



United in Grace Gazette

United in Grace Lutheran Church

1300 Tuolumne Street | Vallejo, CA 94590

www.unitedingracelutheran.org



Reaching out, welcoming in!

March 23, 2023

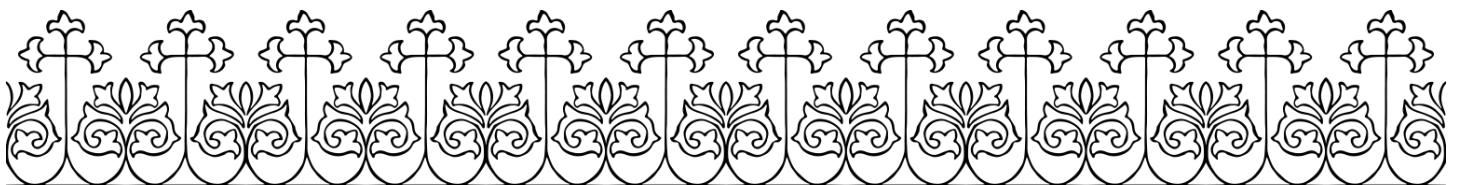
Use the link below at to sign onto Zoom worship.

<https://zoom.us/j/8210496017?pwd=d2p6TG9laWdoc1U2NFRpN3NCK3pLUT09>

Meeting ID: 821 049 6017 | Passcode: Grace

Join by mobile phone: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 821 049 6017 | Passcode: 554709





Serving on Sunday, March 26, 2023
5th Sunday in Lent

Presiding and preaching: Matthew Hervey

Assisting Minister: Kim Hervey

Lector: Roger Riley



Anticipating Sunday...

The Hope of New Life

Hope overcomes despair for God’s people: this is the message of the readings for today. The hope of new life is evident in the story of “dry bones” from Ezekiel. The children of Israel declare their hope is lost. The prophet’s experience in the valley of dry bones inspires him to preach renewed hope to the people. Psalm 130 sings of hope in God and God’s word. The work of God’s Spirit gives hope of new life in Paul’s letter to the church at Rome. The Gospel of John tells the hope-filled story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. The gospel gives us encouraging words to sustain us through the approaching despair of Christ’s passion and brings us to the fulfillment of hope on Easter. Martha’s wistful words to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here. . . . But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him” (John 11:21-22), reflect the hope of God’s people in the face of despair, even in the face of death.

Each text encourages hearers to hope in God and God’s word. How do Christians experience unfulfilled hope? This is the challenge for those who interpret today’s texts for hearers. Israel’s woes are not at an end; other psalms tell of struggle and pain; the Christ-believers at Rome are persecuted; Jesus who raises Lazarus from the dead soon dies. And yet hope is fulfilled as Paul proclaims “all Israel will be saved” (Rom. 11:26). Psalm 46 sings of God’s presence in time of trouble. A preview of the hope of the resurrection will sustain believers in these final days of Lent (John 20:17). The Christian’s confidence in the resurrection of the dead epitomizes their hope in Christ.



Sunday, March 26, 2023

5th Sunday in Lent

In Sunday's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.



Ezekiel 37:1-14

The dry bones of Israel brought to life

Psalms 130

I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

Romans 8:6-11

Life in the Spirit

John 11:1-45

Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus



The Readings in the Bible

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to

the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

Psalm: Psalm 130

I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel**

from all their sins.

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit

of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb

to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,



"Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to

them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.



About the Readings in the Bible...

The Bible readings this coming Sunday are for everyone who feels half dead, for everyone who sees death everywhere, as well as for everyone who is afraid to even think about death. Come to worship, to receive the breath of the Spirit, to hear the voice of Christ, to be fed at the table, and to celebrate the life God gives.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel was a sixth-century prophet living in Babylon during the exile. His prophecies, part of the Priestly tradition that is found throughout the Old Testament, proclaim that despite the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in 587, God will eventually restore Israel to even greater glory. Perhaps the most beloved passage of the book is this vision in chapter 37 of a restored Israel, returned from Babylon to their own land. Christians have seen also in Ezekiel's vision a picture of the resurrection of the dead at the end of time. Both now and at the end we

rise up in response to the word of the Lord. Through the power of the Spirit's breath, baptism begins our new life, a life that will never end.

Psalm 130

After encountering the vision of the valley of the dry bones, we sing the penitential Psalm 130. We are the dry bones, waiting for the Lord. We trust that, although we have sinned, God will forgive. Through the words of this psalm, we articulate the deep meaning of Lent.

