



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

GRACE NOTES

Volume 10 Issue 8

August 2022

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST!

The month of August is a time of getting ready for the future. For many of us, August is a time of transition. Our children, youth, young adults, and many of our young-at-hearts are preparing to begin a new school once again. Those of us who are employed finish off those last minute vacations in preparation for buckling down at our places of employment. Even the creatures of God and the fruits of our fields and forests begin to transition to a new season during August.



For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

The same is church in our ministry life together as one in Christ, one in each other and one in ministry to all the world. The season of August reminds us that now is the time to begin the process of discerning who we are as a family of Christ and how we shall engage in ministry together. What are our priorities, our plans and more importantly – where is God leading us to BE like Christ so that all that we may meet may fully experience the love of God and the love of neighbor. How can we challenge ourselves to rise to the expectations of our church father and founder John Wesley who called his faithful friends to do what is good, what is right, and what is just in this world.

Therefore, we ask all of you to prayerfully think about these things of the heart and mind so that our future plans may reflect our desire to be the hands and feet and voice of Jesus in our worship and ministry life together. Our hope is that you will bring your thoughts and share your voice at a Strategic Planning event that is scheduled on Saturday, September 10,

2022 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Together, we can reach out to God and trust that the Holy Spirit will advocate for us and nudge us into truly living in the way of Christ moving forward.

May God bless your comings and goings in love, hope, joy and peace!

Blessings to you,
Pastor Nancy

#BeUMC

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The **#BeUMC** campaign reminds us of who we are at our best. As people of God called The United Methodist Church, we're faithful followers of Jesus seeking to make the world a better place.

#BeUMC honors the core values that connect the people of The United Methodist Church. No matter the challenges we face, God is with us, and we continue to have opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

The campaign calls us to embrace our Wesleyan heritage and envision a promising future. Every day offers a chance to live into our mission and to strive to **#BeUMC** — to be the church our communities so desperately need.

This grassroots effort, built upon powerful stories of congregations and people living their faith, celebrates what draws us to The United Methodist Church and what we aspire to be.

Foundation

The United Methodist Church is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit.



Restaurant Club is doing something a little different this summer! Please join us for some free outdoor concerts where you can either eat before you come, bring a picnic with you, or buy food when you are at the concert. RSVP for each concert to Diane Parro by 3 days prior to the concert date. Details for each concert follow:

Wednesday, August 10th at Bolingbrook Performing Arts Center at Briarcliff and Delaware (town center near post office, village hall) – Motor City Review – Motown Tribute; 7:30pm. Space will try to be saved on the lower part of the hill (bring your own chairs) or you can sit in the plastic chairs provided on the blacktop area. It is advisable to be there by 6:45-7pm. Concession stand (food and drinks) is on site, or you may bring your own food/cooler. Parking can be found off Delaware in the Pace Bus parking lot cross street to hill/stage area), or off Briarcliff in the Village Hall parking lot (go through tunnel to get behind Village Hall to the stage area).

HELLO
my name is

Nametags are available for every member, child, and regular attendee. To order one, please fill out the form on the "Welcome" table and place it in the offering plate or in the box marked NAME-TAGS next to the forms.

OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

June

2022 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/16/21

	June		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$21,300	\$23,375	\$138,800	\$175,732
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,128	\$0	\$12,768	\$6,384
Salaries & Benefits	\$16,424	\$14,804	\$104,454	\$101,020
Administration	\$1,175	\$963	\$7,050	\$8,050
Programming	\$1,070	\$170	\$6,425	\$2,616
Church Buildings	<u>\$5,711</u>	<u>\$5,247</u>	<u>\$46,975</u>	<u>\$49,331</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,508	\$21,184	\$177,672	\$167,401
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$5,208	\$2,191	-\$38,872	\$8,331

Notes:

- 1) Income now above budget by \$37k
- 2) Expenses \$4k below budget when adjusted for not paying apportionment Apr-Jun.
- 3) Because the approved 2022 budget is not balanced, there are still challenges.



