



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

GRACE NOTES

Volume 9 Issue 7

July 2021

The Lakota Indian Mission Trip

Tree of Life Ministry

Tree of Life Ministry, Pierre, South Dakota, addresses the needs of Lakota Native Americans on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in South Dakota by “nurturing the body, strengthening culture, and enhancing the spirit”. This ministry provides groceries and meals to the hungry, repairs to substandard homes, and supports local teachers as they reclaim native culture and language.

ASP started in 1988. In 2000 we had college age volunteers going on ASP. In 2001, the Young Adult Mission Trip started. That year we went to Cookson, Oklahoma. (we couldn't get into *Tree of Life*) From 2002 - 2016, we have gone to *Tree of Life* in Mission, South Dakota, to work with the Lakota Indians.

The trip is now called Lakota Indian Mission Trip. This year's trip will be July 17 — July 24. It is open to anyone 18 and older. Younger volunteers can go with an adult mentor. Cost is usually around \$250 per volunteer. The cost that *Tree of Life* charges. We bring our own food. They provide the tools.

Projects include:

- ♦ Construction and rehabbing homes.

- ♦ Working in the food pantry.
- ♦ Working in the clothing store.
- ♦ Visiting the nursing home.
- ♦ Making up backpacks for schools.
- ♦ Someone could spend the day at our sleeping quarters fixing meals.



We work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday usually 8-4. Wednesday is a day for sight-seeing; Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, different caves, etc. Or you can spend the day relaxing at the house.

Week schedule:

- ♦ We leave Saturday morning and drive to Sioux Fall, SD and spend the night at a church.
- ♦ Drive to Mission, SD on Sunday. Usually on Sunday we get the food for the week.
- ♦ Sunday night, meet with the staff to discuss activities for the week.
- ♦ There are usually cultural events on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday night after dinner.
- ♦ As a group we decide if we want to leave Friday night and drive through the night or leave Saturday morning.

Contact Steve Meister 815-722-6398 if interested.

Summer of Faith at Grace

"I will worship with all my heart, I will praise You with all of my strength, I will seek You all of my days, I will follow all of Your ways. I will give You all my worship. I will give You all my praise. You alone I long to worship." David Russ

There are many hymns that comes to mind as we ponder the majesty of God and the invitation to worship. The contemporary Praise Song expressed this very personal relationship with God. When we worship, we allow God to make His presence known. Worship of course can have many components like devotional time, offering grace before meals, presence to those who are ill, comfort to those who are grieving and strong encouragement to those who are going through life transitions. In the Methodist tradition, we believe that *social holiness* is also *personal holiness*.

I participated in a Zoom conference last month and it featured the Upper Room translation team. The Upper Room reaches many churches especially outside of the United States. I remember when my daughter was asked for a copy of her devotional book by one of the staff in rural India hospital where she worked. It was the only worship resource available for the use in the church on campus. In the Philippines a team of translators offered the Upper Room online and in print. One of them mentioned that every time a place is mentioned in the Upper Room Devotional, that she Googled the place and this is one way to connect and find that the stories of faith have roots.

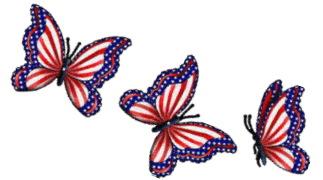
God is not content with our left-over time. The truth of the matter is that God wants to return all the things that we offer in Praise. We are thankful that we are back in worship in person. We still continue to offer our online worship to others who cannot come.

Every church during the pandemic and post pandemic is a new church. As we prepare and start to re-engage, let us be mindful always of God's generosity.

One year ago, you welcomed me as your new Pastor at Grace. A year has passed and it is my joy to continue to serve in your midst. There are evidences of new mercies that I see every day. We trust that God will do a new thing and does what is best but also knows what is ahead.

