

# The Friendly Visitor March 2025

Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church and Community



## Grace Lutheran Church:

- *A community of faith, centered in worship, held in Grace, strengthened in love, sent forth in mission, in Jesus' name.*
- *Home of the Being New Spirituality Center.*

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**  
**Vicar Jesse Hershberger**

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### Office & Open Building Hours

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday – Thursday  
Or by appointment

### Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship: In-person & Online  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee  
10:15 a.m. Adult & Youth Education

### Morning Prayer on Facebook Mondays & Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

Search for Grace Lutheran Des Moines

Grace Lutheran Church  
5201 Urbandale Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
515-276-6873  
[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)

## Green, White, and Purple

The time after Epiphany has clothed the altar and ambo with green. These “ordinary” times in the Church year are dressed in green to remind us of growth, whether in number or in depth. It is a time we focus on our response to the Good News. It is a beautiful time to focus on what God asks of us.

During these same weeks, the world has been focused on green. This focus has not been about growth, or response to the love of God. It has been about money. The news cycle is filled with stories of alleged fraud and waste of resources. At the time the Church is focused on service efforts to those in greatest needs, those in power have accused us of money laundering. Green was the color of the month, and not in the way we had hoped.

Transfiguration is clothed in white. It is a reminder of the way that the glory of the Christ was revealed on the mountaintop. This is the color for most of the major Church festivals. This color has also been misused in the last weeks. Just last weekend there was a white supremacy group that was marching in Des Moines, hurling chants of hate. There is no room for expressions of hate in the church, in the world, or in the home. God calls us to love. Period. Love of self, other, friend, family, enemy, all.

White, as a color, is the opposite of supremacy. White is created by combining all of the wavelengths together. That is how you get white. If white is supreme, it is only because it is about the radical inclusion of all. Speaking in terms of color, if any are excluded, it is no longer white. This is also true of how we see God. I believe it takes all of humanity to even begin to catch a glimpse of the expanse of God and God's love. All of us. No exceptions.

Lent is the time of purple. Symbolically, it is the color of repentance. This is not the feelings of guilt that ...

*continued on page 2*

### **Green, White, and Purple, continued from page 1**

... we often imagine with the word "repentance." Instead, it is about turning and facing God. This is our work during this season. We are to focus on the commands that God has given us, to know the love of God, and to respond by sharing that love with others. This is done through sharing, through action, and through advocacy.

We live in a context that pits red against blue. How has that helped? What harm has it caused? It would do us well to remember that purple is also made in the mixing of red and blue. May the season of Lent be a time when we can work toward shades of purple. May we hold officials accountable. May we speak our truth. May we show love for those who disagree and pray for one another. We need purple.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike

### **Spring Ahead**

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9.



### **Happy Anniversary**

20 – Edward and Jane Ridnour

### **Happy Birthday**

- 1 - Kristen Bockenstedt
- 2 - Sara Hilsabeck  
Donald York
- 3 - Victoria Meillier
- 5 - Brent Culp
- 8 - Jack Chenoweth
- 10 - Patty (Flannery) Gallup
- 12 - Rachael Bigg
- 13 - Lathrop Preston  
Hilary Woodhouse  
Kyler Andersen
- 15 - Lydia McCleary  
Rachel Miller  
Phoebe Volious
- 17 - Kathy Bowermaster  
Lisa Friesth  
Benjamin Honsey  
Melissa Swanson
- 18 - Emma Ashton  
Tom Selander
- 19 - Haley Turner Bluto  
Diane Westercamp
- 20 - Karen Taylor
- 21 - Angela Allen
- 22 - Louie Anderson
- 23 - Caroline Vander Plaats
- 24 - Mary Jo McCleary
- 27 - Sierra Carney  
Zara Preston
- 28 - Alexson Calahan
- 28 - Charles Reynolds
- 29 - Sharon Schwemler
- 30 - Curtis Chenoweth  
Kristin Medhurst



### **Ash Wednesday Schedule, March 5**

**Driveby Ashes in the parking lot: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Soup Supper in the Gathering Hall: 5:00 – 6:15 p.m.**

If you are reading this, you are invited and welcome to join us. Free will offering accepted to help offset the cost for those providing the soups.

**Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary: 6:15 - 6:30 p.m.**

Rich Snyder will offer a selection of hymns during the time between dinner and worship.

