



GRACE NOTES

Volume 13 Issue 6 July 2025

Pastor's Page

Last month I spoke about how this is the time of year that our Nomination Committee begins to have conversations with people to see where their gifts and passions may connect with ministries here at church. Each year we have “classes” of people who are set to rotate off a committee of ministry that they serve on to have a break to rest, to be filled with the Spirit for all they have poured out or to engage in another area of ministry. That leaves space for others to come and be part of these life-giving ministries of the church.

In June, I highlighted some of our mandated Committees. Here are some additional ministry areas that are also vital to the mission and ministries here at Grace UMC:

Daycare Board: This board consists of the Daycare Director, Assistant Director and church members to support and help oversee the operations of the Daycare. Meets every other month on 3rd Tuesday evening at 6:30.

Worship Committee: This committee plans for and evaluates our various worship services offered on Sunday mornings as well as special worship services throughout the year. Meets 4 times a year after worship.

Health and Wellness: This ministry plans for, implements and evaluates wholistic ministry opportunities or supports for the congregation. Meets several times a year, usually Wednesdays at noon.

Outreach and Witness: This committee organizes and implements opportunities to be in mission and connection between the world and our church. Under this umbrella, we look at our evangelistic efforts. Evangelism is more than just one individual talking about faith; it is a ministry of the whole church that develops a church “lifestyle” of welcome, invitation and support. Meets as needed.

Stewardship: Local church members join with the promise to uphold the church with their “prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.” The ministry of stewardship helps to nurture and harvest the fruits of that pledge throughout the ministries of the church. They meet occasionally when it works best for those on the committee in late summer and fall.

If you have not had a chance to read last month’s newsletter article that shared about the other opportunities, please do so. Again, I ask you to prayerfully consider how God may be asking you to step out in faith and serve in the upcoming year.

Grace and peace, Pastor Laura



**Zander Barkley, Misa Escalante, Braydon Hocking, Landon Hocking
Paxton Hogg, Aden Guzman, Stella Guzman, Adriel Zepeda
Eric Anderson, Kara Hocking, Stephanie Meister, Steve Meister,
Ubaldo Rojas and Shannen Rojas.**



Breathitt County was home away from home the week of June 8th for our ASP Team. Our young missionaries had a great week.



A Big Thanks to all those who volunteered: Pastor Laura, Donna Shultz, Cathy Kazak, Pat Meyers, Donna Robertson, Barb Fisher, Karen Anderson, Debbie & Doug Larson, Jolene Johnson, Jamie Citarelli, Cathy Downing, Linda Meister, Cathy DuBois, Joann Ray, Diane Parro, Steve Meister, Diane Lutz, Andrea Schoenrock, Joan Landers, Kaliah Dolph, Gail Bjekich, Eileen Hicks, Debi Shippy, Pat Kwasniewski, Kara Hocking, Brianna Anderson, Landon Hocking, Lexi Cronin, Zander Barkley, Ben Meister, Myah Sawyer, Caylie Farrar, Adrienne's 2 grandkids Eli & Nadia, Joe & Maida McCormack, Jim & Patrick Morrow, and Adrienne Hartman. The following daycare teachers helped: Ms. Nia, Ms. Sally, Ms. Keisha, Ms. Amber. Many people donated items and bought craft supplies for this outreach event.

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

Diane Morrow, VBS Coordinator



Chaulk art out front the church.



VBS 2025



Cathy and Joanne in the AV booth



SNACK TEAM



Story Time





VBS 2025





Water dump bucket challenge!
 Pastor Laura, Diane and Steve!
 Such good sports. Over 300 items
 collected for the food pantry.



Restaurant Club summer gathering will be at Allegory Restaurant in downtown Naperville (224 S. Main St) on Saturday, August 2nd at 5pm. This is a little place with excellent food (not a huge menu), and a relaxing atmosphere. Contact Diane Parro to RSVP by Friday, July 25th. **ALL** reservations **must** be made via text (630-430-3808) or email (dparro@comcast.net). As this is a smaller restaurant, late reservations or walk-ins **will not** be accommodated. For those wishing to continue the socializing after dinner, a short walk over to DeVine Tasting Cellars would be fun for some wine tasting!



GRATITUDE CORNER

We are thankful for Grace Child Care Center that serves our community's little ones.

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.

At the end of June, budget income is expected to be \$165k, or \$9k over the planned \$156k. Budget expenses are expected to be \$161k, or \$1k over the planned \$160k. Cash flow will be positive by \$4k as opposed to the negative cash flow of \$4k in the plan. However, since our budget is not balanced, there are still challenges ahead.



Jay Wait

Grace is Sufficient



186th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Monday, June 9 -
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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

The theme of the 186th annual gathering was “Grace is Sufficient”. Throughout our bible study and the Bishop’s message we talked about how with God’s grace anything is possible and that we all can have the power and courage to be “Esthers” and do great things.

There was a lot of work to do for the NIC this year. We had our opportunity to ratify four constitutional amendments that were forged at the 2024 General (World) Conference- subjects included the Worldwide Regionalization of the Methodist Church, racial justice and the inclusion of all in our membership, and the educational requirements for clergy voting rights. These proposals must be ratified by a 2/3 majority of voting members at every annual conference throughout the world to become law.

The consent calendar for our conference presented this year comprised of 14 documents of resolution and legislation requiring our approval. Topics included supporting the right to peaceful protest and free speech, standing with our neighbors (immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers) as well as changes to the pastor benefit programs.

The most controversial document of the week was a proposal to modify the method of calculating apportionments, each churches level of contribution to supporting the annual budget of the conference. We discussed this at great length because some churches would be asked to contribute more than they can afford; some counter proposals presented and considered would not provide enough funding. In the end we approved a 3-tier apportionment contribution plan based on each churches income and spending reported by the church to the conference each February.

As always the Annual Conference was informative and inspiring and we appreciate more each year the passion, dedication and hard work that is required by the NIC staff to not only put on an event of this size (over 700 clergy and lay members were in attendance) but to manage the conference operation of over 300 member churches throughout the year.

You can find more information on the Northern Illinois Conference and a complete recap of AC2025 at our conference website umcnic.org.

Jim & Diane Morrow, Lay Members to AC 2025



RALLY DAY

KICK-OFF SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 7TH

Jesus is one tough cookie

Based on Philippians 4:13

There will be a cookie bake off picnic in
Grace place

Bring a dish to pass. More details to follow
in August newsletter.



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
 7/21 ~ Adrienne Page
 7/23 ~ Mae Brown
 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

Congratulations to
 Wally Farrar and Jolene Johnson!
 Wally and Jolene committed themselves
 to each other in a
 ceremony on June 17th.



JUNE ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 9:30AM
June 1	87
June 8	67
June 15	102
June 22	63
June 29	99

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	3	3 7 am Men's Breakfast 	4 	5
6 9a Blood Pressure screening 9:30 Worship COMMUNION	7 6:30p SPRC	8 6:30 p 	9	10 7 am Men's Breakfast	11	12
	ADRIENNE ON VACATION RETURNING TO OFFICE JULY 14TH.					
13 PRAISE 9:30 Worship	14	15 6:30p Finance ZOOM	16 11:30am Pantry 	17 7 am Men's Breakfast 	18	19 TREE OF LIFE TRIP
20 9:30 Worship— Grace Family Singers	21	22	23	24 7 am Men's Breakfast August Grace Notes articles due today , Thank you	25	26 TREE OF LIFE TRIP RETURNS
27 9:30 am Worship 10:40am Grames and Fellowship in Grace Place	28	29	30	31 7 am Men's Breakfast 		