



NOVEMBER GRACE NOTES

Volume 13 Issue 10

November 2025

“Jesus wept.” — John 11:35

John 11:35 is one of the shortest verses in the Bible. Who else chose this one when asked to memorize a Bible verse? (Pastor Laura raises her hand.)

In this verse, Jesus weeps over the loss of his dear friend Lazarus. He may also be weeping in response to the deep grief of Lazarus’s sisters, Mary and Martha, and the friends who had gathered. They had called on Jesus for healing, but he did not arrive in time. When Martha meets him, she says, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Soon after, Mary comes to him weeping and says the same thing. Jesus meets them both in their sorrow—and he, too, is overcome. He weeps with them.

We are entering a season when grief can spill over. This Sunday, we will invite families who have lost loved ones this year to come forward and light a candle in their memory. We will also make space to name aloud all the saints who have gone on to glory—to remember, to give thanks, to grieve.

This year, I have lost three uncles. All Saints Sunday will feel especially tender. The tears may catch in my throat, and they may fall. That will be okay.

November also ushers in the festivities of Thanksgiving and Christmas, which seem to fill every corner of our lives with commercials, plans, parties, and family gatherings. For some, this will be the first year an empty chair sits at the table. For others, a song, a smell, or a simple reminder will reopen the ache of grief. Tears may fall.

In December, we will hold a **Blue Christmas Service**—a time centered on the grief that can surface during this season and a space to bring that pain to the feet of Jesus. Grief is not always tied to physical death. It may come from job loss, estrangement, depression, or the death of a dream. Tears may fall.

I often hear people say they are afraid to come to church because they might cry. Some even apologize when they do, explaining that a hymn or a word from the sermon brought tears, or that they slipped out to the restroom so they wouldn’t “disrupt the service.”

Friends, hear this clearly: **Church is a place where you can bring your whole self. You should feel safe here.** Jesus wept. He didn’t go off alone to hide his tears. He wept in the presence of his community.

May this season be one where we bring all that we are and all that we feel to Jesus and to this community of faith. May we sit with one another—not trying to talk each other out of our grief, but instead reminding one another that we are not alone.

May our tears become prayers, and our prayers become hope.

Pastor Laura



October

2025 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/18/24

		October		Year to Date	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME		\$21,208	\$27,367	\$241,080	\$253,611
EXPENSES					
	Apportionment	\$1,940	\$1,941	\$19,400	\$19,410
	Salaries & Bene-	\$13,432	\$12,516	\$143,338	\$133,313
	Administration	\$1,296	\$650	\$12,960	\$10,205
	Programming	\$658	\$602	\$6,580	\$5,918
	Church Buildings	<u>\$8,830</u>	<u>\$6,880</u>	<u>\$88,300</u>	<u>\$88,324</u>
	TOTAL EXPENS-	\$26,156	\$22,589	\$270,578	\$257,170
	SURPLUS OR	-\$4,948	\$4,778	-\$29,498	-\$3,559

NOTES:

- 1) Through October, income is above ex-
- 2) Through October, expenses are below expectation
- 3) Even though the 2025 budget was not balanced, we may have positive
Jay Wait

STEWARDSHIP

COMING SOON TO YOUR HOME

Grace friends, please be watching your mailbox for a letter announcing blessings in abundance. This year's stewardship ministry takes a look at individual blessings, blessings of others, and the generosity of sharing blessings.

Our commitments will be consecrated in worship on November 24.



Our annual **Church Conference** will be held Sunday, November 16th. SPRC will meet with the D.S. at 4:30 pm prior to the conference starting at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary. Fellowship with pizza following the conference will be held in Grace Place. Please sign up on the clip board in the narthex so we can plan for our meal.

SUNDAY SOUP SALE

Soon we'll be thinking about stocking stuffers and gifts for loved ones who live afar. UWF has a suggestion for easy, early purchasing and mailing. Taste samples of Frontier dry mix soups on November 2 and order that day and on November 9.

Pick-up late November. A list of selections is on the poster in the Narthex.



CELEBRATION OF THE MOWING MINISTRY OF RUSS GHILAIN

Sunday, November 16th

During worship we will recognize the 20 years of mowing that Russ has donated to the church. Kevin Forkal has been instrumental with the upkeep on the riding lawn mower.

After worship, please stay for a cake reception in Grace Place.