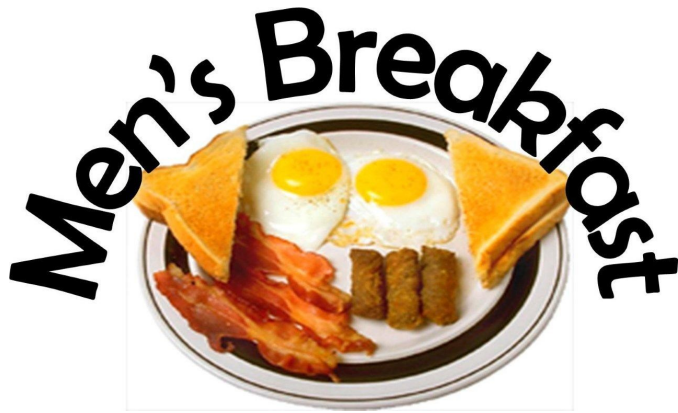
Looking forward to new seeds of faith in this summer of faith. May God bless the Church.

Pastor Romir R. Esguerra



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7am Men's Breakfast 	2	3
4 9:30 Worship 	5 	6 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 SPRC 	7 6:30pm Rally Day Meeting	8 7am Men's Breakfast	9	10
11 9:30 Worship	12	13 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 	14	15 7am Men's Breakfast	16 	17 Lakota Indian Mission Trip Leaves
19 9:30am Worship	19	20 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Daycare Board	21 11:30am Pantry 	22 7am Men's Breakfast 7pm Church Council 	23	24 Lakota Indian Mission Trip Comes Back
25 9:30 Worship	26	27 6:30 Boy Scouts 7pm 	28	29 7am Men's Breakfast	30	31

God's Work Our Hands



The men's group from Grace is ready to resume their Thursday morning breakfast meetings. We will still be at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson starting May 27. Since nearly all who attend are re-tired, the time has been moved to 7:00 am.

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!



Thanks for
sharing
encourage-
ment to those
who suffer.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Lakota Indian Mission Trip

(Local Benevolences) Lakota Indian Mission Trip
Funds collected will be used to help fund travel expenses for the Lakota Indian Mission trip in July.

COMMUNION ELEMENTS

We will celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday, July 4th 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 June 30th. During this contact, you can arrange to pick up the elements.



CALLING ALL GARDNERERS

To all you Grace Church gardeners, or want to be gardeners, join us Tuesday, July 20 from 10:00-11:30. We will have a question/answer meeting with Nancy Kuhajda, horticulturalist, from the University of Illinois-Will County Extension. She will answer all your gardening questions whether you are a beginner or a "pro". If possible, bring photos of problems you're trying to solve. If you have questions call Gail Bjekich 815-723-0483





7/1—Wally Farrar
7/3—Greg DuBois, Tori Meister
7/5—Avery Volk
7/6—Tom Kinman
7/7—Johnathan Butler
7/8—Harold Lockhart
7/9—Lori Wait
7/10—Lauren Whitney
7/11—Kurt Johnson
7/13—Sara Gray, Aden Guzman,
Maida Mc Cormack
7/14—Gordon Neubauer
7/15—Hannah Black, Maya Rupsis
7/17—David McBride
7/19—Dorothy Spurgeon,
7/20—Mike D’Orazio
7/21—Adrienne Page
7/23—Mae Brown
7/24—Lisa Furto, Geri Hoffman
7/28—Donna Meiferdt, Nathan Meister



Mike & Diane Parro
July 1, 1989
Brian & Tracy Fahnstrom
July 11, 2009
Art & Sandie Denklaui
July 13, 1963
Jason & Stephanie Meister
July 13, 2002
Fritz & Judy Bartels
July 15, 1978
Greg & Cathy DuBois
July 15, 1995
Chris & Theresa Whitney
July 22, 1989
Daniel & Becky Potter
July 24
Dan & Denise McEvilly
July 26, 1980
Darrel & Melody Fahnstrom
July 27, 1979



THANK YOU DON, TOM & DAVE

A big thank you to Don Lutz for all his work in the church yard in 2021. Early on in the Spring Don used our Echo weed whacker to trim weeds around special areas of the church grounds and especially on both sides of the fencing that surround our Daycare play area and pavilion. He removed dirt and added top soil, starter fertilizer, grass seed, etc., to many bare areas on the church grounds. Some newly planted grass seed is beginning to grow but mother nature has not helped the situation with less than ample rainfall. Each year we continue to make improvements to the

church yard so members are proud of our outside sanctuary.

Thank you to Tom Zettergren & Dave McBride for trimming the church grounds in all those special hard to get at areas that the regular lawn mower does not cover. It makes a big difference in the total appearance of the church yard. They strive to beautify the visual aspect along Larkin, Avalon and Westminster Rd. Please thank them if you happen to see them at Sunday service, a meeting or an event. Again, thank you Don, Tom and Dave!