**Ash Wednesday Worship** in the sanctuary: 6:30 p.m.

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## Vicar's Voice — Happy March!

I can't believe Lent is already here. This is my favorite church season because of the quiet and contemplative nature of it. It is a time for self-examination: what are the things that make us more aware of God's presence? What are the things that help us to love our neighbors more fully? And in contrast: What are the habits or feelings that isolate us? What are the things that divide us? These are some of the questions I am asking going into this season.



Many people mark the season of Lent by making a change through either giving something up or adding something. I think that Lent is the perfect time to try a new spiritual practice — you can even try a different one every week! Here are some of my favorite options:

- **Lectio Divina:** An ancient practice of praying and meditating with the scriptures.
- **Examen Prayer:** This classical prayer model is adapted from Ignatius of Loyola as a way to reflect on how God is present throughout our day-to-day life.
- **Prayer Journal:** Try writing down your prayers instead of thinking them or saying them aloud.

Regardless of your Lenten practices, I hope this season brings new reminders of God's unending love for you and for all of creation as we move towards spring, warmer weather, and a season of new birth.

In Christ,

Vicar Jesse

## Lutheran Day on the Hill 2025 Tuesday, March 11, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### Join LSI and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill.

Lutheran Day on the Hill is LSI's biggest advocacy event of the year. Over 150 participants gather at a local downtown church to learn about critical issues Iowa children, adults, and families are facing. After learning about advocacy and LSI's mission in action, the group heads to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators.



*"Our voices matter. Join us for our annual Lutheran Day on the Hill featuring a Proclamation signing by Governor Kim Reynolds, advocacy at the capitol, and a hosted lunch. This is our opportunity to share priorities to our Legislators and to shine a light on our local communities."*

### Schedule:

8:30 am-9:00 am – Registration & Light Refreshments  
9:00 am-10:00 am – Welcome & Remarks from Bishops  
10:00 am-10:15 am– Keynote Speaker- Senator Sarah Trone Garriott  
10:15 am-10:30 am – Break  
10:30 am-10:45 am – LSI Update- Renee Hardman, CEO  
10:45 am-11:15 am – Priorities & Legislators: Amy Campbell, LSI Lobbyist  
11:15 am – Lunch & Depart to Capitol  
12:00 pm – Governor Proclamation & Group Photo  
1:00 pm-3:00 pm – Speak with Legislators



### Lydia/Martha Circle is back from our winter hiatus!

We will meet on Thursday, March 27, at 9:30 am in Grace Hall. We will be planning the projects/topics members are interested in doing for the year. Come with ideas! Please consider this your invitation to join us.



### First Communion Classes

Open to all in 2nd grade or older!  
Wednesdays March 26 and April 2 and 9, at 5:30 p.m. in room 102  
Please contact Pastor Mike if you plan to attend or if you have questions. See you there!

### Wednesdays in Lent, March 12 – April 9

#### Soup Supper

Gathering Hall: 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.  
If you are reading this, you are invited and welcome to join us. Free will offering accepted to help offset the cost for those providing the soups.

#### Choir Rehearsal

Music Room: 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.  
All who enjoy singing with others are welcome!

#### Hymn Sing

Sanctuary: 6:15 - 6:30 p.m.  
Rich Snyder will offer a selection of hymns during the time between dinner and worship.

#### Holden Evening Prayer Service

Sanctuary: 6:30 p.m.

### Holy Week Schedule

#### Maundy Thursday, April 17

6:30 p.m. worship – Sanctuary and online

#### Good Friday, April 18

Seven Sacred Pauses – see page 6 for details  
6:30 p.m. worship – Sanctuary and online

#### Easter, April 20

Sunrise 6:30 a.m. – Sanctuary  
7 a.m. - 10 a.m. – Easter Breakfast, Grace Hall.  
Worship 8:15 a.m. – Sanctuary and online  
Worship 10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary only \*

*\*The 8:15 worship will be live on our website [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org). This service will be recorded and uploaded to our Facebook page and available to watch at any time later in the day. The 10 a.m. worship will **only** be livestreamed/recorded if there is an issue with the early service.*

### Help Us Provide Lenten Soup Suppers!

As of today (Feb. 27), March 12 is still open – all other dates are filled. Thank you. The average past attendance is 25 to 30 people. Everything you need (aside from the soup) will be in Grace Hall/the kitchen: coffee, ladles, bowl, napkins, spoons, lemonade mix, crackers. Call the office or sign up on the bulletin board. Thank you!