Romans 8:6-11

In the center of his letter to the church in Rome, Paul concluded his discussion of law and gospel by contrasting life in the flesh with life in the Spirit. For those in Christ, sin is already dead; the Spirit gives life. For Paul, the term "flesh" referred to the body as it is misused and controlled by the power of sin and the term "Spirit" to the power of the risen Christ in the individual and community. Paul uses the language of death and life to describe the radical nature of the effect of the indwelling of Christ's Spirit. We are now dead to sin, and the new life of Christ is already experienced here and now.

John 11:1-45

In this last of the seven signs in the gospel of John that demonstrate Jesus' divinity, Jesus first explained the sign and then performed it. As expected in John's gospel, the sign functions as a metaphor for the identity of Jesus. What happens to Lazarus is resuscitation, not the resurrection: Christ is the resurrection, and his power gives life to this world. In John's narrative, it is the raising of Lazarus that incited the authorities to seek Jesus' execution. The church has seen in this last great Johannine sign a picture of baptism: we too were dead, but the word of Christ has called us from death and restored us to life in the Spirit. Thus Lent is our annual emerging from the grave, our helping to unbind one another for vibrant life together.



Images in the Readings

Many medieval churches housed burials and contain even glass-cased skeletons, but most contemporary churches avoid picturing those bones that are left after the flesh has rotted away. Our culture avoids dealing directly and honestly with death: many people are even replacing the verb "died" with the term "passed," as if with everyone going off to heaven, there really is no death. In contrast, this Sunday presents us with the images of the **grave**, the **stink** of bodily decomposition, and the pile of **bones**. Furthermore, Paul's use of the term "**flesh**" as a metaphor for the misused human life intensifies this Sunday's honesty about human mortality. These texts represent the Bible's stark attention to the reality of death, both the "death" that is sin and the finality of death when our bodies die. When we fully acknowledge the natural fact of death, we are ready to praise God's life as gift.



Mary and Martha

Both women have the same grief. Both women believe Jesus has the power. And both women say the same thing: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:21, 32). Mary and Martha have often been pitted against each other—the be-er vs. the do-er. Mary and Martha are like most siblings: opposites in many ways and alike in others. Our families of origin shape who we are. But we are also part of God's family, where Jesus shows up and all who believe receive new life.

Sad Anniversaries

Throughout the US, Black women have been standing up and reminding people to say the names of Black people who have been killed for living their lives. This year is the eleventh anniversary of Trayvon Martin's murder, the sixty-eighth anniversary of Emmett Till's murder, and the third anniversary of George Floyd's murder along with anniversaries of countless other Black, Indigenous, and people of color in the United States. Hearing the words of Ezekiel today we might imagine those dry bones around us of people who have been killed for the color of their skin, the language they speak, or the presentation of their gender. Black women who remind us to say their names keep those bones alive in our world rather than letting them fade into history. Until the day God brings forth all bones from the grave into the New Jerusalem, we must find ourselves speaking for those bones and the lives they once carried.

A NEW CREATION

In the words of the baptismal liturgy, "By water and the word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ." Our creeds affirm not some immortality of the soul, but rather "the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting," "the life of the world to come." Christians trust that God enlivens not only this natural existence, but also a life other than and beyond this world, a new creation after this entire created universe has come to its end. Our life in Christ begins at baptism and extends, by the mystery of God, beyond time and space.

Connections with Creation

Where do you feel the pain of Earth and its creatures or hear the groaning of God's creation? When we weep for Earth—when we feel outrage for dying coral, burning forests, and rising seas, and for all who suffer because of ecological devastation—God grieves with us. The fact that Jesus wept suggests that the first step in birthing new life comes when we step *toward* the pain, not away, and when we do so in the presence of God. God, who shares our suffering, knows that new life begins when we honor our pain for the world and move beyond the numbness and denial that pretend everything is fine. In vulnerability Jesus opens to a power greater than himself and raises Lazarus from the dead. Even as you grieve for the planet, Jesus summoning you out of the tomb and into the struggle to protect life.

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Information On What's Happening and Announcements  
For Our Church Community...

Do you have any announcements or items you would like put in the UIG Gazette? Please email them to me by Wednesday afternoon at [susanraeriley@att.net](mailto:susanraeriley@att.net) and I will add them in.



