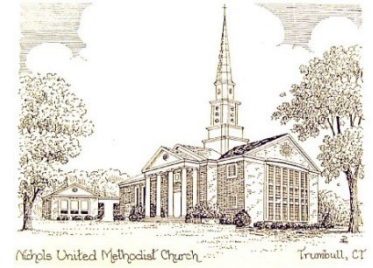


# The Carillon

Nichols UMC

Volume Number 46, Issue Number 3

March 2023



## **Grace: Experiencing God's Goodness in a Broken World – by Pastor David Piscatelli**

*1Corinthians 1:3-4 (NRS) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:8-10 (NRS) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- <sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.*

The Apostle Paul often writes about grace. It is contained in the opening of almost all his letters and described in most of them as well. The grace he is talking about is God's grace. Paul extends the Corinthians grace from God and Jesus, a grace that has been given by God. In the above passage in Ephesians, he reminds this early church that grace is a free gift from God that provides the basis for their faith and salvation. This gift is not for our own consumption, it is to be share in the world around us. Grace is one of those church words that many people use but is not deeply understood. It is all over scriptures, the hymnal, and pastoral sermons. While grace is not meant to be difficult to comprehend, it is something that is often made more complicated than it needs to be. In its most basic form, grace is experiencing God's goodness in a broken world.

God's grace is an outflowing of God's love. It is unconditional, it is active, and it is eternal. The earth and all things in it are created because of love. It is God's nature to love, and God's love is a free gift to each one of us. Yes, God loves you and God loves me! God loves us not because of anything we have done or will do – but is freely given. There is nothing we can or need to do to earn it. Yet sometimes we can get hung up with the "free" part of grace. We make the faulty assumption that God only loves us when we behave, or are at church, or when we do all kinds of good things for the world around us. While those might be things we should do and God wants us to do, they are NOT a condition for receiving God's grace. But grace like most forms of love is much better understood when you experience it.

As is often the case during Lent, I will be doing a sermon series. My sermon series is, you guessed it, "Grace: Experiencing God's Goodness in a Broken World." Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and continues for 40 days (excluding Sundays) until Easter. Each week we will explore how we can experience God's goodness, grace, and love in our lives today. We will be invited to see how we receive salvation, mercy, and healing as we engage the scriptures on Sunday mornings. Lent is an opportunity for each of us to grow in faith and understanding of the goodness of God's grace in Jesus Christ. It is also a time to consider how use the love and grace that God provides to help make Christ visible to the world. Lent is meant to be a serious time, not a somber time, and each Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate what God is still doing today. God is still changing hearts, giving us strength in our difficulties, and transforming lives in a world full of sickness and sadness.

During this Lenten season, it is my prayer and hope that each one of us experience God's grace in a fresh and new way. God seeks to pour out love upon each one of us in manner that feels real and tangible. We are each a unique child of God who is created to make God's love visible in the world. May this be a time where we truly experience God's goodness in the broken places of our own lives as God's free gift of Jesus Christ draws us into a deeper relationship with Him.

~Grace & peace, *Pastor David*



**Lenten Sermon Series**  
**Beginning Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**2023 Lenten Sermon Series**

- February 26<sup>th</sup> – The Goodness of Grace
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – The Grace of Salvation
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – The Grace of Mercy
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – The Grace of Healing
- March 26<sup>th</sup> – The Grace of Resurrection
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> Palm Sunday – The Grace of the Cross



**Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
**Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

Please remember to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed. Otherwise, you'll be late for church!



### **Sundays 9-9:45am Adult Bible Study – In Person**

This study is taught by David Preusch and meets in the Numbers classroom. Have you ever stopped and asked yourself just who Jesus is? Why did He appear on earth? And, most importantly, what does that mean for me? The answers to these questions and much more can be found in the Gospel of John and this study will be seeking answers to these questions. This is an inclusive study that includes the reading of short passages followed by questions about the passage for group discussion. Notes on the history and geography of the time and place provide context. There is no homework required but to bring the Bible translation of your choice. If you are new to Bible study and would like a place to start or would like a group setting, the Gospel of John is the place to start!



