



GRACE NOTES

September 2026

In our household—and in many others—it is **BACK TO SCHOOL** time! There has been shopping to do, school orientations, back-to-school nights, and meet-the-teacher events. For college students and their families, there is also the endurance event of moving into a dorm and leaving your kiddo to fend for themselves—I mean, spread their wings as a young adult in this world! ☺

I am so thankful for the educators, past and present, in our congregation and throughout our wider community. We blessed the children and their backpacks in worship on the 16th and prayed a blessing over every student and teacher as they begin this new school year.

With the arrival of fall also comes our Fall Worship schedule. Sunday school classes for all ages will resume on Rally Day, September 13. That same week, Debi Shippy and I will begin a book study that follows our sermon series (see more information elsewhere in this newsletter). Our Bell Choir and Grace Choir will also begin rehearsals again, and we will resume our mission at Daybreak. Throughout the summer, we have continued to faithfully serve our community through the Ridgeway Food Pantry.

I also plan to offer another Pizza with the Pastor New Member event for those interested in learning more about becoming a part of Grace UMC. In addition, Lunch Bunch, the Men's Breakfast, Supper Club, and United Women in Faith will offer opportunities to gather in fellowship and serve our community.

We hope everyone will join us as we settle back into the rhythm of fall here at Grace. If you are coming out of a season when you have not been with us for a while, we would love to welcome you back with open arms.

I am excited to see how God will move in this new season!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Laura



"FAITH ABOUNDS"

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

AFTER 10:30AM WORSHIP

GRACE PLACE

COOKOUT & FELLOWSHIP

BRING A DISH TO SHARE

RALLY DAY is when we return to Sunday School at 9am, fellowship time from 10-10:30am and Worship at 10:30. On Sunday the 13th we will celebrate with a church-wide event in Grace Place which will include a cookout (grilling by our team of experts) and a variety of side dishes (provided by you). Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

DISCUSSION CLASS

Adult Sunday School Class

Come join the Discussion Class for adults. Each week's leader chooses a topic which we discuss from a Christian perspective.. Topics can be quite varied. Come check us out! We meet in the first classroom off Grace Place at 9:00am Sunday mornings during the school year. All are welcome. Questions? Contact :Lori or Jay Wait.

METHODIST AWARENESS CLASS

This class meets in the Crafty Critter room starting September 13th at 9am. We will be watching a video by Adam Hamilton. Everyone is welcome to join us. Barb Fisher is the leader for this class. Please contact her if you have any questions.

Fall Bible Study:

Pastor Laura is excited for a new sermon series "Inspired" starting on Rally Day. The sermon series follows the book "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again" by Rachel Held Evans. Additionally, Pastor Laura will be offering a Tuesday morning study at 10:00 am starting September 15th. We do have some books available to purchase for \$10. Please sign up in the Narthex.

GRATITUDE IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

Gratitude never cancels out the truth of our pain, grief or hard circumstances. That's not its job. What it does do is open up even a sliver of space in us where we can also be present to the beauty, strength, and joy of our life.

ALIFEINPROGRESS, CA

Pictorial Directory COMING IN OCTOBER

The office will be working on updating our pictorial directory in October. To help start the process, if you would like to update or have your photo in the directory please send pictures to the office at Gracejoliet@comcast.net.

I will have a profile sheet for you to look at and make any updates, deletions, etc.

With any luck, we will all have a new directory in December.

Adrienne Hartman, Office Manager

LUNCH BUNCH

Our first **Lunch Bunch** gathering of the fall season will meet in the private room at Fritz's Pour House, (1511 Plainfield Rd. Joliet) on Tuesday, September 15 at 12:30pm. Please RSVP to Pat Meyers by 9/12. Hope you can join us for food and fellowship!



Grace United Methodist Church is looking into teaming up with churches in our community for the Crop Walk. Watch for updates.



FELLOWSHIP RESUMES

Starting September 13th we will be enjoying our fellowship hour again. We will serve donut holes from Home Cut Donut Shop, lemonade and coffee at 10:00 am. If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Cathy Kazak.



August 16th OUTDOOR worship that moved inside thanks to Mother Nature. We had BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, a NEW MEMBER AND BLESSING OF MEMORIAL GARDEN STONES . Thanks to all who made this worship special.



Sara Rausch, our new member



Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden outside the entrance to Grace Place has been a work in progress dating back to 2016. The Field's Nursery in Crest Hill designed the landscaping project that included trees, bushes, flowers, various ground cover, flagstone steppers, mulch and a boulder.

My mother and father, Marie E. & Gaylord W. Ghilain, were members of GUMC for many years and involved in many activities. Some of the activities included over 30 years each teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, and committee involvement. I wanted to continue the legacy of my parents who were faithful members by honoring their memory and service in some way. I decided to have two plaques made: (1) Memorial Garden 2016; and (2) Garden in Memory of Marie E. & Gaylord W. Ghilain faithful stewards of GUMC. The bronze plaques were made by Novielle and Troost and secured to the builders pictured. The boulders were finally placed in the memorial garden in July. Pastor Laura blessed the memorial boulders and the congregation participated in the dedication ceremony at the worship service on August 16th.

