



GRACE NOTES

June 2026

Pastor's Page

My parents always said I was born in the wrong decade. As a 1979 baby, I missed out on the hippie movement of the 1960s and early '70s. Thankfully, trends have a way of coming back around! During my teenage years, I fell in love with the music of that era—from The Beatles and The Mamas & the Papas to The Beach Boys, Janis Joplin, and so many others. It was also the rise of legendary bands like Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Chicago, and more. There was something about that music that reached deep into the soul and made you truly feel it.

This summer, I'm excited to kick off our new sermon series, *Summer of Love*, beginning June 21. We're going to embrace our inner hippies! I would love for you to join in the fun by digging out some vintage clothing or accessories from that time period. I've even heard rumors that a few special people are ordering some groovy pants to wear! If you have any old items that no longer fit and would like to contribute them to our worship décor, please feel free to reach out to me.

In a world that often feels filled with hate and division, I'm looking forward to spending time together exploring the biblical call to love—while also recognizing some of the ways we can get this whole “love thing” wrong.

I hope you'll join me this summer for a little fun and a whole lotta love!

Peace  Pastor Laura



2026 High School GRADUATES

honored on May 17th

Jonah Barkley graduated from Joliet West. He will be pursuing a career as firefighter paramedic and will be attending Joliet Junior College.

Stella Guzman graduated from Plainfield South High school. Stella will be going to Joliet Junior College to begin taking her gen ed classes.

Landon Hocking graduated from Joliet Central High School. Landon plans to continue pursuing his passion by attending University of Northwestern Ohio, where he will major in Motorsports Engineering.



Other Grace UMC family graduates—

Chloe Anderson graduated from Lindenwood University with a Bachelors in Chemistry.

Cyrus Angel graduated with his EMT Certificate

Mikayla Barkley received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education.

Nelly and Carl Bessett's son Stephen will receive his Master degree in Recreation Management from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse on May 16th.

Anthony and Gianna Citarelli graduating from elementary school.

Max Fraser, grandson of Cindy and Jay Caswell, Graduating From Chaparral High School in Parker, Colorado Attending Johns Hopkins University





GRACE SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTATION

Recipients of this year's scholarships from Memorials are Stella Guzman and Landon Hocking. They are both graduating seniors who have been active in the life of Grace UMC. Congratulations to both of you.



Thank you to all who helped beautify the church grounds back on May 2nd. Every one jumped in and made a big difference in the appearance of our church.



Clean Up Day



Our 2026 ASP Mission trip leaves on June 6th and returns on June 13th .

The Grace ASP Mission Team will be heading to Kentucky.

We will meet at the church at 7:30am and hope to be on the road by 8am.

Please join us for a 'sending forth' prayer.

We have 2 teams ready to go.

Teams include the following youth :

- Bri Anderson**
- Braydon Hocking**
- Landon Hocking**
- Paxton Hogg**
- Aden Guzman**
- Ben Meister**
- Adriel Zepeda**

They will be led by the following adults:

- Eric Anderson, Kara Hocking,**
- Stephanie Meister, Steve Meister,**
- Ubaldo Rojas and Shannen Rojas.**

We are still in search of a few more 'Prayer Partners'. We would like to have one for each volunteer on the trip.

For anyone wanting to be a prayer partner, contact: Steve Meister

MISSION OF THE MONTH

NIC (pg. 32) Wesley Woods Conference Center (#5000046)

Wesley Woods provides facilities and staff for NIC Summer Residential Camps, Summer Day Camp, Adult and Youth Retreats, and numerous community service and missional projects. These funds are used to maintain and improve facilities, furnishings and equipment as well as to support specific ministry opportunities that sometimes arise.



MAY	WORSHIP	CHILDREN'S	ADULT
ATTEN	8AM	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
	10:30AM	SCHOOL	SCHOOL
May 3	6/101	20	20
May 10	/82	20	15
May 17	107	29	19
May 24	72		
10 am			



On May 16, 2026, 16 adults and children went to FMSC in Aurora, IL. We were there with some other groups. Altogether, we packed 144 boxes filled with 31,104 meals. These meals will be going to Nicaragua!! Thanks to all who came and volunteered!



Pastor Laura giving a blessing over the 50th wedding anniversary May 29th of Eric & Nancy Leggett

Come on out and join Restaurant Club on Saturday, June 20th at 5:30pm at Blue Sushi Sake Grill at 123 Water Street in downtown Naperville. Parking is available in the parking garage behind Hotel Indigo which is across the street from Blue Sushi. Come for great food, good drinks and lots of camaraderie with your church friends! RSVP to Diane Parro (text message is best) by June 14th.



Interested in a Summer Experiment?

This summer Barb Fisher and Debi Shippy will be offering a hybrid book club/Bible Study based on Shannon Bream’s book “The Women of the Bible Speak.”

