



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

# GRACE NOTES

Volume 8 Issue 8

August 2020

## Walk-thru Communion – Sunday, August 2nd

**Pastor Romir will be serving communion IN THE SANCTUARY on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11am-12pm!**

With pandemic restrictions will in place, communion will be offered in a less traditional way. The following process will be in place for the in-church communion:

- Park in the parking lot (try to park every other parking spot to adhere to safety protocols)
- You will be greeted as you enter the church and follow the protocols in place for entering the building (sign in, temperature check)
- Enter the sanctuary through the center doors and proceed down the aisle to the front of the church where Pastor Romir will offer pre-packaged communion elements (just like the drive by communion in July)
- Exit the sanctuary through the front side door, then go directly out of the church through the Grace Place doors

Please remember that this for one hour – you do not have to arrive at 11:00 in order to receive communion. A limited number of people can be allowed in the church at one time. If you are unable to come to church, please notify the office and arrangements will be made for communion to be brought to you.

**This is an exciting experiment to share in the body and blood of Christ together. Remember - ALL are Welcome at Christ's Table.**

Come Holy Spirit, Come!

### How to Open the Individually Packaged Communion Sets

[ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drfkxKkkSEI> ]

(1) Inspect the communion cup set and note that there is actually layers separating the wafer from the juice. The topmost layer is a clear plastic sheet. Below that is the wafer which sits on top on a foil layer. That layer is what keeps the juice component sealed until ready for use.

(2) Fold the tab back and forth to start the separation between

the clear plastic top layer and the foil layer below.

(3) Carefully peel back the clear plastic layer to release the wafer.

(4) Eat the wafer while remembering that Jesus said, "This is my body which is broken for you."

(5) Carefully peel back the foil layer to open the juice cup.

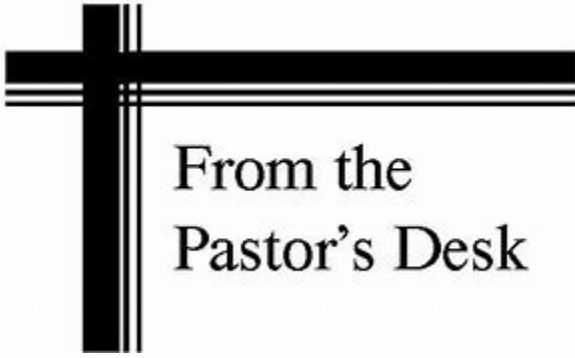
(6) Drink the juice while remembering that Jesus said, "This is blood which is shed for you for in forgiveness of your sins."

(7) You may receive communion inside or take it with you.

### GLUTEN FREE

*If you have an allergy to gluten, the station by the pulpit is a gluten-free station.*

***\*\*Please do not come to church if you are feeling sick or exhibit any Covid-19 symptoms.***



## From the Pastor's Desk

### “First Impressions”

First impression is a moment in time when we form a “mental image” of an event that makes a significant impact in our lives. The book of Psalm 139: 13-14, is an impression from David about God’s provision and care from the very beginning: *“For you created my innermost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that fully well.”*

When I walked into the church for the first time, I noticed the welcome center, the beautiful stained-glass windows and the sanctuary. I am quite certain that first time visitors to Grace United Methodist Church carry that impression forward. We also convey that welcoming spirit for the people who drive by our church daily and how we care for our surroundings.

The idea of the “holy” seemed obvious to many people today. If that is all we have to lean on then it is essentially good for the spirit. Sometimes, we equate holiness with tall ceilings, beautiful icons, indescribable stained-glass creations and flickering candles. I just stand with awe and can’t imagine the gift of these artists that inspires generations even to this day. The invitation in one of the folders that describes the history of a particular sacred place says, “These symbols push us out of the chaos of daily life and into deeper connection with God and one another.”

In this unusual season of the Pandemic, many of us have not been in church since March 15, 2020 when everything closed for our wellness and safety. Imagine missing Easter, Mother’s Day, Recognition of Graduates, receiving Confirmands, Father’s Day and Pentecost. On top of that, we can’t offer our sacred space for weddings, funerals and baptism.

This time away is temporary and is a way of saying, “Now we’re in the presence of God.” Our online services are now one way in which we can nurture our souls. In fact, the early church grew when people gathered in homes for prayer, scripture and word. People form an impression of the church by what we offer.

I have had three “cottage meetings” (meet and greet with the Pastor) and I know the challenge of not seeing each other’s face because we have to wear a mask. But it is not a barrier, if the impression we leave behind convey our love for one another.

