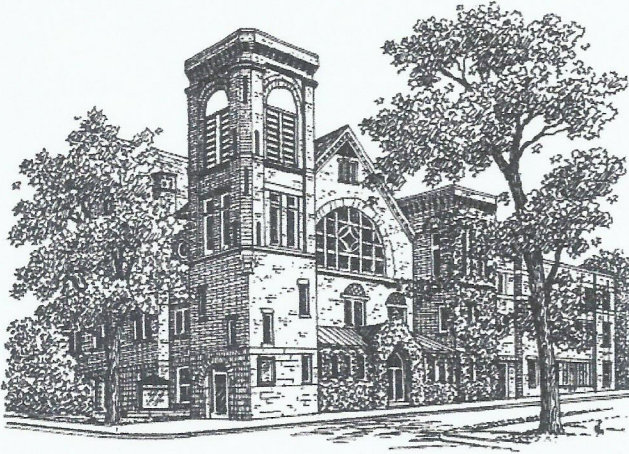


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
100 CENTRAL AVENUE
OIL CITY, PA 16301
(Address Service Requested)

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GRACE NOTES

March 2022

Grace United Methodist Church

100 Central Avenue, Oil City, PA 16301

Pastor Ron Geisler

Phone: 677-3013 (office) 677-3345 (parsonage)

Church Office Hours: M-Thurs 9AM - 2:00PM

E-Mail: church@graceoilcity.org

Website: www.graceoilcity.org

Facebook: Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

TV Broadcast: Ch 22 Sunday Live 10:45AM,

Rebroadcast 8:30 AM & 8:30PM

Worship Service Online: <http://www.graceoilcity.org>

Sunday School: 9:30AM

Weekly Sunday Worship Service: 10:45AM



March 2022

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Closed for lunch noon - 1:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	
		Deborah Moore Gale/Donna Boocks	Steve/Patty Sherick			Patrick Meals Jack Travis
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Casey Hassan Seth Updegraff	Gary/Kris Flinchbaugh Kaylee English Curtis Hawke Elissa Myers	Taylor Meals Marie Swéigert	Matthew Myers	David/Barb Walentosky Bill Hoyle Dan Myers	Caden Highfield Christine Jazwinski Dustin Jazwinski Maggie Motter Georgia Strawbridge	Samantha Duarte Janette Wolfgong
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Bailey Cypert Macayla Yount	Bob/Lynne Delaney (50 th) Sara Flockerzi Don Roxberry Jenny Wheeler	Cadince Delaney	M.J. Eckert Mark Patterson Tina Ziegler	John Davidson Sheila Updegraff	Sass Galla Sue Seidle Ian Sterling	Allen Frederick Hanna Lepley
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Pat Black Pauline Case Cindy Jordan Amy Middleton	Debra Bennett Miriam Myers		Dameaka McDonald Travis Seefried Mary Yount	Jennifer Delaney Mike Gegogaine Missy Roxberry	Christopher/Kelly Kossman Ron III/Joy Shiley Ron Shiley III Brandon Siler Debbie Stahl	Amy Highfield Penny Lehnortt Tom Lehnortt
27	28	29	30	31		
Randy/Donna Aaron Wesley Scheer Ed Woolcock Linda Wrhen Pat Zerbe	Philip Erion Diane Stephenson	Libby Williams		Barbara Swavey Barb Walentosky		



Message

FROM OUR PASTOR

This month, Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent.

One of the things that strikes me about Ash Wednesday is that we begin the season of Lent by **remembering the end**. Not just any ending, but specifically our ending; yours and mine. Our end marks the beginning of this season. **"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."**

Those words are the hinge between a **dusty beginning**, "Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground" (Genesis 2:7), and a **dusty ending**, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

We can talk about our beginning: where it happened, when it happened, who was there. But about our ending – when it will happen, where it will happen, how it will happen, who will be there – we don't know. None of us do. We can't know. But I know this. Our ending is always before us.

From the day we are born there is a presence that accompanies us. It's our constant companion, invisible and yet ever present. Regardless of who we are or where we go, it goes with us. This companion, this presence, is named death.

Lent begins as we mark ourselves with the ashes, a visible sign of our invisible companion.

It would be a mistake to think that death comes only at the end of our physical life. Death is always present.