This book offers a delightful, informative and challenging look at 16 Biblical women’s lives and their legacy for us. Each class is a stand alone meeting studying 1 Chapter, 2 women. Come for 1 class, come for all or as many as your active summer schedule allows.

Our “summer experiment” will follow our fantastically high—energy week of VBS. The goal is to continue our special summer season of education, celebration and joy on our spiritual journey. Class details will be announced at a later date—stay tuned!

The book is available at Barnes & Noble, Hobby Lobby, Google, etc.

Questions? Contact Barb or Debi



Annual Conference Session Updates



187th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Sunday, June 14 -
Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center
1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg Ill.



BISHOP'S APPEAL 2026

Giving Abundantly, Generosity Overflowing

Education for Central Conferences

The 2026 bishop's appeal will benefit education for central conferences, supporting two key initiatives: Construction of a high school in Tanzania, led by NIC missionary Rev. Young Seon Kim (known as Christina), and the Endowment for Theological Education in the Central Conferences. Every year, the Northern Illinois Conference raises funds for a project of the area bishop's choosing and brings the money raised to the annual conference session in June. Together, we join our resources and bring hope to the world. This year's appeal invites us to invest not only in classrooms and curriculum, but in futures, in young people's discovering their gifts and in pastors and leaders who are equipped to guide communities with wisdom, compassion and courage. As a connectional church, we believe that every child deserves an education and every community deserves well-trained spiritual leadership. Gifts to the appeal will be divided equally between the two projects.

Daybreak Thank you all for supporting this local mission of the church throughout the year. May will be our last time to serve this spring. We will start again in October. Whether you donated food or gave a monetary donation, it was greatly appreciated. Grace Woman of Faith provided us with bags to be passed out to Daybreak clients that included snacks, water, and one of the most requested items: new socks. This year, I believe we served more people than ever since I became involved in helping with this mission. A big thank you to Nancy Murphy for all the boxes of Girl Scout cookies. They were a big hit. I also want to thank the Rojas/ Guzman family and their friends, and Don for serving throughout the year and taking charge when we've been out of town.

Diane Lutz



UNDIES SUNDAYS

The United Women in Faith will once again sponsor an Undie Sundays collection for the Dakota Indians. We will collect in a large container in the narthex all of the May Sundays and June 7. Women, children, and men's undies in all sizes and colors will be collected for delivery by Steve Meister and team who go there on a mission trip in August.

Thanks for your support of this important project.

August 1-8th , a group from Grace church will be traveling to Mission, SD to work with Tree of Life Ministries on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Each volunteer is required to pay \$300 to help cover the cost of the mission. We have a couple of young adults that this would be a hardship. I'm looking for sponsors who would like to help cover their cost. Donations can be left at the church with a note in the memo "Tree of Life". Checks should be made out to Grace UMC.

If interested please contact Steve Meister.





LUNCH BUNCHES

Sixteen folks enjoyed a delicious box lunch, fellowship, games and more as the finale for Lunch Bunch until fall. Lunch Bunchers will resume September 15th



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

A huge thank you to Barb Fisher. 1st—for all the beautiful Lenten and Easter decorations in the sanctuary. You carried us through our Lenten journey and a beautiful Easter Sunday. 2nd the great decorations for the Sermon Series on BOOKS. Everyone wants to sit in their rocking chair with the gorgeous quilt .

Thank you all for making my birthday so special. So many well wishers, cards, texts, luncheons. I am truly blessed,

Adrienne Hartman, Office Manager



We are grateful for the many joyous celebrations our church family gets to enjoy together.

Joy!

On April 25th, Meredith (Schroeder) and Joseph tied the knot. Everything was beautiful. The weather turned out perfect for us! Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pharo!

Thank you!

Tom Zettergren would like to thank everyone for sending calls, text and get well cards, It is nice to know how great our Grace church family means to us. Tom Zettergren

Condolences

Our sympathies to the family and friends of Barbara Jones. Barbara passed away on May 20th.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

6/1 ~ Gail Bjekich

6/3 ~ Jonah Linko

6/7 ~ Jeffrey Ray

6/8 ~ Carolyn Embody

6/10 ~ Meredith Schroeder, Kristina Parro

6/12 ~ Ashley Hicks, Nathan Rojas

6/17 ~ Dana Shetina, Georgia Lockwood,
Rebecca Schroeder

6/18 ~ Henry Boswell

6/19 ~ Jennifer Hinton

6/21 ~ Paige Anderson

6/24 ~ Joanne Ray

6/25 ~ Patty Strobbe, Pat Meyers

6/26 ~ Sharon Fisher, Ubaldo Rojas

6/27 ~ Clarice Boswell, Dustin Deardurff,
John Robertson, Frank Citarelli

6/28 ~ Michelle Fraser, Patricia Kwasniewski,

6/30 ~ Darrel Fahnstrom

Eric & Lisa Furto June 10

Arne & Jeanie Young June 12

Chuck & Maria Pons June 18

Russell & Cathe Ghilain June 27

Richard & Patricia Daniel June 28

Steve & Andrea Schoenrock June 28

Barry & Donna Robertson June 29

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School 2026 is
Monday, June 22nd through
Thursday, June 25th.



