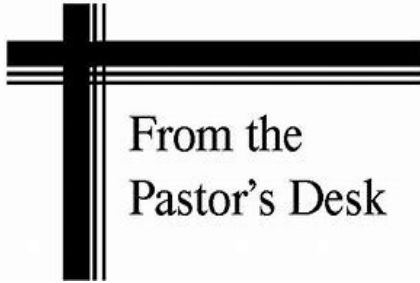




GRACE NOTES

Volume 12 Issue 7 July 2024



From the Pastor's Desk

Long ago, I heard a description of what it is like in your first few days to pastor at a new congregation: It is like trying to drink water from hose: you get some water in your mouth, but a lot goes right past and soaks you or the ground. In the weeks leading up to my time at Grace, I have been “drinking” in a lot of information and know that I will continue to do so in these first few weeks and months. If history bears true, I will ingest a solid 25%! I appreciate your kindness, patience and grace as I ask many questions, sometimes more than once.

I am grateful for all the work that has gone into welcoming me and my family. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you better and hear your stories, which is one of my favorite parts of ministry. I believe that God has called us together during this season and very hopeful for our future.

While living in Kentucky for these past several years, I have missed my Northern Illinois UM community as well as family and friends. I look forward to learning about this community and the ways in which God may be calling us into mission and ministry at such a time as this.

I am beyond excited for this next chapter in our faith journey. We will continue to drink of the living water as we refresh our souls and get sustenance for the journey ahead of us.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Laura

Wednesday, July 3rd – Naperville Municipal Band Patriotic Concert at Naperville Central Park – 104 E. Benton Ave, Naperville. Concert begins at 7:30pm but need to get chairs set up much earlier. Bring your lawn chairs and cooler with snacks and drinks. For those who want to go for dinner before the concert, we will make those plans once we know about how many want to go. RSVP to Diane Parro at 630-430-3808 (text) or dparro@comcast.net by June 25th.



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.



On Sunday, May 12, Joe McCormack from the Grace Scholarship Committee, presented the 2024 \$1,000 scholarship to Paige Anderson, as shown in the photo. Her selection was due to her extensive record of ministry at Grace and her involvements with her high school and the community. Paige will attend Lewis University to pursue a career in business. A \$500 scholarship was announced for Reyna Guzman who has been an active participant in ASP and Daybreak. She plans to attend JJC and pursue a career as a scientist working on vaccines. Reyna was not able to attend the presentation. Congratulations were offered to Paige and Reyna.



May
2024 Income & Expense Summary
 Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/10/23

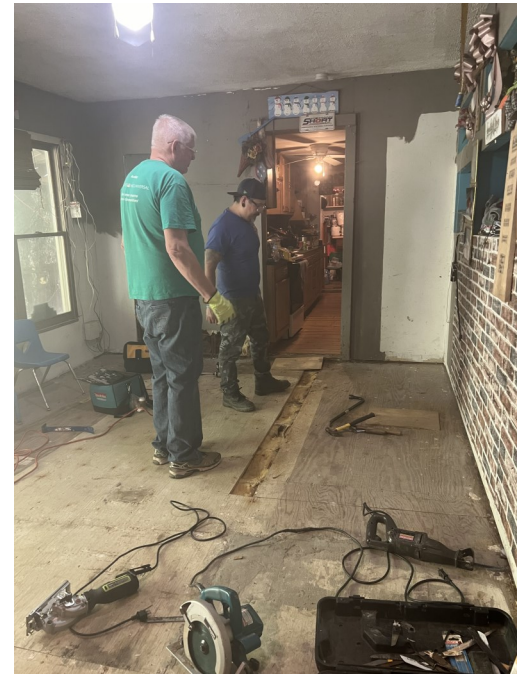
	May		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$21,709	\$24,184	\$128,542	\$121,577
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,525	\$2,137	\$12,625	\$10,685
Salaries & Benefits	\$14,129	\$13,429	\$75,428	\$74,135
Administration	\$1,129	\$852	\$5,646	\$6,966
Programming	\$791	\$392	\$3,958	\$1,633
Church Buildings	<u>\$6,350</u>	<u>\$5,141</u>	<u>\$42,273</u>	<u>\$41,420</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$24,924	\$21,951	\$139,930	\$134,839
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$3,215	\$2,233	-\$11,388	-\$13,262

NOTES:

- 1) Income in 2024 is still less than expected, but made gains in May.
- 2) Expenses in 2024 less than expected by about \$5k.