Russ Ghilain



Grace UMC Phase 5 Update!

We did it! We made it to Phase 5 at Grace Church! As of Sunday, June 20, 2021, Grace will enter Phase 5 within our church building. What does this mean?

- Face masks will not be required by anyone who is fully vaccinated.
- For indoor activities and meetings where everyone present is not fully vaccinated, unvaccinated persons should wear a face covering and maintain six feet social distance, **especially when youth are present.**
- Although people who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear a face covering under state guidance, we should all be supportive of those who choose to wear a face covering.
- Persons who are immunocompromised, even if they are fully vaccinated, should consider wearing face coverings when in settings where others may not be fully vaccinated.
- There will be no limit on the number of people permitted in the church.
- Weddings, funerals, and baptisms will resume at full capacity.

You will also see other things return to 'normal' such as passing of the offering plate, singing in church with our masks off (if fully vaccinated), and the library will be open. Communion will continue to be served as individual pre-packaged elements.



Please be aware that not everyone will have the same level of comfort with personal contact (hugging, shaking hands, etc.), so please be respectful of everyone's comfort level.

For those still not comfortable attending worship in person, our online presence will continue on Facebook Live and YouTube with our weekly services.

The ReTurn Health Team will continue to consult the CDC and IDPH websites for updated guidelines and rules pertaining to COVID-19 safety as we remain vigilant in our continuous efforts to keep our congregants as safe as possible. We want to thank everyone for their patience these past 14 months as we continued to "Do No Harm". We have learned new things about ourselves, we have learned new things about our congregation, and now we take the next steps in our return to full functioning as we continue to "Do No Harm" while also doing good. God has truly tested our patience, but we continue to have the faith that one day we will be completely back to normal. Praise the Lord!

Grace ReTurn Health Team

Carl Bessette, Debra Black, Cindy Caswell, Art Denklau, Ann Dill, Ron Dill, Romir Esguerra, Barb Fisher, Jim Morrow, Diane Parro and Joanne Ray

May 2021 Income & Expense Summary

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

	May		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$23,700	\$26,112	\$142,200	\$151,567
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$1,954	\$1,954	\$9,770	\$9,770
Pastor Salary & Benefits	\$8,034	\$7,629	\$41,866	\$40,248
Personnel	\$8,577	\$4,885	\$41,431	\$29,845
Administration	\$1,058	\$720	\$5,291	\$5,315
Programming	\$1,050	\$389	\$5,250	\$2,003
Church Buildings	<u>\$5,517</u>	<u>\$4,723</u>	<u>\$37,184</u>	<u>\$35,625</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,190	\$20,300	\$140,792	\$122,806
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$2,490	\$5,812	\$1,408	\$28,761

NOTES:

- 1) Income slightly better than expected in May
- 2) Expenses below expectation by \$18k YTD (2 staff positions not filled)



Wilderness Escape VBS was a huge success! Everyone had a fantastic time going on a Holy Land journey

where they learned that God guides and provides! We would like to thank all who helped make this VBS a success!

Maida McCormack, Cathy Kazak, Shelby Ness and Joan Krosnicki, Karen Anderson, Rebecca Linko, Hannah Linko, Cassie Urlaub & Hannah Black, Joe McCormack, Heather Linko, Diane Lutz, Landon Hocking, Maya Rupsis, Ms Andrea



Sheppard, Ms. Amber Luther, Carrie Walenga-Dill, Diane Lutz, Landon Hocking, Maya Rupsis, Ms Sally Ullery & Ms Nia Mitchell, Patty Strobbe, Donna Shultz, Joan Landers, Linda Meister, Steve Meister & Tessa Gray, Kara Hocking & Kaliah Dolph, Aimee Rupsis, Amanda Altman, Gail Bjekich, Donna Robertson, Shannen Rojas, Aden Guzman, Kaleigh Blatti.

Set up Helpers: David Black, Ron & Ann Dill, Greg DuBois, Mike Parro, Patrick Morrow, Jim Morrow

Diane Morrow & Diane Parro - VBS Coordinators

Grace United Methodist Church

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Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

Come one, Come all, to the Greatest Show on Earth!



Rally Day at Grace UMC

Sunday, September 12th

Mark your calendar

More information/details forthcoming!