

DECEMBER 2023 | ISSUE # 1

FROM THE BELL TOWER

News & updates from our church for our community



***OTHER STORIES IN
THIS ISSUE:***

A PILGRIMAGE
TO IRELAND -
PAGE 2

WHERE ANGLICAN TRADITION
ENGAGES THE CONTEMPORARY
WORLD, GRACE CHURCH OPENS
ITS DOORS ON MADISON'S
CAPITOL SQUARE, INVITING ALL
TO JOIN US IN SHARING THE LOVE
OF JESUS CHRIST IN WORSHIP
AND IN OUTREACH TO OUR
NEIGHBORS AND THE WORLD.



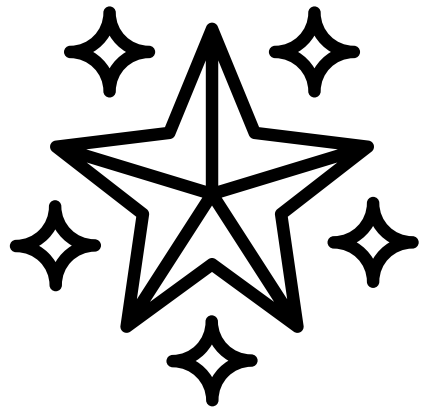
Welcome to Grace

BY ERIN SCHUURMANS,
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Welcome to the first edition of our new monthly magazine. This will go out on the 1st of every month and will be a review of the last month and a look forward to the following month. We hope to use this space in two ways: to celebrate you and all of the accomplishments and events that have occurred during the month prior, as well as to talk about any events that are coming up not only around Grace but in the community and diocese at large. Copies of this magazine will be available at the back of the church on Sundays and sent out via emails. If you have submissions you can send them to assistantadmin@gracechurchmadison.org.

Galatians 3:28 NIV: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nore is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE CLERGY:

MY PRILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND

BY FATHER JOHN
FRANCIS

I am pleased to report that I had an absolutely brilliant and beautiful time in Ireland on vacation, pilgrimage, and in concert. As I mentioned in my sermon upon my return, I visited a holy site called 'Saint Brigid's Well'. It is a holy well, of which there are many in Ireland. This well was consecrated by Saint Brigid herself; the female patron saint of Ireland. The water from the well is said to have healing properties, and I believe it. I filled up a couple of water bottles with it and carried it all throughout my journeys to use to bless people and offer prayers of healing. In all my travels to Ireland over the years, I had not made pilgrimage to Brigid's well until now. I encourage you to look up Saint Brigid and read about her sanctified life.



I also performed several concerts. I was very well received in Kilkenny, Dublin, and Sligo. All of them are cities I've traveled to and performed in years' past. I played a festival in Sligo called 'Sligo Live!' whose headliners included Iris Dement and the Waterboys. It was a great time, and it wonderful to be on the road again. Thanks for all your support and prayers as I traveled. I felt your presence and I missed Grace Church. As they say in Ireland, 'Slainte', which means 'To Your Health!'.



VISITING GRACE

Whether you are joining us for a single Sunday while visiting Madison, exploring a deeper relationship with the sacred, or searching for a church home, we are delighted and honored that you are sharing this stage of your spiritual journey with us. We encourage you to get to know us through our website and to become involved in our worship, ministry, and social activities.



MINISTRIES FOR ALL

The Grace Nursery is Open for Your Infants and Toddlers!

The Grace Nursery is open for children ages infant through 4 during the 10am worship service on Sundays. Please feel free to bring your young children to the Nursery at the lower level between 9:00 and 9:45am to sign in.

Christian Formation in a New Season

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new season of Christian Formation for our youth of Grace Church. Erin Schuurmans, our new Children's Church teacher, will be focusing on Christian education through the lives of the saints. This will be an exciting journey for our children. Our teen programming is underway, as well. Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm in Vilas Hall, our teenagers will engage in conversations around faith, and enjoy pizza and fellowship together. Please contact Father John Francis with any questions about our Fall Christian Formation activities and programs.

Sundays

- 8:00 am Rite I - Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 am Coffee Hour I
- 9:00 am Pageant Practice (lower level)
- 9:45 am Children's Church (lower level)
- 10:00 am Rite II - Holy Eucharist (Nursery available)
- 11:15 am Coffee Hour
- 6:00 pm Hymn Sing

Wednesday Weekly Eucharist

- 12:10 PM - Noon Eucharist

Hymn Sing

Please join us this and every Sunday at 6:00 pm to enjoy hymns via zoom. Our Hymn Sing will be led by Steve Webster. The zoom link changes weekly and is found in the current issue of GraceNotes, or by emailing assistantadmin@gracechurchmadison.org.

Hearing Loop/Listening Devices Available during Sunday Services

Access to the hearing loop is available through your hearing aids set to "T-coil" or "loop listeners," which may be used with or without hearing aids. Please ask an usher for assistance, if needed.