Thank you from the Esguerra family,

Pastor Romir and Vren and family would like to thank you all for attending the retirement celebration held on the 22nd of June and the farewell and good luck celebration on the 30th. Their time with Grace UMC has truly been a blessing.



KY Team 2 The Noble Family from Hindman

They say that God puts people in our paths just when we need them the most and this is true about our ASP family for this year. We were sent to the Noble home in Hindman, KY to replace flooring that had some rotting joists underneath. We pulled up the entire family room area, replaced the insulation and put plywood down. This was no easy task at times because they had put so many nails/screws down on the old plywood that it was very difficult to pull up. The first day we felt that we had done very little and left exhausted. Day 2, we arrive to find out that the entire family: Otis, Lois, Brenda, Theresa and Rachel had worked into the night to take the nails out of at least 3 more of the boards for us! Imagine!! This made it so much easier to work and pull up the floor. This family continued to work with us side by side for the rest of the week until we finished. They not only helped us but never left our side the entire week. They ate with us, talked to us, laughed with us and when it was time to leave, cried with us. We left knowing that we had a family in Kentucky that may come from a different background and way of life

than us but are an amazing and God fearing family and just as we accepted them just as they were, they accepted us for who we are. ASP is so much more than just going to someone's house to repair it, it's going to show the love that God teaches us to have for one another and that is what the Noble family did for us. Just being around them made us feel good and that's what God want us to do for one another. They also trusted us to help with all of the many fur babies, which was a lot of fun! It was an amazing week away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life here and teaches us to be more accepting and less judgmental of one another. God bless.



Team 1

Week one of the Appalachia Service Project can be full of the unexpected, such as the condition of the house we are conducting repairs on, or how to overcome challenges we face throughout the week. But before all of that, all volunteers partake in team bonding during the two days of traveling.

On our way to Carrie, Kentucky on June 8, we stopped at a church in Lexington to spend the night. Here, we met another group from Minooka on their way to Carrie whom we ate dinner and played basketball with. The next day consisted of more driving, however, we stopped for several breaks such as eating breakfast at Cracker Barrel and sight seeing at Natural Arch Scenic Area.

Once the groups arrived at the center in Carrie, a group leader and one youth would visit the homeowner and inspect the home, preparing for the week to come. Our project was to repair the roof of a trailer home.

Monday morning, everyone woke up to music blasted letting us know to get ready for the day. The morning schedule was wake-up at 7a.m., devotion at 7:15, breakfast at 7:30, then everyone gathers what they need for the day and heads off to the worksite by 9.

The first thing we needed to do was staple down underlayment which provides protection against rain. However, a little more than halfway into our day, we ran out of underlayment, which resulted in what we call a Mosey Monday.

The homeowner was very considerate and offered us seating under his porch and allowed us inside at any time. After the work day, volunteers would have time to shower and unwind. At 6:15 p.m. everyone would gather for dinner and talk about their days. Evening Gathering was at 7:30 which consisted of conversating and building relationships with the other churches there and focusing on the reason why we are there. We concluded the day with a trip to Dairy Queen for a treat to cool down.

As the days went on, the temperature outside increased which made the work even more challenging. But we did not let that get in the way of getting the job done. The next step was to place purlins on the underlayment. These needed to be screwed down in a row across the roof and there needed to be six rows total on each side of the house.

