



GRACE NOTES

Volume 11 Issue 7/8 July/August 2023

“The *rest* is Worship”

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matthew 11:29-30)

“The *rest* is worship.” Author Sara and Sam Hargraves wrote that it is possible to find “*rest*” in worship. Many during this time will find an opportunity to travel and visit friends and loved ones. Along the way we marvel at the beauty of creation in changing landscapes. Some may worship on the road by using a daily devotional like the Upper Room or find a quiet place to pray for the journey ahead.

Wherever you may decide to refresh during the brief summer season, may you find that *rest*. Jesus invites us to come to him and *rest*. Being still creates a space where we can know God, glorify him and have our souls restored.

We offer a variety of worship rhythm during the summer months with Holy Communion on the first Sunday, Praise and Worship the second Sunday, Hymn sing on the third Sunday and a blended worship on the fourth Sunday. All of us are here together in worship in all seasons. This is how we make connections.

Bishop Scherwin wrote that “*we are awash in broken connections with self and other. These are days to reconnect with personal wellness, practices that sustain our faith and heal community.*”

During the Conference there was a call to prayer daily. The last night the focus was on Korea. It was a call to prayer for peace in the midst of 70 years of division. When I approached the “the fence” I immediately noticed the barb wire wrapped around the wooden frame and the straight clean wires. It jogged my memory to a time when rolls of barb wire served as a barricade preventing demonstrators from moving forward. It was a moment of “us against them.”

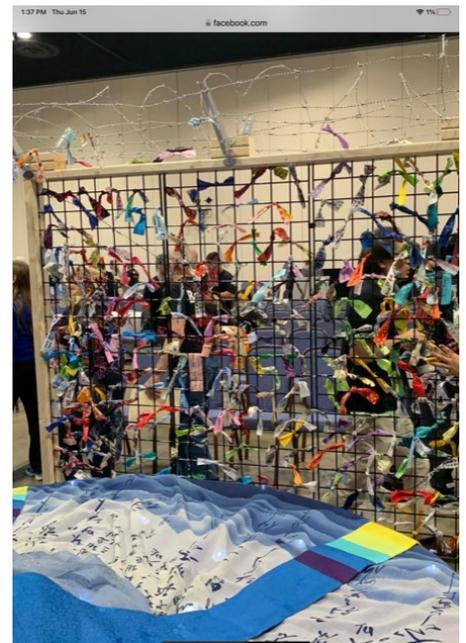
I gently wrapped my prayer ribbon, around the barb wire. The barb wire is reminiscent of the physical and spiritual pain of exclusion. On my way out of the prayer enclosure or stand I was given a small book mark with a butterfly spring. I wonder why it was called butterfly spring. It says that the butterfly spring fly freely to look for their partner. It suggests the freedom to love and seek happiness.

It was quite a contrast if one were to imagine the anguish of separation and the hope that springs eternal. The hymn says that “we are prone to wander from the God that we love”. But there is a kind of love that brings us back.

This is the gift of *rest* because the promise reveals the expanse of God’s presence. Connections are a source of making us whole.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Romir



Restaurant Club is doing concerts again 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:



Thursday, July 20th at Promenade Bolingbrook – Strung Out;

7:30pm. Bring your own chairs, cooler, etc. Space will be saved for our group, but it's advisable to get there by 6:30pm. Concerts are in the area by the old Gordon Biersch. You can bring a picnic dinner or purchase food from food trucks on site, from the Farmers Market, or some of the restaurants will provide take-out food.

Wednesday, August 16th at Bolingbrook Performing Arts Center at Briarcliff and Delaware (town center near post office, village hall) – Classical Blast – Bach to

Rock; 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 across street from hill/stage area, or off Briarcliff in the Village Hall parking lot (walk through tunnel to get behind Village Hall to the stage area). This band offers a rock tribute to classical composers (Pink Floyd, Mozart, Styx, Bach, Led Zeppelin, Beatles, AC/DC, and many more).



