



GRACE NOTES

Volume 14 Issue 10 October 2026

Pastor Laura's Ponderings

We are entering our Church Conference season. This year, our District Superintendent has set our Church Conference for **October 25 at 6:00 p.m.** Church Conference is an important time in the life of our congregation. We will receive reports about different areas of our church, affirm our leadership roster, and affirm the pastor's salary. Ordinarily, we would also affirm the church budget, but because of the early date of our conference, the budget will not yet be ready for approval.

We will also have the opportunity to hear a message from our Bishop and words from our District Superintendent and, most importantly, to gather together in worship and fellowship as the people of Grace.

Recently, I was listening to a podcast featuring the beloved singer Amy Grant. She reflected on the ways we seek to make our lives meaningful and asked a question that has stayed with me: "To whom am I responsible to beyond my family?"

She went on to reflect on how, because of our connection with one another, our reach can extend far beyond the people closest to us. It is a question worth sitting with: Who am I responsible for beyond my immediate circle? How might God be calling me to make a difference in the lives of others?

I have been thinking about those questions as I finish my work with our Nominations Committee. Together, we have looked carefully at the many committees and teams at Grace, considered the places where leadership is needed, and prayerfully discerned who might have the gifts and graces for particular areas of ministry.

Many of you have received phone calls as part of that process. I am deeply grateful to those who took the time to consider an invitation to serve. I am equally grateful to those who said both **yes** and **no**.

I believe that discernment matters. Knowing when and how to use our gifts is important, but so is recognizing when a particular season of life makes it difficult to take on another commitment. The last thing we want is for someone to serve out of guilt or obligation. Christian service is at its best

That brings me back to Amy Grant's question: **"To whom am I responsible to beyond my family?"**

The answer may change throughout our lives. Our capacities change. Our circumstances change. We discover new gifts, encounter new needs, and find ourselves presented with new opportunities to serve.

This is a good season for each of us to prayerfully consider that question. Where is God inviting me to use what I have been given? Who, beyond my immediate circle, might I be called to care for? Where might my gifts, time, presence, or resources make a difference? Our calling to serve does not begin and end within the walls of Grace. God sends us into our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, families, and communities.

A life that matters is not measured by how much we accomplish, but by how faithfully we offer what we have been given. May we continue to discover the ways God is calling each of us to serve—not out of guilt or obligation, but out of gratitude for God's love and a desire to share that love with others.

As we gather for Church Conference and look toward another year of ministry at Grace, may we each prayerfully ask: **"Where is God calling me to serve in this season of my life?"** And may we have the courage to say yes when God opens the door, the wisdom to say no when the season is not right, and the grace to trust that both can be faithful responses.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Laura





The **United Woman in Faith** met 9/20/26 to fill 50 purses with items essential for women who find it necessary to go to Groundwork Domestic Violence center. The purses were blessed in worship and taken to Groundwork the next day along with a monetary donation. We enjoyed a brunch together following our work.

Pizza with the Pastor!



After worship October 4th in the Adult Sunday School in Grace Place.

We will have an opportunity to explore what membership means in the UMC, hear history of Grace UMC and get to know Pastor Laura a little better. We will have time for questions and to schedule joining the church, if so desired.

Please RSVP to Pastor Laura

ASP WREATH FUNDRAISER

Every Sunday starting October 4th.

Before and After Sunday School and Church.

Look for the table in the Narthex

Wreaths can also be ordered online from home.

Log into GiftItForward.com

Fundraising Code: GRACEUIL001

Referring member: Steve Meister



October 11, 2026

Registration Begins at 12:30 pm

In Grace Place (Entrance is by the Playground)

Walk Begins at 1 pm.

One Mile Course and a 3 Mile Course

Water and wrapped Snacks will be Provided

Let's work together and FIGHT Hunger here and throughout the World!!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

SIGN UP TODAY!

Email or contact the church office at 815-725-7632 or gracejoillet@comcast.net or Jamie Citarelli for more info

DAYBREAK SHELTER

DAYBREAK meals are returning!
Monday, October 19th dinner and
Tuesday, October 20th breakfast .

Sign up sheets for donations are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Monetary donations are always welcomed.
Thanks for your continued support.

Diane Lutz



Grace United Methodist Church presents

SCAMS. FRAUD. and IDENTITY THEFT

OH MY!

They can happen to anyone, young and old.

Please join us

OCTOBER 25, 2026 at 9:00 to 9:50 am

in Grace Church sanctuary

Sargent Adam Tapper from the Will County Sheriff Dept.

is coming to speak on this topic.

The more you know the safer you are.



