



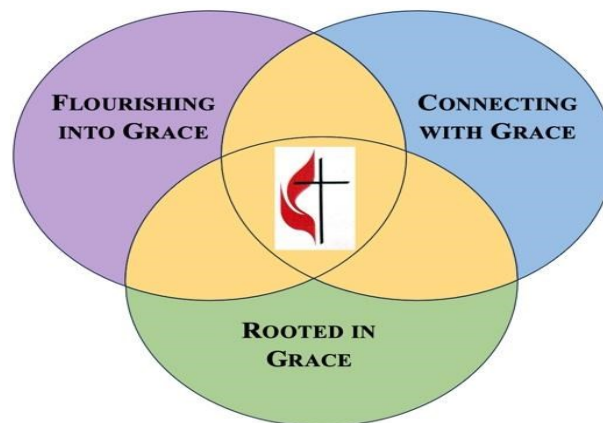
GRACE NOTES

Volume 11 Issue 10 October 2023

The summary of our Strategic Planning survey is now available. We pray that this will enable us to move forward in mission and ministry. We will meet in small groups and share ideas vital to our ministries.

CENTERING SCRIPTURE:

"In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace." – Colossians 1:3-6



CORE VALUES:

- (1) **WORSHIP** – Expressing our thankful hearts in Love for God through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.
- (2) **DISCIPLESHIP** - Growing in maturity in Spirit and Truth, welcoming all and offering Christ.
- (3) **MISSION** – Sharing our love and kindness for God and others by offering Christ to all through sharing the Word of God, our gifts through service, our love and compassion, and our commitment to justice for all.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- (A) **DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP** - "Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." - 2 Peter 3:8
- (B) **MISSIONAL PRESENCE** – "Love one another as I have loved you." - John 15:12
- (C) **GENEROUS HEARTS** - "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Pastor's Page

The following areas were determined to be the ***Most Important Focus / Highest Priority*** in each ministry domain:

Worship Services: Audiovisual Presentations, Streaming Services

Education: Sunday School, Spiritual Formation Classes, Youth Ministry

Congregational Care: Pastoral Care - Members & Constituents Visits, Extension Ministry, Communion at home

Community Care: Mission Projects (Ridgewood Food Pantry, Daybreak Meals Ministry, Appalachian Service Project, Living Tree Ministry)

Music / Creative Arts Ministry: Adult Choir, Bells, Children's Choir / Sunday School Choir

Shared Space Ministries: Alcoholics Anonymous

The following areas were determined an ***Important Focus / Priority*** in each ministry domain:

Bible Study: Wednesday Night, Advent, Lent

Education: Family Events

Congregational Care: Nurturing Care - Hospital Visits, Home Visits, Meals / Hospitality, Funeral Luncheons, Prayer Ministry, Wally's Donuts, Welcome Center, Greeters

Congregational Care: Sustaining Care - Letters, phone calls, visits, birthdays, anniversaries

Congregational Care: Sustaining Care – Quarterly / Monthly Communication

Congregational Care: Discipleship / Education - Quarterly Mission Projects

Community Care: Grace Childcare Center

Music / Creative Arts Ministry: Praise Choir, Praise Band

The following areas were determined to be the ***Most Important Focus / Highest Priority*** within the Generous Hearts strategic priority domain:

Generous Giving to support identified needs of the local church and connectional ministry partners.

Generous Living as one who engages in worship and ministry opportunities to give back to God the gifts that God has given to us.

Generous Relationships are intentionally grown to reflect the love of God and love of neighbor as one in Christ, one in each other and one in ministry to all.

Pastor Romir Esguerra



Looking ahead in October and November

- Oct 1 **World Communion Sunday**
- Oct 8 **Praise Sunday** (Using Faith We Sing and Worship and Song)
- Oct 15 **United Women in Faith Sunday** (UMW)
- Oct 22 A time to reflect on God's gift of children and renew commitment to
Care for, and advocate for all children, **CROPWALK SUNDAY**
- Oct 29 **Reformation Sunday** (The birth of Protestantism)
- Nov 5 **All Saints Sunday** (Remembering those who have passed away,)
No communion this Sunday, November 12th will be Communion Sunday
- Nov 12 Communion will be celebrated -Stewardship Sunday
- Nov 19 Commitment Sunday
- Nov 26 Christ the King Sunday

Dear Grace Families -

Our Rally Day was a success on September 10, 2023! It was a blessing for the family at Grace UMC to experience what it means to be "Connecting with Grace." Indeed, our children and youth are learning that God created the Earth, Living Things, People, and Helpers and that "God saw how good it was." - Genesis 1:12c. During the month of October we will be learning about God's people of Faith in the Old Testament and how time and again the family of God discovered that "The Lord (God) carried out just what he had promised. - Genesis 12:21."

