

AMAZING GRACE INTERFAITH MINISTRY
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October/November 2026



To: All Friends of Amazing Grace & News From The Heart Readers

WELCOME TO YOUR MOUNTAIN

When Marguerite Piazza, the well-known Metropolitan Opera star, was in her prime, it seemed as though everything was going her way. She was at the height of her career, was married to a loving and devoted husband, and had six healthy children. Almost at the snap of a finger, Piazza's world was turned upside down. Her husband died suddenly, and almost at the same time, a spot on her cheek was diagnosed as melanoma, a deadly type of cancer. The beautiful singer was told that surgery was the only hope for survival, and doctors would have to remove her cheek, leaving her face disfigured. What a mountain she had to climb! Losing her husband, being responsible for six children, and receiving the devastating news about her melanoma - and on the same day she was to perform in a sellout crowd. She recalls, "What do you do at a time like that? You do what you are paid to do, and I was paid to lift people with my talent. So, as I stood in the wings of the opera house, I prayed, then I hung my troubles on the hanger and left them in the closet." Piazza then went onstage and sang and danced her heart out. The audience loved her and loved her performance. What a victory! She had her cheek removed but is still beautiful. She raised her family with the guidance of God. And she continued to share her God-given talent with music lovers all over the world. Marguerite Piazza climbed her mountain.

Do you have a mountain in your life? Have faith, and welcome it!



LOVE IS OUR HUMAN ROSE

Many flowers grow in many gardens, but none more beautiful then roses. And in our soul-soil, flowers grow, too but none more beautiful than love - love is our human rose. When I have love in me, I am a garden of roses, and when I am loved, it is as if I have been given a rose bouquet. With love, even a weed-patch life becomes a fragrant garden. O God of love let this rose, love bloom in me now! - *James Dillet Freeman*

SMILE GOD LOVES YOU

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem. They give him $50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song. They give him $100." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a serm ght people to collect all the money!"





I AM THE VOICE OF LOVE



I AM the and I speak to you non many ways. My voice is l ere and I am always present. If you have not heard me lately, you have not listened. My voice is never still. Before each side you have smiled, before each tear you have cried, you have heard my voice. ***Mine is the voice of love.*** You have heard my voice from the beginning of time. You will hear my voice until the end of time. ***Mine is the voice of love.***

I AM the heartbeat lullaby that all people slumber to before they are born. **I AM** the soothing tones of a young other comforting her any. **I AM** the bell-like peals of laughter coming from a child at play. **I AM** the flutter of pages turned by a youth enamored by reading. **I AM** the secretive squeals and contagious giggles of a preteen. **I AM** the sage advice of a father, spoken in low, measured tones. **I AM** the sigh of a grandmother; a sigh that says, "Look at you. You are grown guy so fast.;" **I AM** the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" heard at graduations. **I AM** the melodies of all the songs ever claimed as "our song" by couples in love. I am the thumping of a dogs wagging tail when his owner approaches. **I AM** the question that ask: "How are you really?" **I AM** the exclamation that states: "You made my day!" **I AM** good wishes expressed on a birthday, toasts offered a anniversaries. **I AM** the chucking of a grandfather holding his child's child. With the clarity of a rising bell, I am the soul of affection woven throughout the fabric of life. **I AM** the voice of love.

Mine is the voice of love, if you haven't heard me lately you have not been listening.
- Michael Jameson

THE STARFISH STORY

One day a man was walking along the beach when he notice a boy picking up something and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out, i I don't throw them back, they will die." "Son," the man said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles not beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference."



After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another satirist, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "I made a difference for that one."

YOU'RE A WINNER

Daniel Webster left his country home and went to Boston to study law. He entered, without invitation, the office of Christopher Gore, then head of the Massachusetts bar. There he was looked upon as an instructor, and nobody paid any attention to him. One day Rufus King saw the lonely, solitary student. He warmly shook his hand and said, "I know your father well. Be studious and you will win. If you need any assistance or advice, come to me." Years later, after he had achieved greatness, Webster said: "I can still feel the warm pressure of that hand and hear those challenging words of encouragement."





Dawn has broke[n] We have co[me] and souls. We are so grateful for the peace and the calm of this beach where time stand still, a place where we can see and feel the beauty around us. As you walk to the beach feel the warm and beneath your feet. It is low tide. Watch as the ocean rises and spills its white foam onto the shore. You decide to look for a shell. You walk by a broken shell and leave it to each for a more perfect one. But, you stop.. go back.. and pick up this shell, You realize that shell is you with your broken heart. This shell is people who are hurting… people who have lost loves ones… people who are frightened or alone people who are struggling with sobriety… people with unfulfilled dreams. This shell has had to fight hard to keep from being totally crushed by the pounding surf… just as you have had to. Yet this shell is still out on the beautiful shady shores of life… just as you are.