When we experience the fragility and uncertainty of life; death makes itself known in broken relationships, failures, shattered dreams, and lost opportunities. Death shows up in our regrets and disappointments. If you've ever known grief, then you've gazed into the face of death. Each funeral we attend reminds us that everyone dies, and that we too one day will die.

We can try to forget, ignore, or deny death. Yet no one escapes a final ending. But here's my question. **What if escaping death is not the issue before us?**

Maybe Lent and the gospel of Jesus are not primarily about being good, a program for changing from a bad person to a good person, so we can get a future reward. I've got nothing against being a good person, but I've never read where Jesus said, "I came that you might be good, better, an improved version of yourself."

What I have read is that Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Jesus is about giving life, revealing life, and calling to life. And that's not about tomorrow, after you die, or some heavenly future. "Now is the day of salvation," Paul tells us (2 Corinthians 6:2). Now, in this time and in this place. Life is now.

For many of us life after death was, and maybe still is, the central focus and purpose of faith. But the older I get, the more urgent **life before death** becomes.

Is there life in my marriage? In my parenting? In my friendships? Is there life in the way I am living in this moment? Is there life in the way I see the world and relate to others? Am I growing? Am I bringing life to others?

And if there's not, why not? What needs to change?

What if life before death is what Lent is about? What if life before death is what the ashes are pointing us to?

Think about it like this. Death is the frame around the picture of our life. It holds before us what is. It focuses our attention. It intensifies and prioritizes what really matters. That this life does not last forever does not diminish life's value, it gives it value. Because life is temporary, it means that this one moment is priceless. There will never be another moment like this one.

The question behind the ashes of Lent is not whether you will die. We will. The question is not, "what will I give up?" The question is about your life before death. What do you want to do with your life? How do you want to live? Do you have life before death?

Live On Purpose,

Pastor Ron

- **Ash Wednesday – March 2**
- **First Sunday of Lent (communion)**
March 6
- **Pastor's Bible Study (Wednesday's)**
March 9
- **Palm Sunday April 10**
- **Holy Thursday April 14**
- **Men's Good Friday Service April 15**
- **Easter Sunday April 17**



PARISH REGISTER March 2022

The following members of Grace Church have been hospitalized since the previous edition of Grace Notes:

M.J. Eckert, Jean Sterling, Ed Rodgers Jr, Barb Siler and Jim Guyton



Please keep these members in prayer: Jean Sterling at Oakwood Heights for rehab after hip surgery; Barb Siler at Clarion Healthcare & Rehab for rehab after hospitalization; Ed Rodgers Jr as he recovers from hip surgery; Jim Guyton for healing after his stroke and on-going bronchitis; Donna Boocks as she recovers from knee surgery; Jack Weiser for healing after cataract surgery on both eyes; Scott Youkers' father, Jeff, has health concerns and continued prayer for our Administrative Council members as they get together monthly over the next few months and look at the future of Grace Church in fulfilling our purpose of making disciples of Jesus.

Our March Servants

Worship Leaders

Mar 6 – Lynne Delaney
Mar 13 – Natalie Arnink
Mar 20 – Lynne Delaney
Mar 27 – Natalie Arnink

Counting Team

Rina Anderson, Rhonda Cubbon, Penny Weichel, Carla Wheeler, Alexis Ziegler, Rob Ziegler

Ushering Team

Captain – Patty Shiley, Deborah Butchart, Judy Guyton, Sandy Hartsell, Dorie Kurzenberger, Penny Lehnortt, Penny Weichel, Sarah McDonald

TV Ministry

Directors: Brad Arnink, Dick Baker, Bill Lamberton, Ian Scheer
Graphics: Rodney Campbell Jr., John McCullough

Camera Operators/Audio

Mar 6 – Natalie Arnink, Jerica Hepler/Jon Sterling
Mar 13 – Jim Carner, Rob Ziegler/Ian Sterling
Mar 20 – Frank Fultz, Steve Scheer/Tom Eberle
Mar 27 – Charlie Motter, Paul Myers/Jim Whaley

Children's Chapel

Mar 6 & 20 – Heather Motter, Cyndee Clayton
Mar 13 & 27 – Chris Salvo

Coffee Bar

Mar 6 – Open Door Class
Mar 13 – Disciple's Class
Mar 20 – The Net Class
Mar 27 – Rhonda Morris

Record of our Faithfulness	2020	2021
5 Weeks	Jan	Jan
Avg Sunday School Attendance	CLOSED COVID	36 (4 Sundays)
Average Worship Attendance	CLOSED COVID	69
Ministry/Operations Offering received	\$20,969	\$18,118
Ministry/Operations Expenses paid	\$16,748	\$16,742
Mission Offering received	\$3,530	\$4,139
Mission Expenses paid	\$1,743	\$1,708

A BIG THANK YOU to Bill Lamberton for all his extra efforts in looking for and finding my lost ring. You work hard for us, often in ways we don't even see, but you are much appreciated for all you do!

