



GRACE NOTES

Volume 12 Issue 8 August 2024

Pastor Laura's Ponderings

It has been a very full first month here at Grace UMC! I have loved getting settled at our home, my office and the church overall. It has been a great pleasure to begin to be invited into your stories. I have had several come by the church or I've had a few home visits where I've listened how God has moved in your lives.

In my first solo appointment many years ago, I did a book study called "Remembering Your Story" by Richard Morgan. In it, he quotes Thomas Hart who said, *There is nothing quite so sacred, so fragile, or so mysterious as the human being. There is probably no service we can render other persons quite as great or important as to be listener and receiver to them in those moments when they need to open their hearts and tell someone their story.*

Indeed, I find it to be "holy ground" when people share their stories with me. As we share our stories with one another, not only do we find ourselves changed by hearing another's story, but it may open us up to ways to walk into the future with one another.

I've worked together with Staff Parish to put together some set apart times for "Cottage Meetings" which are meet and greet events that will be held at the church. These events will allow time to share a little about yourselves, if you wish and to ask me questions and get to know me more. I'm excited as God is beginning to weave our stories together in this fresh new chapter.

The dates and times of the Cottage Meetings are:

August 6th at 10:00 a.m. in the library

August 11th After Service in Grace Place (in conjunction with a special event Sundaes Sunday)

August 12th 6:00 p.m. in the library

Sign ups will be available starting August 4th or feel free to call the church office.

I leave you with these final words from Paula Farrell Sullivan—*Every person is an unfinished story...We dare to explore the unfinished story we continue to create until we draw our last breath. Our stories are not finished...The portrait of our lives remains unfinished until we breathe for the last time.*

Grace and peace, Pastor Laura

Thursday, August 15th – Romeoville Summer Concert Series at Romeoville Village Hall – 1050 W. Romeo Road at 7:30pm. Band playing that night is Strung Out, a very popular band playing favorites from the 70's. Bring your lawn chairs and cooler with snacks and drinks. For those who want to go for dinner before the concert, we will meet at Fat Ricky's in Romeoville at 5pm. RSVP to Diane Parro at 630-430-3808 (text) or dparro@comcast.net by August 11th.

Restaurant Club

Faith & Wellness

A big THANK YOU to all who participated in our 1 minute survey. Lots of great feedback was received and we will use that to direct our endeavors!

Activities -

1. 1st Sunday BP checks provided the first Sunday of every month, starting 1/2 hour before the start of worship. We're in the library—drop by.
2. Starting in this fall will be Lunch Bunch –more details next month.
3. Sunday Sundaes—August 11th immediately after worship we are hosting Sunday Ice Cream Sundaes in Grace Place. Come hungry and ready to tell one of your favorite memories of Grace UMC. Join us for a casual sweet time of reminiscing. Please RSVP to Adrienne in the office at 815-725-7632 by August 8th—(I do not want to run out of ice cream!) This will be another cottage meeting opportunity.



Debi Shippy

June

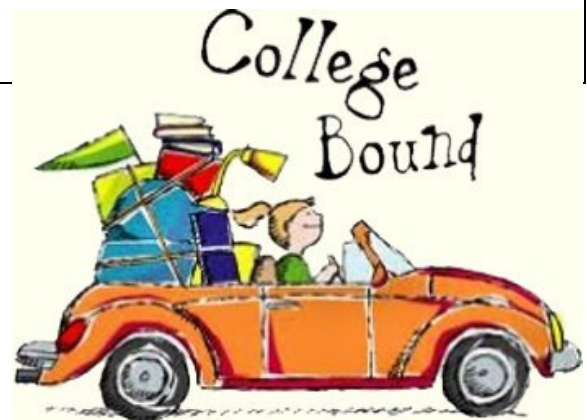
2024 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/10/23 and revised 6/25/24

		June		Year to Date	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME		\$21,708	\$21,715	\$149,501	\$143,292
EXPENSES					
	Apportionment	\$2,137	\$2,137	\$12,822	\$12,822
	Salaries & Benefits	\$14,128	\$13,658	\$89,556	\$87,793
	Administration	\$1,129	\$1,021	\$6,775	\$7,987
	Programming	\$792	\$262	\$4,750	\$1,895
	Church Buildings	<u>\$7,890</u>	<u>\$11,014</u>	<u>\$47,340</u>	<u>\$52,434</u>
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,076	\$28,092	\$161,243	\$162,931
	SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$4,368	-\$6,377	-\$11,742	-\$19,639

NOTES:

- 1) Budget was revised 6/25/24 to reflect lower costs in several areas.



Heading to college!!!

Please send your college address to the church office so we can keep in contact with you while you are away at college. Send your name and college addresses to gracejoliet@comcast.net

P.I.E. –



Pray, Ignite, Encourage Rally Day

September 8th

Following 10:30 worship in Grace Place Homemade Pie Contest

Please join us on Rally Day for a potluck following 10:30 worship AND a Pie Contest as we **Pray** for the people of our church and the world, **Ignite** us to share our faith with others, and **Encourage** kindness to all we encounter.

