



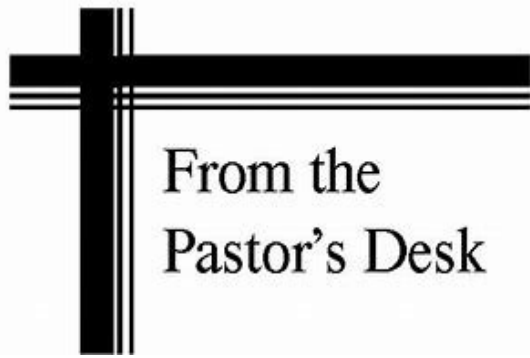
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GRACE NOTES

Volume 8 Issue 9

September 2020





September 13, 2020: RALLY DAY AT GRACE UMC: JOLIET

September is Rally Day, Welcome back Sunday, back to School, orientation and greeting new friends and saying hello to familiar faces. The other day, I passed by a school and there was along line of cars. The students can't go to school yet but the teachers were present by the curb and greeting everyone from a safe distance.

At Grace UMC we will begin our online Sunday School via Zoom beginning at 9:00 a.m. The dedicated teachers will reach out to families and children of all ages so we can continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our Adult Sunday school classes will also begin and please watch out for important schedule.

Our online worship service will start at 10:30 a.m., so that we are consistent with our schedule and we invite you to worship with us in this way. We are able to reach out and share our worship service to many people in different places. Our Return Team will advise us when the time is right for in person worship when it is safe to do so. There will be guidelines for confirming our class of 2020, observing the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Holy Baptism.

During the online worship service on *September 13th*, we will offer a Blessing for Families and Sunday School Students. We will pray for the things that we use daily for school, such as backpacks, laptops, I-pads and whatever you use daily at home or in school.

Why is Sunday School such an important part of our Church? I was visiting a seminary some time ago and found my way to the chapel at of the Unnamed Faithful. The stained-glass windows depict the history of the church and the Wesleyan movement. It was this movement that was the catalyst for preaching the love of God uniquely in Jesus Christ. Susana Wesley was instrumental in leading and teaching the Bible. We have a beautiful story to tell especially during this time of the pandemic and we pray for all churches as we proclaim the love of God. Sunday school is also the church in active mission.

Finally, I recall a Sunday school song and still being sung today: "The Lord is mine and I am His, His banner over me is love...He brought me to the banqueting table, His banner over me is love. He is the vine and we are the branches, His banner over me is love."

May God bless the Church.

Pastor Romir Esguerra

DEVOTIONS

for Spiritual Growth



BY ANN DILL

WHISPERS

As I sit on my porch the Blue Jays are busy at the feeder and the sun is creating dappled shadows across the lawn. The birds are softly chirping as the busyness of life can be heard in the cars on Essington Road. Life can be noisy and cacophonous with mowers, chainsaws, traffic, and trains. It can also be so silent that we only hear are our own thoughts. I crave all these sounds and moments, the pull and memory of music and engaging voices of conversation, and the whispers of God. Today we

seem bombarded by voices and the desire of these voices to be heard and understood. The squeaky wheel needing its grease. And yet there has been a voice from the beginning of time, the Word, that has desired our attention. That voice, whisper, thunder of God has become one sound we don't want to hear. Like a naughty dog we hear God calling but keep on running. The daylight is waning and our father is calling us in from the neighborhood game. It is time for the quiet of the day to take hold and for us to pray. "Let us be quiet that we may hear the whisper of God"¹.

Prayer- Lord of all life you lead us in your Spirit to live in love and grace. You provide all we need and more. You are there to teach us in forgiveness and to untangle all our woes and problems. You desire peace for our lives and through Christ you deliver us from our faults and failures. Blessed are all who call you their God for you are our mainstay, and power forever. Amen

Ralph Waldo Emerson

A LITANY FOR FAMILIES RALLY DAY AT GRACE UMC: JOLIET

Leader: Let us pray...

People: For families where children, youth, and adults are nurtured to grow as God intended us to grow. We pray for our Sunday School teachers, parents and volunteers at Grace UMC committed to teaching and sharing the faith.

Leader: Let us pray...

People: For families who do not have shelter, nourishing food to eat, clean water to drink, and clothes to wear.

Leader: Let us pray...

