



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

GRACE NOTES

Volume 8 Issue 10

October 2020

The class of 2020 will be confirmed on Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 10 am. It will be held in the Sanctuary and will be broadcast on Facebook Live. Unfortunately, due to the current Covid 19 restrictions, only confirmands, their parents and mentors will be able to attend this Ceremony.

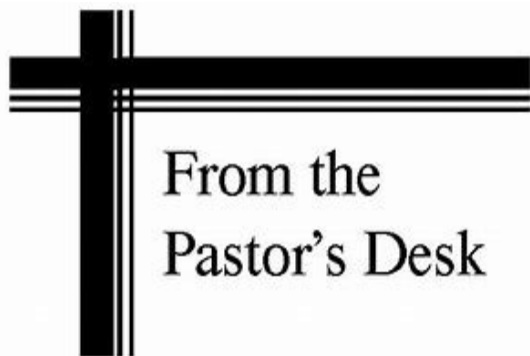
Congratulations to our newest members of Grace:



Paige Anderson
Johnathan Butler
Dulci Cabreda
Isa Cabreda
Reyna Guzman
Nathan Rojas



Confirmation



From the Pastor's Desk

World Communion Sunday is October 4, 2020 and we will be serving communion by way of "Drive-thru" from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Our ushers in the parking lot will greet and direct you in front of the church. Some of these alternative practices, like "Love Feast" on line and "Holy Communion drive thru" do not diminish this important Christian practice as long as the elements are received in thanksgiving for what God is able to do.

You may be sitting in your car or in your own home and what you hold in your hands are visible reminders of God's presence. Our usual practice is to break a loaf of bread and pieces of bread are given out. "The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me." Simple bread and yet it connects us with the holiness of God.

After supper, Jesus "took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, do this, whenever, you drink it, in remembrance of me." Jesus connected his life to ours and he quenched the longing of our souls.

In the United Methodist Church, we lift up this Sunday to support World Communion Scholarships for developing and training emerging church leaders. You may designate your special offering to World Communion Sunday.

A friend of mine who was a recipient of this scholarship is now the President of Harris Memorial College, started by American missionaries. The school is a pioneer in Kindergarten and Christian Education. There are many serving in the different parts of the world. What scholars receive are given back to the Church for a lifetime of service. Imagine the scope of your offering and prayer.

As you leave Grace Church, there is a banner that proclaims, "Greet each one as if they are Christ." I humbly realized that people don't come to church because we have the most polished service, beautiful voices and life changing programs—it's all about equipping one another and stepping up in faith.

God bless Grace Church as we remain true to our calling and offer the love of Christ. In such a time like these, pandemic, political uncertainty, the concern for peace and justice, welfare of people of all ages, the ministry of the church never pauses. We grow deeper in our love for God.

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God..By day the Lord direct his love, at night His song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life."

May God bless all of you and looking forward to see you again.

Pastor Romir R. Esguerra

GREETINGS FROM BSA SCOUTS TROOP 15



We are excited to be meeting in person, and looking forward to Fall and Fall events. First up on our Fall calendar is the BSA Annual Food Drive, Scouting For Food. Our Scouts will still be in person at Grace on two Sundays distributing bags, and receiving donations. However, due to Covid-19 precautions, it will look a little different this year. Check out the article in Grace Notes for details.

In addition to the Scouting for Food—food drive, Troop 15 has been busy working on merit badges, both in person at troop meetings and virtually. Three Troop 15 Scouts participated in Rainbow Council's virtual merit badge clinic.

Four Scouts continue to work on their Eagle Scout projects; 1 that is mid construction, 2 that have been approved and are ready to begin construction, and 1 that is in the final stages of approval.

Thank you to all the BSA Scout volunteers who make it possible for our Scouts to continue to meet their advancement goals, even in a pandemic. We appreciate it!

Also, please take a moment to visit and "Like" our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Troop15Joliet>

Yours In Scouting, Troop 15 Scouts and Families



GRACE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Grace UMW Board members Barb Fisher, Cathy DuBois, Pat Meyers, Rae Hinton, and Maida McCormack met September 11th to determine budgetary considerations for the next six months. We were able to meet all of our international/state/district/local missional obligations for 2020 plus significantly increase our Ridgewood Food Pantry support. Even though we are uncertain of the future due to the pandemic, we have a financial cushion to begin 2021. Cathy introduced a new mission project – Keep In Touch (KIT Mission) that will begin immediately and result in a monthly communication with all UMW members. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Barb Fisher or Cathy DuBois for more information.

God's Work Our Hands

SMALL MISSION PROJECTS

I have talked to Pastor Romir regarding our smaller mission projects--Lions Club eye glasses, pop tabs, pill bottles, Daybreak, Ridgewood Pantry & UMW. I will set up an area in the hallway going to the Sunday School area that will have labeled containers for your use.

Thank you for your continued donations when we meet again at church. Any questions contact me at crftctr3@comcast.net Looking forward to meeting again in person. Stay Safe.

