



# GRACE NOTES

June 2023

## Vacation Bible School

**JUNE 19—22, 2023!**

- ♦ Bible stories
- ♦ games
- ♦ science experiments
- ♦ creative crafts
- ♦ Inspirational music
- ♦ Making new friendships
- ♦ And much, much more!



**L**ots of help is needed so volunteer today! Please contact Pastor Nancy at 773-350-8508 or Diane Morrow at 815-482-2439



## **“Connected in Christ: Come to the Table”**

This year the theme of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference is *“Connected in Christ: Come to the Table.”* I look forward to this upcoming conference to reclaim our connection with one another. The intent of this conference is to bring us together remembering that our mission is shaped by Jesus who welcomes us. In the United Methodist tradition we are sent forth and that the strength that we have is in offering Christ. There is an iconic painting of John Wesley who sent the missionary Thomas Coke with the blessing to “Offer Christ.” In the painting John Wesley was pushing the small vessel off to join another vessel not far from shore. That remains an integral part of what we do at Grace. We bless one another as we launch our ministries.

This is also my 40th year as a member of this Annual Conference. I was ordained in 1983 by Bishop Jesse DeWitt and started my appointment to a two point charge in the Rockford District. I give thanks to God for this continuing opportunity to serve Christ, together with my wife Vreneli. Celebration of ministry comes in different forms and shapes.

But the greatest joy is in knowing that in every season God grows the church. God refines the church. The people that I have met along the way have blessed me tremendously. I call that “grace.” It is also providence that God has appointed me to Grace Church!

I’m looking forward to another season of faith. Let us enjoy this brief summer season. Visit loved ones. Reconnect with friends. Renew relationships. Sing the songs of faith. I love the communion hymn—“Come to the table of Grace.” Nourish your spirit.

I want to thank all of you for being faithful and honoring that commitment through the years. We are together and what we do is a reflection of Christ. We want to be a strong church in all facets of our ministries.

**“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.”** (Romans 9:8)

See you in church, Pastor Romir



Our 2023 ASP Mission trip leaves on June 10 and return on June 17. The 2023 Grace ASP Mission Team will be heading for Sayreville, KY. We will meet at the church at 7:30am and hope to be on the road by 8am. Please join us for a 'sending forth' prayer.

We have 2 team ready to go.

Teams include the following youth :

**Paige Anderson**

**Tessa Gray**

**Landon Hocking**

**Emmalee Hilb**

**Aden Guzman**

**Reyna Guzman**

**Nathan Rojas**

**Stella Guzman**

**Lili Boyer**

They will be led by the following adults:

**Eric Anderson, Kara Hocking, Steve Meister,**

**Sara Gray, Ubaldo Rojas and Shannen Rojas.**

We are still in search of a few more 'Prayer Partners'. We would like to have one for each volunteer on the trip. For anyone wanting to be a prayer partner, contact: Steve Meister at [steveo0151@aol.com](mailto:steveo0151@aol.com) or 815.409.2729



## MISSION OF THE MONTH

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.



APRIL ATTEN	WORSHIP 8AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
May 7	12/87	23	15
May 14	4/72	167	17
May 21	10/114	25	18
May 28	64		

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, June 29th at Central**

**Park Band Shell in Naperville – Annual Patriotic Concert; 7:30pm.**

The Naperville Municipal Band puts on an outstanding concert full of patriotic music, including the 1812 Overture and real canons at the end. If you like concert bands and patriotic music, you don't want to miss this one. This concert is incredibly packed full – starting early in the day folks get their lawn chairs and blankets set out. Parking can be a little tricky, so car-pooling is strongly suggested. I typically get there about 4:30pm and take a picnic dinner. I would be happy to meet people at 4pm to carpool and drive together and find parking (meet at Home Run Inn parking lot at Boughton and Weber Road). Even though it is a little bit of a hassle to get to this concert (parking, crowds, etc.), it is well worth it – you won't be disappointed. Ask one of the many who attended last year!

**Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

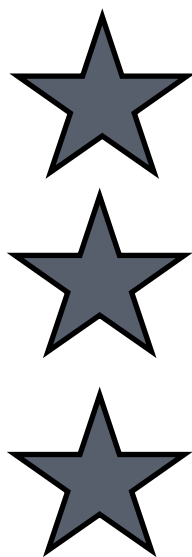
Concerts are in the area by the old Gordon Biersch. You can bring a picnic dinner or purchase food from food trucks on site, from the Farmers Market, or some of the restaurants will provide take-out food.

**Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> 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).



40 year celebration of our very own **Kevin McOlgan** playing with Joliet Junior College Community Band  
  
Congratulations Kevin





The 184th session of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference is set to take place June 6th – June 8th, 2023. The Conference will return to the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center at 1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL, again this year. Continuing with the theme, “Connected in Christ”; the 2023 theme is “Connected in Christ: Come to the Table,” placing the focus on one of the core elements of our Christian faith: the sacrament of communion. Communion brings us into the real presence of Christ on a regular basis.



**June 6-8, 2023 Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center  
184th Northern Illinois Annual Conference**

As we join at the table, we are nourished so that we might bring Christ into the world, ultimately forming community, from baptism to the communion table. By participating in communion and becoming a community, we are called in ministry and mission.

This theme allows us to go outside of the temporal issues of the world into a deeper theological reflection and ideology of God’s grace offered to us while also calling us into action. The scriptural grounding for this year’s theme is Luke 11:3, “Give us each day OUR daily bread.” Bishop Dan Schwerin will preside and preach at the ordination service on Luke 11:1-8.

Grace Church will be represented by Jim Morrow and Diane Morrow. Let us pray for a successful “Holy Conferencing” and renew our commitment as a church in connection locally and globally.

After being shutdown for 5 weeks following the sale of the Trinity UMC building, the Ridgewood United Community Pantry reopened on May 10th in a new location (an unmanned fire station) about 3 blocks away. These photos were taken on May 17th while the team from Grace UMC was serving. At the new location we have less space inside for food storage and to fill boxes. However we no longer have to carry boxes of food up and down stairs. Thank you to all members of Grace who support this pantry in any way.





## April

### 2023 Income & Expense Summary

	April		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$34,308	\$38,749	\$102,233	\$104,928
EXPENSES	\$2,317	\$2,317	\$9,268	\$9,268
Apportionment	\$14,887	\$14,917	\$64,422	\$64,213
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,221	\$593	\$4,884	\$4,520
Administration	\$933	\$488	\$3,733	\$2,695
Programming	<u>\$10,809</u>	<u>\$8,733</u>	<u>\$34,084</u>	<u>\$34,194</u>
Church Buildings				
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,167	\$27,048	\$116,391	\$114,890
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	\$4,141	\$11,701	-\$14,158	-\$9,962

#### Notes:

- 1) Slightly better than plan after 4 months, but still challenges because 2023 budget is not balanced.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**J**onah Linko was presented with the annual \$1,000 **Grace Scholarship** at worship on May 7 by Joe McCormack, Memorials Treasurer. This award is given to a high school senior who will graduate this spring and attend a college, university, technical or trade school. The scholarship is paid from our Memorials Fund.

Congratulations and well wishes to Jonah as he pursues a firefighter and paramedic career.



# FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The Summer months are here! Feel free to send the office a few pictures of your summer adventures. Share your vacations, picnics, family reunions, ASP, VBS, and any other fun event. Our church family would love to share in your adventures.

July Grace notes deadline is Thursday, June 22nd. Please have all articles, announcements, pictures, etc into the church office. You can send via email, text, hand written. I'll take them all.

I will be out of the office Thursday, June 1st returning Tuesday, June 6th.

Looking forward to summer! Adrienne Hartman, Office Manager

## Education Update

May 21st was a busy day at Grace UMC. We celebrated a baptism (Colton Travers), confirmation (Brianna Furto and Aden Guzman), and the last day of Sunday School classes for the season. (Rally Day and the return to Sunday School will be September 10, 2023.)