LAY MINISTRY

Healing Prayer Now Offered Two Ways

Members of the Healing Prayer Team are available for prayers in person on Sunday mornings at 10. In addition, we continue to honor prayer requests sent in by phone or email. To ask for prayers, contact one of the co-leaders of the team, the Rev. Margaret Irwin at mbirwin@charter.net or Kara Pagano at baronesspagano@gmail.com. Please tell us if you want us to keep your communication in confidence or if you are requesting that we share it with the team, who will also keep it confidential.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are Available

LEM's (Lay Eucharistic Ministers) are among us at Grace, and now that COVID is somewhat under control, we'll be seeing more of them. Early in the history of the church there was a practice of taking the Eucharist to those who were ill and unable to gather in person with the Christian Community. In 1985, the Episcopal Church approved appointment of LEM's in our congregations to engage in that ministry. It provides a significant way to reach out and draw us all together. If you are interested in becoming a LEM, please contact Deacon Carol Smith. And PLEASE, if you feel that you would like for a LEM to visit you at home or in the hospital, let Carol know.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING - RECTOR'S REPORT

Annual Report 2023 November 19, 2023

I'm sure that many of you saw the stories in Saturday's State Journal about the potential sale of the Silver Dollar Bar and the possible redevelopment of that area opposite us on the corner of Fairchild and W. Mifflin. Perhaps you have questions about the implications of that redevelopment, as well as the Wisconsin History Center on the future of Grace Church, or whether, as was discussed in past years, Grace might be a part of any such development. Buried in the article was a detail that oldtimers might remember: Hovde Properties' efforts to redevelop this block date back to 1998. Also buried was another detail: that there are no firm plans in place for redevelopment and that the goal right now is to raze the area in preparation for construction of the Wisconsin History Center. It's also worth reminding ourselves that our own conversations with Hovde began in 2013 and have occurred off and on, mostly off, since then, with lengthy periods of silence.

The History Center will begin construction next year—a fitting symbol of the enormous changes taking place in Madison. There are construction cranes all over the city and in the suburbs, evidence of the growth we are experiencing. But underneath the growth are other enormous changes—changes in the way we live and work and spend our free time. Alongside the stories of development are other stories—of continued office vacancies; the state is ridding itself of office space in the downtown area, meaning more development, but what will come? As we ponder and observe the changing landscape of our neighborhood and our city, we are also called to reflect on our place in it, as stewards of a historic building and congregation, and as followers of Christ called to love God and our neighbor. The enormous changes taking place include not just a transformation of our lived environment but also of our community and connections. We are all too aware of the continuing racial and economic disparities, with crises in affordable housing, economic and educational opportunity, food insecurity, health care.

Grace has long had a reputation as a congregation that reaches out to those in need, with the men's shelter, the food pantry, and now our welcoming of the Off the Square Club, that ministers to some of the most vulnerable of our neighbors. The presence of the Off the Square Club, along with the arrival of Julia Weaver's ministry, now called "Uptown Sanctuary" means that there is much more activity in around Grace these days than there was even just a few months ago. The presence of their guests brings new opportunities for conversation and connection, even as it increases demands on staff and infrastructure.

I want to thank Vikki Enright, our Pantry Coordinator, who has brought the pantry through the challenging years of the pandemic and is leading it to face the new challenges that have come in its wake as federal funding has dried up and nonprofits struggle with staffing and volunteers to meet the increased need. Through our Mission and Outreach Committee, we have established a relationship with the Beacon, serving meals and offering mentorships. Father JF continues to engage with the Madison Area Jail Ministry, seeking to develop ways we might connect to another group of our closest neighbors. One area of outreach that is underappreciated is the importance of our beautiful courtyard garden, husbanded by John Andrews and other volunteers, and the Karlen garden on Carroll St—cared for by Barb Karlen with its Lidle Free Library. These oases of rest and beauty enhance the neighborhood and contribute to its appeal and livability. Our Pride Committee, organized and led by Olwen and Shelley Hansen-Blake is extending our welcome beyond our walls and gardens to LGBTQ+ people who are too often marginalized and demonized by our Christian siblings.

Of course, being stewards of a historic building brings challenges as well as opportunities. Right now, we are facing the challenge of a lifetime, replacing the slate roof on our nave. The roof committee, whose report is included in the printed packet today, has been working incredibly hard over the last year. Under Deb Anken-Dyer's brilliant and tireless leadership, we have gathered the information we need, and thanks to Fred Groth who brings decades of professional expertise and familiarity with the building, he has assembled an expert team of consultants. We were disappointed that we were not awarded the grant from the Fund for Sacred Places that would have helped jumpstart our fundraising efforts, but in follow-up conversations they strongly encouraged us to reapply next year. We will be making a decision on that in the coming weeks, as we weigh the benefits of the possible grant against our timeline and the likelihood of increased costs if we delay.

No annual report would be complete without appropriate expressions of gratitude. This has been a year of staff transition, as we saw George Decker come and go as Parish Administrator. His vast administrative experience and wisdom helped to reorganize and update a number of systems and it was at his suggestion that we reorganized the staff structure in the way it is now, with Kristen Wold as Parish Administrator and Erin Schuurmans as Assistant Parish Administrator. I'm confident that the two of them will do a great job of helping us connect with each other and run an efficient office. I'm grateful as always to Carol for her support with liturgy and pastoral care and to JF for his energy, thoughtful and provocative sermons and his assistance in many areas of ministry. Our music staff continues to do a great job and it is wonderful to have a full complement of paid singers alongside a growing number of parishioners in the choir.

I would like to single out Mary Ann Nanassy, our Kitchen Coordinator. She works incredibly hard and with great patience and grace in trying circumstances. Coffee hour is an important place where we connect with each other and build community but Mary Ann's ministry goes far beyond that. With volunteers, especially Francine Hartman and Jane Ferris, she has helped to minister to families, the congregation, and the wider community through difficult times of grief and mourning. The work she and the others do is a true spiritual gift to people who are hurting and facing decisions they've never had to make before. You all are a gift to our community, and to me. We are at a point of transition in our lay leadership as well, as Jane Hamblen steps away from the Senior Warden position. Her leadership has been amazing. She brings the insight and perspective of a lawyer and seasoned administrator to the church's business. She has taught me a great deal and steered a steady course over the last two years. I'm looking forward to working with Amy Robinson, who has served as Junior Warden the last two years and will step into the Senior Warden position, God willing, and to Mary Schlaefer who has agreed to work as Junior Warden. Our leadership is in good hands for the foreseeable future. I would also like to thank our outgoing vestry members: Brigide Fielder, Rebecca Szymkowski, Eileen Hocker, and Bess Malson-Huddle who have helped to guide our common life this past year.