Barb Fisher

Debra Macias is knitting lap covers for the cancer center and was looking for 4 ply yarn. If you have any yarn to donate to Deb, please contact her at 815-514-4940.



Embrace fall filled with

**Thanks to our ReTurn
Team for creating the
Grace plan, monitoring
our progress, and prepar-
ing for our future.**

gratitude, peace and joy!

ASP WREATH FUNDRAISER



Do to Covid-19 and not being in church the ASP team is wondering if the congregation is still interesting buying wreaths this Christmas. There appears to be an online ordering method. Please reply to steve0151@aol.com so

we can determine if we will sell wreaths.

Thanks Steve Meister



The annual Scouting for Food drive is kicking off in October, with collection being done in November. Grace Church's Troop 15 will once again participate in the food drive, with the food collected being donated to the Ridgewood Food Pantry. As with everything with the pandemic, this year's food collection will be a little different. Scouts will pass out bags for the food as you drive through for the October communion on Sunday, October 4th. The scouts will then collect the filled bags on Sunday, November 1st as you come to Grace for the November communion Sunday. Please show your support of our scout troop as well as the Ridgewood Food Pantry by filling your bag with food for the many families depending on the food pantry for their nourishment. Thank you to Troop 15 for designating the Ridgewood Food Pantry as their donation point.

BIRTHDAYS!

10/2—Linda Burton, Melissa Rath

10/4—Richard Farrar

10/5—Pastor Fritz Bartels

10/7—Brent Fraser, Brianna Furto

10/8—Brian Forsythe, Tina Mason

10/9—Aimee Eichelberger

10/10—Kimberly Egizio

10/11—Shannen Rojas

10/13—Sandy Brazeal

10/16—Eric Small

10/19—Stephanie Meister, Donna Robertson

10/20—Michael Purciarello

10/21—Jackie Klainsek, Corinne Barz

10/23—Michelle Ray

10/25 - Tracy Fahnstrom

10/26—Douglas Larson

10/28—Kendall Kolodziej, Shirley French

10/29—Rick Daniel

10/30—Barbara Van Dyke

10/31—Cathy DuBois, Theodore Poplawski



DAYBREAK SHELTER

In September the senior high met in the pavilion to make up bags of food and toiletries for Daybreak residents staying in hotels due to the pandemic. Socially distancing was maintained and 30 bags were delivered to Daybreak to be passed out to those in need. Daybreak has since opened and we will begin serving meals the 3rd Monday in October. Breakfast won't be starting yet as numbers are low. We will be preparing the meals in Grace Place then delivering them to be passed out. We won't be serving the meals since they no longer allow volunteers under 18.

Diane Lutz



Connie & Paul Schroeder October 14, 1989

Stella & Russ Slinkard October 17, 1987

Michelle & Brent Fraser October 18, 1997

Cheryl & Jeffrey Deardurff October 20, 1995

Mary & David McBride October 21, 1961

Melissa & Lloyd Meinhart October 21, 1989

Connie & John Renzi October 21, 1988

Debbie & Douglas Larson October 27, 1979

Maida & Joe McCormack October 27, 1979

Thank you

The Goepper family would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation for the thoughtfulness presented to us and love we have been given during our time of grieving for our husband, father and son-in-law Rick Goepper. We appreciate every thought, card, flower and prayer.

God Bless,
Debbie Goepper, Geri Hoffman and Family

Ruth Salter appreciates the many cards and prayers she received while in St. Joe's Hospital and Alden of Shorewood. She is now happily living with her daughter Cindy.



COMMUNION PICK-UP

Sunday, October 4th

Please be sure to tune in to Facebook Live on September 6th at 9:30am for the virtual service with our Grace family. Following the service, Pastor Romir will serve **Holy Communion** in a drive-by fashion in the church parking lot from **11am – 11:30am**.