Michael Fisher retiring from Plainfield police department. Thank you for your 30 years of service. Michael was baptized, confirmed at Grace & participated 6 years in ASP. Son of Barb & Mike Fisher



May

2023 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/20/22

	May		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$19,808	\$16,443	\$122,041	\$121,371
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,317	\$2,317	\$11,585	\$11,585
Salaries & Benefits	\$14,887	\$14,622	\$79,309	\$78,835
Administration	\$1,221	\$973	\$6,105	\$5,493
Programming	\$933	\$582	\$4,666	\$3,277
Church Buildings	<u>\$6,233</u>	<u>\$5,034</u>	<u>\$40,317</u>	<u>\$39,228</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$25,591	\$23,528	\$141,982	\$138,418
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$5,783	-\$7,085	-\$19,941	-\$17,047

NOTES:

- 1) Income on track through May; Expenses \$3k below budget
- 2) Cash flow through May is negative by \$17k.
- 3) Because the approved 2023 budget is not balanced, there are still challenges.

MISSION OF THE MONTHS

July - Wesley Woods Conference Center (#50000046)

Wesley Woods provides facilities and staff for NIC Summer Residential Camps, Summer Day Camp, Adult and Youth Retreats, and numerous community service and missional projects. These funds are used to maintain and improve facilities, furnishings and equipment as well as to support specific ministry opportunities that sometimes arise.

August – (Local Benevolences) Ridgewood United Community Pantry

This ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church operates a food pantry serving residents primarily on the east side of Joliet. The pantry is open weekly. Funds will be used to purchase food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and to help defray the operating cost of freezers.



Crew One's project was

- Removing a tin roof,
- Adjusted purlin's
- Laid down new plywood



Crew Two's project was

- Removing old insulation.
- Removed old plywood underpinning
- Installed new insulation



WOW!!! Hero Hotline VBS was a Success!! We had about 54 children ages 3 yrs. – 6th grade participate in Vacation Bible School June 19-22. Each morning the Heroes and Sidekicks reported to Hotline Headquarters 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. All these activities helped the heroes discover that they can turn to God and team up with Him to help others. On June 22 from 4:30- 6, the kids and parents came to a Celebration. There were fun activities and a concert, followed by a picnic!! It was enjoyed by all who came!!! The Heroes collected items for Ridgewood Food Pantry, too.

A Big Thanks to all those who volunteered:

Pastor Nancy, Cathy Kazak, Shelby Ness, Pat Meyers, Joan Krosnicki

Karen Anderson, Linda Meister- Greg & Cathy DuBois

Steve Meister, Diane Lutz, Andrea Schroenrock, Aimee Burgess, Jolene Johnson, Joan Landers, Kaliah Dolph, Kara Hocking, Gail Bjekich, Logan Burgess, Eileen Hicks, Amber Kolodziej, Diane Rosen, Donna Shultz, Landon Hocking, Braydon Hocking, Tessa Gray, Kaylie Farrar, Brody Roberts, Emily Robertson, Maida McCormack, Dave & Mary McBride, Jim & Patrick Morrow, Tom & Carol Zettergren. Diane Parro and Adrienne Hartman. The following daycare teachers helped:

Ms. Nia, Ms. Sally, Ms. Keisha Ms. Amber, & Ms. Amanda Ortiz

Thank you all for being a part of the Hero Team!!

I appreciated it!! Diane Morrow,

VBS Coordinator









- 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, Maya Rupsis
- 7/17—David McBride
- 7/19—Dorothy Spurgeon,
- 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

Speaker and Guest Speakers for Sunday Worship while Pastor is out of town.

July 23rd—Rev. Nancy Hunter
 July 30th—Rev. Eric Dolittle
 August 6th—Rev. Tim Rhodes



JUNE ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP 9:30AM
June 4	97
June 11	67
June 18	89
June 25	77

August Birthday



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



**184th Northern Illinois
Annual Conference**
**Tuesday, June 6 -
Thursday, June 8, 2023**
Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center
1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg Ill.

