GRACE

www.graceri.org

Sunday Service
Sundays at a 10:00

Services will be posted on Facebook and our website following the Sunday service.

Reach Us
Feel free to contact Grace with your prayer requests, questions, comments… anything at all.

Grace United Methodist Church
10 Park Avenue
Westerly, RI 02891
401-596-8000

Follow Us

The Pastor's Desk

From Pastor Barry

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

As the month of April come to a close, our hearts are filled with the resounding hope, joy, and new energy that can only be found in the promise of eternal life. Our hearts joyfully sing, "Up from the Grave He Arose" for our Lord has risen! I can feel the optimism as we take our eyes off the finality of the tomb and refocus our vision on life. As we come out of winter and enter spring, we see this promise of life blooming all around.

I invite us to pause and reflect upon the new opportunities God is blessing us with. I invite you to stop and look around at the potential that new blossoms about to erupt into a magnificent tapestry of colors that God has placed in your garden.

I now ask you to reflect upon this question, "Where is God asking us to till the land after the long slumber of winter, so that new life can burst forth?"

I reflect on those that founded this church years ago and how strong a vision they must have had to face the challenges that growth can bring. I believe that their eyes

were focused on life and not the finality and negativity of the tomb. When we see all that our God is doing in our lives and here at our church, one can feel the creative energy of God doing something remarkable. I invite us to stop and ask this next question, "What wonderful and beautiful things are God about to do through us now?"

As we stay focused in prayer and keep our eyes focused on the promises of eternal life, I am confident that we will be shown what grandiose plans God has for our future together. May God bless you and keep all of you. And always let us keep our vision on the fact that Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Amen!

Sunday School Scoop

By Cathy Burdick and Danielle Burns

Spring had brought much excitement to our UMC Sunday School. Students wove crosses into the playground fence for Palm Sunday. As has become customary, neighborhood, families were able to take them home with them. Keep your eyes on that fence for future items, connecting our church family to the community. ✝️

Our Sunday school kids left palms and palm crosses on our #gumcgivingfence. Stop by and grab one.

Grace United Methodist Church, 10 Park Ave, Westerly, RI
www.graceri.org

Easter Sunday offered the chance for students to open the service as each participated as acolytes, lighting up the alter for the Easter celebration. 💐 During weekly Sunday School meetings, students have learned about the life of Moses, wrapping up learning about the Ten Commandments.

Now that spring has arrived, look for signs of the community garden in the playground area. Danielle and her students are eager to take what they learned last year to make a bigger and better garden to share with the community.👩‍🌾👩‍🌾

Also, please follow our Sunday school Facebook page (@gracesundayschool) and visit our page on Grace's website (https://www.graceri.org/sunday-school), especially if you cannot attend Sunday school in person.

Trustees' Beat

By Pastor Barry

Last month the Board of Trustees attached a cable system in the sanctuary by the stained glass cross window for the Worship Team to attach beautiful draperies. They also added colored lights behind the same cross. Trustees have started spring cleanup and turning the water supply back on for our gardeners.

This month they will be repairing the roof at the church that suffered some minor wind damage that occurred over the winter. They are also preparing to start a series of minor repairs at the parsonage. Repairs will include replacing the front and back doors. New plumbing in the upstairs bathroom. New drain pipe in the basement. Replacement of all screens in the windows. They are also getting ready to seal the back foundation of the church to the parking asphalt. United Methodist Church being a connectional church, providing Pastor Michele with an office will help her reduce time in her commute, as well as help her and Pastor Barry work together in cooperative ministries.

RETHINKCHURCH
RETHINK.REDISCOVER.RENEW.RETURN
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

Outreach and Service

By Theresa Gregal

Our #gumcgivingfence continues to be a very busy community outreach. During Lent, we hung bags containing a smile bracelet with a Lenten journey idea. A special thanks to Barbi for putting the bags together, Lois for providing the bracelets, and Pastor Barry for hanging them out there. As mentioned in the Sunday school Scoop, the kids wove the palms for Palm Sunday in the fence for those who wanted palms. Looking forward, the fence will have flowers for mothers on Mother's Day and buttons for fathers on Father's Day.

We are also collecting items for the WARM's Street Outreach Program. See the below for the list of items needed. All items must be brand new for sanitary reasons. Unfortunately, may homeless find themselves living outside as the weather warms up. Please read more about the important work they are doing: http://warmcenter.org/street-outreach.

WARM's Street Outreach Drive

Grace United Methodist Church is gathering items or WARM's Street Outreach program.

We are collecting the following:

Tents Tarps Backpacks Sleeping Bags
First Aid Kits Canned Food Pop Tarts

We cannot accept used items.

To learn more about the WARM Center, click the button below.

WARM Center

Worship & Membership Team

By Theresa Gregal

So how about that Lenten journey? The team wanted to bring the Lenten experience to our Sunday services. Each week, we removed something from the church: wreaths, candles, plants, Bibles, hymnals, altar items, and even the cushions, creating our own desert wilderness. Palm Sunday was a celebration with palms decorating the church. Good Friday was a somber service with a shrouded cross, red background, and the sounds of a storm. Easter popped with color and joy with flowers, and we enjoyed the smell of fresh Communion bread baking.

The Worship and Membership Team meet the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:00pm in a hybrid meeting. For more information about the Team, visit www.graceri.org or email umcgrace@gmail.com.

Gardening with Jesus

By Lois Fulton

This strong, hopeful promise given to Noah and to all of us fills me with joy and faith in the truth of His word.

Genesis 8:22
"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease"

We have come out of a very cold winter and spring season. Now the earth is warming to grow seeds that will fill my garden with vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers. Some vegetables like lettuce, peas, radishes, beats,

carrots, turnips and arugula were started in the cold days of April, but they will be ready for harvest in May and June with their warm days and nights. This gardening season, I have added high raised beds to plant in.

I've purchased some light weight tools and am using little garden benches to sit on every so often. I could never be bothered taking time to sit while planting before, but this is a new season for me and maybe for some of you. Not to worry! There may be changes in the way garden but the earth receives the seed as it always has. A harvest will follow, as it always has. And in this new season of my life, Jesus will garden with me, just as He always has. May you gain strength from this hopeful promise.

Prayer Team

By Lois Fulton

Peace and hope to you from our Prayer team here at Grace. The months have flown by since we first came together via text as a small group with a heart's desire to lift the needs of hurting people up to our caring Lord.

We have grown in number and are a strong, faithful team, praying throughout the week whenever a request comes in, or to rejoice for answered prayer.
We are seeing many answers. Praise God!

From one of our team members:
"'I am so pleased that so many prayers are answered and prayers for myself have been answered. I think it's really working and I believe in the power of prayer." (BL)

We invite you to become part of this wonderful ministry at Grace.