



GRACE NOTES

May 2025

Introducing Myles Grayson! My grandson!
(Isn't that awesome to say?!)

Myles was born April 28th weighing 7 lbs 11oz. He is 18.5 inches long. Grammie Laura is absolutely in love.

Thank you for your prayers throughout Gracie's pregnancy and delivery. The miracle of God's creating power never ceases to amaze me. I'm beyond excited for this new chapter!

Love,
Pastor Laura





Holy Week and Easter Sunday was
absolutely beautiful here at
Grace United Methodist



Thank you to all who donated Lenten
Food bags. Here is our Senior High sort-
ing food from Lenten bags. Big job but
they did a great job.



FAITH AND WELLNESS

Ah Spring is here! Sunshine and spring blossoms! When I lived in Arizona, spring arrived with a parade of quail parents with their babies all in a row. Here in Illinois we have other bird families to watch and Cathy & Greg DuBois will be our bird guides.

In April, Faith & Wellness team hosted 1st Sunday BP checks, walking with Jesus and Lunch Bunch at McWethy's.

Upcoming events:

- 1st Sunday BP checks—May 4th 10-10:30 am. We are in the library to check your blood pressure.
- Tuesday, May 6th 8:30-9:00am at Black Road Rock Run west of Essington (meet in parking lot) and Saturday May 24th at 8:30—9:30 am meet at McKinley Woods Four Rivers area. Greg & Cathy will lead us in 'Birding with the DuBois' - a great opportunity to learn which birds are in our area, which are migrating through and how to correctly use your binoculars. Poster and sign up sheet in narthex. Bring you binoculars, if you have them. Come, learn, and enjoy nature's beauty!
- Tuesday, May 20th at 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch will gather once more before taking a summer break. We will dine at Grace Place—come join us! RSVP to Pat Meyers or Barb Fisher.
- Walking with Jesus continues Mondays through Thursdays 12:00—1:30 pm. Grace Place gym is open for you to walk laps at your pace (just ring front door bell and Adrienne will open the door for you.)
- Faith & Wellness Team meeting is 12:00pm Wednesday, May 28th at Grace conference room.

Grace Cares about Your Faith & Wellness , Debi Shippy

LUNCH BUNCH SPRING FAREWELL

The Lunch Bunch group of around 20 folks always takes a break for the summer. Our final gathering of the season will be held at Grace Place on Tuesday, May 20 at 12:30pm. We'll enjoy a nice box lunch with beverages...a love gift basket will be available. We plan a little fun as well.

Notify Pat Meyers or Barb Fisher for reservations.



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

May – NIC (pg. 31) United Methodist Homes and Services (#50000121)

United Methodist Home & Services is the non-profit, faith-based parent organization of Chicago Methodist Senior Services (CMSS) that supports, improves and enhances the quality of life for older adults by empowering them to live with dignity and respect.



APRIL ATTEN	WORSHIP 8AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Apr 6	81	25	15
Apr 13	107	30	17
Maundy/ Good Fri	122		
Apr 20	192	EASTER	
Apr 27	72	17	17

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.

BIRDING WITH GREG AND CATHY

Tuesday, May 6th 8:30-9:30 am at Rock Run Black Road entrance. Saturday, May 24th 8:30-9:30 am at McKinley Woods, use Sheridan entrance. Bring your binoculars. Sign up sheets are in the narthex.



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 member. Congratulations to our confirmand and his family.



Thomas & Carol Zettergren
May 8, 1965

Don & Cathy Kazak
May 23, 1987

Jim & Diane Morrow
May 23, 1987

Ed & Caryn Young
May 23, 1970

Eric & Nancy Leggett
May 29, 1976

Brian & Joan Landers
May 31, 1975

5/4 - John Renzi

5/7 - Carrie Butler

5/8 - Cindy Caswell

5/9 - Jim Norris

5/10 - Jim Morrow

5/11 - Diane Lutz

5/11 - Isabella Ray

5/14 - Adrienne Hartman

5/16 - Jean Lucas, Jason Meister

5/19 - Jeannine D'Orazio,

5/19 - Connie Schroeder

5/21 - Dylan Deardurff

5/25 - Deborah Larson

5/31—Thomas Zettergren

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.