Thanks! MJ Eckert

Thank you! from Vinnie Lehman

Thank you! for all the phone calls, cards, and visits on my 100th birthday. You made my day very special.

God Bless,

Vinnie Lehman

GRACE CHURCH CONTACTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM

WORSHIP SERVICES

10:45 AM

Contact Us

Email:

church@graceoilcity.org

Eva Palmer:

secretary@graceoilcity.org

Leeann McCullough:

financialsec@graceoilcity.org

Allen Frederick:

dir.worship@graceoilcity.org

Pastor Ron Geisler:

rgeisler@graceoilcity.org

Phone:

814-677-3013

814-677-3345 Parsonage

Website: www.graceoilcity.org



Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9-2:00

Closed noon-1:00

Local Public Access TV: Channel 22 -

-Previous week service broadcast at 8:30AM

-Current week service at 10:45AM

-Service rebroadcast at 8:30PM each Sunday

Web Broadcast:

www.graceoilcity.org – or –

streammedia.tv

-Sundays at 10:45AM

-Replay Sundays at 8PM

All weekly services are available online at:

<https://www.graceoilcity.org/worship-service-recordings.html>

On the Church Calendar:

Continue to check the weekly bulletins, our website and Facebook pages for calendar updates. Meetings are always being added throughout the month.

Mar 2 – Ash Wednesday service of worship
7pm in the Sanctuary

Mar 6 – Worship/Communion Sunday

Mar 9 – Lenten Bible Study, 11am-12pm

Mar 10 – Trustee Meeting, 7pm

Mar 16 – Lenten Bible Study, 11am-12pm

Mar 17 – Deadline for April Grace Notes articles

Mar 17 – Ad Council Meeting & Simple Church
Training, 7pm

Mar 20 – Youth Luncheon (after worship)

Mar 23 – Lenten Bible Study, 11am-12pm

Mar 28 – Grace Notes Mailing Day

Mar 30 – Lenten Bible Study, 11am-12pm

Pastor's Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Ron will begin a church-wide study during the season of Lent. We will be reflecting on Scripture and Dr. Steve Seamands book, *Holiness of Heart and Life*.

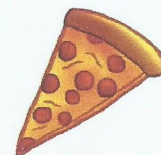
If you are attending this event, you'll want to purchase a copy of the book. You can buy directly from the publisher's store on Amazon - [Holiness of Heart and Life: Seamands, Stephen A.: 9780915143412](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780915143412): [Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780915143412)

Scholarship is available to help offset the cost.

Please register by calling or emailing the church office by **March 7**. This study will occur in person and through ZOOM. Please designate your attendance preference when registering.

Youth Luncheon March 20th

Our youth will be serving us lunch on Sunday March 20th after worship service.



They will be making homemade pizza and salads. Mark your calendars for some great food and fellowship!

GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

Missions and Ministries Supported by Grace Church

Child Evangelism Fellowship, (CEF)

In their February newsletter Kelsie is offering all kinds of ways to beat the winter blues and serve our local Christian community. Our schools, in an attempt to stay "faith neutral", many times become anti-Christian. Consider CEF as a way to reach out to our kids in the name of Christ. www.cefvfc.org offers a great gift of service suggestions. Summer is just around the corner. Let us get behind this essential local ministry.

Wesley Woods

Rev. Matthew Judd, (Wesley Woods Finance Chairperson), reports that WW has made significant accomplishments in 2021. They include:

- 305 campers with seventy making commitments to Jesus.
- A Covid-free summer
- A new fund raiser success called "Walk for the Woods" that raised over \$15,000.
- A new pavilion on the site of the old Harbin Hall.
- Maintenance upgrades that include removal of the old staff house, painting of several buildings, a new tractor, and numerous other improvements.
- A reduction of the long-term debt by \$77,000 or 25% of the principal.

