



GRACE NOTES

May/June 2024

“Count it all Joy”

Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters... for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ... (James 1:2-4)

I love the hymn “Count Your Blessings” with the familiar refrain: “Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God hath done...Count your blessings, every doubt will fly, And you will be singing as the day goes by.”

I write this last “Epistle” for Grace Notes with a joyful and thankful heart! My appointment as your Pastor will end soon and I treasure my time here with the hymn above as a gift from God. You have blessed me in so many different ways than I can imagine.

Grace Church is a place where the Good News of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in word and deed. This is a community of the beloved disciples and I pray that you will continue to bring joy to all the people that come upon your way. In a world where there are many people who are looking for a relationship with God, we offer this place. I sat many times in prayer looking at the small stained glass “windows” depicting the presence of God that surrounds the cross. It is not impressive when all the lights are on. But when the lights are turned off, the “windows” serve as a meditation. The light shines differently when we pay attention.

I counted my blessings and named them one by one. As I was driving by on Weber road there is only one Red Barn near airport road in Romeoville. It is rustic and perhaps unused for many years. It is the only remaining reminder of the rural landscape. If you pass by at the right time of the day, you will be mesmerized by the daylight peering through the broken panels. I call that “grace.”

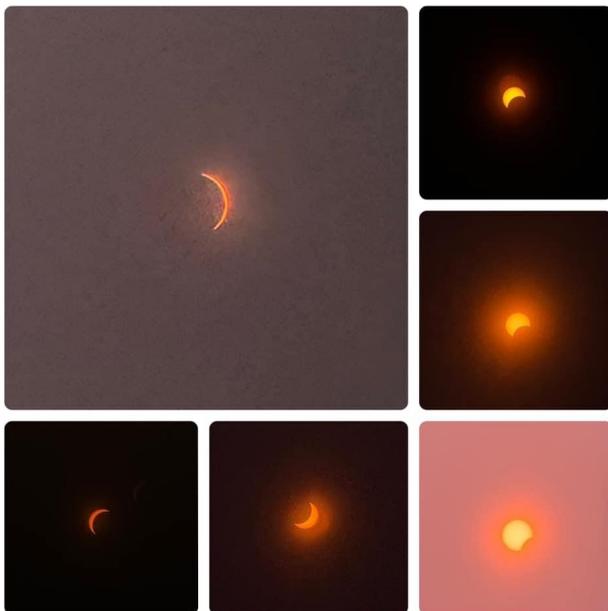
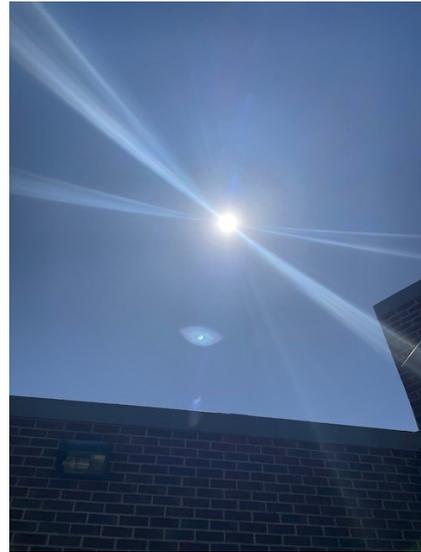
I served forty-one years in a single, uninterrupted appointment to local churches in the Northern Illinois Conference. Each church was unique and offered different ministries. But we have one beautiful story to tell and are never affected by the changing movements in time. The story of Jesus is enduring and I am so thankful that you are part of my own faith journey.

“Count it all joy” until we meet again at the appointed time.

Pastor Romir

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024

Where were you during the Solar Eclipse? Pastor Romir and I will always remember standing outside Grace United Methodist Church watching the eclipse together. Pastor Romir as a dinosaur and me as a princess. Thanks to Tina in the Grace DayCare for sharing glasses with us.





Our 2024 ASP Mission trip leaves on June 8 and returns on June 15. The 2024 Grace ASP Mission Team will be heading to Carrie, 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 teams ready to go.

Teams include the following youth :

- Paige Anderson**
- Braydon Hocking**
- Landon Hocking**
- Aden Guzman**
- Reyna Guzman**
- Nathan Rojas**
- Stella Guzman**
- Lili Boyer**
- Adriel Zepeda**

They will be led by the following adults:

- Eric Anderson, Kara Hocking,**
- Steve Meister,**
- 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 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
Apr 7	71	16	6
Apr 14	70	24	15
Apr 21	84	23	17
Apr 28	86	20	21



On April 13th Grace Place rocked with 31 women bidding on lots of auction items amid laughter and spirited competition. The auction was followed by a sumptuous salad potluck and desserts. Pat Meyers headed up the event. Maida McCormack was auctioneer and Peggy Weems was our “Vanna” for the day. Nancy Murphy got high bid for the mystery item. The UWF is pleased and thankful for a very successful day.



