



Grace Notes is published monthly by Grace United Methodist Church in Joliet, IL.

GRACE NOTES

Volume 9 Issue 8

August 2021

Summer of Faith

In the Christian liturgical calendar, the season of summer is referred to as "Ordinary Time." It is the summer's offering between Pentecost (season of the spirit) and Advent (season of waiting). It is an opportunity to take a much deserved break especially after the restrictions were lifted in the midst of the Pandemic. We may find a quiet place to retreat and enjoy the beauty of creation amidst the many distractions that we encounter.

We have been to the mountain and experienced the grandeur of God's creation under the canopy of Pine trees. We are thankful that these old forest growths are safe from the logging industry. We dipped our feet in the cool water off the beach in the Pacific Northwest facing the ocean.

We want to be closer to home and accepted the gracious invitation to visit the *R Wildflower Farm & Field*, owned and nurtured through the years by Sally, a member of Grace Church.

I told my family that we are visiting a farm today! It's about plants, birds, and natural habitats. I said, "Don't raise your expectation." I was wrong on that one. We packed our picnic lunch and off driving through the country roads and reading out loud the directions given because we were warned that the GPS might not lead us to the place. I served in rural churches for 17 years and quite comfortable in two lane road in the country and every time I feel refreshed because this is "God's country." A scripture comes into mind— "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof."

This season in this summer of faith is offering a glimpse of God's grace. A friend was recovering from illness and she needed time away; another is also seeking renewal for body & spirit. There is a time of ending and new beginnings. There are many others also who seek a place, an oasis for such an ordinary time.

We listened to the birds, saw the wildflowers, wondered what lies beyond the lake, rode the back of a pick-up truck and just marvel what a plot or acres of land can do. We adored the butterflies and bees making their way from one plant to another.

I absolutely love sunflowers and it says "thanks" as it faces the warmth of the sun. But while we were there, the *Wildflower Farm & Field*, was standing in the middle of two farms with endless rows of corn & soy beans. Sally's father bought the place and planted trees and allowed nature to bless all who come. We visited and listened to the story of the place while the two dogs, Molly and Baby, quietly settled in— a comforting presence and glad we were there.

Just like in our everyday living, we are surrounded by many things that will pull us away from the love of God. In this place, tucked in between corn stalks and soy beans sits an "oasis."

There is a place aptly named "Sanctuary" and we have a hymn that proclaims, "*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*" On the way out, there is also a "Labyrinth" which in ancient time to the present has been recognized as a sacred symbol for life or heroic journeys.

The Scripture reminds us that "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, you will hear a voice saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.'" (Isaiah 30:21)

Life is a journey and we are given a gift of stewardship. You may find yourself in a journey this summer of faith but there is always a place where God can nurture your spirit. God will continue to nurture that spirit in our life together as a church. There is an opportunity for everyone.

We bid goodbye but nothing is really ordinary anymore once we experience the goodness of God. We captured this moment uniquely and return in a different way to be a blessing. We have received much in such a short span of time.

Come and be a part of this blessing in our Church. If you have an opportunity, send a message to a loved one or a friend today. Visit or like the Facebook page of *R Wildflower & Field*. Share what you have experienced because it is the Good News of Jesus Christ. You just never know where the spirit will touch you and lead you— take it.



Meet our new Director of Music: Peggy Weems!



Peggy is enthusiastically joining our staff August 1st as the Director of Music! She comes with a wealth of musical background including vocal, piano and directing both vocal choirs (adult and children) and hand bell choirs. Peggy has her Bachelor of Music and Graduate studies in Vocal performance from the University of Denver. She has been a member of both vocal and hand bell choirs through the years, with her last position being the Director of Music at Wesley UMC Aurora. Her 'daytime' job is at Connect Hearing as a Senior Manager of Revenue Cycle. She is also a volunteer at the Morton Arboretum, As Good as Gold Golden Retriever Rescue and Quilts of Compassion. Peggy lives in Plainfield with her husband of 36 years and has 2 adult daughters. We welcome Peggy to our church, and look forward to all that she has to offer!



