



GRACE NOTES

June 2025

Pastor's Page

Grace and peace to you! This Sunday we will be celebrating our Confirmands as well as blessing our ASP Team as they prepare to go to Kentucky to serve on behalf of our church to the people of Breathitt County. Jesus has given us all gifts to utilize for the Kin-dom of God.

1 Peter 4:10-11 says, “**Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.**”

This is the time of year that our Nomination Committee begins to have conversations with people to see where their gifts and passions may connect with ministries here at church. Each year we have “classes” of people who are set to rotate off a committee of ministry that they serve on to have a break to rest, to be filled with the Spirit for all they have poured out or to engage in another area of ministry. That leaves space for others to come and be part of these life-giving ministries of the church.

Here are some of the ministry areas with a brief description and when they meet. Next month I will highlight several more.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Serves a key role in establishing and sustaining the ministry focus of the pastors and staff in relationship to the congregation. (Meets first Monday evening of the Month, usually in person)

Trustees: Serves to guard and guide the church’s ministry and facilities. (Meets 2nd Tuesday evenings of Odd months in person)

Finance: This Committee raises, manages and disburses the funds of the congregation to help realize the mission and vision of the Church. (Meets the 4th Tuesday evening of the month by Zoom)

***Additionally, we are looking for someone to perform an audit of our financial records. It does not need to be an accountant. Additional information is available with Pastor Laura.**

Nominations: This team identifies, develops, deploys and evaluates Christian spiritual leaders to serve from their strengths and gifts. (meets in accordance to the members’ availability every month from late summer through fall).

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Church Council: This Committee is compromised of the leaders/chairs of each of our committees as well as a few “at-large” (not representing a specific committee or role) persons. This committee looks at the overall mission and ministry of the church. They cast the vision of the church, establish goals, plan, implement and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church and functions as the administrative agency of the charge conference. (Meets the 4th Thursday evenings of every other month, alternating meeting via zoom or in person)

I would ask that each of you pray about where God might be calling you to serve. While conversations and phone calls will begin in the upcoming months, the new “classes” of leaders will begin January 2026.

May we all seek to claim the gifts God has given us and use them for the glory of God.

Pastor Laura

FAITH AND WELLNESS

Hope you enjoyed Birding with Greg and Cathy in May—it was a great opportunity to enjoy the amazing beauty that God has surrounded us with!

Plus a fun and good food—filled Lunch Bunch Spring Farewell! You just can't beat food and laughter!

Upcoming Events:

- 1st Sunday Bp checks—June 1st at 9:00 am we are in the library to check your blood pressure.
- Sunday, June 22nd after worship service Faith & Wellness Team is offering a presentation “Got Stress? Let's Talk!” Debi Shippy will be leading a discussion on stress - what it is, how it affects us, what does the Bible say about it and some practical actions to take to replace stress with JOY!

Stress can be lethal - please do not volunteer to be a victim.

Come join us for this fun and, hopefully, practical discussion.

Grace Cares about Your Faith & Wellness , Debi Shippy

On May 3, 2025, 16 adults and children went to FMSC in Aurora, IL. We were there with some other groups. Altogether we packed 144 boxes filled with 31,104 meals. These meals will be going to Nicaragua!! Thanks to all who came and volunteered!



LUNCH BUNCH

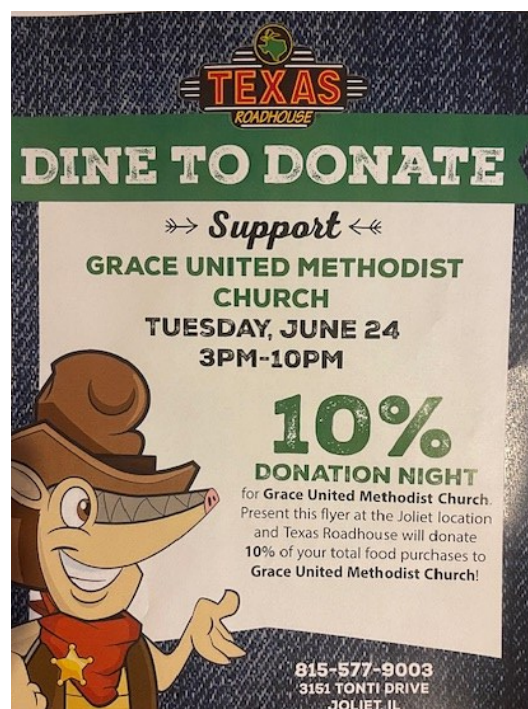
Lunch Bunch was a fun time for 20 folks who gathered in Grace Place on May 20th for box lunches, a game, and lots of joyous fellowship. Join us again in September.