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



--Strategic Planning Update:

Last year strategic planning conversation began with small group meetings. Pastor Nancy and I met with Worship, Christian Education, Trustees, and a small committee to think “outside the box” and identify areas where we can grow. (We still have to meet with Prayer group and Mission Team.) A brief survey will go out this month to solicit more input from the rest of the congregation.

Here are the three areas that we have identified as priorities for Grace Church. It is a work in progress and we hope the “plan “ will be ready by September.

Mission Statement: “To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace.”

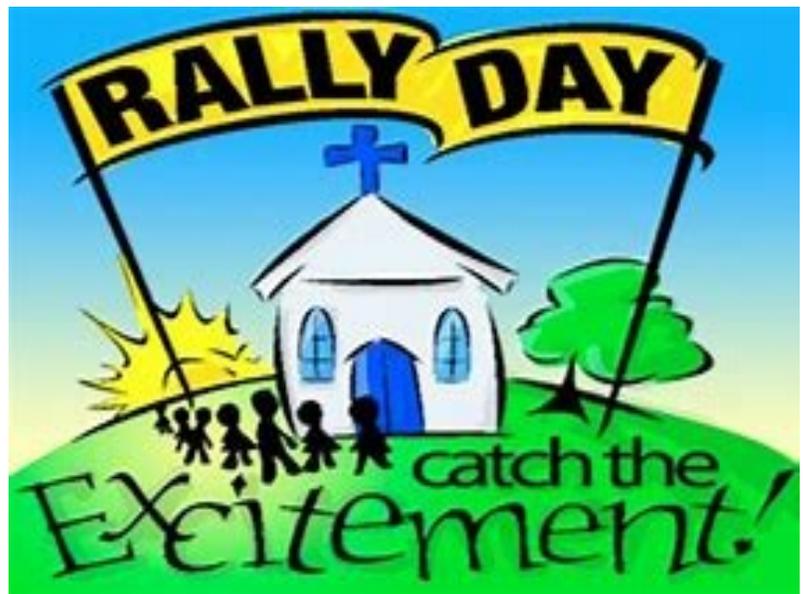
- Digital discipleship
- Missional presence
- Generous living

Rev. Romir R. Esguerra



Sunday, September 10, 2023 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!



GRATITUDE CORNER

To God be the glory for the mission-mindedness of Grace UMC. We touch lots of lives outside our walls with our ministries such as Food Pantry, Day Break, ASP, UWF blanket and purse projects, VBS, and many as-the-need-arises activities.

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 COMMUNION 9:30 Worship	3		5	6 7:30 am Men's Breakfast	7	8
						ADRIENNE ON VACATION RETURNING TO OFFICE JULY 17TH.
9 PRAISE 9:30 Worship	10	11 6:30 Trustees	12 11:30am Pantry	13 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm Finance 7:30pm Ad Council	14	15
16 9:30 Worship	17 10am Member- ship	18 6:30 Daycare	19 	20 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 	21	22 Tree Of Life Leaves
						PASTOR ROMIR ON VACATION RETURNING AUGUST 7th.
23 9:30 am Wor- ship Rev. Nancy Hunter 30 YOUTH	24	25	26	27 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 	28	29 Tree Of Life Returns
9:30 Worship Rev. Eric Dolittle	31					

AUGUST

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3 7:30am Men's Breakfast	4	5
PASTOR ROMIR ON VACATION RETURNING AUGUST 7th.						
		6:30p SPRC				
6 COMMUNION 9:30 Worship Rev. Tim Rhodes	7	8	9 7:30 Restaurant Club	10 7:30 am Men's Breakfast	11	12
13 PRAISE 9:30 Worship	14	15	16 11:30am Ridge- wood food Pantry 	17 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 	18 6	19
20 9:30 Worship	21	22 6:30p Finance/ Church Council	23	24 7:30 am Men's Breakfast	25 10:00am Worship mtg.	26
27 9:30 am Worship	28	29	30	31 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 		