Have you checked out our website lately? Dean Ahlberg is doing an awesome job in keeping it updated so check it out! [www.unitedingracelutheran.org](http://www.unitedingracelutheran.org)



Our in person, midweek Lenten services during Lent, continue to be on **Thursday evenings** in individual homes and *tonight, Thursday, March 23*, at the home of **Leslie and Peter Perroti, 1301 Nebraska St., Vallejo**. There will be a simple soup and bread supper with devotion.

We will meet from **6 – 7 PM**: planning soup supper from 6 – 6:30 PM, with devotions following at 6:30 – 7 PM.

Please email me ([susanraeriley@att.net](mailto:susanraeriley@att.net)) if you are interested in participating and/or volunteering to supply one of the items needed for the soup and bread supper, as indicated in the table below....

| Date            | Hosting home                   | Soup maker, with meat | Soup maker, vegetarian | Bringing Bread  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>March 23</b> | Perroti's, 1301 Nebraska St.   | Leslie Perroti        | Karen Spears           | Cynthia Bettini |
| <b>March 30</b> | Karen Spears, 15 Tolentino, AC | Karen Spears          | Anita Patten           | Susan Riley     |

*Outreach Project For Lent*



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

We are collecting items for **Personal Care Kits** for Lutheran World Relief for our Outreach Project for Lent. Provide much-needed self-care and critical germ fighting tools.

The items required to make to make **ONE Personal Care Kit**, include:

- ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
  - TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
  - ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*
  - ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
  - ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging
- \* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope, no plastic bags or wrap



Remember that dollar stores are good sources. We will be collecting until Easter, but later would be okay. Any questions give me a call 707-745-0648. Thanks, Anita

From the LWR website, <https://lwr.org/kits>:

## SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

As we cannot store items at church, they may be dropped off at the home of Roger and Susan Riley at 1325 Carl Avenue, Vallejo, 707-644-9646. Please call first to make sure we're home! 😊



## Sunday School News

Judy Faye and Jeannette Perez are working to organize supplies and prepare for Sunday School in the beautiful, "new" Upper Room! They are looking for *donations* of **clear** plastic storage bins that can stack, similar to the ones pictured below. Also needed are the **clear** plastic, shoe box size bins that can stack.

Please bring your bins to donate to the 10 AM Book Group, evening Lenten Soup Supper, to Judy's home or call her for pick up: (707) 980-9667.



(These bins are 17" x 11 1/8" x 6 1/2" in size.)





Please email me your favorite photos - recent or a favorite from the past - to share in the gazette! I know I'm not the only one that loves to see them!

Jeannette Perez shared this beautiful photo she took in late February on a trip to Lake Arrowhead for a Bioenergetics Conference she attended there. Thanks so much for sharing, Jeannette!



**HOW TO INCREASE YOUR HUNGER OFFERING X 10**

**From Pr. Paul Theiss:**



We've all received funding appeals that go something like this: "Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar." How would you like to not just double your donation to end world hunger, but increase it TEN-FOLD? And not by giving money, but by writing a brief letter to your Congressman or Senator?

It's not as fantastical as it may seem. All across America, thousands of churches and other groups donate millions of pounds of food to the hungry every year. As magnificent as these efforts are, did you know that Federal funding on food programs is TEN TIMES the amount of donated food? Through the Farm Bill, up for reauthorization this year, Congress spends billions on SNAP (CalFresh), WIC (supplementary food for Women, Infants and Children), Food for Peace overseas, and dozens of other nutrition programs. Personal letters to Congress are a proven way to influence Federal policy.

Every year Bread for the World, a Christian citizen's organization affiliated with the ELCA, organizes an Offering of Letters on hunger, focusing attention on bipartisan legislation. **THIS YEAR'S OFFERING OF LETTERS AT UNITED IN GRACE IS SUNDAY, APRIL 23 AFTER WORSHIP.**

Bread for the World has a strong track record over almost 50 years, advocating for hungry people. Just in the last two years it helped reduce child poverty in the U.S. by 45 percent through the Child Tax Credit, and arranged to feed millions of women and children worldwide through the bipartisan Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act. Learn more here: <https://www.bread.org/act/advocate/>

United in Grace already helps people in need. When we're in our building we fill up barrels of food. People volunteer at the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Knitters and quilters make clothing and blankets. We assemble personal hygiene kits. We're even planning a tiny home village! Now we have an opportunity to increase our efforts TEN-FOLD by influencing legislation that reaches into every U.S. community and around the world.

Watch here and in the Sunday announcements for more information on our Offering of Letters Sunday, **April 23**.

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## FREE STUFF!