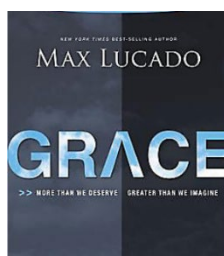
### **Sundays 10am The Message Conversation Study – In Person**

The Message Conversation study is back and meeting in the lounge after the 9am service. If young families are interested in joining us, please feel free to worship at 9am, stay for the children's sermon at 10am worship and join us in the lounge when the children go to church school. We are fine with the later arrival! No study guide or homework. Just a discussion of Pastor David's message. All are welcome! Any questions, please email Caryn Hammond at [Caryn3u2d@gmail.com](mailto:Caryn3u2d@gmail.com).



### **Peace & Prayer: Mid-Week Time of Devotion – Zoom** **Wednesdays 11:30-11:45am**

Judy Lang hosts a brief time of devotion and prayer via Zoom. This will be an opportunity to spend about 15 minutes centering ourselves in reflective thought and prayer. The link for this mid-week centering time can be accessed by clicking here: [Peace & Prayer Midweek Time of Devotion](#) OR Dial in: (646)-876-9923, Meeting ID: 366 149 7977, Password: 35#.



### **7 Week Study on Grace –Via Zoom: Tuesday Evenings 7-8pm OR Thursday Mornings, 9-10am**

Pastor David leads a Lenten study by Max Lucado titled “Grace—More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine”. Grace is often a difficult concept to understand. We can't earn it and we don't have to pay it back. We will learn how to make receiving and sharing God's grace a regular part of our life.



What an amazing year we've had so far! I'm having as much fun as the kids exploring the Bible and stories that teach us about Jesus and practicing ways to be who Jesus asks us to be. We're making fun, memorable crafts to take home that reinforce the lessons, and the children are doing beautifully memorizing scripture! As we begin the

Lenten season, we will explore what it means to be born again (John 3:1-7), learn what it means to be truly thirsty and how Jesus satisfies that thirst (John 4:13-14), hear the story of how Jesus said no to temptation and how we can as well (Matthew 4:1-11), and as we approach Easter, we will celebrate the King coming as people did when he entered Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11). Although hard to believe, soon it will be time to plan Vacation Bible School! Please be on the lookout for a survey/questionnaire, as your feedback is very important to us and our planning! Wishing you a very blessed end of winter - let's welcome spring as we welcome Him into our lives. Blessings!

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*Mabel Buttress, Children's Education Director ~ 203-400-0894 ~ [mbuttressnumc@gmail.com](mailto:mbuttressnumc@gmail.com)*

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We rang in February with some fun over at Rockin' Jump in Trumbull with our friends from Covenant Church. It was the coldest day of the year. Perhaps you remember that cold windy day? We stayed warm and got rid of some energy. We had some great conversations on God's purpose for our lives and the importance of trusting in God's Word. Unfortunately, we did not get to go on our Winter Retreat weekends due to lack of interest, but a couple of us were able to go and serve others on their Winter Weekend. I am looking forward to some great conversations and good times in March. If you are willing and able

to provide a meal for us, we would greatly appreciate it. Just let me know. I am looking for some local service opportunities for our youth. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear them. Our March calendar is below.

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** Bowling at Nutmeg Lanes 6-7:30pm (meet there)

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** Regular youth group meeting 5-7pm

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** Regular youth group meeting 5-7pm

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** Regular youth group meeting 5-7pm

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*Chrissy Ferrante, Youth Director ~ 203.558.7848 ~ [chrissy842001@comcast.net](mailto:chrissy842001@comcast.net)*

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## Baptism

Guinevere (Evie) Winter Navarrete, daughter of Richard Navarrete and Martha Otfinoski, was baptized on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Confirmation Project:

My name is Quinn Mellinger, and I am a Confirmand this year. For my service project I will be collecting items to make Easter Baskets for Janus House. I will be collecting donation items for the baskets from March 12<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. The Janus Center helps children, ages 11 to 17, who are in crisis, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. There will be a box available in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall to drop the items, which will have my service project name displayed. I will be collecting the following items for the gift bags: candy, socks, toiletries, lotions, stationary supplies, and any other items that you think the teens would appreciate. Thank you for supporting my project.



While Nichols UMC selects a specific outreach ministry to support each month, some Sundays are designated to support ministries of the greater United Methodist Church. This month is the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church. Through UMCOR we can make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement, and climate change. We support the operating activities and administrative costs of this worldwide relief agency through this offering. This enables UMCOR to ensure that 100% of every designated gift goes directly to those in need. UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water, and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support. From training Conference Disaster Coordinators and Early Response Teams to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly to disasters. To see videos and testimonies of how this has transformed lives, go the UMC Giving website ([www.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org)) and look for UMCOR. Please give generously. Checks may be made payable to NUMC and should indicate "UMCOR Sunday" in the memo. Thank you.



Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the ministries of Jesus Christ at Nichols UMC. Last year, in-person worship continued to recover from the pandemic restrictions of 2021. By September, we returned to conducting all three services on Sunday. We worked with a deficit budget all year, but thankfully received enough donations to exceed our budgeted income by \$11,000. However, we exceeded our budgeted expenses by \$4,300. Fortunately, we still have a surplus from the PPP funds from 2020 to cover the shortfall. God’s blessings and your faithfulness are clearly evident. As has been the case for the last few years, we establish our anticipated budget based on our expected ministry spending, knowing that our stewardship campaign doesn’t begin until January. Below is the budget for 2023 which shows there are still some challenges ahead. The income is based on what we received last year, so we are hopeful that our pledges and giving exceed that number so that we can avoid the projected deficit. The expenses include pay increases for all staff members agreed upon by Staff Parish and the Church Council. Our leadership will continue to work together to be good stewards of what God gives us through your generosity. Always remember our financial giving as well as our work continues to honor God here at NUMC.

~The Finance Committee

<b>Nichols UMC 2022 Financial Results &amp; 2023 Budget</b>			
	<b>'22 Budget</b>	<b>'22 Actual</b>	<b>'23 Budget</b>
Pledge & Other Congregational Giving	\$ 339,920	\$ 351,205	\$ 348,464
MDO Offering & All Other Income	\$ 17,550	\$ 17,075	\$ 19,397
<b>Total Offering &amp; Income</b>	<b>\$ 357,470</b>	<b>\$ 368,280</b>	<b>\$ 367,861</b>
Building, Maintenance & Utilities	\$ 90,120	\$ 99,107	\$ 99,734
Pastor & Staff Costs	\$ 216,131	\$ 212,288	\$ 221,623
Ministries & Missions	\$ 15,425	\$ 15,189	\$ 16,900
NYAC Ministry Allocation	\$ 48,714	\$ 48,714	\$ 49,223
All Other Expenses	\$ 9,250	\$ 8,687	\$ 8,844
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 379,640</b>	<b>\$ 383,985</b>	<b>\$ 396,324</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (22,170)	\$ (15,705)	\$ (28,463)
Reserves from 2020 Surplus		\$ 15,705	
General Reserves			\$ 28,463
Net Surplus/Deficit		\$0	\$0





March 1 Jean E. Haven  
March 1 Margaret O'Malley  
March 1 Ellie Smith  
March 1 Timothy Storck  
March 2 Alexandra Pogany  
March 2 Donna Sanford  
March 3 Shea Toth  
March 4 Alexander Nestor  
March 5 Norma L. Overhiser  
March 6 Maryna Barone  
March 7 David Barton Jr.  
March 7 Natalie Ferrante  
March 7 Avery Hyland  
March 9 Shane Hyland  
March 9 Clare Raccuia  
March 9 Kenneth Schif  
March 11 Erika Koury  
March 11 Charles Orr  
March 12 Peter Clark  
March 12 Doug Owen  
March 13 Jennifer Clark  
March 14 Natalie Biebel  
March 14 Madeline Nigro  
March 14 Nina Telep  
March 15 Stacy Coffin  
March 16 Jean W. McGrath  
March 17 David J. Baccaro  
March 17 Dawn Walsh  
March 18 Dennis Hrbek