How it Works-

Anyone associated with Grace United will dine in at our location on June 24th. We will record each dine-in and to-go order from all participating to ensure all sales are accounted for. Afterward, I will total the sales and Grace United will receive 10% of the sales from the event.

See you in June!





Our 2025 ASP Mission trip leaves on June 7 and returns on June 14. The 2025 Grace ASP Mission Team will be heading to Kentucky. We will meet at the church at 7:30am and hope to be on the road by 8am. Please join us for a 'sending forth' prayer.

We have 2 teams ready to go.
Teams include the following youth :

Zander Barkley
Misa Escalante
Braydon Hocking
Landon Hocking
Paxton Hogg
Aden Guzman
Stella Guzman
Adriel Zepeda

They will be led by the following adults:

Eric Anderson, Kara Hocking,
Stephanie Meister, Steve Meister,
Ubaldo Rojas and Shannen Rojas.

We are still in search of a few more 'Prayer Partners'. We would like to have one for each volunteer on the trip. For anyone wanting to be a prayer partner, contact: Steve Meister



MISSION OF THE MONTH

NIC (pg. 32) Wesley Woods Conference Center (#50000046)

Wesley Woods provides facilities and staff for NIC Summer Residential Camps, Summer Day Camp, Adult and Youth Retreats, and numerous community service and missional projects. These funds are used to maintain and improve facilities, furnishings and equipment as well as to support specific ministry opportunities that sometimes arise.



MAY ATTEN	WORSHIP 8AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
May 4	72	13	15
May 11	92	26	15
May 18	92	24	12
May 25 9:30 am	55		



GRACE SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTATION

Congratulations to Hannah and Rebecca Linko, recipients of Grace scholarships for 2025.

Joe McCormack, Memorials Treasurer, presented each of them a \$1,000 check during worship on May 18.

Both girls plan to attend St. Francis University in the fall.

Christine Butler
Newberry College

Stephanie Butler
Washington Jr. High and Academy



Not pictured—
Zander Barkley,
Troy Middle School

2025 GRADUATES



Annual Conference Session Updates

Grace
is Sufficient



186th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Monday, June 9 -
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center
1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg Ill.



The congregation is invited to celebrate the Confirmation of our Class of 2025 into membership of the church at our 9:30 worship service on June 1st.

CLASS MEMBERS BEING CONFIRMED ARE:

Zander Barkley and Stephanie Butler

Everyone is invited to a reception immediately following our worship service to welcome our new members. Congratulations to our confirmands and their families.



Our Bell Choir played beautifully for Mother's Day worship.

Thank you to our talented choir and director.



UNDIE SUNDAYS

The United Women in Faith will once again sponsor an Undie Sundays collection for the Dakota Indians. We will collect in a large container in the narthex all of the May Sundays June 15th. Women, children, and men's undies in all sizes and colors will be collected for Steve Meister and team who go there on a mission trip in July. Thanks for your support of this important project.

July 19-26th, a group from Grace church will be traveling to Mission, SD to work with Tree of Life Ministries on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Each volunteer is required to pay \$300 to help cover the cost of the mission. We have a couple of young adults that this would be a hardship. I'm looking for sponsors who would like to help cover their cost. Donations can be left at the church with a note in the memo "Tree of Life". Checks should be made out to Grace UMC.

If interested please contact Steve Meister.

Thanks in advance for your continuous generosity.