This has been a year of transition in other ways. So far, we've seen thirteen deaths in the parish—some of those were people who were only marginally connected to Grace. Others, like the Bolz's, like Gwen were pillars of our congregation, volunteering their time, energy, and gifts for decades, and supporting our ministries financially. They have already left gaping holes in our pews and in our congregational life. Like mainline churches in general, ours is an aging congregation, and those who have led it over the decades are stepping back. They will be missed. But in the next few years, we will need to be more effective, and more proactive in cultivating new leadership that will sustain our congregation in the coming years. Like a new roof that will last 80-100 years, incorporating new generations into our congregation will help sustain it for decades to come.

Another important transition, or possible transition, is taking place beyond our walls—the ongoing work toward reunification of the three Episcopal dioceses of Wisconsin. As you know, all three dioceses voted in favor of moving forward—in Eau Claire and Milwaukee, more than 90% voted in favor; in Fond du Lac, roughly 60%. There is work to be done on the structure and governance that will emerge, and work to be done in building relationships among Episcopalians across the state. The joint convention that will vote on reunification will take place on May 4. I hope you will pay close attention to the information about reunification that will come out over the next months and engage in the conversations that will take place. This is an opportunity to reimagine being the Episcopal Church in Wisconsin; inviting our creativity, courage, and faith to move us forward into a new era.

This brings me back to where I began today. In a few months, our block may look very different—the only buildings remaining intact the Hovde Building to our west, the Churchill building to our north, and of course, our own beloved Grace Church which has stood on this spot as a witness for 165 years. Just as we are being invited to imagine the future of the Episcopal Church in the state of Wisconsin, our changing built environment invites us to reimagine our role and witness in downtown Madison. How might we connect and cooperate with the new Wisconsin History Center? How might our presence as the oldest church edifice in Madison, the oldest building on Capitol Square help to tell the story of Wisconsin's history, and help to shape our neighborhoods future?

There are enormous challenges facing us, as a congregation, a community, a nation, a globe. I needn't list them all. It would be easy to succumb to the temptation to withdraw, to close in on ourselves, to seek to protect what we have, to live in the past. It would be easy to let our fears for the future and our nostalgia for the past overwhelm us. But our God is calling us into the future. When Jesus ascended into heaven, he left his disciples with what we know as the great commission, to go into all the world, to share the good news, to baptize, and make disciples. That is still what we are called to do. Those disciples didn't know what awaited them, what they would encounter but they stepped out in faith. So too must we, for Jesus' words still call to us across the millennia; to share the good news, to make disciples. And he promised us, another thing: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." With these words, Matthew ended his gospel and comfort us today. Jesus is with us always.

- Rev. Dr. D Jonathan Grieser

COMMITTEE AND PARISH ROUNDUP

Grace Church is home to nearly 20 different committees and organizations. Some of them are focused inwardly on the growth, development, and care of the church building and parish, such as the Vestry and the Development Fund Trust Committee. Others are outward facing and focus on bringing the love of Christ to those around us and in the community. Regardless of your interests, there is a place for you at Grace.



For more information about the following organizations or if you're wanting to get involved, please feel to reach out to assistantadmin@gracechurchmadison.org.

Adult Formation - Tuesday Bible Study
Creating a More Just Community
Compassion Circle
Episcopal Church Women
Grace Food Pantry
Haiti Partnership
Healing Prayer Team
Hymn Sing
Mission and Outreach
Music Ministry
Pride Committee
Rector's Guild
St. Margaret's Altar Guild
Welcoming Committee

The Grace Photo Directory Project!

The Grace Photo Directory project is well underway!! While in the past our directory has had staged photos, we will be asking members for selfies or other easily available photos.

Erin Schuurmans will be contacting families alphabetically by last name over the next several months for photos to be submitted via email or text message.

If you have not submitted your photo and your last name has passed - fear not, Erin will be doing a second round of emails to make sure she's caught everyone.

If you need assistance with your photo or need help taking a selfie Erin will be available on Sundays after the 10 AM service.

To be sure everyone is included, please check the current No-photo Directory (in the Grace Members section of the Grace website) to ensure that you and your family are listed and that the information is correct. If you are not listed or your information is not correct, please let the Parish Administrator know admin@gracechurchmadison.org. If you need the pin for the Grace Members section of the website, contact the Parish Administrator at the address above.

We can't wait to see all of your beautiful faces!

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The complete 2023 Annual Reports can be found on our website in the membership section. For assistance accessing them please contact us at admin@gracechurchmadison.org

Election Results from 2023 Annual Meeting Sunday, November 19, 2023

Senior Warden - Amy Robinson

Junior Warden - Mary Schlaefer

Vestry for 3-Year Terms:

Shelley Hansen-Blake

Kenn JeSchonek

Robert Lemanske

Vestry for 1-Year Term:

Jeremy Schuurmans

Diocesan Convention Delegates (for both Special Convention in May 2024 and Fall Diocesan Convention)

Deb Anken-Dyer

John Johnson

Roger Mukasa

Joseph Warfel

Diocesan Convention Alternate Delegates (for both Special Convention in May 2024 and Fall Diocesan Convention)

Deb Barber

Development Fund Trust Board

Kenn JeSchonek

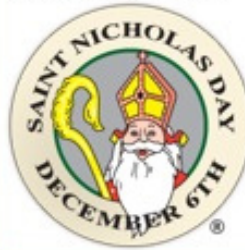
UPCOMING PARISH LIFE EVENTS



Celebrate the holiday season at Grace!