### Lenten Devotionals Have Arrived!

*Everything (in) Between: A Lenten series in Luke's Gospel. Meeting God in the midst of extremes.*

Pick up a copy of the booklet and cards – one per family – at any time. They will be available in the Gathering Hall beginning Sunday, March 2. If you cannot make it to Grace, ask and we will be happy to mail one to you. Our regular devotional booklets for April through June 2025 will be available mid-March.

**HELP WANTED!**



### Easter Sunday Prayer Breakfast

Help is needed for the breakfast to be successful. All members of Grace (men, women, and youth) are encouraged to participate. For more information or if you would be willing to help before, during, or after the breakfast, please contact the office at 515-276-6873.

Easter Morning April 20, 2025, we'll be serving from 7 to 10 a.m. Help is also needed for some setup Saturday, cooking early Sunday, and cleanup. The typical menu is pancakes, eggs, sausage or bacon, fruit, milk, juice, tea, and coffee.

Proceeds from the breakfast help support Grace Lutheran Church Member Care Ministry.



## Women's Basketball NCAA Fundraiser 2025

The annual NCAA basketball tournament is back!

**We will be following the WOMEN'S Bracket for our fundraiser again this year.**

Selection happens on Sunday, March 16. Are you feeling lucky? Local and regional charities hope so! We will hold the church pool again this year. There will be a \$5 entry fee, and the winner will choose which charity will receive the pool monies. If you do not want to fill out a bracket and would like to contribute to the pool, that is OK too! Last year, Kayleigh Medhurst won and was able to give the \$165 pool to Project Heal. So far, we have given away a total of over \$2,000 through this annual charity!

To enter, simply fill out a bracket and turn it in to the church office between Sunday, March 16, and 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, with the \$5 entry fee. You should also note your chosen charity when you turn in the bracket. Brackets will be available in the church office or you can print your own. Please either include cash or a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with NCAA in the memo field. You could also scan your bracket and send it to [mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org).

With no clear favorite to win this year, we will again use a scoring system with added points for the First Round upsets to keep things exciting. The "First Four" games will not be included. Those who correctly predict a First Four team winning in the First Round will get the point no matter which wins in the First Four. The round of 64 teams will be worth 1 point each with bonus points for upsets (difference between seeds). Round of 32 will be worth 2 points, round of 16 will be worth 4 points each. The following rounds will be worth 6 points, 10 points, and then 15 points for the correct Champion.

## March Little Free Pantry Request of the Month:

We are all looking forward to some warmer weather as spring is around the corner. How about a little "spring cleaning" in your kitchen? Do you have any shelf-stable food items that you bought to make a recipe that you probably won't make now? Or perhaps you bought extra canned food that was on sale?



This month, we will collect any items you would like to donate for the Little Free Pantry, even if the "best buy" has expired. Most of these items are still safe to consume. Below are some guidelines. Food may be safely eaten ***past the "best by" date*** as follows:

6 months	Rice mixes
9 months	Pancake mix
12 months	Cereal, oatmeal, boxed meals, brown rice, dried beans
18 months	Peanut butter, acidic canned foods (tomatoes, pineapple)
2 years	White rice
3 years	Canned meats, canned beans, pasta
5 years	Canned soup and vegetables

You can also provide donations online through the [GIVE](#) page or provide a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with "Little Free Pantry" in the memo. There is also a [Grace LFP Amazon Wish List](#) available where items will be shipped directly to the church. Thank you for your donations.

## Grace Garage Sale

Mark your calendars! The Grace Garage Sale will be held on **Saturday, June 7**, with all proceeds going toward the Grace Little Free Pantry. Further details and volunteer opportunities will be announced as we get closer to the event. In the meantime, start gathering items for the sale when you're reorganizing or deep cleaning your home over the next few months. We appreciate your support!





## **Easter Lily Orders**

Every year we invite the congregation to sponsor an Easter lily for the altar. As Easter is much later this year, order forms will be made available mid-March. You will be able to include a special message in the bulletin, and the flowers are yours to take home after Easter. The deadline for orders will be April 7 and the cost will be \$16.00.

## **Sunday and Ash Wednesday Text Summaries**

If you are someone who likes to ponder the texts in advance, or if you are signed up to lector in the coming month, we've provided a short summary of each week's readings as well as the specific verses. March 2 was listed in the February issue of this newsletter, also found on our website..