We are still collecting shoes (and boots, sandals or anything you put on your feet!). We will be paid by the pound, so those heavier shoes and boots are GREAT!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Ridgewood United Community Ministries (#60000203)

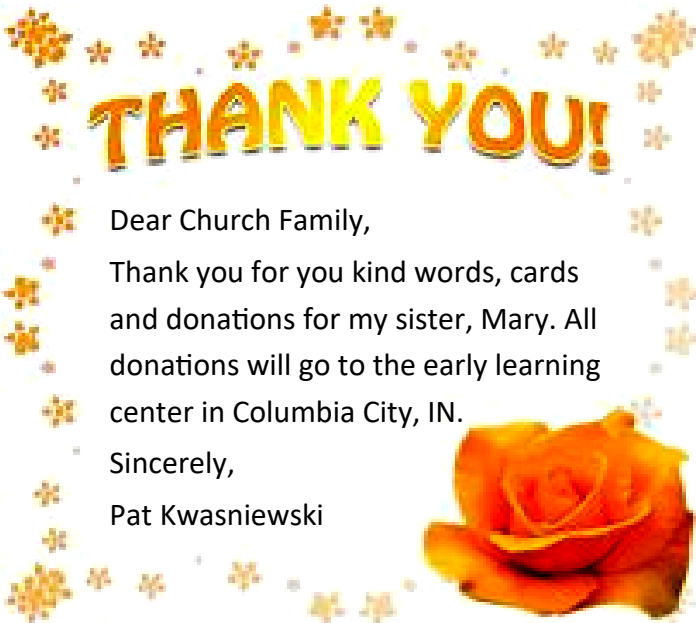
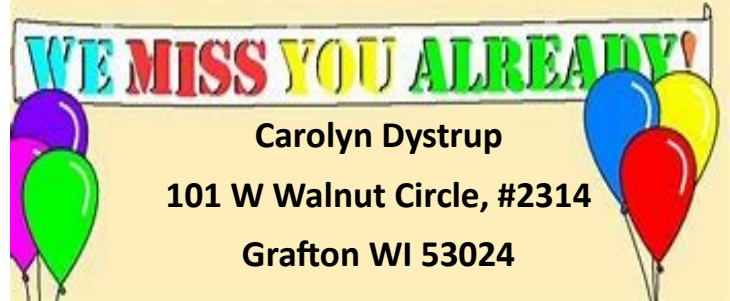
This ministry initiated by Trinity United Methodist Church operates a food pantry serving two zip codes on the east side of Joliet. The pantry is open weekly, and clients can receive food once per month. Funds will be used to purchase food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and to help defray the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

God's Work Our Hands

SAVE THE DATE - STRATEGIC PLANNING EVENT

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 10, 2022 to do Strategic Planning. This will be an opportunity to re-envision our priorities as a family of faith for the next 3-5 years. All are encouraged to participate. More details to follow in August.

New address effective 8/19/22



SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY REQUEST

Are you planning on upgrading your technology in your home this summer? If so, please consider donating your old flat screens, laptops and/or desktop machines to the Education program. Please reach out to Pastor Nancy at ngrimhunter@gmail.com or <773.350.8508> for more details.

SEND US A DIGITAL PHOTO OF YOURSELF
BY AUGUST 15



August Birthday



August ANNIVERSARIES

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, Tom Mulvey
 8/26 ~ Mike Lucas
 8/31 ~ Marley Nicoletti

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

Thank You

Thanks to all who participated in ASP
 including hands-on folks and supporters.



JULY ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP 9:30AM

July 3	66
July 10	66
July 17	62
July 24	54
July 31	

Thank you to the UMW and the church
 for the very nice cards sent to me.

Arleta Gordon

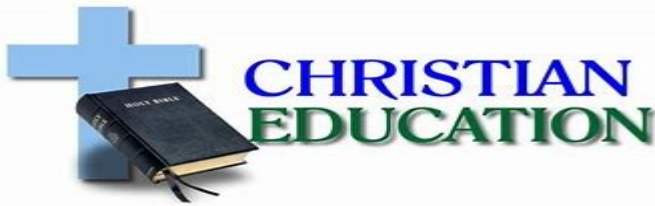
Thank
 you!