Russ Ghilain





You're familiar with VBS, but are you familiar with BBS?! Bathroom Book Study! Where were you hunkered down Tuesday, August 11th? Our Book Study group and I were in the tornado shelter of the ladies bathroom for almost an hour. How scary Mother Nature was that day. But luckily we had God watching over us.

Adrienne Hartman



Put Saturday, 9/12/26 on your calendar!
Please plan to join us!

The United Women in Faith will hold their first meeting of the season on Saturday, September 12, in Grace Place. We will fill fifty purses with women's essential items. The purses will be blessed in worship the next day, and delivered the following week to Groundwork. After our project the UWF officers will provide a brunch for all to enjoy.

Oh babies oh babies!

Baby Archer Edward Parro arrived at 12:32 am weighing 7 lbs 8 oz and 20" long on July 29th

Mommy and daddy, Kristina & Mateusz Parro are doing very well. Proud grandma and grandpa Diane & Mike Parro are so very happy to welcome another grandchild.

Congratulations on your new bundle of blue joy!

Baby Alexander Daniel Hocking.
6 lbs 3 oz 19.5" long

Proud daddy Landon Hocking and
mommy Co Co .

Proud grandma Kara Hocking.

Congratulations on your blue bundle of joy.

September 23—
Steve and Linda Meister



- 9/1 Jamie Citarelli
- 9/2 Peggy Weems
- 9/3—Matthew Runnels
- 9/6—Chloe Black, Theresa Whitney
- 9/7—Joyce Hecht
- 9/9—Barbara Fisher
- 9/10—Jack Bitterman
- 9/12—Cyrus Angel, Diane Loucks
- 9/18—Christina Bessette
- 9/19—Cathy Kazak, Brian Fahnstrom
- 9/20—Melody Fahnstrom
- 9/24—Steve Schoenrock



DAYBREAK SHELTER

DAYBREAK meals are returning! Monday, October 19th dinner and Tuesday, October 20th breakfast.

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

AUGUST ATTENDANCE	9:30AM	FACEBOOK
Aug 2	74	6
Aug 9	75	16
Aug 16	67	8
Aug 23	74	9
Aug 30		

Thank you Steve Meister, Ben Meister, Mautise Boswell, & Jacob Jurczyk
Chris Bluhm for representing Grace United Methodist Church on the Lakota Mission
Trip. Your dedication to the missions are to be commended.

Thank you for leaving part of our congregation with them.
We serve the Lord through your hands.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	1	2	3	4	5
6 Last 10:00am Worship	7 WE WILL BE CLOSED LABOR DAY	8 10am Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees	9	10 7 am Men's Breakfast	11	12 10am UMC Purse Ministry Rally Day Set up
13 Rally Day 8:30am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30am Potluck in Grace Place	14	15 10am Bible Study 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch Fritz's Pour House, Joliet	16 11:30am Food Pantry 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	17 7 am Men's Breakfast	18	19
20 8:30am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:40 am Worship Committee mtg	21 ADRIENNE	22 10am Bible Study 6:30p Finance Mtg ZOOM IS OUT	23 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir OF THE	24 7am Men's Breakfast 6:30p Church Council OFFICE	25	26
27 8:30am Prayer 9am Christian Ed 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship	28	29 10am Bible Study	30			

Sunday School Registration 2026-2027

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone #_____E-Mail_____

Birthdate_____Baptized? Yes/No Date_____

Parents' Name_____

Grade in School_____

Medical Information

Emergency Contact/phone_____

Allergies_____

Medications_____

Medical Condition(s)_____

Please let us know if your child has been diagnosed with any special needs that their Sunday School teacher needs to be aware of. The teachers want to do all they can to make sure your child's Sunday School experience is a positive one.

Photograph Consent

I hereby give consent to Grace UMC to photograph my child for display in the classrooms, hallways and in the common areas of the church. And I understand that the photographs may be used in the Grace Church newsletter and/or on the Grace Church website.

Signature_____

Grace United Methodist Church

Permission, Medical Authorization and Release of Liability

(Each person must fill out a separate profile)

Date_____

I, the undersigned parent or guardian of

(Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____

A minor, do hereby consent to said minor attending the following church function: **Sunday School**

On the date of: **September 2026 - May 2027**

I do hereby release and absolve said Grace United Methodist Church, its employees, agents, the sponsors of the function, and any church members from any and all liability or damages or personal injury caused to said minor as a result of his participation in and travel to or from said function.

I further agree to indemnify the Grace United Methodist Church, its employees, agents, the sponsors of the function, and any church member for any damage or injury caused by said minor.

I hereby authorize any necessary emergency medical treatment to be given to said minor, and specifically authorized any adult sponsor, attending physician, or hospital to consent to medical treatment for the minor which said sponsor, attending physician, or hospital may deem necessary under the circumstances. The following information is provided and may be relied upon in an emergency:

Allergic Reaction to Medication_____

Chronic Illness_____

Health Insurance Company_____

Emergency Contact & Phone # _____

Parent or Guardian Signature_____