



GRACE NOTES

Volume 14 Issue 7 July 2026

WOW!!! Veggie Tales VBS was a Success!! We had about 56 children ages 3 yrs. – 6th grade participate in Vacation Bible School June 22-25th. Each morning the VT Citizens met on the porch with their Family leaders and came up with solutions for some “In the Pickle” dilemmas!! The citizens then came to the sanctuary to meet the mayor and Bob the Tomato of Veggie town (AKA Pastor Laura and Logan Burgess respectively) . They watch a Veggie Tale greeting and sang songs. Then they were off to explore Veggie Town making crafts, eating yummy snacks, playing fun games, visiting the TV station and listening to a Bible story. These activities helped the citizens to learn how to become citizens of God’s community and help them solve dilemmas God’s way! On June 25th from 4:00-5:30 pm, the kids and parents came to a Concert and Celebration. After the mini concert in the sanctuary, we enjoyed eating ice cream and they built creative buildings with marshmallows and pretzel sticks!! The highlight of the afternoon was watching Pastor Laura and Diane Morrow get a pie in their faces because the citizens of Veggie Town collected over 100 items for Daybreak and collected \$359.

A Big Thanks to all those who volunteered: Pastor Laura, Cathy Kazak, Pat Meyers, Jean Lucas , Barb Fisher, Karen Anderson, Gail Bjekich, Debbie Larson, Serena Tesch-Moore, Amber Kolodziej, Cathy Downing, Greg & Cathy DuBois, Mike & Diane Parro, Steve Meister, Diane Lutz, Andrea Schroenrock, Joan Landers, Kaliah Dolph, Gail Bjekich, Eileen Hicks, Debi Shippy, Kara Hocking, Landon Hocking, Brianna Anderson, Ben Meister, Keira Osborne, Miles Dimer, Mary Rogers, Ayden Cronin, Meela Gasparich, Star Payne. Joe & Maida McCormack, Jim & Patrick Morrow, Linda Meister, and Adrienne Hartman. The following daycare teachers helped: Ms. Nia, Ms. Sally, Ms. Keisha, Ms. Amber.

Thank you all for being a part of VBS! I really appreciated it!!

Diane Morrow, VBS Coordinator



Summer's Experimental Book Discussion of Shannon Bream's

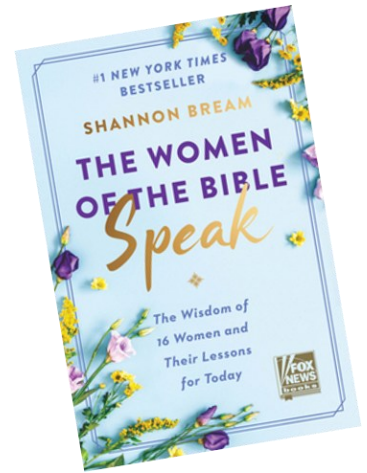
"THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE SPEAK"

We start June 30th, but it's not too late to join!

Each Tuesday we will discuss two Biblical women and their relevance to today. Each week is a stand alone session, so come join us.

Learn, share, and grow with us this summer.

Tuesday's at 10— 11:15 am at Grace's picnic tables
(weather permitting) or library (weather not permitting.)



COME JOIN IN THE FUN.

Thanking everyone who has donated the tea bags & plastic bags but at this time we do not need more.

United Women in Faith collect items during the summer for their Purse Ministry mission for Groundwork in September. If you would like to be part of this mission, they would appreciate help from all as many items are needed. There is a signup sheet on the counter by the office door of items, if you are able to help. Or let Cathy DuBois know what items you can donate. Thank you.



Everyone was asking who drew all these wonderful Veggie Tail pictures that were all around the church. Our very own Diane Lutz is the artist. We told her she had to sign each one with the date of 1999 when she drew them for our 1st Veggie Tails VBS. Thank you.





VBS 2026



SNACK TEAM





VBS 2026



“We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the prayerful thoughts, cards, calls, visits, and gifts of yummy food, and words of encouragement during the healing of our fractures! Many, many thanks!!”

And, thanks to the AV team. We are thrilled to return to worship “in person”. But the virtual connection on Sunday mornings truly lifted our spirits and our hope.

Joanne & Kay Ray



THANKS!