Coming Up! IN PARISH LIFE EVENTS

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 3
9:45 AM AND
COFFEE HOUR**



*Prepare for a special visit from **St. Nicholas** during Children's Church, where he'll share the inspiring story of the real-life saint. And, of course, be sure to drop by Coffee Hour for warm fellowship and a sweet treat as St. Nick hands out candy canes and chocolate gold coins.*

Get ready to unleash your inner artist!

Join us for **Cookie Decorating** and savor the delicious taste of St. Lucia's traditional Swedish saffron buns during Coffee Hour.

**SAINT LUCIA DAY,
DECEMBER 13th**

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 10
COFFEE HOUR**



**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 17
10:00 AM WORSHIP**



CHRISTMAS STAR

The heartwarming tale about a star who needs a little guidance to find her way! Featuring the talented children of Grace Church and skillfully directed by Erica Berman.

PAST PARISH EVENTS

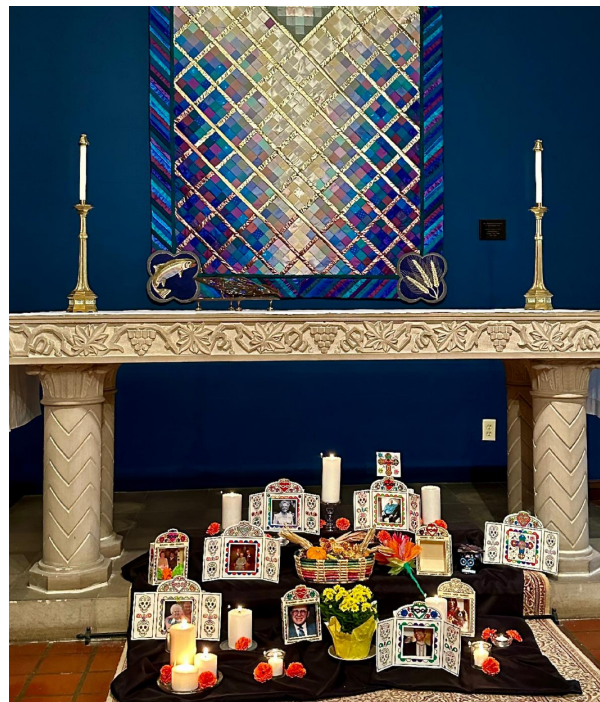
DAY OF THE DEAD AND AN AFTERNOON WITH PHILLIS WHEATLEY



An Afternoon with Phillis Wheatley

Neither wind, nor rain, nor the Friday the 13th date kept several parishioners from attending an exhibit on Phillis Wheatley curated by UW professors and members of Grace, Brigitte Fielder and Jonathan Senchyne, at the UW Memorial Library. The exhibit celebrates the life of Phillis Wheatley - the first African American writer to publish a book of poetry (1773 in London) and the third colonial woman American writer of any race to publish a book of any kind. The day was coordinated by The Parish Life Committee. The exhibit is open through December 22, 2023. For more information go to the following website:

[https://www.library.wisc.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/physical-exhibits/!](https://www.library.wisc.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/physical-exhibits/)



Dia de Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead commemorates both dead and life. It is celebrated worldwide, but primarily in Mexico, on November 1 and 2. We gathered in the Vilas Guild Hall to learn more and to remember our loved ones who have passed.



I wanted to take a moment to share with you some highlights from our recent get-together. We had a truly wonderful time coming together and sharing stories about our loved ones while creating Offrendas (offerings) in their memory. It was a heartfelt experience that brought us closer together. The event was made even more special by the touching remembrance service led by Rev. Margaret Irwin. Her words resonated with all of us and added a profound depth to our gathering. It was a beautiful way to pay tribute to our loved ones and acknowledge their significance in our lives. To wrap up the day on a high note, Wolfgang Werk prepared a delicious Mexican lunch for everyone. Overall, it was a day filled with love, remembrance, and connection.

Pat Werk

PAST PARISH EVENTS

TRICK OR TROT, BACON AT THE BEACON, AND A VISIT WITH TOM WRENCH

October brought opportunities to serve, to support, and to learn through various activities parish members took part in.



Trick or Trot Event for GSAFE

Members of the Grace Church Pride Committee, Parish Life Committee and Youth Formation participated in the GSAFE Trick or Trot 5K Walk/Run this past Sunday. The group raised over \$550 for the non-profit's educational and leadership programs that strive to make schools safe places where LGBTQIA+ students can thrive. It was a beautiful fall day and everyone enjoyed sharing time together.



Thank you and Faith and Music Connections across Time and Distance

On Sunday, September 17, 2023, Grace had a recent visit from Tom Wrench from the UK. Tom was in town visiting friends at UW and also visited and shared his connection with Grace Church and church music from his Grandfather. Tom is now the Assistant Organist - All Saints' Church, South Wimbledon.