**The Annual Church Conference
date is Sunday, October 25 at
5:30 pm SPRC, 6pm Conference.
All are invited to attend.**

**CHURCH
CONFERENCE**

®

LUNCH BUNCH

Will meet on October 20th at **McBride's on 52**
(2727 W. Jefferson, Joliet 60435) at 12:30pm. RSVP to
Pat Meyers or Barb Fisher.

Plan to join our us for food/fun/fellowship.



Please join **Restaurant Club** on Sunday, November 1st at
5pm at the new (and delicious!) Gia Mia in the Boling-
brook Promenade (location of the old Bar Louie).

RSVP to Diane Parro by October 25th!

Hope to see you there!



RECENT GUMC HIGHLIGHTS

Rally Day Kickoff resumed
September 13th.
Sunday School,
Donuts Fellowship,
10:30 Worship
Music program resumed with
Bells and Chancel Choir
And a Bible Study started.



SEPT	WORSHIP 8:30AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sept 6	10am—68		
Sept 13	5/82	25	18
Sept 20	6/67	28	18
Sept 27	6/75	27	17



10/2 - Mikayla Barkley
10/2—Melissa Rath
10/4—Richard Farrar
10/7—Brent Fraser, Brianna Furto
10/8—Tina Mason
10/9—Aimee Eichelberger
10/11—Shannen Rojas
10/12 Debi Shippy
10/13—Sandy Brazeal
10/16—Jean Young
10/19—Stephanie Meister
10/19—Donna Robertson
10/20—Michael Purciarello
10/22—Arne Young
10/23—Michelle Ray
10/25 - Tracy Fahnstrom
10/26—Douglas Larson
10/28—Kendall Kolodziej
10/31—Cathy DuBois
10/31—Theodore Poplawski
10/31 Kevin McOlgan

Marlin & Adrienne Hartman October 5, 1979
Connie & Paul Schroeder October 14, 1989
Michelle & Brent Fraser October 18, 1997
Cheryl & Jeffrey Deardurff October 20, 1995
Mary & David McBride October 21, 1961
Gus & Nancy Kramer October 23, 1976
Debbie & Douglas Larson October 27, 1979
Maida & Joe McCormack October 27, 1979

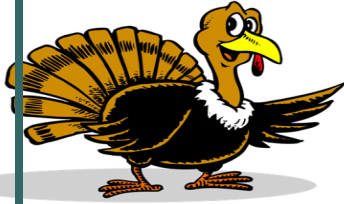
GRATITUDE CORNER

We are grateful for the
volunteers who have carried our
children's education program in
such a caring way.

October – (Local Benevolences) United Women in Faith

On UWF Sunday (generally the 3rd Sunday in October) the loose coin offering will go to the Grace UWF in support of their missions.

Coming in



November



Nov 1st All Saints Sunday

Grace United Methodist Church will remember those who have left us this past year at our 10:30 am Worship Service. Please call or email the office if you have a loved one you would like lifted.



FMSC : Feed My Starving Children

Watch for the November date to serve at FMSC.

We will be at the FMSC facility in Aurora

555 Exchange Court

Aurora, IL 60504

If you would like to make a donation that will be fine, too. Please make checks to FMSC and give to Diane Morrow.

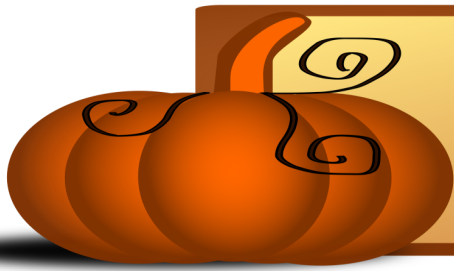


Thanksgiving Day

November 26th

The office will be closed on
Friday, November 27th





OCTOBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 am Men's Breakfast 	2	3
4 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 830am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship/Communion	5	6 10am Bible Study	7 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	8 7 am Men's Breakfast	9	10
11 CROP WALK 830am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 1pm Crop Walk kickoff	12 Columbus Day 6:30 pm SPRC	13 10am Bible Study 1pm UWF mtg	14 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	15 7 am Men's Breakfast	16	17
18 UWF Sunday 830am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship	19 5pm Daybreak 	20 7am Daybreak Breakfast 12:30p Lunch Bunch 6:30pm DayCare mtg	21 11:30am Pantry 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	22 7 am Men's Breakfast GRACE NOTES deadline	23	24 10am Cantata Potluck and Rehearsal
25 830am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 6pm Church Conference	26	27 6:30pm Finance via ZOOM	28 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	29 7 am Men's Breakfast	30	31 