If you are interested in any of the items pictured below, contact Lynne Witte at 707- 631-6586 to pick up at church or to have Lynne drop them by...





**FREE  
STUFF**

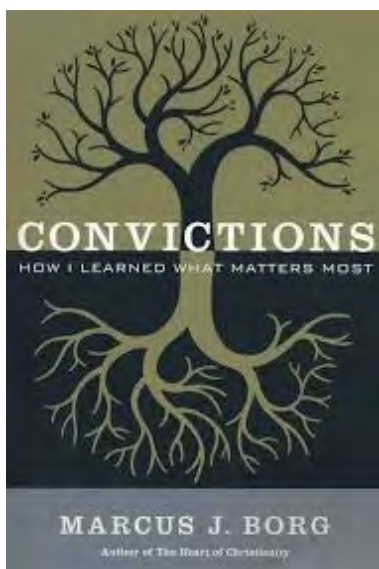
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## *WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUPS*

Judy Faye continues to guide and lead the Wednesday Book Study groups! There are 2 groups: Wednesday from 10 am to 11 am in person at individual homes and Wednesday evenings on Zoom from 7 pm to 8 pm. The Zoom study is designed for those unavailable for a daytime study or those still doing Covid isolation.

Next Wednesday, **March 29<sup>th</sup>**, the morning study will be at the home of **Virginia and Don Ward, 315 Skyline Drive, Vallejo.**

What we're reading: **CONVICTIONS: HOW I LEARNED WHAT MATTERS MOST**



Marcus J. Borg contends that Christians in America are at their best when they focus on hope and transformation. Each chapter of this book embodies a distinct conviction. Borg writes provocatively and compellingly on the beliefs that can deeply ground us. Examples include: “God is real and a mystery; salvation is more about this life than an afterlife; the Bible can be true without being literally true; Jesus’s death on the cross matters—but not because he paid for our sins; God is passionate about justice and the poor; and to love God is to love like God.”

Borg calls all Christians to reject divisiveness and exclusivity and create communities that celebrate joy, possibility and renewal. He reflects on what matters most, bringing to earth the kingdom of God which Jesus talked about and transforming our relationships with one another.

Copies of **Convictions: How I learned What Matters Most** by Marcus J. Borg can be ordered from Amazon.

Please call **Judy Faye** if you have any questions: (707) 980-9667.



## *Christ's Care List*

*United as one body in Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation....We pray for the church.*

- For the church and all places of worship. For members and friends of **United in Grace Lutheran Church**, that we continue to grow in God’s Living Word, pray for each other and reach out to others in ways we are able.
- We pray for our **renovation project**, that we may soon be back to worshipping together.
- We pray for the work of the **Pastoral Care Services Provider Search Committee**, that their search will find a qualified, interested, caring candidate.

**We pray for the earth.**

- That humankind will care for our earth, our only home, with love and respect. We pray for those affected by **natural disasters** of all types... wildfires, hurricanes, floods, tornados, earthquakes, especially people of **Turkey** and **Syria**.



## We pray for the nations.

- We pray for those who govern or are in power in our world, to recognize the urgency of the words from **Micah**, "...what does the LORD require of you but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**, and to **walk humbly with your God**?"
- We pray for the people of **Ukraine**. Give them strength, resolve to resist, courage and hope for peace. May the nations of the world support them for a swift end to this invasion with no more lives lost.
- Those affected by **gun violence**. We pray for your presence with the families and friends of those murdered in Vallejo, Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay, Tulsa, Uvalde, Buffalo, Colorado Springs...and too many more places to list. *May real gun control become a reality.*
- Acknowledging and lamenting the **sin of racism** that scars our country. Open the hearts of those who are held captive to the sin of white privilege, granting humility and the willingness to listen and a commitment to seek justice for all.
- We pray for all who are **waiting at our border seeking asylum**. May our response reflect the call of Jesus to care for those in need of food, shelter, and hope.

