



GRACE NOTES

Volume 13 Issue 9

October 2025

Pastor Laura's Ponderings

Genesis 1:24–25: *Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. ²⁵ God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.*

On October 4th at 10:00 am we will have a ***Blessing of the Animals*** service in our church parking lot. I wanted to share a little about this tradition and its’ roots. Of course, we hear right in the beginning of the Bible how God created the animals. God created plants to feed the animals and humankind to care for all of God’s creation.

This liturgical tradition is often attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan Order. Francis is remembered for his deep love of all Creation, often addressing animals as brothers and sisters. His “Canticle of the Creatures” praised God through all elements of nature. Over time, October 4, his feast day, became associated with services honoring animals, especially in Catholic and later Protestant traditions.

He would bless farm animals, people’s pets and those animals whose function was part of the working world. In more recent years, there has been an effort to provide a nurturing environment for those animals that will provide eggs or meat to the nourishment of human bodies. We are to embrace our call to Creation care.

I encourage you to read Psalm 104 and listen for how our Creator ordered the world so that it could live in a cycle of care for one another. We often forget this and need to repent and work towards living more fully and faithfully into that call.

We love our pets and find them to be part of their family. I hope that you will bring your beloved pets to our Blessing of the Animals (Stuffed animals are also welcomed!) as we remember the sacredness of all Creation, give thanks and bless each one.

I look forward to seeing you and your beloved pets there. Feel free to invite a neighbor and friend to this special day.

Grace and peace, Pastor Laura

LUNCH BUNCH The October 21st Lunch Bunch will meet at 12:30pm at MORNING DELIGHT CAFÉ, a fairly new restaurant located in Crest Hill at 2400 Caton Farm Road. It's in the strip center with Betty's Slots and near Catfish restaurant. Please RSVP to Pat Meyers by 10/16.



GRATITUDE CORNER

We are grateful for those who pray often for specific requests, for Grace UMC and its ministries, and for our community/country/world.

ASP WREATH FUNDRAISER

Every Sunday starting October 5th. Before and After Sunday School and Church

Look for the table in the Narthex

Wreaths can also be ordered online from home

Log into GiftItForward.com

Fundraising Code: GRACEUIL001

Referring member: Steve Meister



DAYBREAK SHELTER

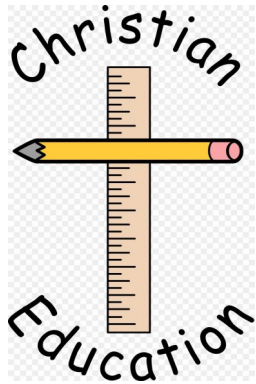
DAYBREAK meals are returning! Monday, October 20th dinner and Tuesday, October 21st breakfast .

Sign up sheets for donations are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thanks for your continued support. Diane Lutz



The **United Woman in Faith** met 9/13/25 to fill 50 purses with items essential for women who find it necessary to go to Groundwork Domestic Violence center. The purses were blessed in worship and taken to Groundwork the next day along with a monetary donation. We enjoyed a brunch together following our work.





September Kick-Off our back to fall programs. Sunday School has been averaging 28 in the preschool through High school age range. Simply Love is our new curriculum and the kids seem to be enjoying it. The Adult Sunday School classes have been averaging 20. These are great numbers. We invited everyone to participate in any of these Sunday School classes. Each class forms quite the bond with each other. Healthy groups and friendships come from attending Sunday School.

We will save a seat for YOU!



RECENT GUMC HIGHLIGHTS

Rally Day Kickoff resumed
 Sunday School,
 Donuts Fellowship,
 10:30 Worship
 Music program resumed with
 Bells and Chancel Choir
 Bible Study of Luke began
 Coming Soon:
 Leadership Retreat and
 Stewardship program



SEPT	WORSHIP 8:30AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sept 7	4/89	36	21
Sept 14	5/78	31	19
Sept 21	3/73	23	20
Sept 28	4/83	23	21



10/2 - Mikayla Barkley
 10/2—Melissa Rath
 10/4—Richard Farrar
 10/7—Brent Fraser, Brianna Furto
 10/8—Tina Mason
 10/9—Aimee Eichelberger
 10/11—Shannen Rojas
 10/13—Sandy Brazeal
 10/16—Jean Young
 10/19—Stephanie Meister
 10/19—Donna Robertson
 10/20—Michael Purciarello
 10/22—Arne Young
 10/23—Michelle Ray
 10/25 - Tracy Fahnstrom
 10/26—Douglas Larson
 10/28—Kendall Kolodziej
 10/31—Cathy DuBois
 10/31—Theodore Poplawski
 10/31 Kevin McOlgan

Marlin & Adrienne Hartman	October 5, 1979
Connie & Paul Schroeder	October 14, 1989
Michelle & Brent Fraser	October 18, 1997
Cheryl & Jeffrey Deardurff	October 20, 1995
Mary & David McBride	October 21, 1961
Gus & Nancy Kramer	October 23, 1976
Debbie & Douglas Larson	October 27, 1979
Maida & Joe McCormack	October 27, 1979



October 19, 2025
 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 and FIGHT Hunger here and throughout the World!!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

SIGN UP TODAY!!!