Restaurant Club Summer Gatherings

Please join your church friends for some good bites and good music throughout the summer! It's always good to be outside, so we will be going to a couple concerts again this year. Mark your calendars for the following events:

Saturday, May 25th – Public Landing Restaurant at 200 W. 8th Street in Lockport at 5:30pm. RSVP to Diane Parro at 630-430-3808 (text) or dparro@comcast.net by May 19th.

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.



During the week of Aug 3 to the 10 a group from Grace church will be traveling to Mission, SD to work with Tree of Life Ministries on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Each volunteer is required to pay \$300 to help cover the cost of the mission. We have a couple of young adults that this would be a hardship. I'm looking for sponsors who would like to help cover their cost. Donations can be left at the church with a note in the memo "Tree of Life". Checks should be made out to Grace UMC.

Or mailed to:

Thanks in advance for your continuous generosity.

Steve Meister
1116 Cora St
Joliet, IL 60435



Annual Conference Session Updates



**185th Northern Illinois
Annual Conference**

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

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

Grace Church will be represented by Jim Morrow and Diane Morrow. Joanne Ray is the Chair of Daily Proceedings. Let us pray for a successful “Holy Conferencing” and renew our commitment as a church in connection locally and globally.

Church family, I'd like to say thank you for the prayers, phone calls, cards and well-wishes.

Much appreciated! Sharon Fisher

I'd like to thank everyone for your kind words and cards for the passing of my brother in law, Michael. It was truly heartfelt especially since I was not able to go the Arizona to be with my sister and family. Wonderful having you as family here. Adrienne Hartman



The congregation is invited to celebrate the Confirmation of our Class of 2024 into membership of the church at our 10:30 worship service on May 5, 2024.

CLASS MEMBERS BEING CONFIRMED ARE:

Braydon Hocking, son of Kara and Scott Hocking —his mentor is Steve Meister

Everyone is invited to a reception immediately following our worship service to welcome our new member.

Congratulations to our confirmand and his family.



Thomas & Carol Zettergren	May 8, 1965
Don & Cathy Kazak	May 23, 1987
Jim & Diane Morrow	May 23, 1987
Ed & Caryn Young	May 23, 1970
Eric & Nancy Leggett	May 29, 1976
Brian & Joan Landers	May 31, 1975

5/4 - John Renzi
 5/7 - Carrie Butler
 5/8 - Cindy Caswell
 5/9 - Jim Norris
 5/10 - Jim Morrow
 5/11 - Diane Lutz
 5/11 - Isabella Ray
 5/16 - Jean Lucas, Jason Meister
 5/19 - Jeannine D’Orazio,
 5/19 - Connie Schroeder
 5/21 - Dylan Deardurff
 5/25 - Deborah Larson, Owen Salerno
 5/31—Thomas Zettergren

UNDIE SUNDAYS

The United Women in Faith will once again sponsor an Undie Sundays collection for the Dakota Indians. We will collect in a large container in the narthex all of the May Sundays and June 2 thru June 23.

Women, children, and men’s undies in all sizes and colors will be collected for Steve Meister and team who go there on a mission trip in August. Thanks for your support of this important project.



United
Women
in Faith



Thanks to those who pray for our church, our staff, our members, our community, our world...God listens.

Gratitude



June Birthdays and Anniversaries

6/1 ~ Gail Bjekich,
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, Frank Citarelli
6/28 ~ Michelle Fraser, Patricia Kwasniewski,
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

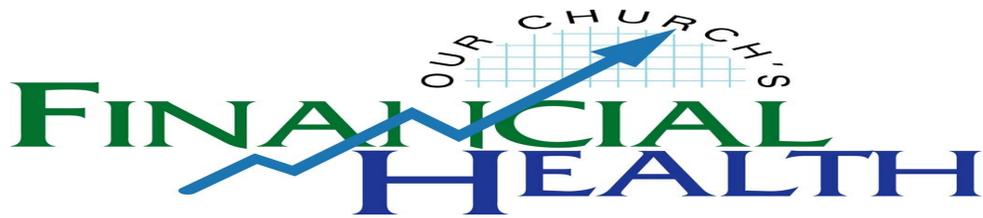


FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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 Monday, June 24th. Please have all articles, announcements, pictures, etc into the church office. You can send via email, text, hand written. I'll take them all.

