

THE GRACE CONNECTION

Volume 11, Issue 8



May 2, 2014
BROWN BAG



No Brown Bag Bible Study
Pastor Smith will be out of town
Thursday 5-1-2014 and will return
Monday night 5-5-2014.

Sunday's Scripture Lesson

Wednesday, 30

SPEAKER: Mark Mansky

COOK: Green Laboratory and Pastor Diana Smith

MENU: Soup, rolls, fruit and pudding

**UMW sponsored Mother / daughter banquet. Tickets now on sale. All ladies are invited.
(Details below)**

EVERYTHINGS COMING
UP DAISIES
MOTHER / DAUGHTER BANQUET

MAY 10, 2014 6:00PM

ADULT	\$10
CHILDREN 12-7	\$7
CHILD 6 & UNDER	\$4
CHILD 3 & UNDER	FREE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ben Burkhart May 1
Julie Cook May 5
Madonna Breier May 6
Madelyn Connor May 7
Virginia Coleman May 11
Ben Webb May 11
Raven Mammah May 12
Roderick Mammah May 13

Gertrude Bechtold May 15
Kim Rickman May 16
Amanda Wehner May 17
Raymond Coleman May 20
Brad Fann May 23
Chris Mathews May 25
Jackie Moore May 27



United Methodist Church
600 South Jefferson Avenue
Springfield, MO 65806



Days of Grace

Daily	12:00pm Al-Anon Family Group Meeting – Room 22
Sunday	May 4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday Service 11:30-1:30pm Youth Group 4pm Yoga
Tuesday	May 5 10:00 am Sew and Sews 6:30 pm PPRC
Wednesday	May 6 5:00 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Prayer Service 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm No Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Friday	May 9 11:30 pm Brown Bag Bible Study
Saturday	May 10 10:00 am Mother Daughter Banquet

Sunday Morning Treaters

May 4	Karol Spencer
May 11	Jeanette Kennemer
May 18	Georgian Wellonen

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Return Service

Grace United Methodist Church
600 S Jefferson
Springfield, MO 65806

Psalm 118:24

The LORD has done it this very day; let us
rejoice today and be glad.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

I'm sorry to say that because of a change in their schedules the Mammahs will not be able to continue teaching our Youth Class. The kids are welcome to come back to my class. Hopefully we will be able to find them a new teacher before too long because they really need to have their own class. *If you have an interest in working with these kids please let me know. These are great kids and I'm sure it will be very rewarding for anyone who will do this. Thank you very much. Miss Cindy*

Happy belated Birthday to our long time member Lois Morrow who celebrated her birthday on April 23,2014.

MEMORY:

Billie and Leonard Rader
Juanita Kukal
John Davis
Billie Rader
Billie Rader
Billie Rader

GIVEN BY

Betty Meacheam
Betty Meacheam
Betty Meacheam
Betty Prather
Rex and Betty Fraley
Howard and Jackie Moore

FUND DONATED TO

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PRAYER LIST

UMW

MW will meet on Tuesday May 6th at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall Virginia Darr and Suzy McArthur will serve as hostesses. Hope to see you there.
Suzy McArthur

We welcome Mary Ann Morris as our guest preacher this Sunday, May 4. Mary Ann is well-known to many in the congregation, having served Grace as an associate pastor. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on May 11.

Thank you for your special gift of \$ 150.00 in support of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks. Per your instructions, we will put your gift to work immediately in support of Crosslines for food sponsorship. Your gift is special gift is a great encouragement to us!

I want to encourage you to read the enclosed special message about recently launched 2014 Compassion Campaign to raise awareness and financial support for our mission. Thanks to partners like you, the Council of Churches is delivering direct services and leadership to address community issues like homelessness, hunger, poverty, and child abuse/neglect. With God's blessings, I believe we can do so much more in the name of Jesus Christ by staying focused on serving our neighbors in spirit of compassion and unity.

Thank you for your partnership and compassion!