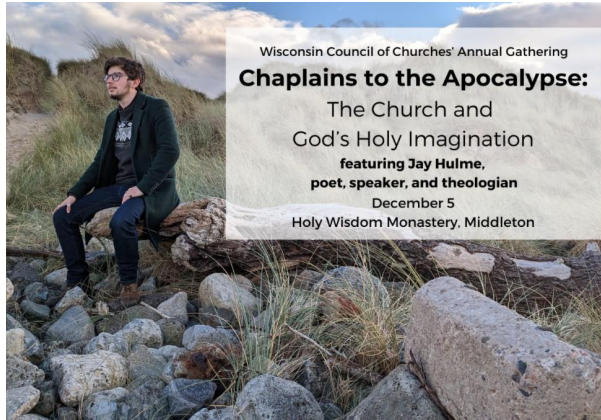
Thanks to Grace Church from Tom after visit...

"...I returned to London earlier today after a wonderful week-long trip to Wisconsin. I was so pleased to see much of where Grampy lived and studied in the 1950s and it was a special pleasure to join the choir at Grace Church last Sunday morning. Thank you for your warm welcome - and for the shortbread baked especially for the occasion! [by Mary Ann Nanassy]

Mission and Outreach fundraising for the Beacon

On October 19th, a number of parishioners attended a breakfast fundraiser for The Beacon - a day resource center on East Washington operated by Catholic Charities of Madison for homeless individuals. We are involved in a growing number of programs within them including lunch service and job search support. Dane County, the City of Madison, and the United Way of Dane County received special recognition for their partnership in this effort.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY AND MINISTRY EVENTS



Chaplains to the Apocalypse: The Church and God's Holy Imagination

Join the Wisconsin Council of Churches on December 5th for our annual meeting at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton. Our keynote will feature poet, speaker, and theologian Jay Hulme whose recent book, *The Vanishing Song* (2023), is a collection that "searches for the wildness of medieval Christianity...These poems are a call to an older, stranger, form of faith; full of creeping greenery and roaring seas, where death is the only certainty, and the conquering of death through resurrection is the only promised victory." Registration includes the keynote, a short business session, lunch and other refreshments, and workshops held in the afternoon. Workshops will be hosted by our keynote speaker, WCC staff, and area clergy and offer a sample of the many topics the WCC is exploring as we navigate a new era of ministry. If you will be in town the evening before, you are invited to join us for a NEW pre-event mixer at Garver Feed Mill.

More information and Registration Link: <https://www.wichurches.org/2023/10/annual-meeting-2023/>



Griffin House, John Francis O'Mara at the Bur Oak

Announcing my first Madison, Wisconsin show this year! I'm returning to Bur Oak to support the wonderful Griffin House, December 8th, 8pm (Doors at 7pm).

For my stage and recording name I use a Gaelic version of my last name: O'Mara.

So when you go to the website to procure your tickets you'll see my name listed as John Francis O'Mara.

Also, December 9th is my birthday, and this event will be my birthday party! So come on out and celebrate with us!

You can listen to some of my music on Spotify, or here: www.johnfrancisomara.com

Get your tickets for the Bur Oak show here:

Hope to see you all there! Fr. John Francis

11/11
PRO ARTE
STRING
QUARTET

GRACE PRESENTS
FALL '23 SEASON
saturdays at noon

12/16
UW RUSSIAN
FOLK
ORCHESTRA

Free monthly concerts
on the Capitol Square

Grace Church - 118 W Washington Ave, Madison WI
accessible entrance via the courtyard on W Washington Ave
treat and concert archive: youtube.com/gracepresentconcerts

COMMUNITY NOTES

Being a part of Grace church means that we get to make a difference in the world - either through our participation with the MOSES and WISDOM project or caring for UW college students during the holidays, we strive always to bring Christ from the nave into the streets around us.



Grace Participates in Rally at the Capitol

On October 10, some 200 people gathered on the Capitol steps to protest the months-long lockdowns at Waupun, Green Bay, and Stanley correctional facilities, as well as other mistreatment of incarcerated persons. After the rally, people visited legislators to express their concerns and delivered a letter to Gov. Evers' office. WISDOM and its Madison affiliate, MOSES, organized the event.

Grace Church was represented by Shelley Hansen-Blake, Lynn Felhoffer, Georgeanne Cusic, Jonathan Grieser, Steve and Susan Webster, and Margaret Irwin. Many thanks to them, to those who wanted to participate but couldn't come, as well as to the poster-makers at the Sunday coffee hour. We shared our extra posters with other participants.

Read the New York Times piece that was picked up by Milwaukee and Madison newspapers concerning the lockdown [here](#).



Reunification moves forward

In their conventions held concurrently on October 21, the dioceses of Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, and Milwaukee all voted in favor of the resolution to move forward with drafting a plan for reunification of the three dioceses. That plan will be developed over the coming months with a final vote coming at a joint convention on May 4, 2024. After that, the reunification proposal will have to be approved by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which meets in Lexington, KY in June, 2024.

Episcopal News Service published the story here <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2023/10/23/wisconsins-3-dioceses-vote-in-favor-of-drafting-agreement-to-reunite-as-single-diocese/?fbclid=IwAR2zvK-EBKUHFm1ft60avw7TyYJAhBQT88XxmdJljsNDHyZ7WvujQ9s2yJU>.

Information on the process of reunification is available at <https://episcopalwisconsin.info>.



The October/November MOSES newsletter has arrived! The newsletter is an easy way to stay informed about important issues in the criminal legal system that Christians need to know about. The lead story covers the October 10 rally at the Capitol to end the ongoing prison lock downs. Another involves the change in retention of eviction-filing records that MOSES helped promote.

You can read the newsletter through GraceNotes or pick up a copy on the literature table in the church. If you'd like to learn more about MOSES, please get in touch with Grace members Margaret Irwin (mbirwin@charter.net) or Thomas Smith (papalevi@yahoo.com).