Rev. Matt is re-enforcing that a focus on fiscal responsibility and basic camp maintenance will definitely be good for the camp. With Covid behind them, the camp's board of directors will be working to open the camp to the Church, offering a positive outdoor environment at a reduced cost. Should be a great 2022.

**In the Camping section of this newsletter, Cyndee and Rebecca Clayton and Ian Scheer share their thoughts and memories of their camping experiences at Wesley Woods in years past.

Far East Broadcasting Company

Why are we supporting "Far East Broadcasting Company"? Many of you do not even know what it is. Grace has been supporting this ministry to the tune of \$1,500 per year for decades. It is a radio broadcasting organization that serves remote areas of the world with the message of Christ. Ed Cannon, FEBC President, tells us it takes \$122,577 a month to broadcast to fifty countries in 145 languages. They bring the hope of the gospel to people who are trapped in spiritual darkness. If you have an interest in the FEBC, try "febc.org."

Wesbury

The latest quarterly newsletter, the "Wesbury Window" should be available soon on-line at www.wesbury.com. It is a reminder that our seniors need to know that they have not been forgotten. To those of you who send cards and take time to contact our seniors in assisted living homes and shut-ins, A BIG THANK YOU! To those who would like to begin being available for these brothers and sisters, 2022 is the year to start! Grace donates \$6,000 per year to support Wesbury financially. Is our Heavenly Father leading you to be part of the spiritual support we all need?

GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

TV Ministry

TV Ministry will be upgrading its video equipment very soon. The purchasing of new equipment has begun. Installation is planned to take place by the end of March.

If you are interested in serving TV Ministry by helping with the installation process, leave a message at the church for John McCullough or talk to one of the TV Ministry servants on any Sunday.

We receive many donations from people in the community that our TV Ministry serves and they drop us a line every once in a while. Here is a recent note sent to Pastor Ron:

"Dear Pastor, Want you to know how much I enjoy your sermons. I'm at home from recent sickness and not a good driver in winter so I snuggle up and enjoy my Sunday mornings & evenings as well. You are a Blessing to me and our community!"

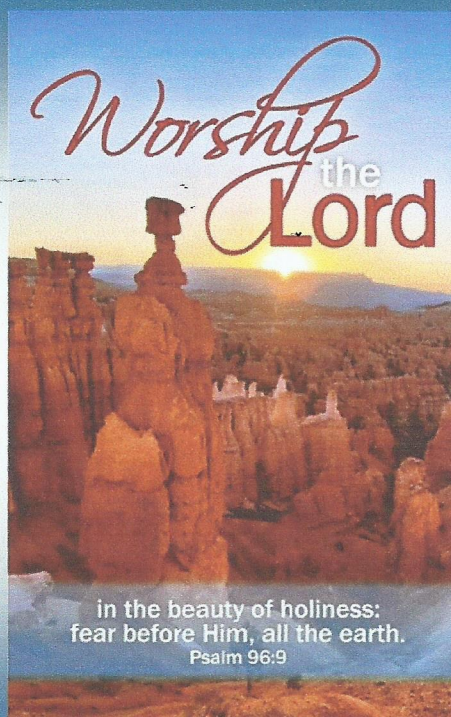


Work Weekends at Wesley Woods

April 22nd-23rd, May 13th-14th

May 20th-21st

After Winter is over, Summer feels like it approaches quickly. We need the hands and skills of our volunteers to prepare for the Summer Camp Season. Whether you come with a group or come alone, your help is appreciated and needed! Email info@wesleywoods.com and let us know you can come.



Worship Wednesdays

Coming to our Facebook page each Wednesday!

We will post our upcoming Sunday worship set-list so you can start preparing for Sunday!

NEW SONGS WILL LINK TO A YOUTUBE VIDEO SO YOU CAN SING ALONG AND LEARN THE SONG!

Be sure to like and share our page!



Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

Get Ready for CAMPING

Grace Church knows the importance of strengthening Christ-focused foundations of all disciples. One way we nurture this personal growth is through the programs and facilities of our Western PA Conference's four camps and retreat center. Olmsted Manor, Wesley Woods, Camp Allegheny, and Jumonville are all dedicated to serving the diverse population of Western PA by offering unique experiences for connecting with God, having fun, and developing spiritual maturity in a natural setting.