9:00 am—11:30 am Veggie Town Values

We are in need of ~

--large empty boxes

--empty refrigerator box

Contact **Serena Tesch-Moore**

if you are interested in volunteering.





Grace United Methodist Church

VEGGIE TOWN VALUES: Building Citizens for God’s Community

June 22-25, 2026

3 years – 6th grade

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Child’s Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone Numbers: Cell _____ Work _____



Age Information

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Grade entering in Fall 2026 _____

Home Church _____



Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Phone _____

CONSENT

I give permission to Grace UMC to take and use: Photographs and or digital images of my child for use in news releases, web sites or electronic publications. I agree that my child’s name and identity: may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s). I authorize the use of these images without compensation to me. All negatives, prints, digital reproductions and shall be the property of Grace UMC, Joliet IL

Dismissal Information

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS



FUNDRAISER

Anyone associated with Grace United can dine in at our location on Tuesday, June 23rd 3pm—10pm. We will record each dine-in and to-go order from all participating to ensure all sales are accounted for. **Present this flyer** and Grace UMC will receive 10% of the sales from the event.



DINE TO DONATE

»» *Support* ««

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH VBS**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 23
3PM-10PM**

10%

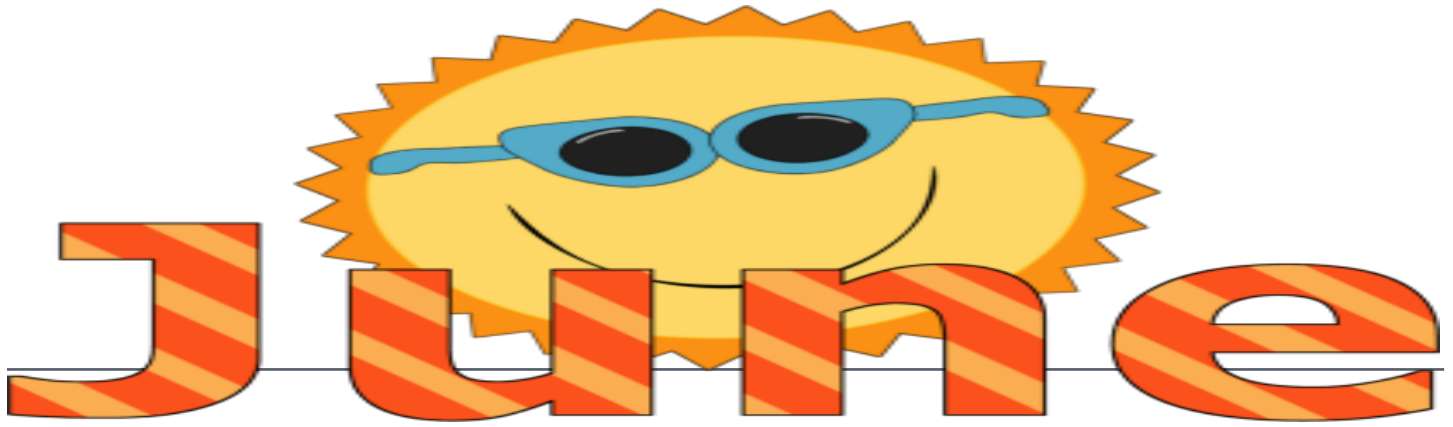
DONATION NIGHT

for Grace United Methodist Church
VBS.

Present this flyer at the Joliet location
and Texas Roadhouse will donate
10% of your total food purchases to
Grace United Methodist Church VBS!



815-577-9003
3151 TONTI DRIVE
JOLIET, IL



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4 7a Men's Breakfast	5	6 ASP TEAM depart
7 COMMUN- ION 10 am Worship	8 6:30p SPRC	9	10	11 7a Men's Breakfast	12	13 ASP TEAM return
14 ASP SUNDAY 10 am Worship	15 ANNUAL CONFERENCE	16	17	18 7a Men's Breakfast	19	20 5:30pm Restau- rant Club Blue Sushi
21 FATHER'S DAY/ 10 am Worship Begin "Summer of Love" Sermon Se- ries	23 VACATION	24 Texas Road House Fund- raiser 3-10PM	25 Food Pantry BIBLE	26 7a Men's Breakfast SCHOOL 4:00pm VBS program and fellowship	27	28
28 10 am Worship VBS choir sings	30					
					20	26

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

June 7th - 10:00 am **Communion Sunday**

June 14th - 10:00 am ASP Worship

June 21st - 10:00 am Worship/Father's Day

June 28th - 10:00 am Worship/VBS kids singing