Our High School Youth project in September was to create care packages for our College students. Our children created "love you" cards as well. We are still collecting donations for gift cards. If you wish to support this project, please see Pastor Nancy or make a designated gift to the "Education - Youth" fund. Our October mission project is to support Crop Walk, which is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, 2023. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 1:00 p.m. You can support this activity by signing up to be a walker and/or to be a sponsor of a walker. See Pastor Nancy for more information. In addition, our youth are actively engaged in fund-raising activities for the Appalachian Service Project. We thank you for your love and care to support mission in action.

The Adult Discussion Class, led by Lori and Jay Wait, is studying an Adam Hamilton video series entitled, "When Christians Get It Wrong" in the Grace Place classroom on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Blessings, Pastor Nancy

"Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Christ" - 2 Peter 3:18





From the church office ~ I would like thank everyone for their continued support and input as I still learn my way around Grace UMC. I have been in the office for 10 months and sometimes feel like I'm brand new. Mid December I will have a 1 year anniversary with all of you. I continue to learn everyday.

What are you **'thankful'** for? I'd like to lift what you are thankful for in the November issue of Grace Notes, please email or leave me a note in the office. November Grace Notes deadline is Monday, October 23rd. Please have all your articles and events into the office.

Thank you, Adrienne Hartman

ASP WREATH FUNDRAISER

Every Sunday starting October 8th
Before and After Sunday School and Church
Look for the table in the Narthex
Wreaths can also be ordered online from home
Log into GiftItForward.com
Fundraising Code: GRACEUIL001
Referring member: Steve Meister



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Seventeen UWF members gathered in Grace Place Saturday, September 16th at 10am to fill 50 purses with useful personal items for women who are part of Groundwork which assists victims of domestic violence. Women and children receive free services to help break the cycle of abuse including shelter, counseling, legal and medical advocacy, and prevention education. The 50 purses were blessed in Grace Worship on September 17, 2023, and subsequently delivered along with 5 boxes of children's books and small stuffed animals.



First Presbyterian Church of Joliet, has invited us to their annual Trunk 'N' Treat at 805 Western Ave. Joliet. Come one come all to this Halloween celebration that is so fun it's scary! Kids of all ages can don their costumes and trick or treat through our lot of decorated trunks. In addition to trick or treating, families can expect games, hot food, a bounce house, and even a petting zoo!

6:00—7:30 pm

"Walk for Mission"

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Grace United Methodist Church

12:30 p.m. - Registration

**WE
WALK
BECAUSE
THEY
WALK
CROP HUNGER WALK**

The "Walk for Mission" will support food and water resources ministries both globally and locally. Register today to be a walker OR to pledge your support for a walker.



OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

August

2023 Income & Expense Summary

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

	July		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$19,808	\$20,385	\$183,466	\$181,317
EXPENSES				
Apportionment				
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,317	\$0	\$18,536	\$13,902
Administration	\$19,761	\$17,560	\$128,844	\$123,138
Programming	\$1,221	\$880	\$9,767	\$8,766
Church Buildings	\$933	\$423	\$7,466	\$4,989
	<u>\$6,233</u>	<u>\$11,103</u>	<u>\$63,592</u>	<u>\$60,774</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,465	\$29,966	\$228,205	\$211,569
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$10,657	-\$9,581	-\$44,739	-\$30,252

Notes:

- 1) Income is tracking the budget reasonably well.
- 2) Expenses \$17k below budget; \$12k below when adjusted for apportionment not paid.
- 3) Because the approved 2023 budget is not balanced, there are still challenges.



The Hawaii District and the Hawaii United Methodist Union both sent letters of gratitude for our gift of over \$2,000.00 in help of the Lahaina Relief Fund. The people of Lahaina are a faithful and determined congregation, and they are looking forward with hope. Our incredible support has provided some of that hope.





