing of our church building: "Youth Center." I was out picking up trash in our parking lot one day when a woman, who had just moved into an apartment next door with her kids, asked if the Youth Center was open. Regrettably, I said, that part of our building has essentially been dormant my entire time here, and we likely have parishioners who have never set eyes on it. It occurred to me in that moment, perhaps it was time for those words to come off the side of our building.

It has been my goal almost since day one to see the vast space of Grace Church's building be used for something, anything, other than storage and cobweb collecting. Alas, nearly six years in, I have failed to make that dream a reality.

Cue Linsey McDanel. Linsey is a kindergarten teacher at Jones-Farrar and all-around dynamo. Her late friend, Val Bardell, provided daycare for kids with special needs that would not otherwise qualify for traditional daycare. After she got sick, Linsey started Mac Camp, a summer program run out of her home, to provide daycare and educational activities for kids with a wide range of abilities. Hope WINS (What I Need to Succeed) was born from this. The nonprofit has blossomed to include parent coaching, behavior intervention, trauma training, healthy meal prep skills, and much more.

Grace Church and the ECW both made monetary donations to Hope WINS in 2023 as part of our outreach, but after a conversation with Linsey a month ago about her desire to hold their summer program, Mac Camp, somewhere other than her home, I decided what better place than Grace's Youth Center. While touring the facility, she was struck by the amount of space we had, how read-to-use it was for her purposes, and that it has been virtually untouched for so long. No sooner had I gotten the nod from Vestry than the whole wing was decorated and arranged for Mac Camp.

Preparations for this partnership continue in anticipation of this exciting opportunity for Grace. Hope WINS volunteer corps is currently going through the Diocesan background checks and Safe Church training requirements. While the camp would not be operational during hours Grace typically has activities, I would encourage you to at least familiarize yourself with the Diocese's Safe Church policies, which can be found in PDF form at the following web address <https://episcopalchicago.org/safe-church-safe-communities/>. We also keep a hardcopy in a binder in the church office. If anyone wished to volunteer with the camp, background checks and full training would be mandatory, at which point you would need to speak to me.

As a colleague of Linsey's, Ellen has begun the process in case Hope WINS needs some extra help this summer. She recently attended Hope WINS counselor training, which was hosted in our former youth room. A couple of the attendees' children were present and went to play upstairs in the nursery. Not being the most soundproof ceiling/floor, their movements could be easily heard. Apologies for the ruckus were made, but Ellen said, "No need to apologize. You do not understand what a beautiful sound it is to finally hear."

So, what does this mean for Grace Church. There are some finer points of a building use agreement to work out; places I would prefer camp attendees not go, unless for educational purposes, i.e. the sanctuary. Insurance, cleaning, maintenance, etc. will all be worked out.

Scheduling will be the main thing we need to be cognizant of. The camp will not be here every day, as they make frequent trips to local parks, the library, the movie theater, CHOM, etc. But when they are here, they will essentially occupy the “new” addition, and they will make use of the kitchen and St. Stephen’s Hall for lunch. So, we just need to make sure there is good communication between all involved so that everything runs smoothly.

I have no designs of turning this into a revenue stream for Grace at this time, preferring instead to view it as a ministry that we are equipped to provide. That, and I have no data for comparison in terms of impact on utility usage once those rooms are being cooled and heated in a non-dormancy capacity, along with water usage.

Linsey is looking forward to giving a presentation to the congregation about Hope WINS, and we are still looking for the best time to do that. Until then, I invite you to check out their website at <https://www.hopewinswhatineedtosucceed.com/> to find out more about the nonprofit. If you are a Facebook user, you can also check out their page and keep up to date with goings-on and opportunities to support their mission through fundraisers and the like.

I am overjoyed by this opportunity to finally utilize our space, and for such a worthy cause. I am also overjoyed that my next mission will be not to remove “Youth Center,” but to go buy some more silver paint to brighten it up.

Blessings,  
Fr. Brian

### The Future of the People of Grace Breakfast

In March I was quite prepared to bring this activity to a close. Our regularly scheduled breakfast on the third Saturday morning of each month at Nine East at 8:00 a.m. had seen quite a drop in attendance. No sooner had I announced this plan than we had a full table at our next gathering.

So, I put it to you, good people of Grace for whom this breakfast was created well before my arrival: Is this a thing you wish to continue? If yes, what should it be? Should it be fellowship; should we plunge the depths of scripture/theology; should it be both? Where should it be; Nine East still, or somewhere else? When should it be (not a lot of early risers at Grace, I have learned over the years)? I invite your feedback.

