



GRACE NOTES

Volume 13 Issue 7 August 2025

Pastor Laura's Ponderings

Colossians 3:23

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord,
not for human beings."

These last few months, I have been trying to be more intentional about moving my body. I bought a Hydro Rower on marketplace, I joined a parishioner playing pickleball and another parishioner at their dance class. As you can imagine, trying something new has been met with embarrassing results at times. I am clumsy. I am humbled by other people's abilities that seem to come more natural than mine. I definitely feel sore muscles that haven't been used in years! However, I remind myself that I am doing this to move my body more and to engage with others. This isn't about perfection or trying to have a more toned body (though, Lord I wouldn't mind that :)

I am reminded of our spiritual life. When we are doing things for the results of others or human reasons, we may not always get what we are looking for. The Bible reminds us that we're supposed to do everything to glorify God. Additionally, when we try out a new spiritual discipline such as prayer, journaling, liturgical dancing, meditation, etc. we may also feel clunky. God honors our efforts. The more we practice new ways of being the more natural it feels and the more likely it becomes a habit.

What habits are you trying to cultivate in your own life? I know Fall can be a time that there is this sense of starting rhythms. Oftentimes, people that have been gone over the summer will begin attending church with some regularity again. What are some spiritual habits that you can try this fall? It may be clunky. It may feel unnatural, but if we are doing it to glorify God and bring us into closer relationship, it is good for our soul. May we find ways to strengthen our bodies and souls as we go into this new season, working at it with all of our hearts for the glory of God.

Pastor Laura

RESTAURANT CLUB summer gathering is at Allegory Restaurant in downtown Naperville
(224 S. Main St.) on Saturday, August 2nd at 5PM.
Late reservations or **walk-ins** **WILL NOT** be Accommodated.

END OF SUMMER BASH!!

Wednesday, August 6th 4:30-6:30pm to be held in
the parking lot unless of inclement weather.

TCBY Food Truck: Yogurt free for children, \$6
cash for adults. (\$6.50 credit card)

Bounce House, Outdoor
Games, Bring your bike!





JESUS IS ONE TOUGH COOKIE

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

I can do all things through Him who Strengthens ME



RALLY DAY PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

After 10:30 am worship service

BRING A DISH TO SHARE

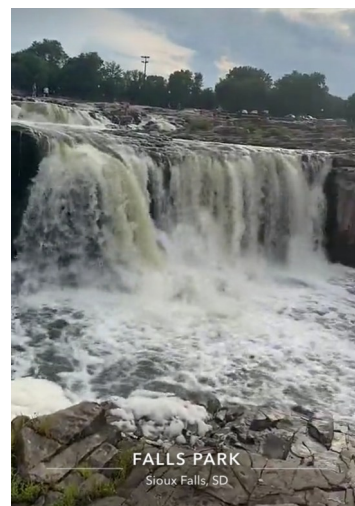
Lemonade, Grilled Hot dogs and Ham-burgers will be provided

COOKIE Contest!!!

**Cookies will be judged based on appearance, taste, aroma, originality.
Sign-up with Jonah Barkley or at kiosk.**



Made it to **Tree of Life** and got checked in. Mautise has a new friend. Visited with old director who retired back in March. Visit a house that Mautise, Chris, and I worked on back 2022. House fire and removed all the drywall and insulation. Hauled it all to the dump.



Our first day on the road. Arrived safely in Sioux Falls and stayed at a First UMC. Made a trip to the Falls Park.

Sunday morning made our way to Mitchell for breakfast. In walks a guy who looked like Willie Nelson. Leaving and outside sits a bus pictured below. Says "Almost Willie" on the bus.





We picked up a screw in one tire. Had to drop off at tire shop across the street from Tree of Life. So end up working at the warehouse. Sorting, hanging up clothes, and putting the floor.



Lunch at the soup kitchen on Tuesday. Cheeseburger mac & cheese, corn, roll, cookie, and ice tea. Very good.

Chris new friend in the morning.



Working in the warehouse with an another doggy friend.



Dropped off some supplies we found in the warehouse to the lady who runs a cat sanctuary.

A Time to Celebrate

8/2 ~ Jeffrey Deardurff

8/5 ~ Debra Macias

8/6 ~ Patricia Bell, Mary Ann Preigh

8/7 ~ Gracie Barkley

8/7 ~ Maddalynn Butler

9/7 ~ Kara Hocking

8/13 ~ Jonah Barkley

8/13—Benjamin Dow

8/15 ~ Jim Knudson, Starla Robinson

8/19 ~ Chloe Anderson, Linda Meister, Kay Ray,

Lauren Fahnstrom

8/20 ~ Derk Forkal, John Renzi

8/23 ~ Don Kazak, Mary McBride, Lillian Ray

8/26 ~ Mike Lucas

Jeffrey & Adrienne Page

August 6, 2005

Frank & Jamie Citarelli

August 11, 2012

Jay & Lori Wait

August 17, 1974

Josh & Meghan Dolph

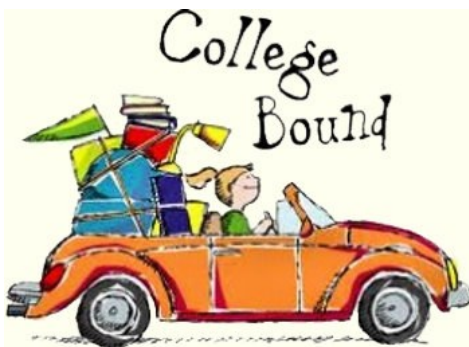
August 18, 2007

Mike & Jean Lucas

August 26, 1989

GRATITUDE CORNER

We are grateful for the many people who have stepped up to make our summer worship experience wonderful with liturgical reading, musical presentations, sermon series designs, ushering/bulletin distribution, etc.



Heading to college!!!

Please send your college address to the church office so we can keep in contact with you while you are away at college. Send your name and college addresses to

gracejoliet@comcast.net



JULY ATTENDANCE	9:30AM
July 6	78
July 13	77
July 20	77
July 27	100

AUGUST 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9a Blood Pressure screening 9:30 am worship/ Communion 10:40 a Special Church Charge Conference	4	5	6 6:30p End of Summer Bash	7 7 am Men's Breakfast	8	9
10 9:30 am worship Pastor Tim Rhodes filling the pulpit	11	12	13	14 7 am Men's Breakfast	15	16
17 9:30 am worship 10:40 a Worship Meeting	18	19 6:30p DayCare mtg 6:30p Finance	20 Food Pantry	21 7 am Men's Breakfast 6:30p Church Council	22	23
24 9:30 am worship OUT DOOR	25	26	27	28 7 am Men's Breakfast	29	30
31 Last 9:30 am Summer worship	1 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED					

