

Jesus Talks With Nicodemus

Thírd Sunday After Epíphany January 23, 2022

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

"A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus"

Holy Communion

Congregational responses are in bold print

We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this wonderful evening of light, music, the Holy Word and fellowship. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card. We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available please inform Communion Assistant of your need.

We have 4 assisted listening units that are simple to operate. They consist of a small unit with an earpiece and volume control, each unit is replaced after each use. See the ushers to use one today.

Restrooms: Located to your left as you face the rear of the church.

During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in bold type. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to stand, please do so as you are able. As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.

Gathering

Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Grace Strategic Planning Committee

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one God who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.
We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected.
We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves.
We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.
Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation.
Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In + Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

Prelude

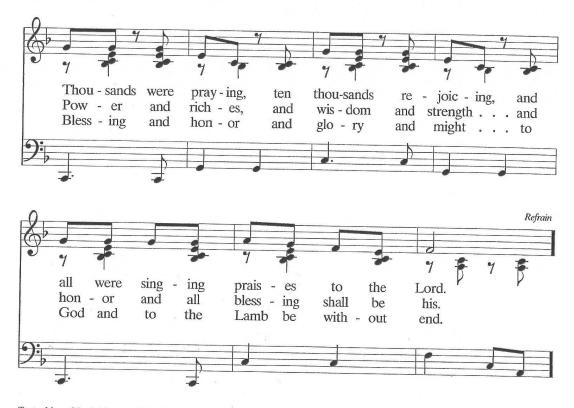
<u>Greeting</u>

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise





Text: Manuel José Alonso and José Pagán; English text composite
Music: Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán
Spanish text and music © 1979 Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán, and Ediciones Musical PAX, admin. OCP Publications

ALABARÉ irregular

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Birthing God,

You gave us new life when we were born of water and Spirit. Help us live into that new life refreshed and renewed for your work.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Word

First Reading: Psalm 139:13-18

A reading from Psalms:

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written

all the days that were formed for me,

when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸I try to count them — they are more than the sand;

I come to the end — I am still with you.

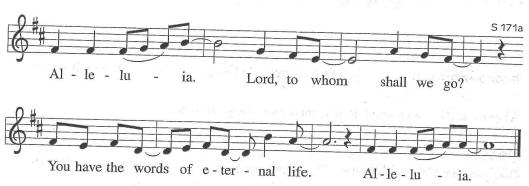
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The congregation stands to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: John 3:1-21

The holy gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ³The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ९Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹0Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Continued

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated

<u>Children's Message</u>

Pastor Pingel

<u>Sermon</u> Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The congregation stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn of the Day: "Borning Cry" #732, Page 9

Apostle's Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Borning Cry



- was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a ges of your life, not too old, no lon-ger young,



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold. you were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord, to whom you now be-long. I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be-gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one, When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es in and you shut your wea-ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."

I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."

I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

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Prayers of Intercession

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

<u>Peace</u>

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offertory

The congregation stands



Offertory Response

Add the following words to verses 2 and 3 as we sing together:

Verse 2 Joy in Christ... Verse 3 Peace on earth...

Victory Is Mine



Text: traditional

Music: VICTORY IS MINE, traditional

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,
Sovereign of the universe.
You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table,
nourish us with this heavenly food,
and prepare us to carry your love
to a hungry world,
in the name of Christ our light.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

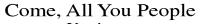
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.

Music: UYAIMOSE, A lexander Gondo
Text and music © 1986 World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music.

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Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciple, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to God's table.
There is a place for you and enough for all. **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation may be seated.

0 Lamb of God SERVICE MUSIC 0i, Jumalan Karitsa 197 Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa, io - ka pois o - tat maa - il - man Lamb . . of God, you take . . . a - way . . . the sin of the syn - nin, ar-mah-da mei-tä, ar-mah-da mei - tä. world; . . have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us. Ju-ma-lan Ka - rit - sa, io-ka pois o-tat maa-il-man syn - nin, Lamb of God, you take . . a - way . . the sin of the world; . . . an - na meil-le rau - ha - si ja siu-na - uk - se - si. grant us vi-sion, grant us jus-tice, grant us your own true peace. Music: Matti Rantatalo Music © 1992 Matti Rantatalo

The Holy Communion

The congregation may be seated.