**Ash Wednesday Luke 9:51-62 (Jesus sets out for Jerusalem)** The “would-be followers” (as the NRSVUE calls them) have good intentions. They want to follow Jesus, but Jesus calls them to put their money where their mouths are. Somewhere between good intentions and impulsive action lies discipleship. On Ash Wednesday, we make a commitment to align our intentions and our actions.

**March 9 Luke 10:25-37 (Parable of the Good Samaritan)** This parable begins and ends with the question, “Who is my neighbor?” and the answer is, surprisingly, “the stranger.” The Samaritan, whose place of worship and customs are different from the scribe who questions Jesus, is both a stranger and a neighbor to the man who was beaten and left in a ditch. In our world, many of our physical neighbors are strangers to us, and many of our neighbors—those closest to us—feel like strangers in divisive political climates. If we align our intentions and actions, then maybe we need to reconsider who we consider “stranger,” and ask ourselves if we have acted as good neighbors.

**March 16 Luke 10:38-42 (Mary & Martha host Jesus)** In many translations, Jesus says that “Mary has chosen the better part,” which has been used to create a divide between Mary and Martha. However, in the Greek, Mary has chosen the “good portion,” and Martha's tasks are called “ministry.” Therefore, perhaps Mary represents our faith, our desire to know God intimately, and Martha represents our good works, our desire to transform the world. Both are needed, and both are good.

**March 23 Luke 13:6-9 (Parable of the fig tree)** The gardener in the vineyard knows the fig tree needs rest, nutrients, and time—and it also needs to produce fruit. Both things are true, which is also true for us. If we are always striving for more growth without taking time to rest, we will burn out. But if we are only ever resting, we won't bear fruit or grow. The fig tree also teaches us that the in between time—of nurture before fruit—can be where transformation begins.

**March 30 Luke 15:1-7 (Parable of the Lost Sheep)** Herding sheep is a never-ending task. As soon as one is found, another may go missing. Our lives have a similar ebb and flow—in one moment we might feel like we have it all together, and in the next, we're struggling to survive. The promise of this parable is that no matter how “lost” we feel, the Good shepherd is by our side.

## **Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa events in the community and at Grace**

### **Lenten Retreat with Joyce Rupp: Developing Equanimity Amid Life's Constant Changes.**

**Saturday, March 8, 9-noon, DMIEC, 3306 University, Des Moines.**

This retreat is open to all, with proceeds donated to the scholarship fund of *Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners*, which administers scholarships towards college study for women at Mitchellville. \$40, registration required; Contact Judy Porter [judyporter@hotmail.com](mailto:judyporter@hotmail.com) for more information and to register.

### **Seven Sacred Pauses**

**Friday, April 18, Being New Spirituality Center**

7 Sacred Pauses with seven 20-minute prayer sessions tentatively held on the hours of 8, 10, noon, 1, 3, 5, and 7. Members of Grace's Centering Prayer group will lead the prayer times. Additional details will be published in the April newsletter.



### **New Member Classes with Pastor Mike**

Do you want to become a member of Grace? Maybe you're unsure because you have a bunch of questions you're afraid to ask? Or maybe you're just visiting for the first time or at the church for another reason and just checking out what we're about. All are welcome!

The next two opportunities will be on Sundays March 30 and April 27. Choose one, get some coffee and a donut hole after worship, then at 10:15 a.m., meet in the office on the main floor: just up the stairs and to the left from the main entry.

*You don't need to RSVP, but you can by contacting the office at 515-279-9283 or by emailing Pastor Mike at [Mike@gracedm.org](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org)* You are also more than welcome to contact Pastor Mike to set up a time to meet during the week.

### **Sunday Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.**

#### **Monthly Service Projects**

Once a month (September – April) we all meet in Grace Hall for a service project (see p. 10 for an example). Dates vary and upcoming projects can be found on the website calendar as well in all our publications.

The rest of the month we have opportunities for:

**Adults** and **middle/high school students, who** meet together in Grace Hall. We are currently working though a study on the Book of Acts. You don't need to have attended previous Sundays to join in today!

**Elementary students**, who meet in the Sunday School room across from the elevator on the office level.



#### **Bible Study: Two Weekly Options!**

Bible Study is open to everyone, not just to members or someone who has been attending Grace for a long time. We welcome everyone; bring a friend along if you're feeling shy!