Gratefully Yours in Christ,

Mark Struckhoff

Executive Director

Continue to pray for:

- Continue to pray for, please:
- Family and friends of Billie Rader
- Helen Boles
- Gertrude Bechtold
- Gary Metcalf
- Richard Pidwell's mother
- Lynlee Burlison
- Confirmation class – this is their last week of class. Confirmation will be June 1st.
- Malaysian airplane sorrowing families and searchers
- Please pray for students who will be getting out of school and especially those who will be graduating.
- John Moore's cousin's wife has passed away. Prayers for the family please.
- Richard Pidwell's mother
- Jim Lee's uncle, Leonard Kraybill, for whom we have been praying for a while, has passed away. Prayers for the family, please.
- Joanna's brother, Jack
- Joanna, a neighbor, asks for prayer for her husband who is in failing health.
- Mikaela Smith's friend Jackson
- Families in South Korea who have loved ones missing or killed in the overturned ferry incident.

GIVING

Sunday, April 13	67
Sunday School	25
Ministry Offering	\$ 1600.27
Other Income	\$ 66.00
Wednesday, April	23
Meals served	103
Cooking Team	9
Love offering	\$33.45
Prayer Service	22

SPRING GARDEN PARTY

Luncheon and Craft Party

Saturday May 3rd

8:00 am -2:00pm

****Lunch ****

Served 11:00 am -1:00pm

Menu:

Choice of: Quiche Plate or Chicken Salad Plate

Includes

Drink and Dessert

***Shopping Venues ***

Craft Booths, Bedding plants, Bake Sale, Book Sale Silent Auction

**Asbury United Methodist Church
1500 S. Campbell: Springfield, MO**

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” –Psalm 8: 3, 4 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have been avidly watching *Cosmos* on television for the last few weeks, and find it awe-inspiring to contemplate the intricate design of the universe. Unfortunately, some Christians are not so enthused because it challenges their assumptions about how creation happens. As I mentioned Sunday in my sermon on Thomas the apostle, the confirmation class has been studying the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. All of us are confronted with decisions every day, some simple and trivial, others momentous and life-changing. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral expresses our Methodist tools for making those decisions, what we call *prayerful* discernment. John Wesley used four different sources for discernment: Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. The Wesleyan scholar Albert Outler was the first to coin the phrase “the Wesleyan Quadrilateral” to describe the interplay between these four components. For Wesley, *Scripture* always was the final authority and rule for Christian life. However, *tradition* (the church’s experience of the working of the Holy Spirit throughout history), *reason* (our God-given ability to seek understanding, and *experience* (our personal experience of the Holy Spirit’s working in each of our lives) inform our reading of Scripture. I especially appreciate the important role that reason plays in our ability to see God’s hand at work and figure out our own part in that work. Particularly today, when so many people seem to believe that we must be faithful *or* intellectual, Wesley reminds us that God gave us a brain and expects us to use it!

One of my favorite theologians, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, was a paleontologist as well as a philosopher and Jesuit priest in the 20th century. It was a time when the Catholic Church, as well as many Protestant denominations, saw the theory of evolution as a threat to Christianity. Teilhard, following the lead of St. Augustine and St. Ambrose, saw the Genesis story as a metaphoric and theological story rather than a literal one. Teilhard proposed that all of creation is evolving toward greater complexity and consciousness. To describe this evolution he coined the phrase, “The Omega Point—as in ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega.’” A brilliant man, his work was often misunderstood and for long periods of time, he was not allowed to teach or publish his writings. However, while he may have been frustrated by misunderstanding and censure, he was never embittered.

Owen J. Gingerich is a former professor of astronomy at Harvard University and a practicing Christian. Gingerich has responded, in part, by saying that “the great tapestry of science is woven together with the question ‘how?’” while the biblical account and faith “addresses entirely different questions: not the how, but the motivations of the ‘Who’.

With all the voices clamoring for our attention, with all the differences of opinion sincerely held by Christians, it is helpful to be reminded that God does not leave us on our own to figure it out, but that we have some practical guidelines for understanding how God continues to guide us. And above all, we remember that our salvation is not dependent on our understanding, but upon the grace of God, and that all human understanding is limited. However, that is no excuse not to try to understand to the best of our ability. In the words of St. Paul, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.” (1 Cor 13: 12)

Grace and peace,

Quotations from Teilhard de Chardin, 1881-1955

Love is a sacred reserve of energy; it is like the blood of spiritual evolution.

You are not a human being in search of a spiritual experience. You are a spiritual being immersed in a human experience.

Our duty, as men and women, is to proceed as if limits to our ability did not exist. We are collaborators in creation.

Love is the affinity which links and draws together the elements of the world... Love, in fact, is the agent of universal synthesis. {S}he that will believe only what {s}he can fully comprehend must have a long head or a very short