People: For families who struggle with fear, stress, uncertainty in this time of the pandemic that we might find shelter in God.

Leader: Let us pray...

People: For families who practice the faith together—reading Scripture, praying together, worshiping together, and seeking to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

All: O God, we are your children. Help us remember the messages of justice, peace, hope, and love in such a way that those messages may be present in our homes, in our communities, and in our world. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, for such belong the Kingdom of God." AMEN.



Adult Learning Opportunities



METHODIST AWARENESS CLASS

Because we are still not meeting in person, the MAC class that would normally be in the Crafty Critter room, might be going virtual if there is enough interest. Everyone is welcome to join us. Barb Fisher is the leader for this class. Please let her know if you intend to join or if you have any questions at crftctr3@comcast.net.

THE POPS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS LED BY DONNA ROBERTSON WILL MEET ONCE THE CHURCH IS OPEN.

DISCUSSION CLASS

The Adult Discussion Class is going virtual. We will begin meeting on Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 for 40 minutes using Zoom. This class discusses a different topic proposed by class members each week. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please email Lori Wait at lori.wait@comcast.net so you can be emailed the Zoom link to join the class.

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



Preschool and High School Sunday School Teachers are needed. Contact Sue at the church office if you are interested.

DETAILS COMING SOON!



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

9/3—Rick Pearson, Matthew Runnels,
Susan Sabella
9/4—John Moore
9/5—Anna Schultz
9/6—Cloe 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, David Hollis,
Diane Loucks
9/16—Marilyn Hopkins
9/18—Christina Bessette
9/19—Cathy Kazak
9/20—Melody Fahnstrom
9/22—Stephen Fowler
9/24—Steve Schoenrock
9/28—Cynthia Thur, Jeffery Page



Harold & Gene Lockhart
September 10, 1970

Stephen & Linda Meister
September 23, 1977

WHERE ARE THE GRACE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN?

March 7 was our last meeting. Our Spring Auction was very successful. There were many items to bid on and of course a delicious pot luck.

THEN CAME THE VIRUS!

June we would have made fleece blankets for Big Brothers/Big Sisters---Saving the fleece for Next year. September - we have 75 purses & items to fill them. These will be done next year and sent to the Guardian Angel Domestic Abuse Program. Thanks to everyone who donated the purses & items. We have paid our Pledge to District & our Haiti Sponsorship Hopefully we will be able to meet again soon. Stay well, stay safe.

Barb—UMW President

Thank you Russ Ghilain for taking such good care of the lawn at Grace Church. The lawn and ground always look wonderful thanks to you and your helpers: Tom Zettergren, Dave McBride, Don & Diane Lutz.



COMMUNION PICK-UP

Sunday, September 5th

Please be
sure to
tune in to

11-11:30 am

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**.

