



# GRACE NOTES

**September 2024**

## *Pastor Laura's Ponderings*

I love the transition to Fall. It is my favorite season with the cooler weather and the display of God's beautiful creation. You will find me staring at trees and holding leaves. Each year, I still have that child-like wonder at just how amazing it all is.

I also appreciate the structure that returns to my life. The rhythms of school, earlier bed-times and programs starting back up at church. I have enjoyed the various get-to-know you moments while being here whether it was at one of our Cottage meetings or one on one.

This fall, I am offering two different opportunities to continue to connect with all of you as well as start to engage with our community even more. First, I will be offering a 6-week study starting September 10<sup>th</sup>: "John: The Gospel of Light and Life" by Adam Hamilton. We will meet on Tuesday at 10:00 am in the library. If you would like to purchase the book on your own or check it out from the library, you are welcome to. If you would like the church to purchase it for you, please let us know by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$15.00. I am delighted that Debi Shippy will be assisting me in leading this class. I look forward to diving into my favorite Gospel!

Additionally, I will be starting "Community Office Hours" on Thursdays from 11:30 to 12:30 at Rosemary Café 1730 Essington Rd, Joliet, IL. If you come by, I will buy a beverage for you. I will be rotating where I go each month. It is my hope to have some more interactions with those in our community as well as provide a space for anyone, church attender or not, to come and chat with me if the church office doesn't feel like the right place.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Laura

# P.I.E. - **RALLY DAY**

Pray, Ignite,  
Encourage  
Rally Day

September 8<sup>th</sup>

Following 10:30 worship in

Grace Place

## Homemade Pie Contest



Please join us on Rally Day for a potluck following 10:30 worship AND a Pie Contest as we **Pray** for the people of our church and the world, **Ignite** us to share our faith with others, and **Encourage** kindness to all we encounter.

Calling all Grace Bakers to make their special pie for the contest (or 2, if you'd like). All pies will be judged by judges selected especially for this event. Pies will be judged on flavor, appearance, taste, originality, and crust. The baker of the best overall pie will get to smear a whipped cream pie in the face of a church friend of their choice. Goggles, washcloths, and plastic cape will be provided. We think there will be some of our kids who might be eager to be chosen.

Please bring a dish to pass for the potluck. Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. Of course, the pies from the contest will be our dessert, so everyone can choose their favorite pie to try.

A couple of pie-themed games will make our Rally Day one to remember! You won't want to miss Rally Day this year!

Please RSVP to Diane Parro if you'd like to bake a pie for the contest. We'd like to have at least 15 pies!

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

### DISCUSSION CLASS

Everyone is invited to join the Discussion Class. We meet Sunday mornings at 9am in the middle classroom off Grace Place. Each week this group discusses a different topic from a Christian point of view. Occasionally we study a multi-week Adam Hamilton video series. When we do, the topic will be announced in the weekly *What's Happening at Grace UMC* or Grace Notes. Join us on Rally Day - or any Sunday! Any questions, contact Lori or Jay Wait.

### METHODIST AWARENESS CLASS

This class meets in the Crafty Critter room starting September 8th at 9am. We will be watching a video by Adam Hamilton Wrestling with **DOUBT** Finding Faith. Everyone is welcome to join us. Barb Fisher is the leader for this class. Please contact her if you have any questions.

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#### FAITH AND WELLNESS

I hope you had as much fun at Sunday Sundaes as I did! Ice Cream, stories, dreams for our church—a good time was had by all. A big ‘THANK YOU’ to all who attended and to all who helped—set-up and tear down workers, scoopers of ice cream, squirters of chocolate or caramel, sprinklers of sprinkles and spritzers of whipped cream. Beside sundaes, it was a time of Cottage Meeting sharing in which Pastor Laura got to know us all a little better and we got to learn a bit more about her.

#### ACTIVITIES -

- 1 - 1st Sunday BP checks provided the first Sunday of every month. We're in the library—stop by.
- 2 - Per your requests on the 1 minute survey—Lunch Bunch is back. RSVP and come hungry.
- 3 - October will a time to lace up your walking shoes—stay tuned for more details in October newsletter.

Debi Shippy

# Sunday School Registration 2024-2025

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #\_\_\_\_\_E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate\_\_\_\_\_Baptized? Yes/No Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Name\_\_\_\_\_

Grade in School\_\_\_\_\_

## Medical Information

Emergency Contact/phone\_\_\_\_\_

Allergies\_\_\_\_\_

Medications\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Condition(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if your child has been diagnosed with any special needs that their Sunday School teacher needs to be aware of. The teachers want to do all they can to make sure your child's Sunday School experience is a positive one.

## Photograph Consent

I hereby give consent to Grace UMC to photograph my child for display in the classrooms, hallways and in the common areas of the church. And I understand that the photographs may be used in the Grace Church newsletter and/or on the Grace Church website.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

# Grace United Methodist Church

## Permission, Medical Authorization and Release of Liability

(Each person must fill out a separate profile)

Date\_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned parent or guardian of

(Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_

A minor, do hereby consent to said minor attending the following church function: **Sunday School**

On the date of: **September 2024 - May 2025**

I do hereby release and absolve said Grace United Methodist Church, its employees, agents, the sponsors of the function, and any church members from any and all liability or damages or personal injury caused to said minor as a result of his participation in and travel to or from said function.

I further agree to indemnify the Grace United Methodist Church, its employees, agents, the sponsors of the function, and any church member for any damage or injury caused by said minor.