Thanks to all for your support of the

Ridgewood Pantry

with the recent donation of roughly 50 bags of groceries collected at Easter, and the \$320 free will offering at the Maundy Thursday service. The groceries will be distributed the next time Grace UMC operates the pantry on May 21, and the money will be used to purchase food and diapers. This was very timely for the pantry because the number of people receiving food at Ridgewood remains near an all-time high, and donations to the pantry have been less than usual for the past 3 months.

Jay Wait



LOOKING FOR GRADUATES!

Grace UMC will be honoring our graduates on Sunday, May 18th.

Please send to the church your graduate(s): Name, what grade, what school, a picture, and if graduating high school, future plans.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The Summer months are here! Feel free to send the office a few pictures of your summer adventures. Share your vacations, picnics, family reunions, ASP, VBS, and any other fun event. Our church family would love to share in your adventures.

June Grace notes deadline is Thursday, May 22nd. Please have all articles, announcements, pictures, etc into the church office. You can send via email, text, hand written. I'll take them all.

Looking forward to summer! Adrienne Hartman, Office Manager



April

2025 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/18/24

		April		Year to Date	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME		\$37,708	\$46,914	\$111,832	\$123,727
EXPENSES					
	Apportionment	\$1,940	\$1,941	\$7,760	\$7,764
	Salaries & Benefits	\$13,432	\$13,933	\$58,237	\$54,119
	Administration	\$1,296	\$826	\$5,184	\$5,718
	Programming	\$658	\$612	\$2,632	\$1,733
	Church Buildings	<u>\$8,830</u>	<u>\$8,527</u>	<u>\$35,320</u>	<u>\$45,222</u>
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,156	\$25,839	\$109,133	\$114,556
	SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	\$11,552	\$21,075	\$2,699	\$9,171

NOTES:

- 1) Income in 2025 is \$12k over budget. More than expected from the endowment fund.
- 2) Expenses in 2025 are \$5k over budget. Utilities and Maintenance have been high.

Vacation Bible School

Items to borrow for VBS

June 23-26, 2025



Pop up Gazebos

Old Fashioned wooden wash boards

Baskets of any size

Hammers

Safety Glasses

Blankets

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

MAY

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 7a Men's Breakfast	2	3 Feed My Starv- ing Children
4 8:30am Prayer Gathering 9 am Religious Ed 10am BP Screening	5 6:30p SPRC	6 8:30am Bird Watching at Rock Run Black Road	7 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	8 7a Men's Breakfast	9	10
11 MOTHER'S DAY/Communion 8:30am Prayer Gathering 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	12	13 1pm UWF mtg. 6:30p Trustees	14 1:00pm UWF 7:30p Choir	15 7a Men's Breakfast	16	17
18 8:30am Prayer Gathering 9 am LAST Reli- gious Ed 10:30 Worship	19 5p Daybreak	20 7a Daybreak 12:30p Lunch Bunch of Grace Place	21 Food Pantry 7:30p Choir	22 7a Men's Breakfast	23	24 8:30am Bird Watching at Channahon
25 9:30 am Worship Service	26 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	27 6:30p Finance	28 12:00p Faith & Wellness Team mtg.	29 7a Men's Breakfast 5:30p DayCare Graduation	30	31 3p Confirmation Practice in the sanctuary
					20	25

Grace United Methodist Church

1718 Avalon Avenue

Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

- May 4th** - 10am Blood Pressure Screening
- May 11th** - Mother's Day/Communion Sunday
- May 18th** - **Last day of Sunday School, Graduation Sunday and Teacher Recognition**
- May 25th** - 9:30am service starts
- June 1st** - 9:00am Blood Pressure Screening
Confirmation Sunday, ASP Commissioning