## We pray for all those in need.

### For those who grieve.

- **Don Ockrassa and family**, in the sudden passing of his **brother Chuck** in Austin
- **Cynthia Bettini**, for the sudden illness and passing of friend Barbara Luck

### Healing of body, mind, and spirit...

- **Judy Faye**, diminishing of her trigeminal nerve pain
- **Bjorn and Lauren Ahlberg**, (nephew of **Dean Ahlberg**), who are in the process of adoption and also for the birth mother who will be giving up her child.
- **Martin Theiss**, son of **Pr. Paul Theiss** and **Nancy Satterford**, continued recovery from cancer treatment and surgery
- **Leslie and Peter Perroti, son Dan and children**, for strength and resilience to get through a very stressful time in their family
- **John Kroan**, (Caryl Kroan's son), prayers for strength requested by his brother Richard, in John's fight with lung cancer

### For those in need of long-term prayer...

- Kathy Campas-Sutin
- Jan Jackson
- Carmen Harnish
- Doreatha Patton
- Karen Spears
- Louisa Johnson, and husband Don who cares for her
- Margaret Cole



- Paula Tygielski
- Scott Soliday
- Tony Egbo

Please email me your prayer requests to be added to Christ's Care List at [susanraeriley@att.net](mailto:susanraeriley@att.net). Most prayer requests will remain on the list for about one month...please let me know if it is time to update any requests or if you would like to have them removed – thank you!

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## Are you or someone you know in need of **communion** at home?



Just let us know and we will schedule with you to come and visit you in your home, nursing home, rehab facility or hospital as Covid restrictions permit.

Regular communion care visits are generally made during the second week of each month.

You may contact Judy Faye (707) 980-9667, Karen Spears (707) 299-9895 or Lynne Witte (707) 631-6586.

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## Happy Birthday to those born in March!

- 2 Jeannette Perez
- 5 Linda Bowen
- 12 Lynne Witte
- 23 Cindy Poehls
- 24 Janet Susan Jackson
- 27 Karen Lea Spears
- 31 Louisa Josephine Johnson



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### Upcoming Commemorations

**Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824**  
**Wednesday, March 29, 2023**

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

**John Donne, poet, died 1631**  
**Friday, March 31, 2023**

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

# March 2023 *March*

| Sun                                                                                                                                           | Mon       | Tue       | Wed                                                                                                                                          | Thu                                                                                                                                                            | Fri       | Sat       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                                                                                                                               |           |           | <b>1</b><br><b>Book Study</b><br><b>10 AM</b><br>Home of Karen Spears<br><b>Book Study via Zoom 7 PM</b>                                     | <b>2</b><br><b>Sewing Ministry</b><br><b>1 – 4 PM</b><br><b>Lenten Soup and Devotion</b><br>Home of Dean and Judy<br><b>6 – 7 PM</b>                           | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>5</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent<br><b>Worship Leader and Preaching:</b><br><b>Rev. Paul Theiss</b>                                 | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br><b>Book Study</b><br><b>10 AM</b><br>Home of Virginia and Don Ward<br>+++<br><b>FOOD BANK</b><br><b>Book Study via Zoom 7 PM</b> | <b>9</b><br><b>Lenten Soup and Devotion</b><br>Home of Susan and Roger Riley<br><b>6 – 7 PM</b>                                                                | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> |
| <b>12</b><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent<br><b>Worship Leader and Preaching:</b><br><b>Matthew Hervey</b><br>Council Meeting after worship | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br><b>Book Study</b><br><b>10 AM</b><br>Home of Dean and Judy<br>+++<br><b>Book Study via Zoom 7 PM</b>                            | <b>16</b><br><b>Martha Circle</b><br><b>12 – 2 PM</b><br>Home of Karen Spears<br><b>Lenten Soup and Devotion</b><br>Home of Cynthia Bettini<br><b>6 – 7 PM</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b> |
| <b>19</b><br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent<br><b>Worship Leader and Preaching:</b><br><b>Ursula and Phil Schmidt</b>                         | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br><b>Book Study</b><br><b>10 AM</b><br>Home of Susan Riley<br>+++<br><b>Book Study via Zoom 7 PM</b>                              | <b>23</b><br><b>Lenten Soup and Devotion</b><br>Home of Leslie and Peter Perroti<br><b>6 – 7 PM</b>                                                            | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b> |
| <b>26</b><br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent<br><b>Worship Leader and Preaching:</b><br><b>Matthew Hervey</b>                                  | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br><b>Book Study</b><br><b>10 AM</b><br>Home of ---<br>+++<br><b>Book Study via Zoom 7 PM</b>                                      | <b>30</b><br><b>Lenten Soup and Devotion</b><br>Home of Karen Spears<br><b>6 – 7 PM</b>                                                                        | <b>31</b> |           |

# Reminders and general info...

## Sewing Ministry



The Sewing Ministry meets monthly on the **first Thursday of the month**, from **1 PM – 4 PM**. During our renovation, the group meets at the home of **Suzanne Huddleston, 219 Valencia St., Vallejo**; 707-642-8094. (She even has a “Lutheran room” – come check out what that means!) The Sewing Ministry works on various projects

throughout the year, including projects for Lutheran World Relief (quilts, Personal Care Kits, School Kits) and quilts for local needy seniors. The current project is making School Kits. You do NOT need to know how to sew to participate and all are welcome! For more information, please contact **Anita Patten**.

