Mary Vettorel's Senior Testimony **May 12, 2024**

Good morning, I'm Mary Vettorel. I've been part of Grace for 18 years, my whole life.

I graduated from high school back in December and I will be going to York Tech for the nursing program in the fall.

My time at Grace has been amazing. I have always felt like my gifts matter. I even call myself a "church kid," because I'm here so much and I'm so involved. I serve in the church by assisting in worship as crucifer, acolyte, and communion assistant. I'm part of the Youth Group, I'm part of Pr. Gregg's Sunday School class, and in July, I'll be going to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Last year, because I'm also involved in serving the community, I joined the Outreach Committee. It has been pretty cool to see up close what Grace does for our community. Serving on the Outreach committee has also made a difference for my faith. I am the only youth member that is on a committee, and the adults on the committee actually listen to my opinion when I make my opinion heard. I find this empowering because I see my voice does matter in the church.

One person that has made a particular difference for me and my faith is my grandma, Adele Evans. She has been the biggest supporter of my faith, and she has always encouraged me to be involved in our church anyway that I want to. She has also taught me the importance of volunteering in our community and here at Grace. So, thank you, Grandma.

Also I want to thank my fellow youth group members for being some of my closest friends and for always brightening up my Sundays when we all have youth groups. I will forever hold the memories that I have with all y'all close to my heart. Youth group has taught me that there are always people around that can have the hard conversations about faith with and that we are all learning about it together.

I am grateful that God has given me a great church family that I can rely on. I'm starting a new part of life, and I know that Grace will support me.