### Movie Night! April 25th, 6:30 p.m.

In honor of Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Major Rogation Day on April 25<sup>th</sup> (and I suppose also the Feast of St. Mark the same day), Grace will be hosting a movie night on Thursday evening, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The film will be *All Saints*, starring John Corbett in the true story about an Episcopal Priest sent to close a small parish only to save it by starting a farm on the church's property with the help of refugees from Myanmar.

### Help around the Church

In the spirit of “ask not what the church can do for you, but what you can do for the church,” some people have graciously taken to the church yard with the trashcan and trash grabber located in the utility closet by Fr. Brian’s office. Thank you. There are other “chores” that could be done from time to time that would be equally helpful, like washing dirty dish rags and towels when the basket in the kitchen is full, or returning chairs from whence they came and pushing them in, and any other little bits of tidying that you might notice needs doing. That you noticed it could very well be God calling you to action.

## *Rummage Sale*

The ECW Rummage Sale is scheduled for Friday, May 3rd and Saturday, May 4th.

We will also have to be very selective of what donations we can accept:

- No computers, TV's, electronic games or exercise equipment
- All clothing must be freshly laundered with no stains
- All dishes freshly washed
- All donated items must be cleaned and sanitized and setup ready

Items can be dropped off at the church beginning Tuesday, April 23rd during church office hours (8:00am—5:00pm) through no later than Wednesday, May 1st the week of the sale.

We need volunteers, both women and men. If you are able to help there will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board near the kitchen. Any questions, call Carol Price at 815-541-5536 or Connie Burden at 815-789-3181.

### Rummage Sale Hours

Thursday	Setup 9:00am to noon or until done
Friday	Sale 8:00am to 2:00pm
Saturday	Sale 8:00am to noon Clean up noon to 1:00pm

## Grace Community

**ECW First Friday Luncheon** All women of Grace Church are invited to attend the First Friday (monthly) meeting on **April 5th** at **11:30 a.m.** in the undercroft. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. The main topic of discussion will be our Rummage Sale which will take place on the first Friday and Saturday of May. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please call or email me at 815-789-3181 or [cburden43@gmail.com](mailto:cburden43@gmail.com) Connie B.

**Christian Formation** Sunday, April 14th after the 9:00am service.

**Vestry Meeting** Sunday, April 21st after the 9:00am service.

**Deadline** for the May “Messenger” will be April 18th.

**FACC Monthly Donation** for April is rice.

## Server Schedule

### April 7th

**Chaliciest:** Chuck Breo  
**Lector:** Phyllis Bergagna  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

### April 14th

**Chaliciest:** Carol Francis  
**Lector:** Candy Colby  
**Acolytes:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Chad Enright & Jeff Francis

### April 21st

**Chaliciest:** Chuck Terpening  
**Lector:** Martha Furst  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

### April 28th

**Chaliciest:** Chuck Breo  
**Lector:** Phyllis Bergagna  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Chad Enright & Jeff Francis

If you are unable to serve on the dates assigned, please make sure you get someone to replace you and notify the church office.



## Signs of Joy

1. Eagerly greeting each new day as a generous gift from God.
2. Frequent expressions of gratitude for the blessings and challenges which come throughout each day.
3. Finding delight in everyday occurrences: things said by a small child, a cat playing with a ball of string, a dog trying to figure out what you're doing, a funny story in the news paper, a joke told by a friend, etc.
4. Discovering the taste of a familiar vegetable prepared in a new way.
5. Visiting with a dear friend or family member instead of letting television create the dialogue or interrupt good fellowship.
6. Eagerly looking forward to the next Sunday when you can join the family of God at worship.

## Treasurer's Report

Below is an analysis comparing the actual results for the first two months of 2024 to the first two months of 2023.

	2024	2023	Difference
<b>Total Revenue</b>	62,547	77,583	(15,036)
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	25,790	24,667	1,123
Building & Grounds	7,393	9,949	(2,556)
Property/Liability Insurance		7,074	(7,074)
All Other	4,075	6,798	(2,723)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>37,258</u>	<u>48,488</u>	<u>(11,230)</u>
Gain (Loss)	25,289	29,095	(3,806)

It is early in the year so we cannot draw a lot of conclusions from only 2 months of data. Revenue is \$15,000 less than last year, but that does not mean we will be short \$15,000 at the end of the year.

There is some good news in the expenses that I want to mention. Our heating costs are lower because the cost of natural gas is down to where we would expect it to be and with the lack of snow our snow removal costs are lower than normal.

Duane Price, Treasurer  
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6th	Kyle Maize	17th	Cainan Becker
9th	Susan Lafferty	22nd	Mike Shore
	Maxwell Watson	29th	Gail Hunt
10th	Karen Moderow		



3rd	Thomas & Dorothy Nord
	John & Allison Gush
16th	Richard & Marilyn Hepner
17th	Stanley & Frances Crowe

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April Newsletter