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

Communion Distribution: One communion team will serve the left side of the nave; another team will serve those on the right. You are invited to come to the altar by the center aisle; take an empty individual glass (or filled grape juice glass) available at the railing, and proceed to the railing, filling in from the center out toward the side aisle. As you receive the bread and wine, you may respond as follows:

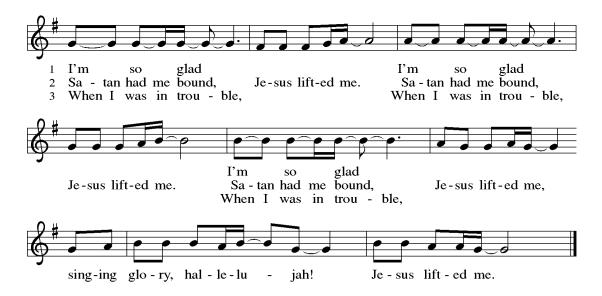
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

After all have returned to their places, the congregation stands.

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



Text: African American spiritual Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,

+ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song: "The Church of Christ"

#729, Page 20, Verses 1, 3, 5

Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary World. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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The Church of Christ, in Every Age



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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today



Altar Guild: Jane Stein

Assisting Minister: Mike Trauscht

Communion Assistant:

Council Person of the Week: Robin Crowder

Covid Monitor: Gail Johnson

Offering Stewards: Pat Brady

Robin Crowder

Ushers: Karen Walck

Rew Walck



The Chancel Flowers today are given to the glory of God



Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

January 30, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Service of Holy Communion And via You Tube

Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching Psalm 42:1-3 John 4:1-42



Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks,

in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing Need for Prayer" list.

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Yolanda Figueroa, Mother of a Dear Friend of Lily Pingel
Craig George, Friend of Mike and Cindy Trauscht
Darren Graf, Son of Woody and Irma Graf
Dr. Hammock, Friend of Many Members
Garlin Howard, Friend of Beth Brady
Carol Keane, Friend of Marsha Howard

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Please advise of status changes)

Liz Ann Binns Fred Brower
Marie Brown Nancy Fitzgerald
Sandra R. Hoy Phyllis Kite
Bob Knemoller Glenn and Flossie Myers
Janet Parmer Barb Susen

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Please advise of status changes)

Janice Collins, Friend of Grace

Nancy Delaney, Dave Delaney's Wife Regan Grant, Friend of Richard and Kathy Bump

Kyle Getler, Member Relative Regan Gran

Sandy Higgs, Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow Hilary Hoffman, Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow Joshua Horn, Friend of Mike and Cindy Trauscht

George Toop, Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow

Members/Friends Grieving

Family of Ron Hite, Brother of Bobby Hite
Family of Allison Lawhorne, Niece of Gloria Nelson
Family of Joe Moyer, Member of Grace
Family of Gary and Geraldine Mitchell, Friend of Grace

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Throughout the Year

Joe Ranzini Dennis Barnes Lily Pingel Linda Owens

Esme Hilker

The Needs of the World

The Church

Our nation and democracy and seeking the common good

Covid-19—our patience and vigilance at a time of weariness

Tornado Devastation in Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri

Wildfire Devastation in Colorado

Grieving families after the Bronx, NY fire

Pray for God's plan for Grace—our life together and witness and service to the Community

Prayer for neighboring Lutheran congregations: St. James, Bethlehem, Zion and Bethany

Our Neighbors

Our neighbors in Basic



Welcome to Worship!

- During the Season after Epiphany, we celebrate our unity in Christ with sisters and brothers from around the world, and in our own communities, with songs of praise, hymns and other songs in the worship service that reflect our rich diversity in Christ. We'll be using this Worship Setting through January and February.
- We will also be using the <u>contemporary form of the Lord's Prayer</u>.
 The gift and challenge to doing so is to help us focus on what Jesus has taught us to pray. Using the Contemporary form helps us to pray with new ears and hearts!
- We continue to mask and distance, and remain mindful of each other's health and safety when we gather, and share in fellowship.
- Please mute, silence or turn your cell phone off prior to worship, to help you to hear the Word, share in God's Grace, and give God your praise.



Prayer Group on Wednesdays - Grace is offering a regular Prayer Group on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. We begin each time with an abbreviated Morning Prayer worship, and conclude with Prayers offered by all participants: for the World, for the Church and its Mission of the Gospel; for Creation, for Peace and Justice among the Nations, for those who are sick, poor, grieving, lonely; for Grace church, and for special concerns. You are invited to Prayer!