We also want to give special thanks to our Teachers and Education Team members:

Patty Bailey, Patrick Morrow, Karen Anderson, Samantha Kazak, Shannen Rojas, Kara Hocking, Jim Morrow, Diane Morrow, Steve Meister, Eric Anderson, Diane Lutz, Connie Schroeder, Lori Wait, Jay Wait, Barbara Fisher, Cathy Kazak and Linda Meister.

June is a busy time for us, we would love to have you come join us for the following activities:

ASP Commissioning - Sunday, June 4, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

VBS Meeting - Sunday, June 4, 2023 - 10:30 a.m. after the Worship Service

ASP "Sending Forth" Blessing - Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.

ASP Sunday - June 18, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Vacation Bible School "Hero Hotline" - June 19-22, 2023 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

VBS Closing Program / Community Party - June 22, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

VBS Sunday - June 25, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Registration is STILL OPEN for our "Hero Hotline" Vacation Bible School. Registration Forms are available. Reach out to Pastor Nancy or Diane Morrow for more information.

"So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." - Romans 14:19

Blessings to you, Pastor Nancy



# June Birthdays and Anniversaries

6/1 ~ Gail Bjekich, Faith Peterson

6/3 ~ Jonah Linko

6/6 ~ Dorothy Trimmer

6/7 ~ Jeffrey Ray

6/8 ~ Carolyn Embody

6/10 ~ Meredith Schroeder, Kristina Parro

6/12 ~ Ashley Hicks, Nathan Rojas

6/17 ~ Dana Shetina, Georgia Lockwood,  
Rebecca Schroeder

6/18 ~ Henry Boswell

6/21 ~ Paige Anderson

6/22—Vren Esguerra

6/24 ~ Joanne Ray

6/25 ~ Patty Strobbe, Pat Meyers

6/26—Sharon Fisher

6/27 ~ Clarice Boswell, Dustin Deardurff,  
John Robertson

6/28 ~ Michelle Fraser, Patricia Kwasniewski,  
Carol Walden

6/30 ~ Darrel Fahnstrom

Eric & Lisa Furto

June 10, 2001

Chuck & Maria Pons

June 18, 1966

Russell & Cathe Ghilain

June 27, 1998

Richard & Patricia Daniel

June 28, 1980

Steve & Andrea Schoenrock

June 28, 1986

Barry & Donna Robertson

June 29, 1991

**The Family of Sandie Denklaui would like to thank the members of Grace for their prayers, cards, words of encouragement and support through her long medical journey. And for the memorial gifts to the Foundation in support of music ministries at Grace. We will treasure all of those actions forever.**

**Art Denklaui**

THANK YOU



United  
Women  
in Faith

The Grace **United Women in Faith** met May 9, 2023. Barb Fisher, President, conducted a business meeting followed by a devotion presented by Debra Macias. Pat Kwasniewski provided refreshments. An overview of activities for the remainder of the year was reviewed. The 12 women present prepared personal bags for the needy to be given to those who partake of the Grace Day Break meal for May facilitated by Diane Lutz and crew from Grace. Items in the bags were specific to men/women and included socks, water, cheese crackers, sunscreen, lip balm, candies, and a small card to identify **Grace United Women in Faith** group as the givers.







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 am Men's Breakfast 	2	3
4 9:30 Worship  ASP Commissioning	5	6	7	8 7 am Men's Breakfast	9	10  ASP Leaves 7:30 am "Sending Forth" Blessing
11 9:30 Worship Praise Worship	12	13 6:30 pm  Trustees	14 11:30am Pantry	15 7 am Men's Breakfast 	16	17  ASP Returns  2p Wedding
18 9:30 Worship ASP Sunday	19	20 6:30 Daycare	21	22 7 am Men's Breakfast  4:30p VBS Closing Program & Commu- nity Party	23	24
25 VBS Sunday 9:30 am Worship Children's Choir	26	27 6:30 Finance/ Church Council	28	29 7 am Men's Breakfast 	30	

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

# Join us for VBS

**JUNE 19—22, 2023!**

- ♦ Bible stories
- ♦ games
- ♦ science experiments
- ♦ creative crafts
- ♦ inspirational music
- ♦ Making new friendships
- ♦ And much more!

