



# The Messenger

## April 2026

### Warden's Corner

We are excited about Bishop Paula Clark coming to Grace on Saturday, May 2, for a regional confirmation and reception into the Episcopal church service. If you know of anyone who would like to be formally received into the Episcopal church, please email Martha at [mfurstfreep@gmail.com](mailto:mfurstfreep@gmail.com). There will be a brief reception following the service for confirmands, those received, and their friends and families.

Reverend Carolyn Keck will lead the service with full communion on Palm Sunday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday as noted in the last Messenger. Please help us to welcome her to Grace Church at these services!

During this interim, we are committed to continue all of the Grace Church traditions and ministries. In the monthly Messenger we will give a short report about these activities. Gregg Lizer will serve as the FACC delegate; FACC requests for donations will continue to be announced monthly and Gregg will deliver to FACC. Bernard Lischwe will serve as the liaison to the grief group that meets at Grace monthly. Martha and Shannon have met with Linsey, from Hope Wins, and much is happening. The three of them, as well as Connie Olson will continue to meet monthly. Hope Wins will contract for an additional church cleaning per week, and we will continue to work on organization and communication. Laura Watson will also be the liaison to the Eats and Beats event this summer.

At the most recent Vestry meeting it was decided that we should establish two additional committees: Parish Life and Community Outreach. The Parish Life committee would work collaboratively with the vestry on fellowship activities, such as St. Andrew's Day, the Advent Quiet Meal, the Agape Meal, and so forth. The Community Outreach committee would represent Grace Church in community activities, such as Eats & Beats. This group would also not only support our existing ministries but also identify other needs in the community where might be able to assist. We hope there will be interest and a sign-up sheet will be placed on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Please consider serving Grace on one of these new committees!

Adult formation will be starting in the first Sunday after Easter. The group will meet every other Sunday, with one week a book for moral courage in difficult times will be led by Laura Watson (info on ordering the book elsewhere in this Messenger), this being alternated with Chuck Terpening leading us through the Gospel of John.

For those of you who are concerned about flowers on the altar as a result of Deininger's closure, there is no need to worry! Connie Olson contacted De Voe Floral in Lena and they will take over service of flowers, including delivery, to Grace Church! A big thank you to Connie for organizing this!

### **Sunday Services for April**

April 5th	Easter	Rev. Carolyn Keck
April 12th	The Liturgy of the Word	Chuck Terpening
April 19th	Eucharist	Pastor David Nelson
April 26th	The Liturgy of the Word	Steve McMillen

## Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

6:00pm

Agapé Meal

Good Friday, April 3rd

12:15pm

Easter Vigil, April 4th

7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 5th

9:00am

***Weekly Altar Flowers for 2026*** With the recent closing of Deininger Floral we will be getting our altar flowers from Devoe Floral in Lena. The cost of altar flowers will be \$30.00. Sign up sheet is posted in the narthex. **There are many open Sundays.** Sometime during the month you are signed up for weekly flowers turn in a check for \$30.00 (made out to Grace Episcopal Church). You can put this in the offering plate, turn in to the office or mail to the church. Just indicate on the check that it is for altar flowers.

**Adult Formation** opportunities at Grace will continue after Easter Sunday in April, with a plan to offer two sessions per month. On the second Sunday of the month, April 12th, Chuck Terpening will lead participants in a study of the gospel of John.

On the fourth Sunday of the month April 26th, Laura Watson will lead a group discussion of the book, *For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional* by Hanna Reichel. Please let Laura know if you are interested in participating.

[For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional](#) (from the publisher description)

*A guide for ordinary Christians seeking to live faithfully in extraordinary times*

*In an era of political polarization, eroding democratic norms, and rising authoritarianism, many Christians find themselves disoriented, wondering how their faith should inform myriad daily decisions. Drawing upon both scholarship and pastoral wisdom, theologian Hanna Reichel offers a timely resource for believers seeking spiritual grounding amid societal upheaval.*

*Written specifically for ordinary believers, this accessible volume acknowledges that while some are called to dramatic public witness, all must face the daily challenge of living faithfully as long-established institutions and systems reveal their fragility. Neither alarmist nor complacent, Reichel reminds readers that Christians throughout history have faced the collapse of worlds they once took for granted—and have discovered unexpected liberation in the process.*

## Grace Community

### **ECW.....FIRST FRIDAY**

Ladies, the First Friday in April is also Good Friday. Let's meet in the undercroft at 11:00 on April 3rd for a brief meeting before the 12:15 service. We have much to discuss about the busy Spring happenings at Grace.

Peace to all,  
Connie B.

815-789-3181 [cburden43@gmail.com](mailto:cburden43@gmail.com)

**Adult Formation** April 12th, Chuck Terpening will lead participants in a study of the gospel of John.

**Vestry Meeting** Sunday, April 19th after the 9:00am service.

**Church Yard Clean-up Day** Saturday, April 25th starting at 9:00am.

**Adult Formation** April 26th, Laura Watson will lead a group discussion of the book, For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional by Hanna Reichel. Please let Laura know if you are interested in participating. Laura has a link and a discount code for ordering the book from the publisher (Eerdmans) at 40-50% off the list price, if our group of readers is 5 or more people.

**Deadline** for the May "Messenger" will be April 21st.

**FACC Food Pantry Donation** for April is jelly (grape or strawberry).

## Treasurer's Report

Below is a comparison of the February 2026 results compared to February 2025

	February 2026	February 2025	Difference
<b>Total Revenue</b>	101,250	92,369	8,881
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	31,556	30,535	1,021
Building & Grounds	9,268	11,596	(2,328)
All Other	4,852	3,928	924
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>46,676</u>	<u>46,059</u>	<u>(383)</u>
Gain (Loss)	55,574	46,310	9,264

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Duane Price, Treasurer

815-233-0006

daprice68@yahoo.com



2nd	Alex Bonsky	10th	Karen Moderow
6th	Kyle Maize	17th	Cainan Becker
9th	Susan Lafferty	29th	Gail Hunt
	Maxwell Watson		



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

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April Newsletter