God's Work Our Hands

SMALL MISSION PROJECTS

I have had a few people ask about pill bottles. Steve Meister says that they have enough for several years, so we will not be collecting them right now. Also, ink cartridge are no longer accepted for recycling. And, until we ask again, UMW does not need toiletries. And, there is no way to deal with pop tops so we cannot accept them at this time either.

However, the Lions used eyeglass collection box back!

If you have an hour or two to spare on any given day of the week, please consider lending a helping hand with the yardwork at Grace church.

There is always weeding, trimming, edging and basic debris pickup to be done.

Pick your own day. Pick your own time. Bring the kids. Anyone who can contribute would be greatly welcomed and much appreciated.

Contact Tom Zettergren at 815-725-3649 for more information.



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Ridgewood United Community Ministries

This ministry initiated by Trinity United Methodist Church operates a food pantry serving two zip codes on the east side of Joliet. The pantry is open weekly, and clients can receive food once per month. Funds will be used to purchase food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and to help defray the operating cost of freezers.



RESTAURANT CLUB

POOL PARTY & COOKOUT

Restaurant Club is meeting on Saturday, August 14th at 3pm for a Pool Party-Cook Out at Casa de Parro. Please bring a dish to pass and your own beverage. Hamburgers/Hot Dogs/Brats will be provided. RSVP to by August 8th to Diane Parro at dparro@comcast.net or 630-430-3808.

THANK YOU

Thanks to financial counters, recorders, and planners.



8/2 ~ Jeffrey Deardurff

8/3 ~ Lyndle Burton

8/4 ~ Maggie Nicoletti

8/5 ~ Debra Macias

8/6 ~ Patricia Bell, Mary Ann Preigh

8/7 ~ Maddalynn Butler

8/13—Benjamin Dow

8/15 ~ Jim Knudson, Starla Robinson

8/19 ~ Chloe Anderson, Linda Meister, Kay Ray,
Lauren Fahnstrom

8/20 ~ Derk Forkal, John Renzi

8/23 ~ Don Kazak, Mary McBride, Lillian Ray

8/25 ~ Tom Cowgill

8/26 ~ Mike Lucas

8/31 ~ Marley Nicoletti



Mike & Jeannine D'Orazio August 6, 1960

Jeffrey & Adrienne Page August 6, 2005

Chuck & Pat Kwasniewski August 16, 1969

Jay & Lori Wait August 17, 1974

Josh & Meghan Dolph August 18, 2007

Mike & Barb Fisher August 20, 1966

Steve & Tara Fowler August 20, 1977

Rick & Trudy Pearson August 23, 2014

Mike & Jean Lucas August 26, 1989

Ron & Peggy Tucker August 30, 1958

COMMUNION ELEMENTS

We will celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday, August 1st during the 9:30am worship service. If you will be viewing the service virtually and wish to have communion elements available, please contact the church office (815.725.7632) no later than July 29th. During this contact, you can arrange to pick up the elements.



Grace UMC Joliet ASP Crew

We all wanted to thank you so much for your willingness to come down to Bell Co. for a week to serve. All of the hard work you put in is so appreciated by many. We could not have asked for a better group of week 1 volunteers. Your presence and hard work did not go unnoticed here in Bell. We hope you all will come back to ASPLand next year. Until then, we are sending you an immense amount of thankfulness and blessings.

Best,

Emma, Kyle, Noelle, Jacob Claire

On behalf of Hank and Clarice Boswell, we THANK YOU GRACE CHURCH FAMILY for the many beautiful Birthday, Mothers- Day and Fathers- Day cards. They were beautiful. Your thoughtfulness was deeply appreciated. I completed a total of 1,168 face mask. My last delivery was 125 to the Marycrest Early Childhood Center. The little children ages 4 & 5 years old are required to wear a mask. I keep on sewing and making other people happy—even little children. The Boswells.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LATEST NEWS

GRACE TELEPHONE UPDATE

At the beginning of June, our telephone system failed disabling all phones in the church, including the Daycare. Our telephone repairman declared the antiquated system more expensive to fix than to replace. Thankfully, church and daycare staff continued to conduct business as usual with a little ingenuity.