Introducing Serena Tesch-Moore our new Christian Education director

Hello Grace UMC, little bit about myself, I'm from a family of two siblings. I have one older sister who I'm very close to. I was actually homeschooled for high school but I went through an online school called Bridgeway Academy. I went to Grace Christian University in Grand Rapids, MI where I studied youth ministry.

My career goals are to help the youth grow in their faith and learn how to make it their own as they grow older.

Outside of work, I love reading and spending time with my friends and family.

I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you and your children.

Serena

FAITH AND WELLNESS

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1. 1st Sunday **BP checks**. We are in the library the first Sunday of every month 30 minutes prior to the start of the worship service—come see us for a free blood pressure check.
2. **Lunch Bunch** will meet on November 18th at McBrides on 52 (2727 W. Jefferson, Joliet 60435) at 12:30pm. RSVP to Pat Meyers by November 14th. Plan to join our merry group of around 20 for food/fun/fellowship.
3. Looking to December: we will be offering a **Blue Christmas** Holiday service on Friday, December 12th at 4:00pm. It is all too easy to feel lost in the holiday shuffle and even to lose sight of the reason we celebrate. This quiet, gentle service will acknowledge that we may feel blue, lonely, isolated or tired and that is part of Christmas too. More details on this service will be in the December Grace Notes newsletter.

Debi Shippy

Expense Breakdown for ASP Trip

The following table provides a detailed breakdown of the anticipated expenses for the upcoming ASP trip. Each item lists the cost and, where applicable, the calculation used to determine the total.

Item	Amount	Calculation
ASP registration fee	\$95.00	
Volunteer fee	\$5,250.00	\$375 x 14
Van rentals	\$2,500.00	
Gas	\$500.00	
Meals on the road	\$300.00	
Lunch supplies	\$300.00	
Overnight in Lexington	\$140.00	\$10 x 14
Total	\$9,085.00	

These figures reflect the major categories of expenses for the trip, including registration, volunteer fees, transportation, lodging, and food. Each cost is listed to ensure transparency and thorough planning.

Current fundraising events for ASP Trip

Wreath sale	\$1,500.00	
Potato Bar	\$1,200.00	
Stock Sale	\$2,000.00	
Youth fees	\$1,200.00	\$150 x 8 youth
Mission of Month	\$125.00	
Christmas Offering	\$800.00	
Total	\$6,825.00	

In 2020 we did our fundraising and that year was canceled leaving us with excess funds, Over the last five years we have depleted that extra funds by raising van rental and gas cost. Hopefully we can exceed our normal amounts.

Steve Meister





It will soon be Christmas shopping season. For some, it may be now. Don't forget, later this month it will be time for the 4th Quarter **Smithsonian Bird Friendly Certified Coffee** sale that benefits Grace United Methodist Church. A gift of freshly roasted premium coffee that is grown in an environmentally friendly way makes a great holiday gift for a variety of reasons.

Thank you to the regulars who support this worthy environmental cause year around by purchasing their favorite Dean's Beans coffees at Grace's quarterly sales. They are not only supporting preservation of habitat for hundreds of songbird species that nest in North America and winter in the coffee growing regions of Central and South America, but they are also helping fund Grace's missions AND enjoying premium shade grown coffee. But, not all shade grown coffee is the same. Ask Greg DuBois about that.

Here is the next fundraiser schedule:

Sale Kick Off 11/23/25; Last Day to Order 12/7/25; Pick up @ Grace 12/14/25

Genesis 2:15 (NIV) "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to





Time to start thinking about the children in need of Christmas items. Late November Angel Tree will be decorated with ornaments and Angel tags supporting the needed families and children from the Salvation Army. Watch for the glowing tree in the Narthex starting Sunday Dec. 7, 2025. We need members to participate in this program and help a child have a "Blessed Christmas". More information will be placed in the Sunday Bulletin as time gets closer.

Clarice Boswell, Steve & Linda Meister.

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

During the coming weeks our Confirmation class will be collecting candy donations

to make holiday gifts for senior citizens and shut-ins being served by the Meals on Wheels program. More people are in need of assistance this year than ever before. These gifts with their meals are a real treat for them and a simple way for us to show them that Grace UMC cares.

About 300 pounds of individually wrapped regular and sugar-free candies are needed for this project. Your left-over Halloween candy is an ideal donation. Monetary donations are most welcome, too; let us buy for you!