Our sympathy to Tom
 and Kirstin Mulvey in
 the passing of Tom's
 mother
 Helen Mulvey.



October – (Local Benevolences) United Women in Faith

On UWF Sunday (generally the 3rd Sunday in October) the loose coin offering will go to the Grace UWF in support of their missions.

UMCOR Gaza Crisis Delivery of essential supplies like food and water. Support the removal of debris. And provide temporary shelter for the displaced to the Gaza region.

Faith and Wellness



ACTIVITIES:

1. 1st Sunday BP checks. We are in the library the first Sunday of every month 30 minutes prior to the start of worship service—come see us.
2. Lunch Bunch dines again! A good time was had by 16 lunch—bunchers on September 16th. We will gather October 21st at 12:30 pm at MORNING DELIGHT CAFÉ, for more food and fellowship. Come join us. Please RSVP to either Pat Meyers or Barb Fisher.

Debi Shippy & Pat Kwasniewski

3Q Update from the treasurer.

The 2025 budget as approved was out of balance by \$24k. We are making significant progress toward erasing that deficit.

YTD at the end of September, income is \$6k higher than budget and expenses are \$10k under budget.

If income and expenses accrue as budgeted in October – December, we will end the year with income of \$314k, or \$11k over budget, and expenses of \$318k, or \$9k under budget, which would be a deficit of only \$4k for the year.

Jay Wait

Coming in November



SUNDAY SOUP SALES

The Grace United Women in Faith group plans to take orders for 18 different dry soup mixes on November 2 and November 9. On Sunday, November 2nd we will have sample tastes of some favorites. These are good to have on hand for a rainy/snowy day, and they make wonderful gifts. Selections will be available for pick up near the end of November. These mail well, so think about gifts for Christmas and other such occasions in addition to a stash for your pantry. Lots of favorites at a cost of \$10 each! Questions: call Cathy DuBois 815.228.8361.

Nov 2 All Saints Sunday

We Remember those who have left us
at our 10:30 am Worship Service.

Please call or email the office if you
have a loved one you would like lifted.

FMSC : Feed My Starving Children

November 1, 2025

2 – 3:45 pm

They would like us to check

We will be at the FMSC facility in Aurora

555 Exchange Court

Aurora, IL 60504

Please RSVP to Diane Morrow

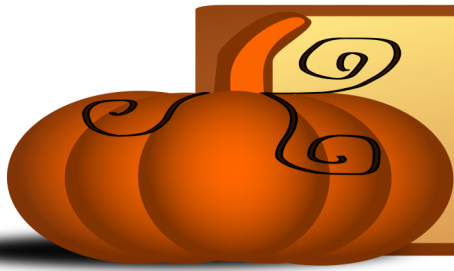
by **October 21st.**

There are only 40 spots available,
so it will be first come first serve.

**The Annual Church
Conference date is Sunday,
November 16th at 4:30 pm.
All are invited to attend.**

**CHURCH
CONFERENCE**





OCTOBER



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1

6:15 Bells
7:30 Choir

2
7 am
Men's Breakfast


3

4
10am Blessing
of the Animals
in the church
parking lot

5
830am Prayer
9am Christian Ed
10am Blood Pres-
sure screening
10am Fellowship
10:30 Worship/
Communion

6

7
10am Bible Study

8

6:15 Bells
7:30 Choir

9
7 am Men's
Breakfast

10

11
Leadership
Retreat in New
Lenox UMC

12
830am Prayer
9am Christian Ed
10am Fellowship
10:30 Worship
11:40am Worship
Committee mtg

13 **Columbus Day**

14
10am Bible Study

1pm UWF mtg

15
11:30am Pantry
6:15 Bells
7:30 Choir

16
7 am
Men's Breakfast

17

18
10am Cantata
Potluck and
Rehearsal

19 **UWF Sunday**
830am Prayer
9am Christian Ed
10am Fellowship
10:30 Worship
1pm **CROP WALK**

20
5pm Daybreak

21
7am Daybreak Break-
fast
12:30p Lunch Bunch
6:30pm Finance via
ZOOM
6:30pm DayCare mtg

22

6:15 Bells
7:30 Choir

23
7 am
Men's Breakfast

GRACE NOTES
deadline
6:30pm Church
Council

24

25

26
830am Prayer
9am Christian Ed
10am Fellowship
10:30 Worship

27

28

29
6:15 Bells
7:30 Choir

30
7 am
Men's Breakfast