A BLESSED ADVENT SEASON



GRACE
Episcopal Church

Luke 2:11-12 "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Join us this Advent season as we prepare to welcome the Christ child.

Advent Lessons and Carols - O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at the 10 a.m. service
Please join us for Grace's annual Advent Lessons and Carols.

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, join us in person or online for this popular seasonal service. Readings from Holy Scripture, hymns and carols, and choral music proclaim the coming of the Promised One.

Music will include Introit for Second Sunday of Advent - plainsong; "Adam Lay Ybounden" - Cooman; "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" - Praetorius; "He Shall Feed His Flock" from Messiah - Handel; "Locus Iste" - Bruckner; "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" - Goudimel; "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day" - Gardner; "Zion Hears the Watchmen Sing" - Bach; and others.

Advent Resources 2023

Living Compass is again publishing Advent devotionals. This year's theme is Practicing Wonder with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind. You can purchase printed devotionals or download the devotional as a pdf. Access them at <https://shop.livingcompass.org/collections/advent-and-lent-resources>. There will be a few printed copies in the back of the nave.

The Episcopal Church is offering a number of resources for Advent and Christmas. You can access the collection of resources at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/advent-and-christmas-resources/>.

From Forward Movement Publications: AdventWord. AdventWord inspires followers of Jesus with an accessible and creative daily prayer practice. During this holy, busy season, disciples are invited to find small moments of reflection to stay connected to their personal faith, to others, and to God. Email subscribers and social media followers will receive a daily meditation and visual image inspired by the day's word, and are invited to share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression <https://adventword.org/news/8495-2023-adventword-prompt-words-announced/>

For Families: From Growchristians.org <https://www.growchristians.org/2023/11/09/looking-ahead-to-advent/>, suggestions for Advent from Alison Sandlin Liles

If you would like to read a book or other work of literature, I always suggest Fleming Rutledge, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*, Eerdmans, 2018

- Fr. Jonathan

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

4:00pm: Family Service
*(Meditation for children
at the creche.)*

9:15pm: Candlelight Vigil
(with Choir and Carols)

10:00pm: Festival Eucharist
(with incense)

Christmas Day

10:00am: Feast of the Nativity





A BLESSED ADVENT SEASON

Luke 2:11-12 "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Join us this Advent season as we prepare to welcome the Christ child.

Christmas Flowers to the Homebound

Next Sunday, December 10, plants and accompanying cards will be available for pick-up at the rear of the church, at each of the services.

If you have volunteered, please stop by (the table at the rear of the Nave) and pick up your parcel. Your delivery should be made prior to Christmas.

Any questions, text or call me at 608-800-9884, or e-mail teigep125@gmail.com

Please contact the recipient beforehand, so you can schedule a time that works best for each of you.

Thank you. Pam Teige

Holiday Ushers Needed

Nativity is almost upon us! As we lean into the holidays and prepare to welcome the Christ child, we invite you to help prepare Grace for the season. There are many ways to serve, but one of the most pressing needs we have are ushers. Holiday ushering is not a long term commitment, nor is it hard, but it is an important one as more people attend, and we welcome more visitors. There will be a sign up sheet at that back of the church during the Nativity season to sign up to help! Or reach out directly to Sue Sanders at ssjessett@gmail.com to get involved.

Community and Compline on Thursdays in Advent

Join Episcopalians across Wisconsin on Zoom for Community and Compline, a special Advent program led by the Rev. Portia Corbin, the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller and the Rev. Kathleen Charles on December 7, 14 and 21 at 7 p.m. The hour-long program will include time to build relationships and reflect on preparing our hearts and homes for the coming of Christ. At the end of our time together, we will say compline.

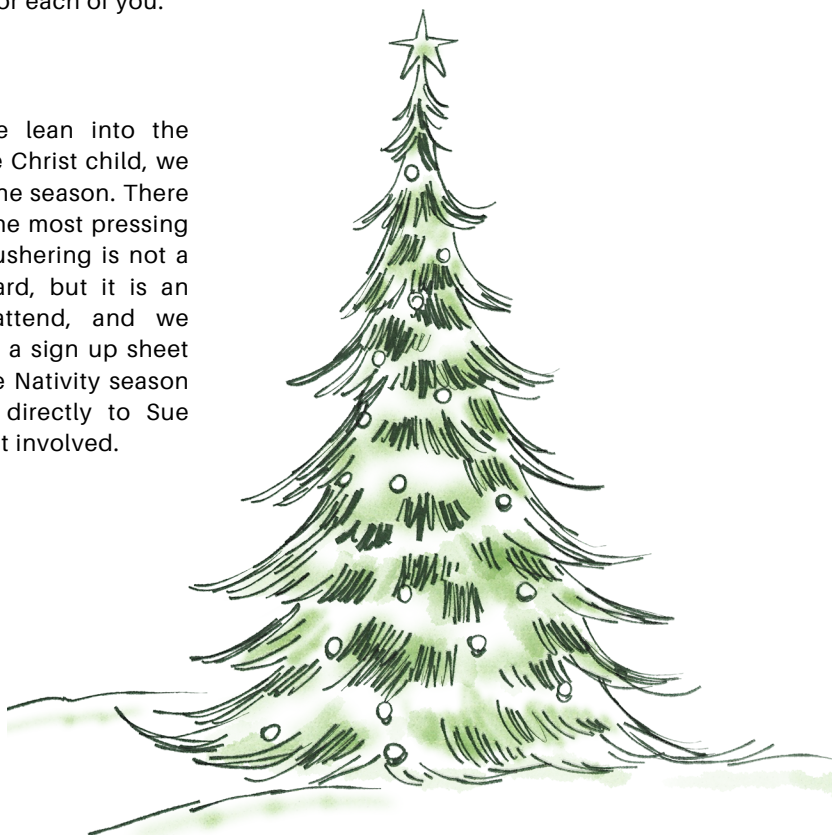
These evening online events are an opportunity to get to know other Episcopalians across Wisconsin and to pray together, but they are not designed to be a forum for discussion of the proposal to reunite our dioceses. Join us for a time of light and hope in the midst of the Wisconsin winter!