A big thank you to the United Women of Faith for putting together bags of toiletries, snacks, and socks to be passed out at Daybreak Homeless Shelter. The staff was excited to be able to hand them out to new clients as needed.

Diane Lutz

Thank you to all who donated either food or money for supplies to Daybreak this year. The number we served this year greatly increased in January, February and March. May will be our last time serving until October. I also want to thank Don, and the Rojas family for their help serving each month and Ubaldo's sister for making homemade chili the last few months. Meredith Schroeder and 2 students from St Paul's helped serve and Stephanie Meister and her nephew Paxton also served. I'm so grateful for all their help. We will start again next fall.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

A huge shout out and thank you to Barb Fisher. 1st—for all the beautiful Lenten and Easter decorations in the sanctuary. You carried us through our Lenten journey and a beautiful Easter Sunday. 2nd— for subbing in the office for me while I was on vacation. I had no worries while down in Mexico. You were all in good hands.

Thank you all for making my birthday so special. So many well wishers, cards, texts, luncheons. I am blessed,

Adrienne Hartman



With most of the expected financial activity for May completed, I am now projecting that Grace will end the month with May income about as expected, and YTD income about \$12k over budget. We will probably spend a bit less than expected in May, with YTD expenses about \$5k over budget.

Jay Wait,

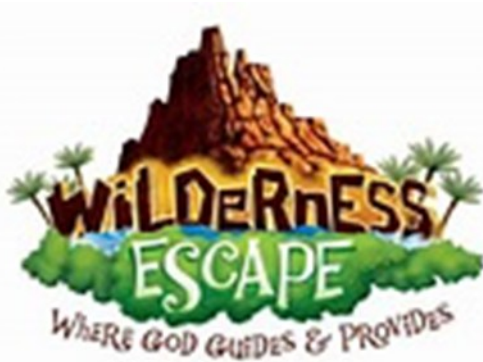
June Birthdays and Anniversaries

6/1 ~ Gail Bjekich		
6/3 ~ Jonah Linko		
6/6 ~ Dorothy Trimmer		
6/7 ~ Jeffrey Ray		
6/8 ~ Carolyn Embody	Eric & Lisa Furto	June 10, 2001
6/10 ~ Meredith Schroeder, Kristina Parro	Chuck & Maria Pons	June 18, 1966
6/12 ~ Ashley Hicks, Nathan Rojas	Russell & Cathe Ghilain	June 27, 1998
6/17 ~ Dana Shetina, Georgia Lockwood, Rebecca Schroeder	Richard & Patricia Daniel	June 28, 1980
	Steve & Andrea Schoenrock	June 28, 1986
6/18 ~ Henry Boswell	Barry & Donna Robertson	June 29, 1991
6/21 ~ Paige Anderson		
6/24 ~ Joanne Ray		
6/25 ~ Patty Strobbe, Pat Meyers		
6/26 ~ Sharon Fisher		
6/27 ~ Clarice Boswell, Dustin Deardurff, John Robertson, Frank Citarelli		
6/28 ~ Michelle Fraser, Patricia Kwasniewski,		
6/30 ~ Darrel Fahnstrom		

Vacation Bible School

Items to borrow for VBS

June 23-26, 2025



Pop up Gazebos-Need 1more

OLD Fashioned wooden wash boards

Hammers

Safety Glasses

Please put your name on the items. I will need the items by June 22, 2025.

Items can be picked up on Thursday afternoon from 4 – 5:15 pm or Sunday June 29, 2025 or anytime Adrienne is in the office. If you have any questions, please let me (Diane M).

Thank you!