We offer two meeting times: Tuesdays in Grace Hall at 9 a.m., and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in room 102 downstairs. We are currently working our way through the book of Genesis.

### **Bulletins, Announcements, and Sermons Are All Online!**

For those of you who look for Grace worship materials online, we've now moved everything onto the Bulletins Resource Page. Go to the website [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org):

- Find the word [Resources](#): On a laptop or desktop screen it is in the upper right-hand corner. If on your phone, click the 3 lines in the upper right corner, then find Resources, Give, and Volunteer at the bottom of the drop-down menu that appears.
- Once on the Resources page, look for the red bubble that says Bulletins, Announcements, Sermons. Click to open that page.
- Once you have the [Bulletins](#) page open, locate the date of the worship you are looking for. You can now open any of the bulleted links related to that date. You may read these online, download to your device, or print as you wish.

Videos currently remain available on a separate page in the Resources section here: [Worship Videos](#). Sermons and worship videos are posted approximately 24 hours after each worship. We tend to only keep between three and six months' worth of worship material and video links on our pages.

## Finding God in Nature

When we are asked where we find God, many of us would say that we find God in nature, which was mentioned in last month's article. There are inherent soul connections we humans have with nature and relationship is where the holy dwells. This excerpt from Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, explains beautifully how we are to love all God's creation:



Love all God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf,  
Every ray of light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything.  
If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things...  
When you are left alone, pray. Love to throw yourself on the earth and kiss it.  
Kiss the earth and love it with an unceasing, consuming love.

The words in Matthew 6:28: "Consider the lilies of the field ..." can be taken literally. Take a good look at the grass, the flowers, the birds. "Just listen – to the sound of the river or the waterfall or the rain ... Listen and do nothing else but listen. And in doing this you become one with the object: you identify with it; you lose your small self and discover your true self." *Christian Zen*, p 126

"Closeness to nature helps most people pray – and helps them substantially. People have their preferences, of course: the seashore with the sound of the waves beating against the shore, or a quietly flowing river, or the stillness and beautiful surroundings of a lake, or the peace of a mountaintop ... Jesus knew that the place in which we pray has an influence on the quality of our prayer." He suggests exposing "ourselves long and lovingly to places that help us to pray whenever we get the chance. Take time out to gaze at and drink in the atmosphere of the starry or moonlight night or the seashore or the mountaintop. You can then carry this around with you in your heart ..." Anthony De Mello, in *Sadhana A Way to God*, at p. 69.

One Scottish prayer that reflects the love of nature and the peace that comes through it is the following:

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the son of peace to you.

We come to God by connecting to what is – with God's immediate, embodied presence which is all around us. And when we make that connection, we experience deep peace.

## Being New Spirituality Center within Grace Lutheran Church

We believe that contemplative insight and practice are key to the transformation of our spirits, touching that deep place of heart and of being that lives in each of us, whether we are part of a faith tradition or not. We are a resource for Central Iowa, creating events to which all are welcome, as well as opening space for offerings that others bring.

There is no fee for the offerings that come from the center. Donations to cover our expenses are thus received with special gratitude! There is a basket in the Center. Checks may be made out to Grace Lutheran Church with Being New in the memo line. You may also donate online through the church's website. Follow this link and choose Being New from the drop-down menu:

[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2854737](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2854737)

The Center is located in the lower level of Grace Lutheran Church.



## **New Council Member Bios**

### **Pam Hellman Palmer**

A lifelong Iowan, I was born and raised in Algona and have lived in the Des Moines area for 30+ years. I started to discern my quest to find a new church after Lenny and I were married in September 2022. We live less than a mile from Grace with our feline fur babies, so I didn't have to go far! I joined Grace in April 2023 and have gotten involved with Little Free Pantry, serving as a lector and was a member of the Being New Group.

My favorite Bible verse is John 3:30.

I currently work full-time. When I get the chance, I enjoy spending free time in activities like hiking, reading, and riding my bike on local trails.

### **Emma Stammer**

I am a Muscatine native and have lived in the metro since 2014. Music has long been a passion of mine and I graduated from ISU and the University of Illinois with music performance degrees. After relocating to the Des Moines area, I joined the Grace Lutheran Church staff as minister for worship and music where I served for 9 years. In 2022 I took a job at Johnston High School where I enjoy accompanying concert choirs and directing the bands for their show choirs. My side hustle is being Mommy-chauffeur to my kids Cece (7) and Cyrus (4) for all their various activities. I live in Urbandale with my husband, Rick, and the two cherubs.