For more information on all of these programs and facilities, there is a separate insert in this newsletter.

New this year, the conference is offering a **Wilderness Canoe Trip** experience on the Clarion River for youth ages 11-16. The dates are June 12-15, 2022 and cost is \$160. Wilderness canoe tripping is a great way to experience God's presence in the beauty of his creation and in the fellowship of teamwork and adventure together.

Visit the conference website for more information and to register.

<https://www.wpaumc.org/camping>

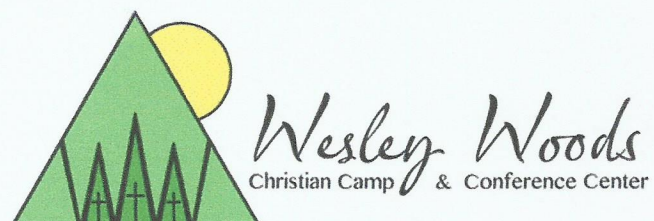
Our Camp Story, by Rebecca Clayton, Ian Scheer and Cyndee Clayton

I started attending WW when I was around 7 or 8 years old. I was only old enough to go to mini-camp. My dean was Karen Breggenti. My over-protective Mom talked her into being a counselor. This began a wonderful journey for us both. I enjoyed mini-camp for the following two years. While at my first year of mini-camp, I became intrigued with the horses and couldn't wait until I was old enough to go to pony camp and then horse camp. Which is exactly what I did.

I also helped my Mom and Karen, when I became a little older, with mini and sampler camps. My saddest day was when I turned 18 and could no longer go to camp as a camper. However, I did start working at WW when I was 16 years old as the cook-out girl. I must say that it was a lot of hard work. Mostly, cleaning the pots and pans and pie irons that had become black from the fires. (UGH!) When I was 17 and 18 I worked at WW as a lifeguard. I then worked on program staff, counseling the campers for two summers. Last summer I worked in the office helping Herb West, camp director.

So, that's my experience at WW. Actually, it's only part of my experience. To tell you of my spiritual experience would be hard to do. It's one of those things that you have to experience for yourself in order to get the excitement, the rush of love from Him and for Him.

Rebecca Clayton



Get Ready for CAMPING

Our Camp Story, cont'd

Wesley Woods this year allowed me to reconnect with old friends as well as make some new friends. It pushed me to my limit at mountain biking and taught me to always give 110% effort. I enjoyed the campfire songs as well as the sermons and reaffirmation of faith. Thank you to everyone who made this possible for me!

God Bless,

Ian Scheer

Wesley Woods, what a great place. There are half week camps for the little ones and week long camps for the others. There are camps for all kinds of interests and activities. I started being a counselor at Wesley Woods when Rebecca was 8 years old. Being from Illinois, I didn't know about Wesley Woods. What a terrific experience. I loved it so much that I volunteered to do 3 and 4 camps every summer from 1997 to 2010.

On the very first day of camp, everyone received a new Bible. Everyday after breakfast, lunch and supper we sang cute kid's praise songs. We sang *He's a Peach of a Savior, Walka Walka Walka in the Light, He's The King of the Jungle, The Hippo Song, He's My Rock My Sword My Shield* and many many more. Every morning after breakfast we would get our new Bibles and gather at the outdoor Green Cathedral for our lessons. There were a few times we had to go somewhere else because a raccoon or skunk decided to worship there. The lessons were about God's love for us, Jesus's teachings, Jesus's sacrifice, the adventures of the disciples, how to love each other, how to do God's will and much more.

In the evenings we would sit around the campfire and sing songs like; *The Greatest Thing in All My Life is Loving You, Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary,* and *I Love You Lord*. We would talk about our day and what we learned in our morning lesson. We would tell what activities we liked the most that day; swimming, hiking, ropes course, games, etc. We would also have an evening devotion.



On Sunday nights after supper, every camper there met at the Chapel for singing, meet the staff, and a little introduction to our week's lessons. Wednesday nights were a special night. We sang praise songs. We always had a special speaker who talked about salvation and how to give their hearts to the Lord. A lot of children did give their heart to the Lord at camp.

Wesley Woods is just a great place for kids to be with other believers their age. For kids who are hungry for the Word and want to worship without persecution, without peer pressure, without fear, just being themselves and loving God openly. If you know of a child who would like to attend, there are scholarships at our church. Check out the Wesley Woods website at WesleyWoods.org. or give me a call. Introduce the future church, our kids, to God.