Three phone system providers proposed bids to replace our disabled system and the trustee board evaluated each along with input from paid and volunteer office and childcare staff. The system selection was based on the desire to hold costs down while providing the church building with modern phone service.

To support the internet-based phone system selected by the trustees, wiring had to be installed in the childcare area and a link was run from the childcare office to the church office. While this wiring project was in progress, it was decided to hardwire the a/v booth into the system as well. This a/v booth upgrade should improve the streaming of our Sunday services on the internet.

On Friday, July 23, the new phone system was installed by Comcast who is also our internet service provider. For anyone calling the

church or child care offices, this switch will be transparent.

Thanks to those who provided input and to Mike Parro whose IT services were critical to the success of this project.

Greg DuBois, Trustee

ROOF LEAK

During the week of July 12, water damage to the south wall of the sanctuary was observed. An Adler Roofing repair technician found and repaired several holes in the flat roof above the area of interior damage. The drywall damage will be repaired after a few good rains to ensure the roof leak has been corrected. At that time, the trustees will be seeking a drywall contractor. If you have a suggestion, contact Greg DuBois.

During his time on the roof, the roofing technician discovered excessive debris on the roof and suggested that this kind of debris can be responsible for roof leaks and clogged roof drains.

During the week of August 2nd, a work party of two trustees will be clearing the roof of this debris. If you would like to lend a hand, contact Greg DuBois 815 545-6356.

June

2021 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/17/20

	June		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$23,700	\$34,495	\$165,900	\$186,062
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$1,954	\$1,954	\$11,724	\$11,724
Pastor Salary & Benefits	\$8,034	\$7,749	\$49,900	\$47,997
Personnel	\$8,577	\$4,871	\$50,008	\$34,716
Administration	\$1,059	\$617	\$6,350	\$5,932
Programming	\$1,050	\$22	\$6,300	\$2,025
Church Buildings	<u>\$5,516</u>	<u>\$3,715</u>	<u>\$42,700</u>	<u>\$39,340</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,190	\$18,928	\$166,982	\$141,734
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$2,490	\$15,567	-\$1,082	\$44,328

Notes:

- 1) Income much better than expected in June and YTD
- 2) Expenses below expectation by \$25k YTD (2 staff positions not filled)

BISHOP'S APPEAL 2021 UMCOR COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

UMCOR Covid-19 Response Fund, this year's Bishop's Mission Appeal, was presented to participants at the 182nd Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Northern Illinois Conference held last week.

One of many UMCOR global ministries currently in progress, they have been working with medical professionals and disaster relief coordinators to try to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Grants have been awarded to help provide food, clean water and medical equipment to regions hit hardest by the pandemic.

We are encouraged by our Bishop to give what we can to this important work. You can find more information about the Bishop's Appeal on the NIC Website (umcnic.org—click on Annual Conference 2021 on the home page). Donations can be made online on the website or through our church (please make checks out to GUMC and specifically mark them for the Bishop's Appeal).

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 6:30 SPRC 6:30 Boy Scouts	4	5 7am Men's Breakfast 	6	7
8 9:30 Worship	9	10 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 <i>Trustees</i>	11	12 7am Men's Breakfast	13 6:30 Cub Scouts 	14 3pm Restaurant Club Pool Party at the Parro's.
15 9:30 Worship	16	17 6:30 Boy Scouts 	18 11:30am Pantry 	19 7am Men's Breakfast	20	21
22 9:30am Worship	23	24 6:30 Boy Scouts 7pm 	25	26 7am Men's Breakfast 7 <i>Church Council</i> 	27	28
29 9:30 Worship	30	31 6:30 Boy Scouts				

Grace United Methodist Church

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Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799



everyone is welcome

all voices are needed

no experience
is necessary
to sing!

**JOIN
THE
CHOIR TODAY!**