New Bible Study begins Thursday, January 27th! We will be studying the book <u>Death By Baptism</u>: Sacrament Liberation in a <u>Culture of Fear</u>. How can our Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection free us from fear in a world that sets us on edge with fear and anxiety? This six week class will offer great discussion about what our baptism means for daily life. Come join us at 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays, beginning 1/27, either in-person in the Conference Room or via Zoom. Order the book from Amazon, or call the Church Office to order a copy. The cost is \$10.68. Let Pastor know if cost is an issue.



Christmas Eve Donation - At all three Christmas Eve services, we collected for Sherando United Methodist Church in light of their burned out worship space, and will be sending \$670 to them. We pray the donation will be a blessing as Sherando seeks to move forward.



Covid At Home Tests Available to Your Door - the Federal Government has made Covid at-home rapid tests available to you by mail. You can order up to four tests for your household at www.covidtests.gov.



Refugee Resettlement—Several people at Grace have asked about the potential opportunity to assist in resettlement of Afghan refugees as they transition from their initial stay at military camps and bases into communities around the country. Grace has a history of sponsoring refugee families from Vietnam and the middle east over the years. There was a meeting with a Church World Service representative from Harrisonburg at Westminster Presbyterian this past week to give us an opportunity to learn about the needs of these families and the ways in which we might help. It is clear that helping these individuals and families transition to American communities – into homes, jobs, schools, and community life – is a long and complex process; but there are many ways in which members of Grace might provide assistance in the process. Stay tuned for further information as we discuss the possibility of teaming with Westminster or other congregations. If you have a particular interest in participating at some level in the resettlement of families, please let the church office or Linda Meyer know of your interest (lameyer@cfw.com or 540-256-2277) and we will keep you informed as conversations and plans progress. Or, you may sign-up on sheet is in the Narthex.



Yoga Class Offered at Grace - Shelton Sprouse, who had the "Blue Moon Yoga" studio on Main Street until the pandemic, is offering a Yoga class Saturday mornings at Grace. It is designed for beginners and senior adults, for "physical activity and mindfulness." The class is offered at 11:00 a.m.—12:15 a.m. Saturday mornings, in the Fellowship Hall. A donation may be given, but is not required.



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food banks. We have made twenty-three deliveries thus far, ten to Main Street United Methodist, and thirteen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. Overall, we have given well over a TON of food! If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Monday

Genesis 14:(1-7) 8-24 Hebrews 8:1-13 John 4:43-54 Psalm Morning 57, Evening 85

Tuesday

Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21 Hebrews 9:1-14 John 5:1-18 Psalm Morning 54, Evening 28

Wednesday

Genesis 16:1-14 Hebrews 9:15-28 John 5:19-29 Psalm Morning 65, Evening 125

Thursday

Genesis 16:15—17:14 Hebrews 10:1-10 John 5:30-47 Psalm Morning 143, Evening 81

Friday

Genesis 17:15-27 Hebrews 10:11-25 John 6:1-15 Psalm Morning 88, Evening 6

Saturday

Genesis 18:1-16 Hebrews 10:26-39 John 6:16-27 Psalm Morning 122, Evening 100



Life of Grace Church January 23-30, 2022

DAY OF WEEK	DATE	TIME	MEETING
Sunday	01/23	10:00 a.m. 10:50 a.m.	Third Sunday of Epiphany Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Paul Pingel Presiding and Preaching Coffee Fellowship via Zoom
Tuesday	01/25	7:00 p.m.	Round Tables (Fellowship Hall and Zoom)
Wednesday	01/26	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Backpacks (Stage in Fellowship Hall) Prayer Group (Chapel)
Thursday	01/27	8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Grace Walkers (Meet in Parking Lot) Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)
		6:00 p.m.	Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom (CCE&J)
Saturday	01/29	11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday	01/30	10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Paul Pingel Presiding and Preaching
		10:50 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship via Zoom



Members of Grace Congregational Council



Robin Crowder, President

Jerry Kite, Vice-President

Bob Barrette

Fred Biggers,

Kathy Bump

Kim Hull,

Jean Morgan

Nancy Schwiesow,

Andrew Sell

Amy Warren

Ron Almarode, Treasurer

Vivian Proctor, Secretary

Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer

Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor—Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music—Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary—Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Lunch 11:30—12:30, Monday-Thursday Closed Friday

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