Register to attend on Zoom here

<https://bit.ly/3GjxkMT>. Once you register, you will be sent a link to join Community and Compline. You can attend any or all of the sessions, and invite your friends and fellow parishioners!

Questions? Email

communications@episcopalwisconsin.info





A BLESSED ADVENT SEASON

Church Christmas Decorations

At Christmas time, the Grace Church altar, Nave, and outside entryways are decorated with evergreens and poinsettias, made possible by the generosity of our church family. You are invited to make a contribution to the Christmas Decorating Fund as a memorial, thanksgiving, or simply as a donation. Donation dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletins.



- Please PRINT the following information.
- Return it to the church office by Tuesday, December 19th through the offering plate or by mail.
- Or email to: admin@gracechurchmadison.org
(Checks must still be submitted to the church)
- Make checks payable to Grace Church and include "Christmas decor" on the message line.
- Suggested donation is \$50, but any amount is appreciated.

I would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers & greens in memory / thanksgiving / celebration (please circle) of:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

*Thank you for helping make our beautiful
Grace Episcopal Church festive this Christmas!*



A BLESSED ADVENT SEASON - AROUND THE DIOCESE



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG

Tuesday, December 12th
at 11:00 AM
featuring Dr. Roy Clare
as our guest organist.



Holy Communion Episcopal Church
320 Broad Street - Lake Geneva

There is no charge for this event, but a collection
will be taken to benefit the
Lake Geneva Food Pantry.
Please give generously.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
invites you to their 65th

Holiday Fair

Sat., Dec. 2, 2023
Trinity Episcopal Church
403 High Street, Mineral Point- Legate Hall
(Enter on Iowa Street)

DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 A.M.
CLOSE AT 2:30 P.M.

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| -Menu- Ham or Barbecue Vegan Sloppy Joes Gluten Free Bread Available Salads Variety of Delicious Pies & Gluten Free Desserts Coffee - Milk Serving from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (No Evening Meal) Pie & Coffee served ALL DAY | Christmas Decor |
| | Baked Goods |
| | Homemade Candy |
| | Nature's Bounty |

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR
A FESTIVAL OF
LESSONS & CAROLS
SUNDAY, DEC. 10TH - 7 PM





A BLESSED ADVENT SEASON - AROUND THE DIOCESE



CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

WITH OUR
1883 HOOK & HASTINGS
OPUS 1144 TRACKER PIPE ORGAN

**Saturday, December 16th
at 4:30 PM**

**Holy Communion Episcopal Church
320 Broad Street
Lake Geneva, WI**

Direct any Questions to: 262-248-3522

www.HolyCommunionLakeGeneva.com

**Featuring works by: Mendelssohn, Daquin, Bach,
Zachow and others**



Max Yount
Director & Organ



Sarah Sites
Violin



Jack Klug
Violin



Ray Schultz
Trumpet

Advance Tickets are available for \$30. Seating is limited, please order your tickets early.

Concert proceeds benefit this Historic Pipe Organ's Fund and the
Church of the Holy Communion Episcopal Church






A BLESSED ADVENT SEASON - AROUND THE DIOCESE

· JOIN US FOR LA POSADA ·

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS WITH US

December 15, 5-9pm



A NIGHT OF MUSIC, FOOD, AND FUN.

CHRIST CHURCH DELAVAN
503 walworth ave, Delavan WI 53115

LA POSADA DINNER!

Christ Church Delavan has invited Holy Communion parishioners to join them at a festive LA POSADA Dinner on Friday, December 15th from 5:00 - 8:00 PM to celebrate our shared ministry. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!



St. Mark's 35th Annual

Cookie Walk!

Saturday December 9th, 8:00 AM
700 E. Mill St. Beaver Dam, WI 53916



2022 COOKIE WALK



FREE HOLIDAY FUN FOR FAMILIES!

We are delighted that you are considering joining us to decorate your gingerbread house on **Saturday, December 9th** at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 4011 Major Ave, Madison. We'll start at **1PM** and wrap up by **4PM**. To register go to:

stlukesmadison.org

What to bring...

1. **Cookie pieces** for your gingerbread house. Store-bought is easiest, but feel free to bring your homemade pieces.
2. A **10x15in piece of sturdy cardboard covered in aluminum foil** - this will be the base of your house.
3. Any sort of **candy** you want to use & share!

We will supply...

1. Icing* & a bag to dispense it (don't bother with the icing that comes in the store -bought kits - ours will work much better!).
2. Assistance in assembling your house, if needed.
3. A donated gingerbread house, if needed**.

**Please note, icing is made with egg whites.*

***If you need a donated gingerbread house, please let us know that in your registration.*

December 2023

What if we learn to be present WITH God in the midst of the quiet moments as well as the busy times? What if we learn the secret of living WITH God, rather than working for God?