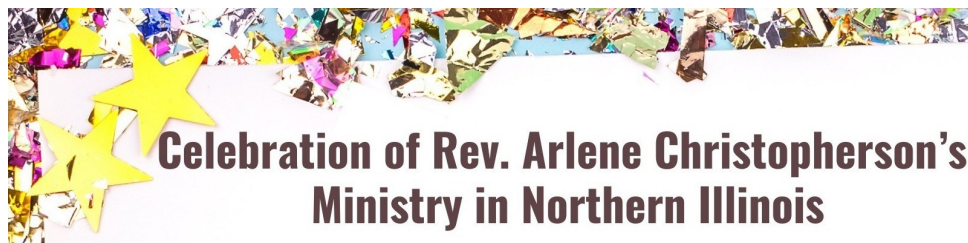
Calling all Grace Bakers to make their special pie for the contest (or 2, if you'd like). All pies will be judged by judges selected especially for this event. Pies will be judged on flavor, appearance, taste, originality, and crust. The baker of the best overall pie will get to smear a whipped cream pie in the face of a church friend of their choice. Goggles, washcloths, and plastic cape will be provided. We think there will be some of our kids who might be eager to be chosen.

Please bring a dish to pass for the potluck. Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. Of course, the pies from the contest will be our dessert, so everyone can choose their favorite pie to try.

A couple of pie-themed games will make our Rally Day one to remember! You won't want to miss Rally Day this year!

Please RSVP to Diane Parro if you'd like to bake a pie for the contest. We'd like to have at least 15 pies!

**** NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE EVENTS ****



Celebration of Rev. Arlene Christopherson's Ministry in Northern Illinois

SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

DOWNERS GROVE: FIRST UMC, 1032 MAPLE AVE., DOWNERS GROVE

4 TO 6 P.M. Refreshments and Fellowship afterward.

Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Assistant to the Bishop and former director of connectional ministries for the Northern Illinois Conference, [will retire on September 1](#).

Rev. Christopherson brought stability, sound leadership, and grounded support to the bishops with whom she has served.

There will be a [love offering](#) taken for Rev. Christopherson. Donations can be made at the event or [online here](#) (choose Arlene Christopherson Love Offering).

For those who are not able to make it to the celebration, we encourage you to share your [words of appreciation](#) for Rev. Arlene Christopherson and her ministry [here](#). These words will be shared with her.

Cards and words of appreciation can also be sent to Rev. Christopherson at the NIC office at:

Northern Illinois Conference Office
Attention: Words of Appreciation for Arlene Christopherson
303 E. Wacker Dr, Suite 2020
Chicago, IL 60601



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Installation Service Prairie Central DS Wendy Hardin Hermann

SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
3:00 P.M.**

BARRINGTON UMC, 98 ALGONQUIN RD., BARRINGTON

A Time to Celebrate

8/2 ~ Jeffrey Deardurff

8/5 ~ Debra Macias

8/6 ~ Patricia Bell, Mary Ann Preigh

8/7 ~ Gracie Barkley

8/7 ~ Maddalynn Butler

9/7 ~ Kara Hocking

8/13 ~ Jonah Barkley

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

8/26 ~ Mike Lucas

Jeffrey & Adrienne Page

August 6, 2005

Frank & Jamie Citarelli

August 11, 2012

Jay & Lori Wait

August 17, 1974

Josh & Meghan Dolph

August 18, 2007

Rick & Trudy Pearson

August 23, 2014

Mike & Jean Lucas

August 26, 1989

Ron & Peggy Tucker

August 30, 1958



GRATITUDE CORNER

Thanks to the Staff Parish Relations Committee for giving us all an opportunity to share the love when Pastors Nancy and Romir left and when Pastor Laura came.



JULY ATTENDANCE	9:30AM
July 7	89
July 14	65
July 21	78
July 28	73

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 am Men's Breakfast Grace Place Celebration of 40 yrs for Sally in the DayCare	2	3 Tree of Life mission trip
4 9a Blood Pressure screening 9:30 am worship/ Communion	5	6 10 am Cottage mtg	7	8 7 am Men's Breakfast	9	10 TOL returns
11 9:30 am worship/ 10:40a Sundae Sunday Grace Place	12 6 pm Cottage mtg	13	14	15 7 am Men's Breakfast	16	17
18 9:30 am worship	19	20 6:30p DayCare mtg	21 Food Pantry	22 7 am Men's Breakfast	23	24
25 9:30 am worship	26	27 6:30p Zoom Finance	28	29 7 am Men's Breakfast 6:30p Church Council	30	31

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

Pastor Laura and Staff Parish put together some set apart times for “Cottage Meetings” which are meet and greet events that will be held at the church. These events will allow time to share a little about yourselves, if you wish and to ask me questions and get to know me more. I’m excited as God is beginning to weave our stories together in this fresh new chapter.

The dates and times of the Cottage Meetings are:

August 6th at 10:00 a.m. in the library

August 11th After Service in Grace Place (in conjunction with a special event Sundae Sunday)

August 12th 6:00 p.m. in the library

Sign ups will be available starting August 4th or feel free to call the church office.

Pastor Laura Barkley