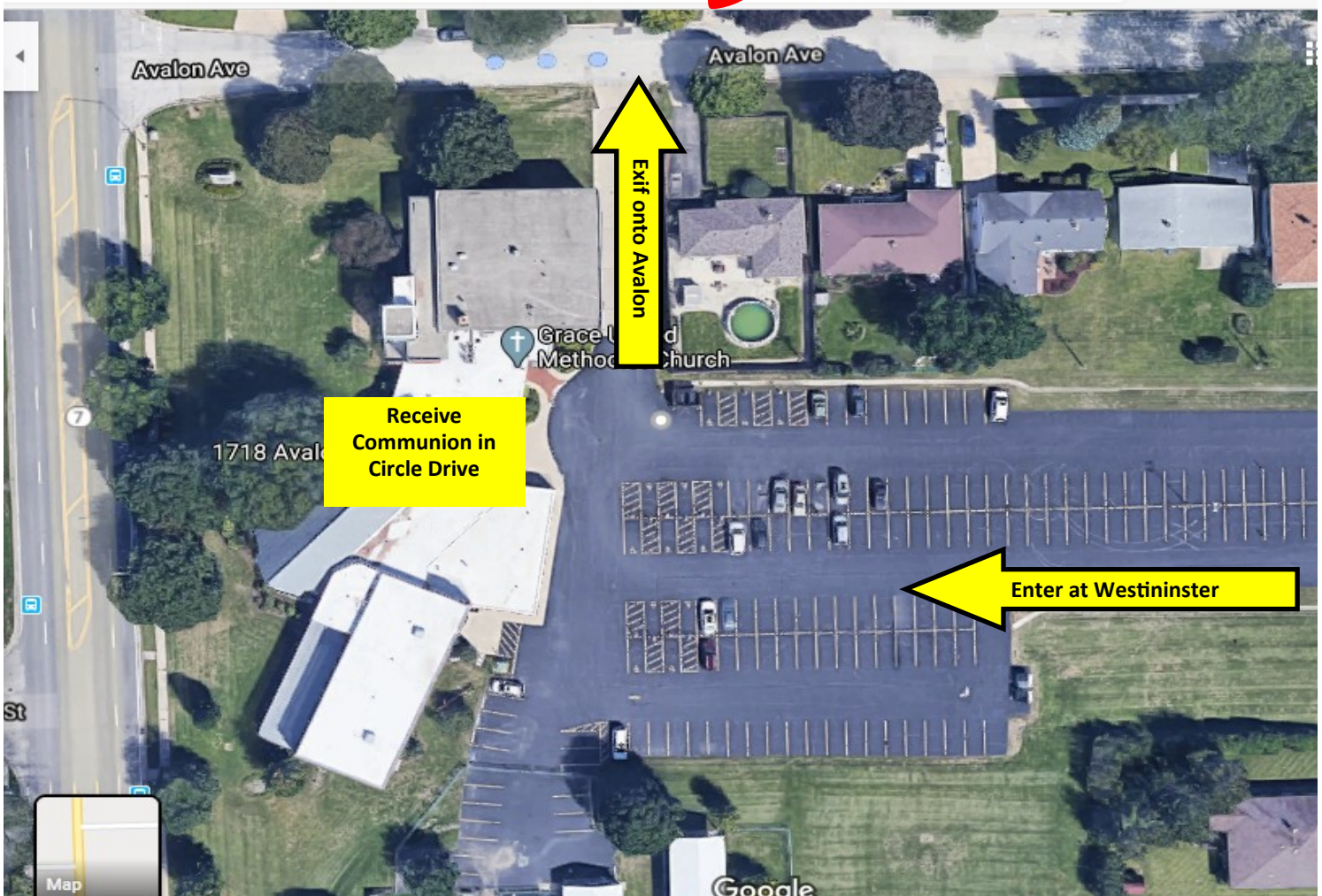
If you are unable to join us on Sunday, please call the church office to arrange a time to pick up baggies with communion elements and the liturgy. We are also willing to deliver communion sets to you - especially if you are unable to travel, sick, self-isolating or are oth-

erwise uncomfortable for any reason to come in person. Pastor Romir is willing to come to you.

Pastor Romir will set up an altar like "station" at the main entrance of the church. He will be distributing individually packaged communion wafer and juice cup sets to all. Our communion elements will be blessed prior to distribution in that hour, so there is no need to "come early" for that part. The elements will be handed to each driver in a ziploc bag that will contain the liturgy, scripture and closing prayer plus the individual communion sets.

Please follow the driving direction on the map below to ensure a safe traffic pattern for everyone. Cars will only enter from Westminster into the far end of the church parking lot. Ushers will be outside to help direct traffic. After receiving communion near the main entrance, cars will be directed to leave the parking lot via Avalon.

Drive - Thru



August

2020 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/15/19

	August		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$26,400	\$23,293	\$240,000	\$231,798
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,707	\$1,794	\$21,655	\$14,352
Pastor Salary & Benefits	\$7,585	\$7,441	\$64,469	\$65,716
Personnel	\$8,148	\$5,927	\$68,915	\$64,894
Administration	\$1,058	\$647	\$8,467	\$7,370
Programming	\$1,408	\$688	\$11,267	\$4,376
Church Buildings	<u>\$6,483</u>	<u>\$5,957</u>	<u>\$65,967</u>	<u>\$57,022</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,389	\$22,454	\$240,740	\$213,730
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$989	\$839	-\$740	\$18,068

NOTES:

- 1) Income continues generally as expected through August except for fundraising and building rental.
- 2) With the building and programs shut down, expenses are about \$22k less than expected through August.

A special Stewardship Video will be shown during our October 25th virtual worship service. We will have an abbreviated stewardship effort this year due to our pandemic restrictions. Please plan to attend worship on October 25th and enjoy the video.



Stewardship
a way of life

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799



**CHURCH CONFERENCE
WILL BE HELD ON
NOVEMBER 9TH AT 7:00PM
MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW**