

# “Grace Greetings” February 2023



**REMEMBER THAT  
YOU ARE DUST  
AND TO DUST YOU  
SHALL RETURN**



**Grace Lutheran Church  
521 Providence Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23325**



<https://linktr.ee/gracelutheran>

*Grace Lutheran—a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.*

## February 2023 “Grace Greetings”

### Mission Statement:

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

### Bound Up with Your Neighbors

This post has been going around on social media, at least in my nerdy church circles, so I thought I would share it with y'all in case you hadn't seen it.

Some flavors of Christianity seem to greatly focus on the idea of individual salvation. *Have you been saved? Have you asked Jesus into your heart? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?* These just are not the questions that I tend to ask. I believe we are saved by the grace of God, which is a free gift, not something any one of us earns (or can lose/negate for that matter). I guess this is what makes me such a good fit for Lutheran theology—the focus on what God is up to as opposed to what I must do.

Of course there is the response to that grace—the putting faith into action—spreading God's love and grace throughout the world. This is where our congregational mission statement comes in—we are believers in Christ, called to be servants to all people. It is in our serving that we embody all the grace and provision we have been given by God and work to redistribute it throughout the world as needed. And there you have the boundedness to neighbor. Jesus talks over and over in scripture about serving one another and points how we are all connected. Most of the time when he talks about blessing, giftedness, and salvation, he uses a plural “you” (as in “all y'all”). For we are not able to fully experience God's reign until all have been freed, fed, clothed, and welcomed into the one family of God.

We worship, study scripture, do daily devotions, pray without ceasing, and serve our neighbors not in order to gain God's love and favor or earn our entry ticket into heaven, but as a way of inviting the Holy Spirit in, so that our hearts, minds, and lives might be changed from focusing on the individual of it all to the communal. It is only then that we together will be able to experience the salvation of the kin-dom of God.

God Bless,  
Pastor Leslie Weber



**Boyd Evans**  
@revboydevans

Christianity was never about individual salvation. It is well past time for us to get over this notion. If you don't believe that your salvation is bound up with your neighbor's, you have entirely missed Jesus message.

# EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

Feb 1	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Feb 5	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
	12:30pm	Craft Group
	3pm	Bill Keefer's Funeral
Feb 6	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir
Feb 7		NO Threaders
Feb 8	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Feb 11	9am	Blood Drive
Feb 12	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
	1pm	Confirmation @ Grace
Feb 13	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	5:30pm	Preschool Board (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir
Feb 14		NO Threaders
	7pm	Council Meeting (Hybrid)
Feb 15	Noon	Ladies Lunch
	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Feb 18	8am	Men's Group
Feb 19	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
	12:30pm	"Fat Tuesday" Pancake Brunch
Feb 20		Food Pantry CLOSED Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir
Feb 21	10am	Threaders
Feb 22	7pm	Ash Wednesday Worship (Hybrid)

Feb 26	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
Feb 27	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir
Feb 28	10am	Threaders

## Hybrid WORSHIP

### Regular Hybrid Worship Schedule

- 8:30am Contemporary Worship
- 11am Traditional Worship



### Sunday School

#### **Most Sundays at 9:45am**

- Elementary School—in Classroom #3
- Middle & High School—in Youth Room
- Adults—in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

### Monday Bible Study (Zoom)

#### **Mondays at 1:30pm**

#### ***Bible Study will NOT meet on February 20th.***

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87557721128?pwd=b2J4ektpdGtwWk9NQkJudzI1cHBBQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 875 5772 1128 and Passcode: 152551.





**Bell Choir Rehearsal**

**Mondays at 7pm**

**Bell Choir will NOT meet on February 20th.**

If you have any questions, please email Morgan at

[Music@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org](mailto:Music@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org).



**Threaders**

**Tuesdays at 10am**

**(on hiatus through Feb 14)**

The Threaders meet on Tuesdays at 10am to make walker bags for people throughout our community. There are jobs for various skill levels: sewing machine operator, button sewer, iron operator, etc. Questions? Contact Jane Jennings or Peggy Barry.



**Potluck & Bible Study (Hybrid)**

**Wednesdays**

**Potluck @ 6:30 & Study of Galatians @ 7pm**

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/ computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHzWUFlc0FIQit0MjN5c0IEcIntQT09> (Passcode: Grace).

- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.

**Digital Midwinter Power in the Spirit**

**January 30-February 1, 2023**

<https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>

Come, and explore how you can bring the Beatitudes into the modern world with a fresh look at Jesus' words for you today through the morning devotions, digital workshops, and worship. Explore how God's people can reach out to all with the love of God.

The Rev. Brenda Smith, from 1517 Media, retired director of the ELCA Book of Faith initiative, joins us as our keynote speaker!

To participate in the event you will need to register, there is no cost to participate.



**Craft Group**

**Sunday, February 5th**

**after the late worship service (~12:30pm)**

Calling all knitters, stitchers, scrapbookers, etc—let's get together and work on our projects. Bring a bag lunch and meet in the Fellowship Hall after the late worship service. Join us on the first Sunday of the month this winter and spring. Any questions, contact Sandra Fraenkel.



**Bill Keefer's Funeral**

**Sunday, February 5th at 3pm**

The funeral service will be followed by a dessert reception in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able to set up, serve, and/or clean up, please contact Pastor Leslie.



**American Red Cross**

**Blood Drive**

**Saturday, February 11th, 9am-1pm  
in the Grace Lutheran Fellowship Hall**

To make an appointment, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: GraceLutheran.



**Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive  
through Sunday, Feb 12th**

We will be collecting non-perishable food from Sunday, January 29 through Sunday February 12th. On January 29th, there will

be five boxes in the Narthex, one for each team playing in the NFL Division Championship Games and one for "I don't care." The first two Sundays in February, we'll be down to three boxes, one for each team playing in the NFL Super Bowl, and one for "I don't care." Show your support for your team and our Food Pantry by placing non-perishable food donations in the box of your choice!

**Most Needed Items:**  
(NO glass containers)

- \* Peanut Butter
- \* Grape Jelly
- \* Canned chicken
- \* Mac-N-Cheese
- \* Soup (any variety)
- \* Jiffy cornbread mix
- \* Breakfast cereal

**Preschool Board Meeting (Hybrid)**

**Monday, February 13th at 5:30pm**

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85964430976?pwd=cEVXNkkva2tLb2NWRUkvalRjQnJlU109> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 859 6443 0976 and Passcode: 040561.

**Council Meeting (Hybrid)**

**Tuesday, February 14th at 7pm**

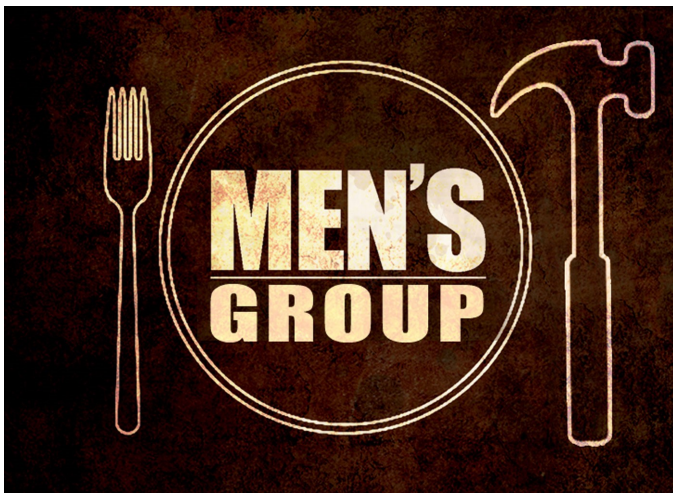
- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468766112?pwd=Z3VnL2RyVkrKdXhXRFFWT2E0ZlcrZz09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 874 6876 6112 and Passcode: 740742.





**Ladies Lunch Out**  
**Wednesday, February 15th at Noon**  
**at Black Pelican**  
**(1625 Ring Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23320)**

Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, February 12th.



**Men's Group**  
**Saturday, February 18th at 8am**

Join the men of GLC for potluck breakfast and work around the church.



**"Fat Tuesday" Pancake Brunch**  
**Sunday, February 19th at 12:30pm**

Please join us after worship for fellowship and a Pancake Brunch in honor of Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday. A free-will offering will be collected to support the GLC Food Pantry. Sign up in the Narthex so we can get an approximate head count. There is also a volunteer sign up sheet in the Narthex. Contact Faith Longworth to get involved!



**Ash Wednesday Worship (Hybrid)**  
**Wednesday, February 22nd at 7pm**

Join us onsite OR on Zoom at 7pm for Ash Wednesday Worship, which will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89788583210?pwd=NUxXUXc5TjVwaHJOUkRubS9iZlh1UT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 897 8858 3210 and Passcode: 786514.



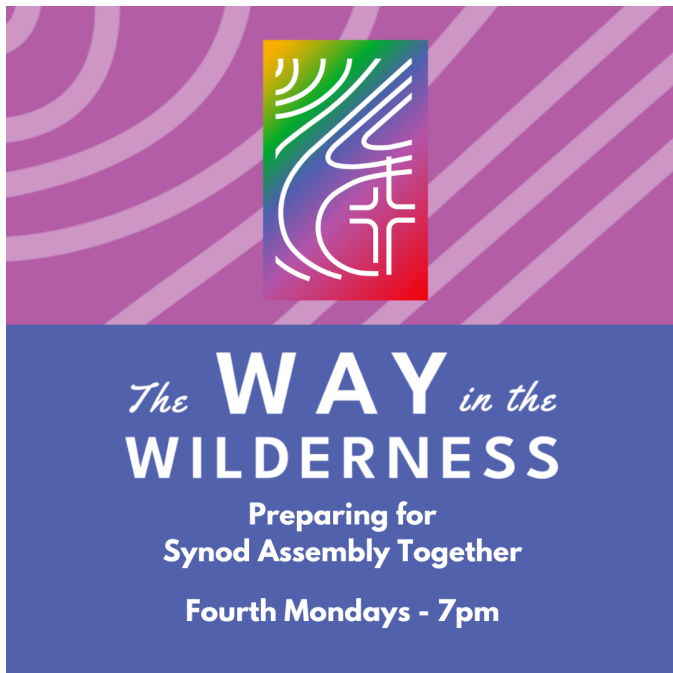
## Wednesdays *during Lent*

### **Lenten Soup Supper & Worship (Hybrid)**

**Wednesdays at 6:30 & 7:15pm**

Join us for a **simple Soup Supper** at 6:30pm followed by **Holden Evening Prayer** (on site and on Zoom) at 7:15pm.

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUFic0FIQit0MjN5c0lEcjNtQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.



### **The Way in the Wilderness: Preparing for Assembly Together**

**Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24, & May 22  
7-8:15 pm on Zoom**

As Virginia Lutherans prepare to gather for

the 2023 Synod Assembly, everyone is invited to join in a five-session bible study to explore the theme, *The Way in the Wilderness*. God is always with God's people, including joining us in all the wildernesses of life. Jesus calls us in many and various ways to share God's expansive love in our unique contexts. We are united in the wilderness, even if our journeys are different.

In each session, participants will hear a story about God's presence in the wilderness, will learn how that story has impacted a synod leader, and will have opportunity to share their wilderness stories too. Each session will help prepare our hearts and minds for the Synod Assembly, assured of God's presence with us as individuals and together as a synod.

Everyone is welcome to attend: Lay and rostered, voting member or visitor, even if you won't be onsite for the Assembly in June, you are welcome to join the conversation.

Portions of the sessions will be recorded and shared.

Thank you to our session leaders: Bishop Bob Humphrey, Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick (Assistant to the Bishop), Pastor John Wertz Jr. (Director for Evangelical Mission), Charles Downs (Synod Council President), and Blythe Scott (Synod Council Secretary).

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzKcMiGhJLZDlfg8vK\\_xDsnbBs1R63mkkLDJHnFm048j7s0g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzKcMiGhJLZDlfg8vK_xDsnbBs1R63mkkLDJHnFm048j7s0g/viewform)



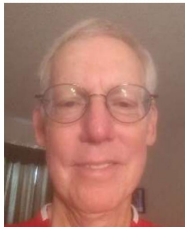
## 2023 Congregational Council



Bob Masters  
President



Beth Woodard  
Vice President



Mike Olson  
Secretary



Walt Anderson



Tom Casey



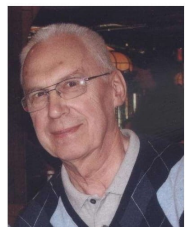
David Cooper



Debbie Dougherty



Faith Longworth



Fred Schleede

### From the Council

Greetings to all Grace members from YOUR church council. Newly elected and continuing members with their respective church Ministry committees for 2023 are:

- me-President
- Pastor Beth Woodard—(new to council) Vice President/Stewardship
- Dr Mike Olson—Secretary/Outreach
- Walt Anderson—Preschool
- Tom Casey—(new to council) Youth
- Dave Cooper
- Faith Longworth—Fellowship
- Fred Schleede—Property

Thanks to Jen Sherman-Cooper and La Quita Opperman for thier dedication and efforts for us last year. Since our last council meeting Debbie Dougherty has volunteered to fill the one vacant seat on Council. An electronic confirmation vote was unanimously passed to appoint her to council until the congregation can vote to approve her selection at our next annual church meeting.