Thank you. Lord that I haven't been completely crushed by the pounding surf of life. For all that I've learned from my brokenness… of the courage and the strength it takes to remain on the shore.

Broken shells teach us not to look at our imperfections but to look at the beauty of what his left. Broken shells inspire others and demonstrate the will to go on in a way that no perfect shell could ever do. Every shell has its own special beauty… its own unique pattern. Broken shells are shells that have been tested… tried…hurt… yet they don't quit. The continue to be.

Thank you, Lord for the strength it takes to simply "be"… even when it hurts so deeply that there seems to be nothing left of me.

As you look into the ocean the surf tosses new shells on to the shore and you are reminded of the many times that you have been tossed and worn down by the tied of life.

Thank you, Lord, for hope in times of despair… for light in times of darkness... for patience in times of suffering… for assuring me that with You all thing are possible.

A wave crashes, sending tiny sand crabs running and sandpipers lift into the sky. You are reminded that even the smallest creatures depend on each other. And that we all ned one another.

Thank you, Lord, for filling my life with people who care. For those who are always there for me.

As I look around my beautiful shell, I see that it has nothing to hide. It doesn't pretend to be perfect or whole… its brokenness is clear for everyone to see.

Lord, May I have the courage to risk sharing my feelings with others so that I may receive support and encouragement along the way. Lord, help me to reach out to others… not only to love them but to learn from them. May I listen… comfort… and give unconditional love to all who pass my way. Help me remember that I am still whole and complete in Your sight.

Take time to be still and know that "I am God." There are so many gifts here at the ocean, and you are grateful for the peace that now fills your soul. Take time to watch the sandpiper playing along the shores. The beach grass swaying in the salt air, the beautiful blue sky, the sounds of the seagulls. You are reminded of all the beautiful shells God has placed around you.

Thank you, Lord, for embracing my shell with love whether I am whole or a bit broken. Thank you for putting people into my life who truly care for me. Thank you for holding me in the palm of Your hand. For keeping me safe from the pounding surf.

- Carol Adams

Amazing Kids Connection: Thank you to Olivet Presbyterian Church Volunteers and donations for our October/Halloween Amazing Kids Connection give-a-way. To Calvary Presbyterian Church for providing there church hall, their volunteers and all who made donations.

We are so grateful to Principal Patti Gandleman and the students of Our Lady Star Of The Sea who will be collecting coats for our November Coat drive as well as New Toys for our December Christmas Toy Drive. Please see flyer for info on how to donate to either of these giveaways.

Amazing Grace Interfaith Ministry will be holding our annual **Thanksgiving Candlelight Service** on **November 21, 2026** at **12 PM** at Olivet Presbyterian Church (97 Myrtle Ave, SI NY 10310). This is a peaceful reflective service which is blessed with the beautiful singing voice of Gladys Bryant. We look forward to seeing you there. See flyer for more information.



Prayers: Please keep in your prayers Mona Zaloom who is recovering from a fall and has upcoming surgery. Dr. Nair & Omana. Pam & Lauren, Rosalie, Linda & Gene and their children, Alisha & her husband Chris. Matt Dugan upcoming surgery, Ruth for headaches. Pattie Littere for tests. Gina who we missed so much this week at the AKC as she recovers from a heart procedure. Anna Jantz and family, little Molly. Alice Sabatino, Peggy and Famliy, Lorraine P and family. For good health for myself and my low sodium levels. Bob for strength to do all that needs to be done. My daughters and their families. Anwen on adjusting to 6th grade and Ethan for a good school year, Michael and Adam safe traveling for work.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

I can never lose anything that belongs to me, nor can I possess what is not really mine.

To never run from a problem; either it will chase me or I will run into another just like it. Although it may have a different face or name.

Any person that has come into my life has come either to teach me something or to learn something from me.

I find what I look for in people. If I look for God, I find God. If I look for bad qualities, I find them. I, in a sense, select what I expect and I receive it.

I have no concern for tomorrow. Today is the yesterday over which I had concern.

To never bang on a closed door; wait for it to open and then go through.

A life without challenges would be like going to school without lessons to learn. Challenges come not to depress or get me down but to matter and to grow and unfold thereby.

In the Father's wise and loving plan for me, no burden can fall upon. Me, no emergency can arise, no grief can overtake me before I am given the grace and strength to meet them.

A rich and full life is not determined by outer circumstances and relationships. These can be contributory to it, but cannot be the source. I am happy or unhappy because of what I think and feel.

Until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand. - Many blessings Love Mary

Our Zoom Services resume are the first 2 Sundays of the month at 11AM
Meeting ID 86165970857 Password 918817