I hereby authorize any necessary emergency medical treatment to be given to said minor, and specifically authorized any adult sponsor, attending physician, or hospital to consent to medical treatment for the minor which said sponsor, attending physician, or hospital may deem necessary under the circumstances. The following information is provided and may be relied upon in an emergency:

Allergic Reaction to Medication \_\_\_\_\_

Chronic Illness \_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**L**

unch Bunch is back, come join us  
for good food (separate checks)  
laughs and good conversation.

Sept. 17 at 12:30 at

Happy Place Restaurant 1150 W. Jefferson  
St. Shorewood.

RSVP to Barb Fisher 815-325-1624 or Pat  
Meyers 815-557-4864.



### College Students Care Packages

The Education Team plans to send out care packages to our College Students to remind them that they are loved! Please send a message to [gracejoliet@comcast.net](mailto:gracejoliet@comcast.net) to confirm the school location, major, mailing address, and contact information (phone/email).

### RESTAURANT CLUB

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Craft'd in Plainfield (16031 S. Lincoln Hwy) for some good food, great conversations and a chance to dine with the best group of Restaurant Clubbers around! You must either email me ([dparro@comcast.net](mailto:dparro@comcast.net)) or text me (630-430-3808) by September 9<sup>th</sup> to RSVP.

### FELLOWSHIP RESUMES

Starting September 8th we will be enjoying our fellowship hour again. We will serve donut holes from Home Cut Donut Shop, lemonade and coffee during the hour. If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Cathy Kazak at [clj19@aol.com](mailto:clj19@aol.com)



### GRATITUDE CORNER

Thanks to mission-minded Grace folks who make a difference in our community and the world.

### U W F PURSES MINISTRY



**Ladies, it's time to stuff purses for folks served by Groundwork. We have the purses and items ready...we need your help on Saturday, 9/14/24 at 10am in Grace Place. Brunch will be served after by UWF Officers.**



# OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

## July

### 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	\$19,902	\$163,658	\$160,932
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$14,886	\$13,298	\$16,219	\$13,902
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,221	\$1,344	\$109,083	\$105,578
Administration	\$933	\$735	\$8,546	\$7,886
Programming	<u>\$10,809</u>	<u>\$5,502</u>	\$6,533	\$4,566
Church Buildings	<u>\$10,063</u>	<u>\$8,880</u>	<u>\$57,359</u>	<u>\$49,671</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,166	\$20,879	\$197,740	\$181,603
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$10,358	-\$977	-\$34,082	-\$20,671



Grace United Methodist Church  
September 29, 2024

Registration Begins at 12:45 pm

In Grace Place (Entrance is by the Playground)

Walk Begins at 1 pm.

One Mile Course and a 3 Mile Course Or you can walk in the parking lot or in Grace Place.  
Water and wrapped Snacks will be Provided

Let's work together—FIGHT Hunger here and throughout the World!!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!! SIGN UP TODAY!!!

Contact the church office at 815-725-7632 or [gracejoliet@comcast.net](mailto:gracejoliet@comcast.net) OR

Diane Morrow at 815-4822439 or [dln@mc.net](mailto:dln@mc.net)

# 2024 Lakota Mission Trip



Tree of Life held a community gathering where a meal was served, handed out backpack with school supplies, and gave all school age children new Nike gym shoes.







Activity behind building



Tree of Life office



Resale Shop

The Price is Right is for Bob Barker who lived in Mission as a kid

Thank you Steve Meister for representing Grace United Methodist Church on the Lakota Mission Trip. Your dedication to the missions are to be commended.

Thank you for leaving part of our congregation with them.

We serve the Lord through your hands.

Soup kitchen



"Dignity of Earth and Sky" a 50 foot tall statue above the Missouri River. Less than 2 hours from Tree of Life.



All Lakota Mission Trip pictures were sent by Steve Meister,  
Grace's Missionary Extraordinaire!



September 23—Steve and Linda Meister



9/1 Jamie Citarelli

9/2 Peggy Weems

9/3—Rick Pearson, Matthew Runnels,  
Susan Sabella

9/4—John Moore

9/6—Chloe Black, Theresa Whitney

9/7—Joyce Hecht

9/8—Brian Sabella

9/9—Barbara Fisher, Fred Jursinic

9/10—Jack Bitterman

9/12—Cyrus Angel, Diane Loucks

9/18—Christina Bessette

9/19—Cathy Kazak, Brian Fahnstrom

9/20—Melody Fahnstrom

9/22—Stephen Fowler

9/24—Steve Schoenrock

9/28—Jeffery Page



## GRACE CHILD CARE NEWS

What a great turnout of past/current families and church members to help Mrs. Sally celebrate her 40th year with Grace Child Care. Just imagine how many little minds Mrs. Sally was able to nurture and guide. Thank you so much for being friendly, kind, caring, and patient. And for always encouraging the littles to feel happy and comfortable.

We would like to thank everyone for coming and helping to make her day special.

Grace Child Care

**Mrs. Sally with her cake for her 40th Year Celebration.**





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Blood Pressure Screening  Last 9:30 Worship/ Communion	2 Labor Day 	3	4   BELLS AND CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS	5	6	7
8 <b>Rally Day</b>  8:30am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship	9	10 10am Bible Study   6:30 pm Trustees	11   6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	12 7 am Men's Breakfast	13	14   10am UMC Purse Ministry
15 8:30am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30am Potluck in Grace Place 	16	17 10am Bible Study 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch	18   11:30am Food Pantry   6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	19 7 am Men's Breakfast	20	21
22 8:30am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship	23	24   6:30 Daycare Board 6:30 Finance	25   6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	26 7am Men's Breakfast	27	28
29 8:30am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship	30					