GingerHarrington.com

Mary & Martha's Message news for The Women of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee



Music Across the Diocese

December

**3 – Milwaukee, All Saints Cathedral
Advent Lessons & Carols 4 pm
Festive reception to follow**

Wauwatosa, Trinity

Taize-style Advent Service 4 pm

5, 12, 19 Milwaukee, St. Paul's – Noon

**Half-hour meditation, intercession,
and music**

10 Mineral Point, Trinity – 7 pm

Festival of Lessons & Carols

12 Lake Geneva, Holy Communion – 11 am

Christmas Sing Along , page 7

16 Lake Geneva, Holy Communion—4:30 p

**Classical Christmas Concert
See details, page 9**

17 Wauwatosa, Trinity – 4 pm

**Pipe organ recital of Advent and
Christmas Music with carol singing**

Bazaars — Quiet Days — Festivals

December

**2 Wauwatosa, Trinity — 9 am to Noon
Walking in Wonder
Pre-Advent Quiet Day**

6, 13, 20 North Lake, St. Peters, 7 to 8 pm

Practicing Wonder on Zoom
Contact: drosa829@gmail.com

9 Hartford, St. Aidan's, 9 am to 2 pm

Christmas Bazaar — Crafts & Cookies
See details, page 4

Beaver Dam, St. Mark's — 8 am to end

Cookie Walk — See details, page 5

Madison, St. Luke's — 1 to 4 pm

Gingerbread House Construction
See details, page 6

15 Delavan, Christ Church,

La Posada — Celebrate the Spirit of
Christmas with food and fun
See details, page 8



ONE SUNDAY IN ADVENT



ONE MONDAY IN ADVENT

FOR
unto us a
Child is born
UNTO US A *son*
is given; and the government
shall be upon *His* shoulder. And
His name will be called
WONDERFUL,
Counselor,
THE EVERLASTING FATHER,
The Prince of Peace.
ISAIAH
9:6

A Christmas Prayer

God, we are as confounded
as Joseph and Mary,
as busy as the innkeepers,
as lonely as the shepherds,
as frightened as Herod,
as wayfaring as the Magi.

Turn us again to the place
where,
with quietness, you wrap up
your truth
and promise,
your love and salvation
in the Child born in a crude
barn.

We ponder these things
as the noise and clamor of the
world
are stilled for a time,
and there is a peace that settles
deep within us.

Bring us to Bethlehem,
to the place where Jesus
was homeless
but where we are truly at home.

Amen.

The Rev. Canon Ralph Frye

E-NEWS reaches over 200 women in the Dioceses of Milwaukee and Fond du Lac. Please send information about upcoming events to Connie Ott, cott@chorus.net. To add someone to the mailing list, send the e-mail address to Connie Ott.

GIVING TUESDAY

Every Day!

when the women of the church collected a thank offering
The United Thank Offering (UTO) has been supporting innovative projects in The Episcopal Church since 1883,

to support mission and ministry. Today, the work of UTO welcomes all ages, genders, and people regardless of church affiliation, yet remains focused on promoting gratitude and supporting ministries that address compelling needs around the globe.

In honor of Giving Tuesday, we invite you to reflect on the gifts and opportunities that have shaped your life, and to consider how you might extend those blessings to others in the following ways:

Make a gift to support the 2023 Ingathering which will be given away in 2024 to support projects that respond to Jesus' request that we welcome the stranger as we would welcome Jesus (Matthew 25). One hundred percent of your donation to UTO is given away the following year. Learn more about our challenge grant to **sustain the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**.

Purchase **Christmas cards** to support UTO and send them as a gift for those hard-to-shop-for relatives because each one represents a thank offering given in their honor; download a fill-in-the-blanks "letter to Santa" for kids to use to make their Christmas list.

To access the following resources, go to
unitedthankoffering.com

One hundred percent of your donations will be given away to support ministries in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. Your gift today matters and will make a difference.

Thank you for your generosity and membership in the United Thank Offering.



Triologue Update

Tri-diocesan Convention Set

Voting on unification

May 4, 2024

Ho Chunk convention Center
Wisconsin Dells

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We said a sad “goodbye” to George Decker as he retired from his tenure as the parish administrator, and Sidney Boone from his 50 years of service at Grace Church in the choir.

We said “hello” to Kristen Wold and Erin Schuurmans as they came on board to create the parish administrative team.

And we said a very special welcome to Evie Robb at her baptism!!



I wanted to thank Fr. Jonathan and the Grace Church congregation for that wonderful sendoff into retirement you gave me last Sunday. Stephanie and I will always remember your kindness and good wishes. And Mary Ann and Brad did such a great job preparing and presenting that delicious smorgasbord!

Importantly, I am also very grateful for all the help volunteers and staff gave this novice Parish Administrator throughout the year. I could not have made it without you.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy and blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are planning to come back to Grace Church to attend one of the Christmas services and hope to see many of you then.

George Decker



After 50 years of service to the Grace Choir, Sidney Boone, this fall, has decided to retire from the choir. That is 50 years in the Grace Choir, but it is 60 years if Sidney includes choirs in previous parishes. We're thankful Sidney still plans to connect with the choir at social events and grateful for his many years of sharing his talents and spirit with the Grace Choir.



Welcoming our New Parish Administrators

On November 1st, Kristen Wold started as Grace's full-time Parish Administrator and Erin Schuurmans became our part-time Assistant Parish Administrator. Kristen's office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm, and Erin's office hours are Monday through Wednesday, and Friday, 9 am to 2 pm, with Thursdays off. You can reach Kristen by email at admin@gracechurchmadison.org and Erin at assistantadmin@gracechurchmadison.org.