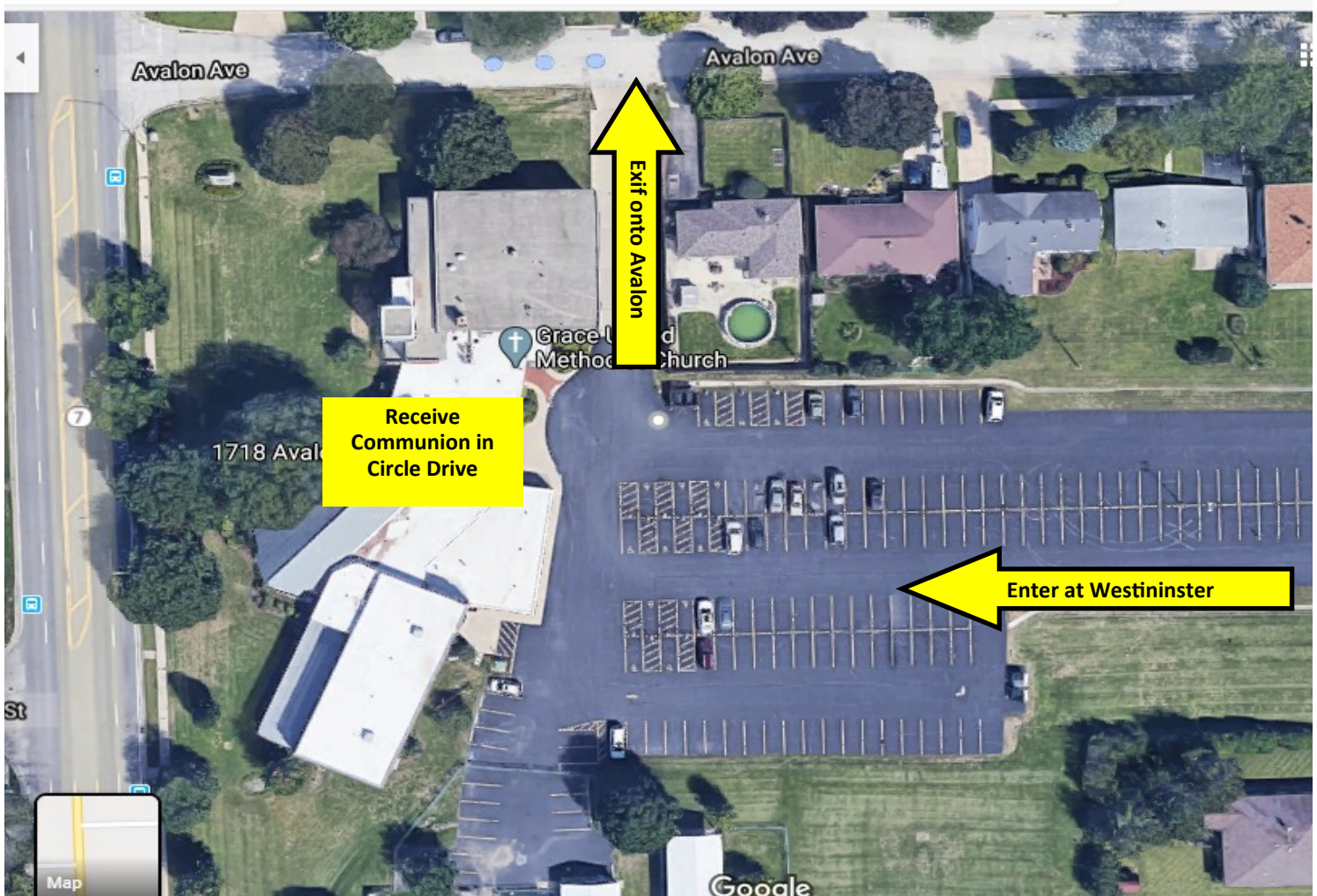
If you are unable to join us on Sunday, please call the church office to arrange a time to pick up baggies with communion elements and the liturgy. We are also willing to deliver communion sets to you - especially if you are unable to travel, sick, self-isolating or are otherwise

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



July

2020 Income & Expense Summary

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

	July		Year to Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME	\$26,400	\$24,906	\$213,600	\$208,505
EXPENSES				
Apportionment	\$2,707	\$1,794	\$18,948	\$12,558
Pastor Salary & Benefits	\$7,585	\$7,509	\$56,885	\$58,275
Personnel	\$8,148	\$7,508	\$60,767	\$58,966
Administration	\$1,058	\$591	\$7,408	\$6,723
Programming	\$1,408	\$284	\$9,858	\$3,688
Church Buildings	<u>\$11,183</u>	<u>\$7,808</u>	<u>\$59,483</u>	<u>\$51,067</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,089	\$25,494	\$213,349	\$191,277
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$5,689	-\$588	\$251	\$17,228

NOTES:

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

HOW TO OPEN THE INDIVIDUALLY PACKAGED COMMUNION SETS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drfkxKkkSEI>

- (1) Inspect the communion cup set and note that there is actually layers separating the wafer from the juice. The top layer is a clear plastic sheet. Below that is the wafer which sits on top on a foil layer. That layer is what keeps the juice component sealed until ready for use.
- (2) Fold the tab back and forth to start the separation between the clear plastic top layer and the foil layer below.
- (3) Carefully peel back the clear plastic layer to release the wafer.
- (4) Eat the wafer while remembering that Jesus said "This is my body which is broken for you."
- (5) Carefully peel back the foil layer to open the juice cup.
- (6) Drink the juice while remembering that Jesus said "This is blood which is shed for you for in forgiveness of your sins."
- (7) Return the communion set cups, plastic sheet and foil layers to the plastic baggie for disposal.

Grace United Methodist Church

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Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799



**Worship Returns to
10:30am on September 13th
Sunday School and
Adult Education at 9:00am**

FALL WORSHIP HOURS