VBS Wish List

A Roll of clear Contact Paper

6mm-10mm Pony beads assorted mix

3 pkgs - Rhodes Frozen Rolls

4– 4 oz bottles of Tacky Glue

1 Box of generic Q-tips

1 Roll of colored or printed Duck tape

2 containers 5 lb. Tub of Crayola Air Dry Clay



Grace United Methodist Church

Wilderness Escape

3 years – 6th grade

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. June 23-26th

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone Numbers: Cell _____ Work _____

Age Information

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Grade entering in Fall 2025 _____

Home Church _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Phone _____

CONSENT

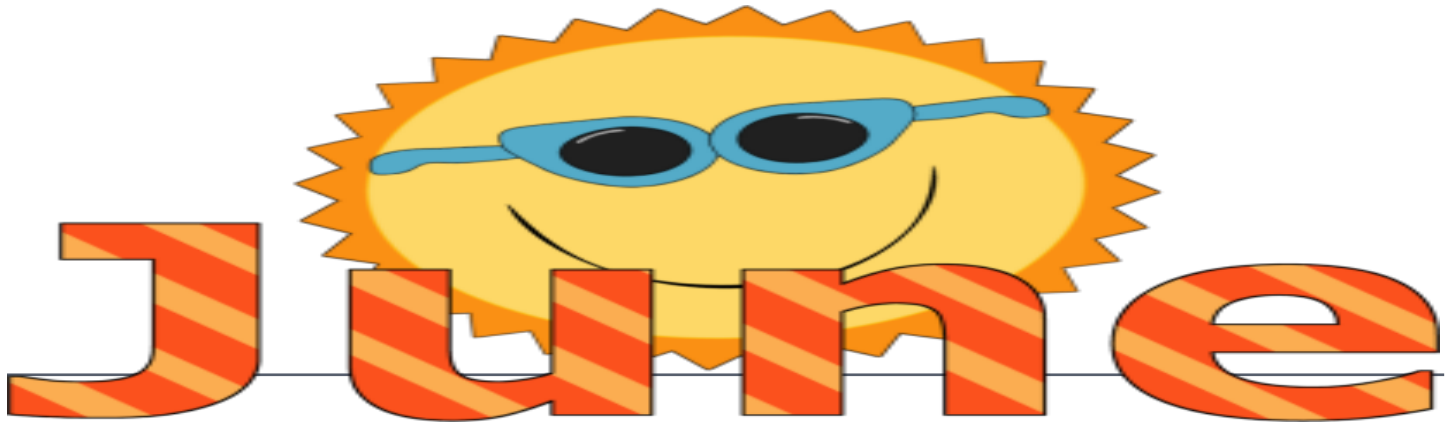
I give permission to Grace UMC to take and use: Photographs and or digital images of my child for use in news releases, web sites or electronic publications. I agree that my child's name and identity: may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s). I authorize the use of these images without compensation to me. All negatives, prints, digital reproductions and shall be the property of
Grace UMC, Joliet IL

Dismissal Information

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Registration forms can be mailed to the church or put in the outdoor black mailbox.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815-725-7632



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 CONFIRMATION/ASP COMMISSIONING/ COMMUNION 9 am BP Screening 9:30 am Worship 10:40 Fellowship	2	3	4 6:30 pm SPRC	5 7a Men's Break-fast	6	7 ASP TEAM depart
8 9:30 Worship 10:40am VBS Training	9 ANNUAL	10 CONFERENCE	11	12 7a Men's Break-fast	13	14 ASP TEAM return
15 FATHER'S DAY/ ASP SUNDAY/NEW MEMBERS 9:30 Worship	16	17	18	19 7a Men's Break-fast	20	21
22 9:30 Worship 10:40am "Got Stress? Let's Talk!" presentation	23 VACATION	24 3-10pm Dine to Donate Texas Roadhouse	25 Food Pantry BIBLE	26 7a Men's Breakfast SCHOOL 4:00pm VBS program and fellowship	27	28
29 9:30 Worship Youth Sunday, VBS kids singing	30					
					20	25

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

- June 1st** - 9:00am Blood Pressure Screening
9:30 am **Confirmation Sunday**, ASP Commissioning
- June 8th** - 9:30am Worship, 10:40 am VBS Training
- June 16st** - 9:30 am ASP Worship, New Members and Father's Day
- June 22nd** - 9:30 am Worship, 10:40 am "Got Stress? Let's Talk!"
Debi Shippy presentation
- June 29th** - 9:30 am Youth Sunday, VBS kids singing