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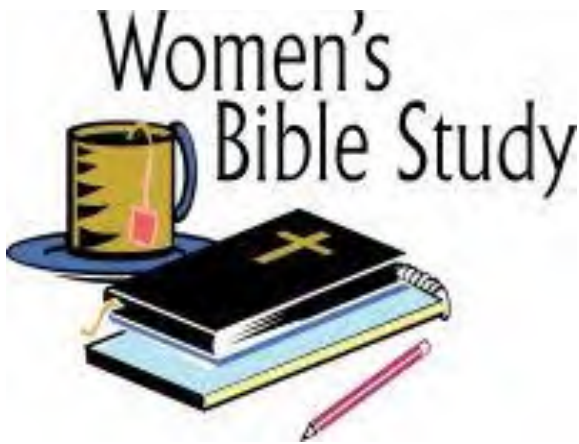
### Team UIG at the Food Bank



Join Team UIG and help feed the hungry by sorting produce at the Fairfield Food Bank warehouse on the **2nd Wednesday of each month**. The Fairfield Food Bank warehouse is located at **2370 North Watney Way in Fairfield**.

**All are welcome to join the team.** Just show up on the second Wednesday of the month at 1pm, and we will put you to work. For answers to your questions, please call, text, or email team captain **Dean Ahlberg** at 707.980.9659 or deanahlberg@aol.com. Thank you, Dean

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All Women are invited...to the Martha Circle which meets the **third Thursday** of each month, from 12-2 PM. The location varies each month, so check the calendar.

In April, Martha Circle will meet at the home of **Anita Patten, 504 Baylor Court, Benicia, April 20<sup>th</sup>** from 12 – 2 PM.

The Bible study used comes from the magazine of the Women of the ELCA, “**Gather**”; copies will be available of the study.

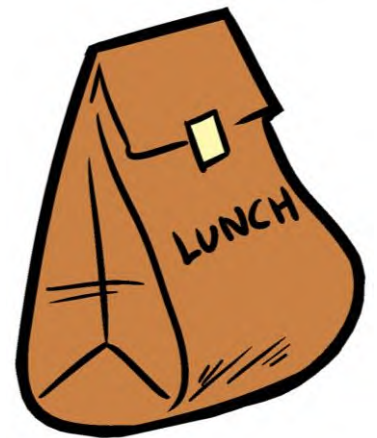
Bring your own bag lunch and dessert will be provided. Please join us!



We are continuing to place our Brown Bags onto the hands of hungry folks we encounter on street corners and parking lots. We encourage those of you who are reluctant to hand them out, to try it. I think you will find it rewarding. Just roll down your window and hold up a bag. Ask if they would like a lunch. Very seldom will someone decline.

We can't get them at church during our renovation but call or email me and I will gladly bring some to your house. It's a small thing we do, but much appreciated.

**Our funds are getting low. Each bag costs about \$5.00 to fill. Please consider making a donation. In the memo line of your check, put “Brown Bag Ministry”.**



Thank you for your generosity, and may God bless our efforts.

Karen Spears | 707-644-2985 | [klspears68@live.com](mailto:klspears68@live.com)



# Remember Your Offerings



# Three Ways to Tithe

## By Mail

To tithe by mail, please mail your check (no cash, please) to **United in Grace Lutheran Church**  
1300 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA 94590.

### Using Vanco

To tithe using Vanco, the ELCA's electronic tithing service, click on the following link:  
<https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/donateNow/723f9e3a-8a35-4573-994d-9485158>.

### Using PayPal

To tithe using PayPal, click on the following link:  
<https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=B9SJ6Z4KNHG5W>.

Thank you, faithful stewards, for your faithful financial support during difficult times.  
Yours in Christ, Dean Ahlberg, Financial Secretary, (707) 980-9659



*If you would like to have an updated copy of **Members and Friends for United in Grace**, send me an email ([susanraeriley@att.net](mailto:susanraeriley@att.net)) and I will reply attaching the document. IF you do not have email, call me (707-644-9646) and let me know - I will mail you a paper copy.*

### Acknowledgments

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