

A M A Z I N G   G R A C E

M A R C H

N E W S L E T T E R

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# Full to the Brim

*An expansive lent*

Lisle

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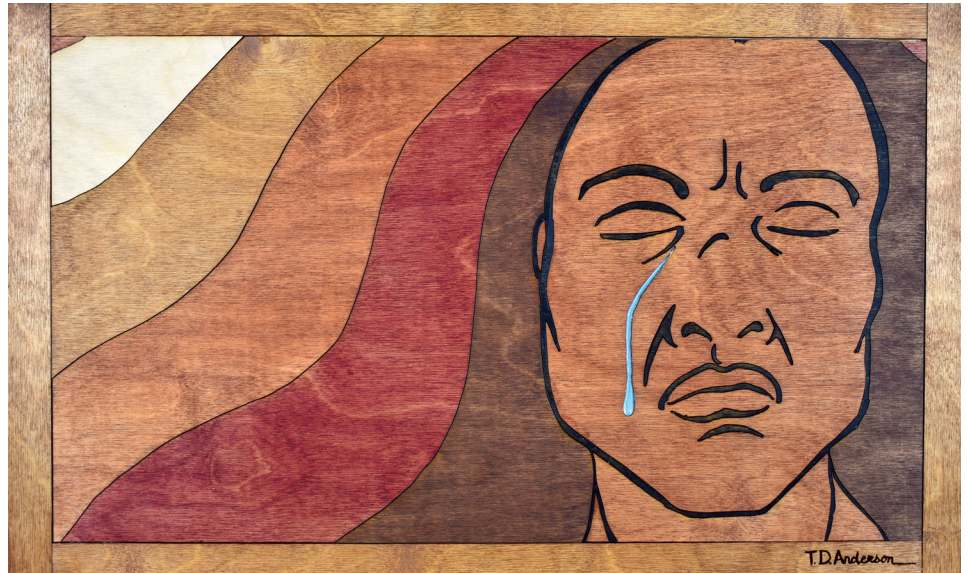
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## LENT, THE PAIN CAVE, AND A GOSPEL FULL TO THE BRIM.

In 2002, my husband and I had the privilege of attending the Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games. It was an amazing experience and fully solidified my deep love of the Olympic Games. We felt the wind from the passing doubles luge, walked along the cross country course cheering the skiers, stood at the bottom of a mountain at the end of the Super G course feeling the cold touch of snow as the skiers skidded to a stop, and sat among a rowdy group of Canadian hockey players when Canada played Sweden in the quarter finals.

The Olympics Games are magical - a place where the human spirit is at its most raw and most determined.

This year's Beijing Winter Olympics did not disappoint, well, the media coverage did (as usual), but the stories of pain, determination and celebration triumphed above the fray of crying ice skaters and political posturing. Most notable is cross-country skier Jessie Diggins who won America's final medal of the 2022 Winter Games. She embodies why the Olympics still matter and still inspire.

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Cross Country skiing is tremendously difficult: like running a marathon, except much more painful. Diggins has said that, when she races, she inevitably enters what she has termed “the pain cave,” a space in her mind that’s been carved out by the combined force of her suffering and her willpower. The pain cave was at its deepest in her last event. To begin with, it was miserably cold, and Diggins had her own special problem to contend with: 30 hours before the race began, she had contracted food poisoning. It was perhaps because of this that her legs started to cramp up after 13 kilometers, forcing her to ski the final 17 kilometers in physical agony. After the race, she said that, when she collapsed across the finish line, she felt like she was going to die.

And yet Diggins didn’t die, and Diggins didn’t quit, even though you or I, had we been in her

skis, would likely have both quit and died. That’s the difference between Olympic heroes and people like you and me:



They choose to head straight into the pain cave, again and again.

Diggins kept going, and she skied so well that she crossed the finish line less than two minutes after winner Therese Johaug of Norway. Her silver medal was America’s highest-ranking individual cross-country finish since 1976.

Journalist Justin Peters says it so well:

“There is something elegant and transcendent

and primally human in the image of Jessie Diggins trudging endlessly around a frigid snow circle, with cramping legs, in freezing weather, having just had food poisoning, after already skiing five other races over the course of the Olympics. The Games help us realize that, if Jessie Diggins didn’t collapse, then maybe you and I can summon the

strength to keep going—and that maybe, if we just keep pressing forward through our own pain caves, there will ultimately be some reward for us too.”

Christians are about to enter their own pain caves - the season of Lent. Whereas for many of us, this time will not resemble a cross-country race in the freezing cold after having food poisoning, however, to the pain cave we go. Our pain cave will be full to the brim this season - full of God’s abundant and expansive grace. In this place, we will meet Jesus where the prodigal son comes home, where a fig tree is nurtured with care and hope, where precious oil is poured out lovingly and freely, and where stones cry out with praise.

Get your skis ready.

Your pastor  
for the journey,

Rev. Stacey

## NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

All children Preschool through 5th Grade are invited on a journey this Lent! *Love Life, Live Lent.* We will travel together for the next weeks leading up to Easter, learning about Jesus and all the events that led up to the Resurrection. We'll be meeting on Sunday mornings at 10:30AM upstairs in the Children's Wing.

THE EASTER EGG FELLOWSHIP will be on Saturday, April 16 at 1PM. Rain or shine, we will be wrapping up the Lenten season and exploring the true miracle of Easter. Oh ya, there will be eggs to find, too! Invite your friends, neighbors and relatives to this Fun Family Fellowship!