Candy donations can be dropped off outside the church office in our decorative collection box; monetary donations can be mailed to the church or left in the mailbox. For more information contact Jim Morrow. Thank you in advance for your help.

ASP WREATHS

Thank you for supporting the ASP Youth Mission Team by purchasing wreaths. Wreaths will be available for pick up on

Sunday, November 23rd
in the Narthex.

POINSETTIAS

Grace Church will decorate the chancel area with Poinsettias on Christmas Eve. The flowers can be in honor or celebration of a special event, in memory of a loved one, or to the "Glory of God." If you wish to order, please fill out a form and return it with a check made out to Grace Church by December 8th.

Poinsettias are \$9.00 each.

Grace Church's Annual Hanging of the Greens

Join us on Sunday, November 30th at 10:30am for our Hanging of the Greens service. Christmas sights and sounds will fill the sanctuary as we prepare our church home for the season of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Our choirs will sing, the bells will ring, and our children will help lead us in the joyful anticipation of Jesus' birth. Following worship, everyone is invited to enjoy cookies and punch in fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season together.

Come share in this beautiful service that marks the start of our Advent journey!

Restaurant Club will meet on Sunday, December 7th at 5pm at Barrel and Vine in downtown Lemont. We all enjoyed their food and service last time we went there, so we'll go there again! I selected this restaurant because downtown Lemont has the most beautiful Christmas lights - small town charm all around. After dinner you can walk or drive around to see the lights. They truly are spectacular! RSVP must be made to Diane by text or phone at 630-430-3808 before December 1st.



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Will Grundy Medical Clinic

Funds collected will be sent to Will Grundy Medical Clinic to support their mission of providing medical care for those in the community who cannot afford it.



OCT ATTEN	WORSHIP 8:30AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
OCT 5	84	20	19
OCT 12	70	29	15
OCT 19	79	29	18
OCT 26	78	23	8

Thanks to all who care for the beauty of our worship space with cleaning, flowers, seasonal decor, and more.





11/6—Donna Redmon
11/15—Heather Linko
11/19—Tessa Gray
Nancy Kramer
11/22—Joe McCormack
11/28—Ed Young
11/29—Sebastian Butler



Mike & Amber Kolodziej	November 15, 2014
Jay & Cindy Caswell	November 16, 1968
Donald & Diane Lutz	November 27, 1982

DAYBREAK SHELTER

The food sign-up sheets for Daybreak (Nov. 17) and Daybreak Breakfast (Nov. 18) are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Drop off item before noon on the Sunday before Daybreak date.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Turn your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 1st , or you'll be very early for church on November 2nd.

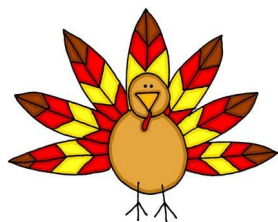


**ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK**

On October 19, 2025 , a total of 18 of us (children, youth and adults) walked for CROP WALK to stamp out hunger!!!! \$620 dollars was raised for this worthy cause. Thanks to all who walked and supported the Fight against Hunger!!!

Lunch Bunch group met at Morning Delight Cafe 10/21/25
Everyone enjoyed their time breaking bread together.





November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 HOPE 8:30am Prayer and Gathering 9am Christian Ed 10:30 Worship Hanging of the Greens					Friday's are Pastor Laura's day off. Let's respect her downtime and family time.	1 2-4pm FMSC 1:00 am
2 ALL SAINTS DAY 8:30am Prayer and Gathering 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10am Blood Pressure screening 10:30 Worship	3	4 1 pm UWF	5 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	6 7:00 am Men's Breakfast 	7	8
9 8:30am Prayer and Gathering 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship	10	11 Veterans Day 6:30pm Trustees	12 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	13 7:00 am Men's Breakfast 	14	15 11:00am Funeral service for Gena Rhodes
16 8:30am Prayer and Gathering 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:40am Russ Appreciation fellowship 5PM CHURCH CONFERENCE	17 5pm Daybreak	18 7am Daybreak Breakfast 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch 6:30 pm Finance via ZOOM	19 11:30am Pantry 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	20 7:00 am Men's Breakfast December Grace Notes <u>Deadline</u>	21	22
23 8:30am Prayer and Gathering 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship Coffee Sales Kick-off	24	25	26 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	27 	28 	29