A picnic occurred on Wednesday evening. This was a nice chance to have a meal with the homeowners and play outside. We had hotdogs, burgers, watermelon, and more.

Purlins took us up until Thursday to complete. There was a skylight on the roof that had been leaking into the kitchen for some time. So we removed the plastic and tar holding it together and layered it with a sheet to put purlins over to prevent any future leaking.

One day of the week consists of a culture night which is where we discover the life of the town we are in. On Thursday night, we went to the local fair. There were bands playing, pools, and several food stands.

On Friday, our last day, we put up our first sheet of tin. This took a majority of our time because we had to be precise. If the first sheet was laid down even the slightest bit crooked, the rest of the roof would be too. The rest of the time was the most important- spending time with the homeowner. He was kind and gave us archived comics along with deer horns he collected.

This trip brought to light all the things to be grateful for and to help others. Learning to build relationships and to be kind to others were the most important skills that were picked up as the week went along.

Paige Anderson





ASP TEAM 2024

These leaders and kids did a fantastic job in Knott County, Carrie, Kentucky

Teams include the following youth:

Paige Anderson, Braydon Hocking, Landon Hocking

Aden Guzman, Reyna Guzman, Nathan Rojas

Stella Guzman, Lili Boyer, Adriel Zepeda

They were led by the following adults:

Eric Anderson, Kara Hocking, Steve Meister, Ubaldo Rojas and Shannen Rojas

Gifts of appreciation were given to Peggy and Kevin for leading our worship services and all the planning that goes into them.



WOW!!! Mars & Beyond VBS was a Success!! We had about 54 children ages 3 yrs. – 6th grade participated in Vacation Bible School June 24-27th. Each morning the Voyagers & Star Guides met at the Mars Outpost where they sang songs listened to a skit and saw a Bible Video. Then they were off to do science experiments, make a craft, eat yummy snacks, play fun games and listen to a Bible story. These activities helped the voyagers to explore where God's power can take them and to discover a new realm of possibilities as they reach for the stars and encounter the limitless power and love of God! On June 27 from 4:00-5:30 pm, the kids and parents came to a Celebration. There were fun activities and a concert, followed by an ice cream social!! It was enjoyed by all who came!!! The Voyagers & Star Guides collected items for Ridgewood Food Pantry, too.

A Big Thanks to all those who volunteered:

Diane Parro, Donna Shultz, Cathy Kazak, Pat Meyers, Joan Krosnicki, Barb Fisher, Karen Anderson, Linda Meister, Greg & Cathy DuBois, Steve Meister, Diane Lutz, Andrea Schroenrock, Joan Landers, Kaliah Dolph, Kara Hocking, Gail Bjekich, Mike Purciarello, Eileen Hicks, Debi Shippy, Diane Rosen, Brianna Anderson, Stephanie Butler Landon Hocking, Zander Barkley, Braydon Hocking, Lexi Cronin, Noah Rogers, Maida McCormack, Jim & Patrick Morrow, and Adrienne Hartman. The following daycare teachers helped: Ms. Nia, Ms. Sally, Ms. Keisha Ms. Amber, Ms. Michelle.

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

Diane Morrow, VBS Coordinator





VBS

Story Time

SCIENCE



CRAFTS





**185th Northern Illinois
Annual Conference**

**Sunday, June 16 -
Tuesday, June 18, 2024**

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

The theme of this year's conference was "Yield". Throughout our Bible Study and the Bishop's message we were encouraged to trust in God's presence and call upon him in times of need.

We indeed are facing challenging times and our legislation and resolutions presented and approved tried to address some of these issues.

Resolutions were presented seeking peace in the Middle East and equality for all people. We approved legislation to find new ways for our conference to operate effectively and efficiently.