March 18 Anne H. Keane  
March 19 Laurel Gray  
March 19 Paul Lang  
March 19 Martha Otfinoski  
March 21 Amelia Audette  
March 21 Jack Berkowitz  
March 21 Will Eighmy  
March 21 Matthew Janik  
March 23 Judy Doyle  
March 24 Victoria Pfohl  
March 25 Brianna Lackowski  
March 25 Donna Monks  
March 26 Madison Miller  
March 26 Lauren Wade  
March 26 Mary Wilson  
March 27 Jody A. Cologgi  
March 27 Joel LaPietra  
March 27 Alexa Mustakas  
March 27 Scott Pfannkuch  
March 27 Thomas Schadlich  
March 28 Megan Anderson  
March 28 Eric Bachlechner  
March 28 Ann M. Hansen  
March 29 Diane Perachio  
March 30 Caity Sippel  
March 31 George Dunn  
March 31 Evan LaPietra  
March 31 Kathryn M. Schwarz



# March 2023



Sunday    Monday    Tuesday    Wednes...    Thursday    Friday    Saturday

<b>Every Sunday</b> 8 AM Worship w/ communion 9 AM Contemp Service 9 AM Bible Study 10 AM Worship w/ nursery care, church school & Message Study 11 AM Coffee Hour	27	MDO 2 - Mon-Thur 9:30-1:45 MDO 3 Tues, Thr, Fri 9:15-1:45	28	9:30 UWIF Bd Mtg 11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	1	9:00 am Lenten Study - Zoom 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 12:00 pm AA	2	3	4		
9 am Confirmation Class 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 6:45 pm ASP 7 pm AA	5	12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Mtg. - Zoom	6	am UWIF kitchen prep 9:30 am Memoir Writing Group 5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Lenten Study - Zoom 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	7	11:30 UWIF Luncheon 11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	8	9:00 am Lenten Study - Zoom 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30-9 pm Footsteps	9	10	11
<b>Daylight Savings Time Spring Ahead</b> 9 am Confirmation Class 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA	12	12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts	13	5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Lenten Study - Zoom 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	14	11:30 am Peace & Prayer-Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Trustee Mtg. 7:00 pm ASP Bd Mtg 8:00 pm AA	15	9:00 am Lenten Study - Zoom 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30-9 pm Footsteps Happy St. Patrick's Day 12:00 pm AA	16	17	18
5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA 7 pm Boy Scout Comm. Mtg	19	12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Comm. Mtg. - Zoom	20	9:30 am Memoir Writing 5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Lenten Study - Zoom 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	21	11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	22	9:00 am Lenten Study - Zoom 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30-9 pm Footsteps 12:00 pm AA	23	24	25
9 am Confirmation Class 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA	26	12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Church Council Mtg. - Zoom	27	5:30 pm AA 6:15-10 pm Footsteps 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Lenten Study - Zoom 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	28	11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	29	9:00 am Lenten Study - Zoom 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30-9 pm Footsteps 12:00 pm AA	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	February 2023 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		April 2023 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6				

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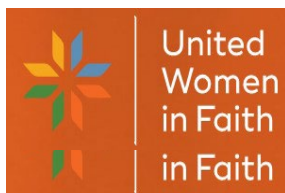
Holly Piscatelli, Editor

Submit articles through

e-mail: [numccarillon@yahoo.com](mailto:numccarillon@yahoo.com)

### DEADLINE FOR THE April 2023 issue is March 12<sup>th</sup>

The Carillon is published monthly except during July by the Nichols United Methodist Church, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT 06611. Send address changes to; The Carillon, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT 06611. Submissions should be emailed to [NUMCCarillon@yahoo.com](mailto:NUMCCarillon@yahoo.com) will be confirmed by the Editor.



### **UWF March Musical Lenten Luncheon Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**



Nichols United Women in Faith cordially invites all women and men to our March 8<sup>th</sup> luncheon in Fellowship Hall featuring our very own talented Greg Horton. Greg is an accomplished pianist, organist, and has been our church organist and choir director for over 25 years. With the help of choir members performing solos, duets and quartets, Greg has planned a beautiful and meaningful musical Lenten program for us. Our times are: 11:30am Fellowship, 12noon Meeting, 12:15 Luncheon, followed by our very special program. If you are not already on our calling list, you may make reservations by calling Brenda Braun at 203-375-1257. The cost is just \$7. Place settings will be provided. Come share in the fellowship during this special time of Lent.

**Executive Board Meeting:** Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:30am in the lounge

**UMW Fair Donations:** Now being accepted for this year's fall fair.

**Revised Fair Date:** Please note the change in our fair date, it will be on **Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>**