Thank you,

Cyndee Clayton

GRACE CHURCH MARCH SOAP READINGS

Using the SOAP method of Bible reading can keep us on the disciple's pathway. You're invited and encouraged to use the following Bible passages each day of the month. Here's a quick reminder of SOAP.

S – Scripture. Use the ones listed on the calendar

O – Observation. What is God speaking through these verses? What do these verses mean?

What do you observe in your reading? Jot these observations in a journal or notebook.

A – Application. How does what you read apply to your life, right now? What is God saying to you? What principles can you apply to your life today?

P – Prayer. Close the time in prayerful conversation with God. Thank him for what you learned and for how this applies to you right now.

March 1	Mark 15:1-15
March 2	Mark 15:16-20
March 3	Mark 15:21-32
March 4	Mark 15:33-41
March 5	Mark 15:42-47
March 6	Mark 16: 1-8
March 7	Mark 16:9-20
March 8	Isaiah 6:1-4
March 9	Isaiah 6:5-7
March 10	Isaiah 6:8
March 11	Revelation 1:1-3
March 12	Revelation 1:4-8
March 13	Revelation 1:9-11
March 14	Revelation 2:1-7
March 15	Revelation 2:8-11
March 16	Revelation 2:12-17
March 17	Revelation 2:18-29
March 18	Revelation 3:1-6
March 19	Revelation 3:7-13
March 20	Revelation 3:14-22
March 21	Revelation 22:12-21
March 22	1John 1:1-10
March 23	1John 2:1-2
March 24	1John 2:3-6
March 25	1John 2:7-11
March 26	1John 2:15-17
March 27	1John 2:18-27
March 28	1John 2:28-3:3
March 29	1John 3:4-10
March 30	1John 3:11-24
March 31	1John 4:1-6



Ash Wednesday – March 2

First Sunday of Lent (communion) March 6

Pastor's Bible Study (Wednesday's) March 9

Palm Sunday April 10

Holy Thursday April 14

Men's Good Friday Service April 15

Easter Sunday April 17

Easter Word Search

F L O W E R S G N I R P S Z O
 S K C I H C T E B P A R A D E
 Y T P B Z E T M P M G E H Y S
 D G X P N A R J B S P A A E S
 N E Z N R U A S U B T S P D A
 A K O O A E D N N T D T P I R
 C B C E B T I A N E A E Y Y G
 X E G T B A T E Y K F R G L P
 D G E N I L I B U S F T G I S
 S C I E T O O Y V A O W E L U
 S K C U D C N L I B D O M V N
 U I Y K R O F L S P I L U T D
 O H Y G V H T E V A L X J F A
 K X R A W C F J A H U N T J Y
 Y L I M A F A S P E E P S E M

Basket
 Bonnet
 Bunny
 Candy
 Chicks
 Chocolate
 Daffodil
 Decorate
 Ducks



Dye
 Easter
 Egg Hunt
 Eggs
 Family
 Flowers
 Grass
 Happy
 Jellybeans

Lily
 Parade
 Peeps
 Rabbit
 Spring
 Sunday
 Tradition
 Tulips



EASTER MEMORIALS

Easter flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 17th.



If at all possible, please leave your flowers until the conclusion of the 10:45 AM service on Easter morning. If you would prefer, a donation to the Grace Church Discretionary Fund may be made in lieu of purchasing flowers. All names will be printed in the Memorial Bulletin.

Please return your flower order to the church office by April 3rd so we may order the flowers from the florist. For inclusion in the Memorial Bulletin, Grace Discretionary Fund donations must be received by April 10th.

Lilies _____ x \$8.00 each = \$ _____

Tulips _____ x \$7.00 each = \$ _____

- or -

Grace Discretionary Fund donation (amount of your choice) \$ _____

CIRCLE ONE (Memory OR Honor) –

In Memory of OR Honor of: _____

In Memory of OR Honor of: _____

In Memory of OR Honor of: _____

In Memory of OR Honor of: _____

Donor Name: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Return this form to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

Deadline for Easter flower orders: April 3rd.

Deadline for Grace Discretionary Fund: April 10th.

Office Use Only: ☐ Paid ☐ Fin Sec Complete ☐ Sec'y Complete