### **Mike Hilsabeck**

My wife Sara and I have been members of Grace Lutheran since 2018. We live in Urbandale, and we have a daughter who lives in Johnston with her husband and 8-year-old son (who we love to babysit). I am retired from a 30-year career as an IT Project Manager. In addition to church activities, I devote time volunteering for Iowa Lutheran Hospital, specifically the Powell Chemical Dependency Center – leading aftercare support groups.

## **New Endowment Committee Member:**

### **Kevin Drury**

Kevin Drury has been a member of Grace Lutheran Church since 1995. He has previously served on the Congregational Council, led the 2000 Building Project, and served on the Grace 2020 Visioning Task Force. He and his wife, Jeanne, live in Ankeny.

## **Your 2025 Grace Lutheran Church Council:**

- **Term ending February 2026:** Valerie Culp, Greg Boesch
- **Term ending February 2027:** Tom McCleary, Linda Moravec, Brian Gerling, Stuart Mitchell
- **Term ending February 2028:** Mike Hilsabeck, Pam Hellman Palmer, Emma Stammer

### **Exec. Team**

Greg Boesch – President, Tom McCleary - Vice President, Emma Stammer - Secretary  
Brian Gerling - Member at Large

## **February Congregational Council Meeting Highlights**

The February meeting highlights will be published in the April newsletter. A copy can always be requested from the council or the church office.

## Recap: The February 2 All-Ages Service Project held to benefit the Urban Bicycle Food Ministry

Pam Hellman Palmer, who has volunteered with the UBFM for more than 8 years, spoke to us about the work that UBFM does, while Grace members wrote personal notes and assembled 100 Blessing Bags for the group to distribute. Grace members also donated the following items, which were very much needed during the recent extreme cold: 19 water bottles, 20 blankets, 7 pairs of boots, 22 coats, 12 jackets/sweatshirts, 12 pants, 24 hats, 7 scarves, 32 pairs of gloves, 23 toiletry items, 1 flashlight, and 9 pairs handwarmers.

The group started 10 years ago with one person delivering 20 burritos on their bike. They now average 45 to 50 volunteers, delivering 800 burritos and 700 sandwiches to more than 450 people each week in the DM metro area either on bikes or in cars depending on the route and time of year.

You can learn more about UBFM and how to donate or participate at <https://ubfmdsm.com/>.

## Finance Report – January 2025 Results

Financial results for January YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$29,022, Budget \$34,804, Prior year \$37,696
- Expenses – Actual \$39,130, Budget \$42,125, Prior year \$41,099
- Net activity – Actual (\$10,108), Budget (\$7,321), Prior year (\$3,403)



After a strong finish in 2024, activity for January was slightly behind budget due to lower pledged offering activity. The committee appreciates the congregation's interest in the financial status of the church as evidenced by attendance at the recent budget forum and annual meeting.

## Worship Volunteer Needs:

Each week we are need of a Greeter, Lector, Communion Assistant, and Coffee/Donut Server. During Lent we will need additional help on Ash Wednesday, Lenten Wednesday Evening Worship, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

A little unsure what each duty entails? Please call the office during the week – Pastor Mike and Vicar Jesse will be happy to answer your questions or provide training.

Sign up using the clipboard found on a Gathering Hall table, or go to [gracedm.org](http://gracedm.org), and click on the word “Volunteer” in the upper right corner of your screen; then follow directions on the page. If reading this online just click here! [Online Worship Volunteer Signup.](#)



## Stay informed!

**Weekly e-news:** Sent every Tuesday with weekly updates, activity reminders, occasional community news. By signing up you will also receive other occasional emails, such as funeral notices and special requests. Sign up on our website home page [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) — just scroll down until you see “Get the Good News,” enter your email, and click enter.

**Optional:** *If you have never received our Tuesday electronic newsletter, the office can sign you up. Because of anti-spam laws, the software requires us to enter your email address **and** ZIP code. You can email those to us or fill out one of the white pew cards on Sunday. If you have received the electronic newsletter in the past and have cancelled it — whether by accident or to pause while on vacation, etc., those same spam laws will not allow us to sign you up again. If this is the case, go to the website directions listed above, or come see one of us in the office.*