SUNDAY SOUP SALES

The Grace United Women in Faith group plans to take orders for 18 different dry soup mixes on November 5 and November 12. On Sunday, November 5th we will have sample tastes of some favorites. These are good to have on hand for a rainy/snowy day, and they make wonderful gifts. Selections will be available for pick up near the end of November. These mail well, so think about gifts for Christmas and other such occasions in addition to a stash for your pantry. Lots of favorites at a cost of \$10 each!

Questions: call Cathy DuBois 815.228.8361.

DAYBREAK SHELTER

October we will be back to serve at Daybreak. Monday, October 23rd at 5pm we will serve dinner, and Tuesday, October 24th 6am we will serve breakfast. Sign up sheets for donations are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thanks for your continued support. Diane Lutz



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Missionaries David Makobo (#3021869) David's work in Senegal involves assistance to farmers in making their labor and the land more productive. Senegal is a small country on the west coast of Africa. It lacks significant natural resources but is adaptable to cultivation of millet and peanuts and the raising of livestock. The Senegal United Methodist Mission dates to 1989 and has some 19 congregations. Membership has grown steadily in the predominantly Muslim country.



Update: Landscaping Improvements

You may have noticed some recent landscaping improvements in the church yard. Additional improvements will take place in the hear future. The Field's Nursery on Caton Farm removed two diseased Service Berry trees. One tree outside of Grace Place and one in Lindsey's Garden by the front entrance of Grace Childcare. Both trees had 'fire blight' which cannot be cured. The tree in the Memorial Garden outside of Grace Place was the worst of the two. However, both trees would die eventually, and the disease could spread to other trees on church grounds. The Field's removed three concrete pillars that were situated underground in the Memorial Garden. The concrete pillars supported the old wooden sanctuary cross removed a few years ago.

A Magnolia Sweetbay tree was installed in the Memorial Garden, centered between the two beautiful Silver Ball Pear trees. The Magnolia tree will produce very fragrant white flowers in the spring. A Viburnum Black haw bush was installed in Lindsey's Garden. The Blackhaw bush will produce a blackberry fruit that a multitude of birds will enjoy. Both the Magnolia and Blackhaw are disease resistant.

Field's also planted a variety of colorful perennial flowers around the Magnolia Sweetbay. The flowers include Geranium 'Rosanne', Coreopsis 'Gold and Bronze', Black-eyes Susans, Allium 'Millenium' and some premium hardwood mulch to finish up the plant and flower bed.

Jim Teiber, the Joliet Arborist, has informed me that the two diseased Ash trees on the Larkin Avenue parkway will be removed. The Sycamore Tree on Avalon Street near the church driveway will be removed. Also, the small dead Sycamore on the Westminster Parkway at the East end of parking lot will be removed and replaced.

Last summer (July 2022) I spoke with Russ Lubash, Traffic Engineer, for the City of Joliet about the concrete stone pillar with light fixture at the corner of Larkin and Avalon Street. I mentioned to him that pieces of stone/concrete have been falling off of the structure for years. He said that the concrete stone structure would be repaired but could not give me a timeline.

Russ Ghilain





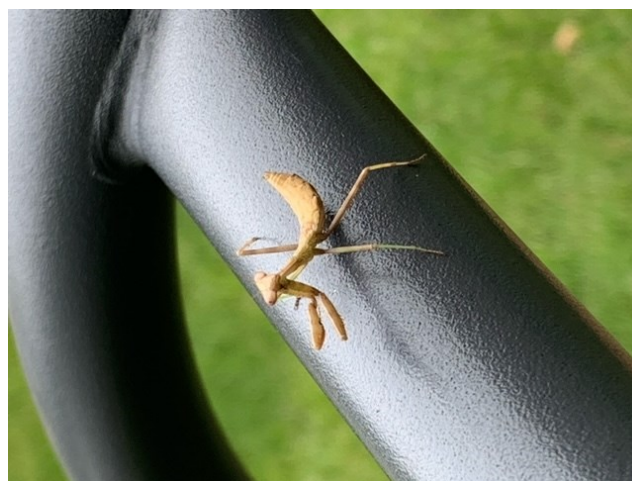
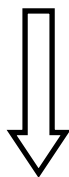
Photo of Magnolia Sweetbay and flower installation in Memorial Garden outside of Grace Place.