### OUR CHILDREN'S RETREAT

Well, our streak has been broken! We had absolutely gorgeous sunny weather for our Children's Winter Retreat! There were many "first timers" this year and everyone got to know each other a little better. When God and nature come together, blessed times are always near.

## YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

Lent is here! During this new season, we will be making changes to our Sunday School and Youth Group activities. All students (6th Grade through 12th Grade) will meet in the Youth Room (Room 103) for a shared lesson with a grade specific discussion group.

During the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, we will have a meal and a youth activity for students until 1:30PM. If parents are unable to pick up their students after Sunday School or Youth Group, Trisha is offering rides home in the church van.

## SPRING CHALLENGE:

From March until Graduation Sunday, we are challenging our youth to memorize the Lord's Prayer, the books of the Bible, and the Apostle's Creed. We will be working on these during Sunday School and Youth Group, but we will be challenging students to use these tools in their everyday faith practice.

On March 14 students may begin reciting these tools to Jeff Deethart, Holly Easterbrook or Trisha. When they successfully complete each step, they will receive a reward.

Students will receive a card to mark their progress and to keep track of their accomplishments throughout the spring semester. The following are some of the rewards students can look forward to:

### LORD'S PRAYER:

*Snack of their choice brought to Sunday School or Youth Group*

### BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

*\$5 Gift Card (to the place of their choice)*

### BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

*\$5 Gift Card (to the place of their choice)*

### ALL THREE PLUS THE APOSTLE'S CREED:

*A new Bible or a book of their choice*

Any questions, please see Trisha or email her at [discipleship@gracemethodist.org](mailto:discipleship@gracemethodist.org).

## MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY! Start of Lent! Service 7 PM at Grace	3	4	5 ROBBY'S BIRTHDAY!!!
6 COMMUNION SUNDAY No Sunday School Youth Group @ 11:45 Room 103	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM Room 103	14	15	16	17	18	19 MOVIE DAY! @ wonderland theater in Niles Leave at 11:45 am from Grace
20 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM in Room 103 YOUTH GROUP/ FELLOWSHIP 11:45am -1:30pm	21	22	23	24	25 MEGAN'S BIRTHDAY!!!	26
27 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM Room 103	28	29	30	31 RICHARDS' BIRTHDAY!!!		
APRIL 3 COMMUNION SUNDAY No Sunday School Youth Group @ 11:45 Room 103		1	2	3	4	5



## WORSHIP FOCUS FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

MARCH 6, 2022 | 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

Service of Holy Communion & Baptism

THEME | Full to the Brim { Even in the desert

SCRIPTURE | Luke 4:1-13; Deuteronomy 26:1-11

PREACHER | Rev. Stacey

MARCH 13, 2022 | 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

THEME | Full to the Brim { Under God's wing

SCRIPTURE | Luke 13:31-35; Psalm 27

PREACHER | Rev. Stacey

MARCH 20, 2022 | 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

THEME | Full to the Brim { You are worthy

SCRIPTURE | Luke 13:1-9; Isaiah 55:1-9

PREACHER | Rev. Stacey

MARCH 27, 2022 | 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

THEME | Full to the Brim { Prodigal grace

SCRIPTURE | Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

PREACHER | Rev. Stacey

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Ecumenical Service of Holy Communion

APRIL 14 | 7PM

### GOOD FRIDAY

Ecumenical Service at the Cross

APRIL 15 | TIME & LOCATION: TBD

### EASTER SUNDAY

Service of Resurrection

APRIL 16 | 9AM & 10:30AM

with fellowship time in-between

OUR SYMPATHY  
IS EXTENDED  
TO THE FRIENDS  
AND FAMILIES OF:

Arlene Schrader  
Wayne Smith



Raggedy Ann Preschool is now taking registrations for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have any questions, or would like a registration form, please call the church office at 574-288-4789 or email raggedyann@gracemethodist.org.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SUNDAYS

- 9AM | Virtual & In-Person  
Worship Service
- 10:30AM | In-Person Worship Service
- 10:30AM | Sunday School for all ages

## MONDAYS

- 11:30AM | Book Study
- 1PM | Pilgrimage Healing Appointments
- 7PM | A.A.

## WEDNESDAYS

- 7:30AM | Bible Study

## THURSDAYS

- 5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities
- 7PM | Choir Rehearsal

## FRIDAYS

- 5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities
- 7:30PM | A.A.

## MARCH 5

- 8AM | Men's Breakfast

## MARCH 6

- 11:45AM | Youth Group

## MARCH 10

- 1:30PM | Merry Missions Circle

## MARCH 12

- 10AM-12PM | Paper Pantry

## MARCH 19

- 11:45AM | Youth Movie Day

## MARCH 20

- 11:45AM | Youth Group

## MARCH 22

- 6PM | Graceful Friends

If you currently contribute to Grace UMC through eGiving or Tithely, please note that we plan to do away with these platforms. We are encouraging everyone to visit Breeze at <http://sbgrace.breezechms.com/give/> online to set up a giving plan. There is also a texting option. You can text 574-444-3044 and follow the prompts. If you have any questions, or need assistance, please call the church office at 574-288-4789.

# AMAZING GRACE NEWSLETTER

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