I want to thank everyone for their prayers, mes-
 sages, and cards. I'm feeling great and back to
 all my regular activities.

Diane Lutz

thank you



The Education Team has been very actively "optimizing" the Education wing during the month of July. We have removed broken or damaged furniture that could potentially cause harm. Tables and chairs were redistributed to more closely match the needs of the learners assigned to each classroom. Support furniture, instructional tools, and educational materials have been adjusted in their locations to increase the productivity of the teaching space. Our technology tools are in the process of being updated.

We are so very for all of the volunteers who have spent countless hours assisting in this transformation process. And yet the work continues... We will schedule another work day for Saturday, August 20, 2022 to work on decorating our classrooms and getting our materials in order to teach our Sunday School lessons. If youth or other adults need community service hours, please let me know!

In addition, our Education Team plans to set a monthly mission project for our children and youth as a way to share our faith and love for God with others. During the month of August, we are asking for donations to put together backpacks for children and youth in our conference who are homeless, in foster care settings, or are identified as at-risk from a socio-economic standpoint. The children and youth will build the backpack sets as part of the Rally Day / Homecoming Event on Sunday, September 11, 2022. You can either donate school supplies or donate money that will be used to order materials at a discount. All donations will be shared between our local mission sites with the remainder to be given to the *Kids Above All* non-profit organization which is a ministry through the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church which supports nearly 1,000 children in our conference.

Blessings, Pastor Nancy



Troop 15 has had an eventful spring/summer so far. We are proud to announce we have 2 new Eagle Scouts. Tyler H and Adam W both earned their Eagle rank. Tyler built a bench which included a donation drop box and refurbished garden at Joliet Township Animal Control and Adam rebuilt and extended a boardwalk at Pilcher Park. We also have had to say good bye to Tyler P, Tyler H & Adam W as all 3 turned 18 this summer and have aged out of the BSA youth program. Shout out to Adam W who joined as a 1st grader and earned every rank, Tiger Club to Eagle Scout! We are also proud to announce that Mr. Espinosa earned Wood Badge, which is the highest level of advanced leadership training for adults! We are very proud of his work and dedication to our troop – Way to go Mr. Espinosa! The boys attended the spring camporee at RSR while the parents and some of Pack 15 helped at Grace Clean Up Day, planned a movie night and saw the new Dr Strange at Cinemark, and spent a week at RSR for summer camp. Summer camp was a hit despite being hot and humid! The boys worked on merit badges and had a ton of fun – they even woke up at 5am one morning to have a "pirates breakfast" where they canoed, boated or paddle boarded their way to breakfast.



Boys headed to summer camp in June



Congratulations! Tyler H. and Adam W. Troop 15's newest Eagle Scouts!

Mr. Espinosa being presented with his wood badge at RSR family night



AUGUST

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

6:30 Boy Scouts
6:30 SPRC



3

4

7 am
Men's Breakfast



5

6

**Tree
Of
Life
Returns**

7

9:30 Worship

8

9

6:30 Boy Scouts
6: 30

Trustees

10

7:30 Restaurant
Club

**Concerts
in the Park**

11

7 am
Men's Breakfast

12

13

14

9:30 Worship

15

16

6:30 Boy Scouts
6:30 Daycare

17

11:30am Ridge-
wood food Pantry



18

7 am
Men's Breakfast



19

6: 30 Cub Scouts



20

Education
Work Day

21

9:30 Worship

22

23

6:30 Boy Scouts
6:30 Finance/
Church Council

24

25

7 am
Men's Breakfast



26

27

28

9:30 am Worship

29

30

6:30 Boy Scouts



31

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799



Sunday, September 11, 2022 will be the Rally Day / Welcome Back Sunday! We are planning a fun day and hope that you plan to join us.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