The Grace congregation was very responsive to the UWF request for Undies for Tree of Life Rosebud Indian Reservation. Steve Meister and others will take three 13-gallon plastic bags of them to Mission, South Dakota very soon.



187th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Sunday, June 14 -
Tuesday, June 16, 2026

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

NIC Annual Conference 2026

The theme of the 187th annual gathering was “Practicing Hope”. The Bishop’s message and scripture presented during the Bible Study reassures us that God is always with us, has a plan for us and that we should be “confident and courageous” as we practice hope daily, reaching out to those in need in our community.

Here are some of the great scripture passages that were presented and discussed: Romans 5: 3-5; Romans 8: 24-25; Psalm 46:1; Jeremiah 29: 11 and Isaiah 41:10.

Almost 800 lay members and clergy from 300 churches worked and got a lot accomplished during our time together. We voted to approve the 2027 Conference Budget, increase the minimum salary for full-time Elders, made changes to policies and procedures for Conference housing, Nominations, Journal Publishing and Youth Camp operations just to name a few of the 13 items on our Consent Calendar we had to review. There were also numerous committee reports and awards for achievements presented. The “Fill up the Truck” campaign was pretty successful; a second truck was needed to handle the 7,000 lbs. of donations received, and the Bishop’s Appeal raised over \$32,000 to support construction of a school in Africa.

Note- It’s not too late to donate to the “Bishop’s Appeal”—checks can be made out to Grace UMC with a notation on the memo line, and cash is always welcome.

Great music and fellowship rounded out what we would have to say was one of the best conferences we have attended. We thank you for your support and prayers for the work we do as your representatives to the Northern Illinois Conference. You can find out more about AC2026 and the work and activities of the conference at umcnic.org.

Jim & Diane Morrow, Your Lay Members to AC2026



- 7/1 ~ Wally Farrar
- 7/3 ~ Greg DuBois, Tori Meister
- 7/5 ~ Avery Volk
- 7/6 ~ Tom Kinman
- 7/7 ~ Johnathan Butler, Anthony Citarelli,
Gianna Citarelli, Keira Osborne
- 7/9 ~ Lori Wait
- 7/10 ~ Lauren Whitney
- 7/11 ~ Kurt Johnson
- 7/13 ~ Sara Gray, Aden Guzman,
Maida Mc Cormack
- 7/15 ~ Hannah Black
- 7/17 ~ David McBride
- 7/21 ~ Pastor Laura Barkley
- 7/24 ~ Lisa Furto, Geri Hoffman
- 7/25 ~ Beth Osborne
- 7/28 ~ Donna Meiferdt, Nathan Meister



- Mike & Diane Parro
July 1, 1989
- Brian & Tracy Fahnstrom
July 11, 2009
- Jason & Stephanie Meister
July 13, 2002
- Greg & Cathy DuBois
July 15, 1995
- Chris & Theresa Whitney
July 22, 1989
- Darrel & Melody Fahnstrom
July 27, 1979
- Dave & Jan Kettwig
July 29, 1961

Our past Christian Ed director, Pastor Nancy's dad passed away last week on May 26, 2026. He was Pastor Jerry (Circuit Rider Jerry). His service was on May 31, 2026 at St. John's UMC, in Oak Park, IL



JUNE ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 10:00AM
May 31	88
June 7	68
June 14	85
June 21	79
June 28	79

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7 am Men's Breakfast 	3	4 
5 10:00 Worship COMMUNION	6	7 10am Book Study 6:30 p Trustees Grace will be hosting Clergy interviews with the District Superintendent 8:30—4:30 pm	8	9 7 am Men's Breakfast	10	11
12 PRAISE 10:00 Worship	13	14 10am Book Study 6:30p Finance	15 11:30am Pantry 	16 7 am Men's Breakfast 	17	18 ADRIENNE ON VACATION RETURNING TO OFFICE JULY 20TH.
19 10:00 Worship	20	21 10am Book Study PASTOR LAURA'S BIRTHDAY	22	23 7 am Men's Breakfast 6:30pm Church Council August Grace Notes articles due today , Thank you	24	25
26 10:00 Worship Last SUMMER of LOVE worship	27	28 10am Book Study	29	30 7 am Men's Breakfast	31	