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you in this way. Let us continue to do the work of Christ and in these challenging times, step up in faith, and push the chaos of our daily lives and lean on God who is faithful. That is the impression we have of God and worth sharing— *“your works are wonderful; I know that fully well.”*

Grace and peace,

Pastor Romir



## BECAUSE OF COVID– 19 RESTRICTIONS

Right now we are no longer accepting at the church:

- box tops for education
- pop top tabs
- eyeglasses for the Lions Club
- toiletries of any kind (Daybreak or purse ministry)
- prescription pill bottles
- ink cartridges

Please do not bringing any of these items to the church until further notice.

## RIDGEWOOD FOOD PANTRY

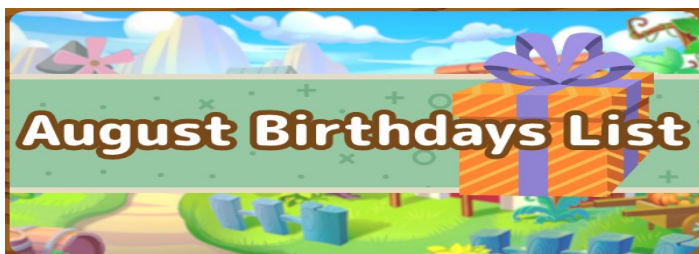
Because the building is being restricted and the operating procedure has changed at the food pantry, we are no longer able to accept food donations at the church

Also, we no longer need the quantity of plastic bags that we did before and will no longer be accepting them either.



Thanks for the mission-minded people at Grace who give of their time and talent to make the world outside our walls a better place.

June				
2020 Income & Expense Summary				
Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/15/19				
	June		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$27,400	\$26,150	\$187,200	\$183,599
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,707	\$1,794	\$16,241	\$10,764
Pastor Pension & Insurance	\$7,585	\$10,037	\$49,300	\$50,766
Personnel	\$8,148	\$8,185	\$52,619	\$51,460
Administration	\$1,058	\$541	\$6,350	\$6,133
Programming	\$1,408	\$301	\$8,450	\$3,404
Church Buildings	<u>\$6,483</u>	<u>\$3,988</u>	<u>\$48,300</u>	<u>\$43,257</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,389	\$24,846	\$181,260	\$165,784
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	\$11	\$1,304	\$5,940	\$17,815
NOTES:				
1) Income continues generally as expected through June, except for fundraising.				
2) With the building and programs shut down, expenses are about \$15k less than expected through June.				



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

We would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy through cards, calls, and prayers after the passing of Dave's sister, Julie Wagner, and his brother, Wayne McBride.

Thanks again and God bless.

Dave & Mary McBride

*Thank  
you*

A "thank you" to UMW was received from H.I.S. Home, for our donation in support of Geralda Camelus in May. They said Geralda is doing very well, but a little bored right now as the children are all isolated due to the virus in Haiti. Their neighborhood district has the highest percentage of Covid-19, in Haiti so they are taking every precaution to keep the children safe. Please keep the children and staff in your prayers.

Cathy DuBois



Mike & Jeannine D'Orazio August 6, 1960

Jeffrey & Adrienne Page August 6, 2005

Roy & Joyce Wahl August 6, 1960

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

Brian & Erika Forsythe August 31, 1996



Grace UMC is pleased to announce the birth of a new baby in our church family. Ava, the daughter of Kelly and Mark, was born on April 1, 2020. The proud grandparents are Doug and Debbie Larson, and the proud great-grandmother is Jackie Klainsek.

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Ann Dill, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, effective July 31, 2020. Ann has only held this position for a short time, but her love of our church and God has been evident in the enthusiasm she exudes in all of her efforts with our little ones. Ann is not leaving Grace, so we will continue to see her smiling face (when we can see behind face masks!). Thank you, Ann, for bringing the light of Jesus into the lives of our littles!







LET'S BOLT VBS was a lot of fun and very upbeat for the children in my childcare! Each day there was a bible story, games, music and a craft for us to do!

The kids really enjoyed playing the wacky games! I loved it that there were 4 choices of games each day—at least one of them was messy, and you guessed it, that was the one the kids wanted to do!!

The music was very upbeat! We read from the bible each day and then we listened to the story on You Tube—it was animated and fun to watch! The kids learned about the importance of listening to GOD, trusting Jesus, and how much Jesus loves us! There was a bible verse and discussion question to discuss with the kids each day.

The origami craft was neat to do! The youngest had a little difficulty, but with help he could do it! They all enjoyed coloring and decorating it. It was easy to pause the video and then continue on!



If you did not have a chance to try it this week, it is still on the church website. Click on the Events page and then the Family Portal. Type in the password-LETSBOLT in all caps! IT is a great way to have fun with the neighborhood kids or do it with your own kids and grandkids! SO, what are you waiting for—LETS BOLT! -- Diane Morrow



## Grace United Methodist Church

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New  
check in  
stations