Looking forward to summer! Adrienne Hartman, Office Manager



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

	March		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$19,708	\$20,815	\$70,625	\$59,051
EXPENSES				
Apportionments	\$2,525	\$2,137	\$7,575	\$6,411
Salaries & Benefits	\$14,128	\$14,274	\$47,171	\$46,846
Administration	\$1,129	\$1,052	\$3,387	\$5,352
Programming	\$792	\$477	\$2,375	\$681
Church Buildings	<u>\$6,350</u>	<u>\$8,212</u>	<u>\$24,312</u>	<u>\$25,513</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$24,924	\$26,152	\$84,820	\$84,803
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$5,216	-\$5,337	-\$14,195	-\$25,752

Notes:

- 1) Income in 2024 much less than expected. Little pre-payment of pledges.
- 2) Expenses in 2024 just about as expected.

March 2024
Income and Expense



April

2024 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/10/23

	April		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$36,208	\$38,342	\$106,833	\$97,393
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,525	\$2,137	\$10,100	\$8,548
Salaries & Bene- Administration	\$14,128	\$13,860	\$61,299	\$60,706
Programming	\$792	\$560	\$3,167	\$1,241
Church Buildings	<u>\$11,611</u>	<u>\$10,766</u>	<u>\$35,923</u>	<u>\$36,279</u>
TOTAL EX-	\$30,186	\$28,085	\$115,006	\$112,888
SURPLUS OR	\$6,022	\$10,257	-\$8,173	-\$15,495

NOTES:

- 1) Income in 2024 is still less than expected, but steady or improving
- 2) Expenses in 2024 less than expected

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7a Men's Breakfast 	3	4
5 Communion Confirmation 8:30am Prayer Gathering 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	6 6:30p SPRC	7	8 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	9 7a Men's Breakfast 	10	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	13	14 1pm UWF mtg. 6:30p Trustees	15 Food Pantry 7:30p Choir	16 7a Men's Breakfast 	17	18
19 8am Worship 9 am LAST Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	20 5p Daybreak	21 7a Daybreak	22 5:30p DayCare Graduation 7:30p Choir	23 7a Men's Breakfast 	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship Service	27 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	28 6:30p Finance	29	30	31	
					20	24



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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30 Pastor Romir's last Sunday VBS Sunday						1
2 9:30 Worship ASP Commissioning	3	4	5	6 7 am Men's Breakfast	7	8 ASP Leaves 7:30 am "Sending Forth" Blessing
Annual Conference						
9 9:30 Worship Praise Worship	10	11	12	13 7 am Men's Breakfast 	14	15 ASP Returns
16 9:30 Worship ASP Sunday	17	18 6:30 Daycare	19 11:30am Pantry	20 7 am Men's Breakfast	21	22 Retirement Celebration For Pastor Romir
23 9:30 am Worship Children's Choir	24 July Grace Notes Deadline	25 6:30 Finance/ Church Council	26	27 7 am Men's Breakfast 4:30p VBS Closing Program & Commu- nity Party	28	29 Grace Place UMF
Vacation Bible School 9am—11:30am						

Vacation Bible School



June 24-27, 2024

9 - 11:30 am

Children ages 3 yrs. – 6th grade

Snacks, Music, Science, Crafts, Games and Stories! FREE!!

Community Event with Concert, Ice Cream and Craft on

June 27, 2024 from 4 - 5:30 pm

Lots of help is needed so volunteer today!

Please contact Diane Morrow at 815-482-2439



Grace United Methodist Church To Mars and Beyond VBS

3 years – 6th grade

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. June 24 – 27th

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone Numbers: Cell _____ Work _____

Age Information

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Grade entering in Fall 2023 _____

Home Church _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Phone _____

CONSENT

I give permission to Grace UMC to take and use: Photographs and or digital images of my child for use in news releases, web sites or electronic publications. I agree that my child's name and identity: may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s). I authorize the use of these images without compensation to me. All negatives, prints, digital reproductions and shall be the property of
Grace UMC, Joliet IL

Dismissal Information

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Registration forms can be mailed to the church or put in the outdoor black mailbox.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815-725-7632

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

- May 5th** - Communion Sunday/Confirmation Sunday
10am Blood Pressure Screening
- May 12th** - Mother's Day
- May 19th** - **Last day of Sunday School**
- May 26th** - 9:30am service starts
- June 2nd** - Communion Sunday/ASP Commissioning/10am Blood Pressure Screening
- June 9th** - Pastor Romir returns to the pulpit
- June 16th** - Father's Day/ASP Sunday
- June 23rd** - Sunday Worship
- June 30th** - Pastor Romir's last Sunday with us