The search for qualified applicants for Tech host and Nursery attendant continues. Resumes have been collected by the Tech hiring team and interviews are forthcoming. Recent research of financial compensation for Nursery attendants revealed a non-competitive hourly wage we were offering so the council approved an increase to \$15/hr to make our offer more in line with other similar positions.

The HVAC Rehab team continues to pursue a contractor to repair/replace the failing sanctuary system and waterlogged vents. The water heater in the kitchen recently began to leak and fail to heat water necessitating it to be replaced, special thanks to Ray Miles and Fred Schleede for replacing the unit and saving the church hundreds of dollars in repair costs. Many other upcoming events and opportunities exist at Grace Lutheran for each and every one of us to continue on our faith filled journey. Please talk to anyone on your church council to get involved.

Peace and God's blessings to all.

Bob Masters  
2023 Council President

### **Installation of 2023 Leaders (Jan 8th)**





**THANK YOU for your generous financial support of God's mission!**

In **December 2022**, Grace Lutheran received **\$20,396.92** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Fellowship at the Annual Ladies Christmas Lunch
- Distribute 26 Christmas Food Baskets
- Fellowship at the Admirals Hockey Game
- Welcome Pastor Leslie and her family back from full time parental leave
- Celebration in the incarnation of our God on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

(to name just a few) with **\$17,593.63** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

**Year to date (through December 31st), we have received \$206,954.92 for the General Fund and have had \$217,405.70 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance (as of December 31st) is \$60,871.27.**



**From the Preschool**

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Grace Preschool!!!!  
We are in the sweetheart month!!!!  
The month of February is love and black

history month. We are doing class projects to demonstrate how to love our community. February 13-17, 2023 will be grandparents/family week. This is a time when grandparents can come have lunch with their grandchild. This week, we are also welcoming senior church members to visit and have lunch with our students. If you would like to have lunch with the kids at Noon Feb 13-17, please email [[preschool@gracelutheranchesapeake.org](mailto:preschool@gracelutheranchesapeake.org)] or call [757-420-4720] the Preschool Office.

Grace Preschool is now approved by the state of Virginia to be a subsidy vendor. This means if you know of a family who wants to attend but can not afford it the state of Virginia will pay a portion or all the tuition fees. Please contact the director for more information.

Please help our preschool by linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to our account. It's extremely easy to do just tell the cashier you want to link your card to Grace Preschool, account number: TIE7040. You can also go online to [www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education#/app/cms](http://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education#/app/cms), click on "Link Your School Today", and choose Grace Preschool. When you shop Harris Teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. There are NO LIMITS to how much a school can earn.

You can also help our preschool by ordering Papa John's pizza using promo code GracePizza with each order.

Sincerely  
Kristie Fields  
Preschool Director



# CAROLINE FURNACE

Camp & Retreat

## Paul Bunyan Work Weekend

Save the date for a weekend of work projects, fellowship, and a great sense of accomplishment! This work weekend is open to everyone (not just men!). No chainsaw experience required - other roles include moving/loading cut sections, clearing brush, chipping limbs, running the log splitter, and stacking firewood. Paul Bunyan is hosted in either the Farmhouse or Cabin Village, and includes scratch made meals, friendship, campfires, and more!

**March 3-5, 2023**

## Spring Work Weekend

Save the date for a weekend of work projects, fellowship, and a great sense of accomplishment! Spring Work Weekend is hosted in the Cabin Village and includes scratch made meals, friendship, campfires, and more!

**March 24-26, 2023**

## Sun Pavilion Celebration

Save the date for a weekend of celebration as we open our new solar pavilion! Our weekend will begin with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony followed by a Bluegrass Worship at 11am in the Pavilion. Following worship we'll provide lunch while recognizing our amazing donors and friends with a small token of our appreciation. For those who want to stick around, we'll make s'mores, create spring crafts, and go on a property hike. Stay the whole weekend, or just come for the day!