Photo of Viburnum Blackhaw in Lindsey's Garden outside front of entrance of Grace Childcare.



You never know who's praying for us here at Grace UMC. These little guys hung around with Russ on his cart one day.



THE LAWN RANGER

I am giving notice that my grass cutting days of the church yard is not far away. I have cut the grass annually dating back to about 2005. The Chicago White Sox won the World Series that year and I believe it will be some-time before they win it again! I will cut the church yard for two more years, God willing. I will be 80 years old then and time to hang up the saddle. This gives the powers to be time to decide if they can find another volunteer to serve the church in this capacity or hire someone from the outside. Joes Huerta Landscaping cut the lawn when I am traveling. This summer he charged \$150.00 to cut the church yard.

The ex-Mark lawn mower was purchased in 1994 and has been kept running by Kevin Forkal son of Derk Forkal. Kevin is a magician when it comes to lawn mower repairs. His mower knowledge and repair skills are unmatched. We owe a great deal to Kevin for his service in keeping us operating over all these years.

During my tenure I want to thank a few church members that have assisted me in cutting the grass, weed trimming, cutting and bundling tree limbs, edging, picking up paper, cardboard, bottles, cans and other debris. Please thank Tom Zettergren, Dave McBride, Don Lutz, Greg DuBois, Leon Wirt, the annual Spring Cleanup crew and others who are no longer with us. Spring Green is also included for improving our landscape for the past 10 years or so by applying fertilizer and weed control.

Russ Ghilain





BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

10/2—Melissa Rath
 10/4—Richard Farrar
 10/7—Brent Fraser, Brianna Furto
 10/8—Tina Mason
 10/9—Aimee Eichelberger
 10/11—Shannen Rojas
 10/13—Sandy Brazeal
 10/16—Jean Young
 10/19—Stephanie Meister
 10/19—Donna Robertson
 10/19—Elaine Esguerra
 10/20—Michael Purciarello
 10/22—Arne Young
 10/23—Michelle Ray
 10/25 - Tracy Fahnstrom
 10/26—Douglas Larson
 10/28—Kendall Kolodziej
 10/31—Cathy DuBois,
 10/31—Theodore Poplawski

Marlin & Adrienne Hartman	October 5, 1979
Connie & Paul Schroeder	October 14, 1989
Michelle & Brent Fraser	October 18, 1997
Cheryl & Jeffrey Deardurff	October 20, 1995
Mary & David McBride	October 21, 1961
Gus & Nancy Kramer	October 23, 1976
Debbie & Douglas Larson	October 27, 1979
Maida & Joe McCormack	October 27, 1979



HELLO
my name is

Nametags are available for every member, child, and regular attendee. To order one, please fill out the form on the "Welcome" table and place it in the offering plate or in the box marked NAMETAGS next to the forms.

SEPT. ATTEN	WORSHIP 8:30AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sept 3	62		
Sept 10	4/64	26	14
Sept 17	5/63	27	15
Sept 24	0/68	16	16



CTOBER



1 Communion 8:30am Prayer & Devotion 9am Christian Ed 10 am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	2	3 6:30pm SPRC	4 6:15pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	5 7:30am Men's Breakfast 	6	7
8 8:30am Prayer & Devotion 9am Christian Ed 10 am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	9	10 1:00pm UWF	11 6:15pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	12 7:30am Men's Breakfast	13	14
15 UWF Sunday 8:30am Prayer & Devotion 9am Christian Ed 10 am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	16 5pm Daybreak	17 7am Daybreak Breakfast 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Daycare Board via ZOOM	18 11:30am Pantry 6:15pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	19 7:30am Men's Breakfast 	20	21 3:30-5pm Choir Cantata read in Sanctuary 4:30-6:30pm Choir Pot Luck Grace Place
22 8:30am Prayer & Devotion 9am Christian Ed 10 am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 1pm CROPWALK	23 November Grace Notes Deadline	24 6:30pm Finance/ Church Council	25 6:15pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	26 7:30am Men's Breakfast	27	28
29 YOUTH 8:30am Prayer & Devotion 9am Christian Ed 10 am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	30	31 			 ash/10/2023	