We also had to approve the discontinuation and closure of 9 churches due to diminishing membership and financial hardship. This is becoming a big challenge for our conference as 54% of our 330 churches have 35 members or less and are "just 1 boiler breakdown away" from closing. Funding our conference operating budget relies on apportionments from all our member churches; our 2023 fulfillment rate was only 77% and some programming adjustments were needed to compensate for the revenue shortfall. The 2025 budget presented to AC for approval is one we can live with, but it is based on an 80% apportionment fulfillment rate.

We received a report on the worldwide General Conference that was held this spring. Important accomplishments included the removal of some harmful and discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline and a significant move toward respect and equal treatment of clergy and people regardless of race and gender. The General Conference also approved the regionalization and consolidation of the Worldwide Methodist Church in an effort to control costs.

Our mission work for this conference raised \$35,126 for the Bishop's Appeal, United Voices for Children. We also collected over 5000 pounds of supplies and \$2,100 for the Midwest Mission's "Fill the Truck" campaign.

In closing we feel that it is important to mention two important people in our life at Grace that were recognized for their contributions to the NIC. Pastor Romir was honored for 41 years of ministry at the annual retirement service, and Joanne Ray was thanked by the Bishop for her 4 years of service coordinating the daily proceedings of the Annual Conference.

You can find more information on the Northern Illinois Conference and a recap of AC2024 at the Conference website umcnic.org.

Jim and Diane Morrow, Lay Members to AC2024



Joanne Ray as Vice Chair and Chair of Daily Proceedings at NIC Annual Conference.
Pastor Romir with Diane and Jim Morrow representing Grace UMC.

FAITH AND WELLNESS TEAM

Micah Esguerra led the way with a very interesting and informative presentation on fall prevention. Thirty-five of us gathered to do some simple yet challenging tests of our mobility and balance and learn how we can improve.

We are continuing our 1st Sunday BP checks one-half hour before the start of worship. We are in the library, so come and see us.

Thank you for participating in our 1 minute Pew Survey. We are currently tabulating the results to determine what your interests are and we anticipate a variety of presentations, activities and a lunch bunch. So stay tuned! It's an exciting time to be at Grace UMC!

Debi Shippy



- 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

Thank you for your help with stocking the fridge for Pastor Laura's arrival to the parsonage. She was in awe of the kindness shown and is looking forward to joining us in a few weeks.

Thank you, Kara Hocking, SPRC Chair



JUNE ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 9:30AM
May 5/June 2	89/78
May 12/June 9	67/73
May 19/June 16	68/89
May 26/June 23	54/72

Daycare News!! Daycare graduation ceremony was on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. Ten children graduated and will be starting Kindergarten when school begins in August! There were about 80 people that attended the ceremony and they enjoyed the program that the children performed. After the ceremony they celebrated having ice cream sundaes in Grace Place. Diane Morrow, DayCare Board Chair

In August, Mrs. Sally will have worked at Grace Child Care Center for 40 years! We would like to mark this milestone by having a party for her on Thursday, August 1st from 4:30pm-6:30pm. We are hoping for good weather so we can be outside at the pavilion! All are welcome, and if you know of a family that was an alumni of Grace, please forward this information along. I know Mrs. Sally would love to see our past families as well as our current families.



Day lilies in bloom around the church. So beautiful.



I spy with my little eyes of mine...



Russ Ghilain, our dedicated landscaper for Grace UMC. Thank you so much Russ for keeping Grace UMC looking so well manicured.



GRATITUDE CORNER

Thanks to a congregation that treasures ministry outside our walls.

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 WELCOME PASTOR LAURA AND FAMILY	2	3	4 	5	6
7 Pastor Laura's first worship with us. 9:30 Worship	8	9 6:30 <i>Trustees</i>	10	11 7 am Men's Breakfast	12	13
ADRIENNE ON VACATION RETURNING TO OFFICE JULY 15TH.						
14 PRAISE 9:30 Worship COMMUNION	15	16	17 11:30am Pantry 	18 7 am Men's Breakfast	19	20
21 9:30 Worship	22	23	24	25 7 am Men's Breakfast	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship	29	30	31 