**May 12-14, 2023**

	Entering Grades 1-3	Entering Grades 4-6	Entering Grades 7-9	Entering Grades 9-12	16 & 17 Year Olds	Adults & Families
WEEK ONE June 18-23	Explorer	Classic	Classic		LIT! Phase 1	
WEEK TWO June 25-30		Environmental H2O Adventure	Horse Shenandoah River			
WEEK THREE July 2-7	Off-Site Programming				LIT! Phase 1	
WEEK FOUR July 9-14	Explorer + 2nd-3rd grade	Culinary	Night Hammock		LIT! Phase 2	Volunteer Work Week
2 WEEK CAMP July 9-21		Adventure	Adventure			
WEEK FIVE July 16-21		Air Adventure Acoustic	H2O Adventure		LIT! Phase 2	
WEEK SIX July 23-28	Explorer	Land Adventure Classic	Land Adventure		LIT! Phase 2	
WEEK SEVEN July 30-Aug 4	Explorer	Horse Outdoor Living	Air Adventure		LIT! Phase 2	
WEEK EIGHT August 6-11	Explorer	Hammock	Night Hammock		LIT! Phase 2	Family Camp Adult Camp



VBS options available during Weeks 2 & 3!

For information on Confirmation Camp (Week One), contact your pastor or youth leader!

visit [www.carolinefurnace.org](http://www.carolinefurnace.org) for registration & more information!

Our TWO WEEK Camp is happening again! Join us for two straight weeks of fun July 9-21!

\*Half Week Options available for Work Week, Family Camp, & Explorer Camp

# PRAYER LIST

## We Pray for Our Members

Ann Anderson	Betty Keefer
Elaine Babb	Barbara Kilian
Joe Babb	Lori Kilian
Peggy Barry	Charlotte Maurer
Jovie Bennett	David Pritchard
Suzanne Bergsten	Kathie Rokitski
Annette Fillmore	Roy Russell
Jan Howell	Monique Schroeder
Patricia Jackson	Rose Mary Sidam
Leonora Jones	Ted Van Horn
Jack Justice	Thomas Washington
Sharon Justice	

## We Pray for Our Friends

Bill Babb	The McGinnis family
Randy Bosecker	Nano Masters
Richard Howell	Kathy Jo Matticks
Sarita Howell	Katie Milliner
Laura Braugh	Cindy Nethery
Doris Carr	Karen Opperman
Trevor Crawford	Ellen Pabst
Nathan Darulla	Allen Peterson
Randy Davis	Samantha Page
Sharon Dozier	Joshua Patton
Mark Dyer	Allen Peterson
Makenzie Fuller	Stephan Pleli
Madison Garriott	Tommy Reeck
Terry Gillette	Leah Rosario
Jenell Gordon	Lisa Sanders
Lettie Groshel	Nick Sims
Claude Hamilton	Sheila Silvey
Ruby Hockenberry	Larry Smith
Jaylin Horton	Joseph Stratton
Brian Hubert	Deb Thompson
Chris Jones	Dianne Van Pelt
Murray Leffers Jr	Richard Van Pelt
Andrew Lowe	

The Military & their Families  
 Our Food Pantry Clients  
 ELCA Missionaries  
 All who mourn

**In a effort to keep the prayer list up to date, please update Pastor Leslie monthly regarding your friends/family on the list.**



Feb 3	Christopher Camp
Feb 9	Jack Cloud
Feb 11	Thomas Washington
Feb 14	Dani Ownby
Feb 14	Brittany Ownby
Feb 15	Mary Washington
Feb 17	Hunter Simpkins
Feb 19	Casey Calkins
Feb 19	David Cooper
Feb 20	Don Stillman
Feb 24	Sharon Justice



Feb 3	Bob & Mana Masters
Feb 10	Fred & Lil Schleede
Feb 16	Joe & Elaine Babb
Feb 29	Ron & Traycie Pinkoski

*To add/correct any birthdays or anniversaries. Please email [Secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org](mailto:Secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)*

**PASTORAL CARE**

Please contact Pastor Leslie if you are in need of a pastoral care, hospital, or Communion visit.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12:15pm Craft Group 3pm Bill Keefer's Funeral	<b>6</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>7</b> NO Threaders	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	<b>9</b> 8pm AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9am Blood Drive
<b>12</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 1pm Confirmation @ Grace	<b>13</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30pm Preschool Board (Hybrid) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>14</b> NO Threaders 7pm Council (Hybrid)	<b>15</b> Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	<b>16</b> 8pm AA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8am Men's Group 10am Girl Scouts
<b>19</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12:30pm "Fat Tuesday" Pancake Brunch	<b>20</b> NO Food Pantry Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir	<b>21</b> 10am Threaders 7pm Good Mourning	<b>22</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship (Hybrid)	<b>23</b> 8pm AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	<b>27</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>28</b> 10am Threaders 6:30pm American Sewing Guild				

# February 2023