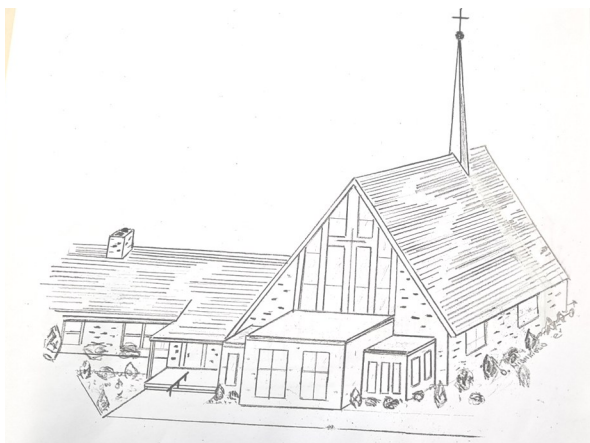




Grace Community Presbyterian Church
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724-339-9661

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Website: gracecommunitypresbyterian.org



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Our Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Owar O. Ojulu
pastorowar@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Secretary: Kellie Newcomb
secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Christian Ed: Bill Ludwig
Organist: Dane Skroupa/Lisa Clark
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zurich

Office Hours:

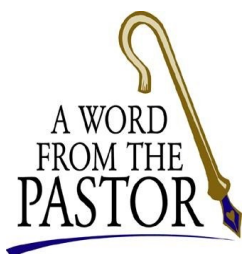
Monday-Thursday
9:-00am—2:00pm

Worship Times:

9:00-9:45am-Kids Sunday School
10:00 am—Worship
11:00 am—Adult Sunday School



11:00 am—Coffee Fellowship in Cana Hall (downstairs) every Sunday (unless otherwise stated).



Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" James 4:13–15

Dear church family, as we enter August, James reminds us that our lives are in God's loving hands. Despite our plans and goals, we can't predict what tomorrow holds. This is not to instill fear, but to foster trust in God's wisdom, timing, and care.

I want to share a story I heard on this news recently. That a 48-year-old tech entrepreneur, over a period of five years, spent more than \$2 million annually on an intensive regimen to potentially reverse aging and extend his lifespan to 200 years. This approach was chronicled in the 2025 Netflix documentary— *"Don't Die: The Man Who Wants to Live Forever."*

In July, the man disclosed his AIG diagnosis, a rare autoimmune disease in which the immune system attacks the stomach lining—like "the body eating itself," he said in the interview. His hope of living to 200 may be cutting short. And we read this story with compassion, praying for God's will, miracle, peace, and strength.

This story is a reminder that human ability has limits, but God's sovereignty has none. Our hope is not in our control, our strength, our plans, but in the Lord, who shepherds us each day and holds every tomorrow in His hands.

King David declared, "The Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1). We are not abandoned to chance, nor are we left to carry the weight of tomorrow alone. Our Shepherd knows the path ahead. He provides what we need, leads us with mercy, and walks with us in every season. Because God is sovereign, we can plan with humility, work with diligence, and live with peace, saying with sincere hearts, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that" (James 4:15). Ecclesiastes 3:11 reminds us everything has its time, but how long we live on Earth is a divine mystery.

This August, may we place every anxiety, plan, and unknown tomorrow into the faithful hands of the Lord. Our days are precious, our lives are a gift, and our future is secure in Him. Let us move forward with grateful hearts, trusting the One who cares for us with unfailing love: "... because He cares for you" 1 Peter 5:6–7.

Pastor Owar



Sermon Titles & Summary—August 2026

This August, we will journey through Biblical passages and explore important questions about our place with God, our doubts, the grace of God, and the danger of making decisions without seeking God's guidance.

Sunday, August 2nd

Genesis 3:8-9 — “*Where Are You?*”

After Adam sinned, he hid from God among the trees. Sin had broken fellowship, shame entered his heart, and fear drove him from the presence he was created to enjoy. We know that instinct too; don't we? Yet God *still calls with mercy*: “*Where are you?*”

Sunday, August 9

Matthew 14:22-23 — “*Why Do You Doubt?*”

After the disciples left Jesus on the shore, he came to them across the stormy sea. Exhausted and afraid, they mistook him for a ghost, but Jesus said, “Take heart, it is I; have no fear” (15:27), revealing himself as the great “I AM.” This is the heart of the gospel; Jesus never ashamed to rescue those who cry to him and give them strength.

Sunday, August 16th

John 3:16 — “*How Does Grace Works?*”

In the parable of the prodigal son, the father's immediate love and action exemplify God's grace. Unlike a transactional view of salvation, God's love moves first, running to us even when we're far away. This story reveals God's heart, showing His readiness to welcome back the prodigal, or homebound, son.

Sunday, August 23rd

Exodus 33:13-15 — “*What is the Danger of Going Alone?*”

Moses faced the daunting challenge of leading the Israelites through the wilderness. Alone, he must have felt overwhelmed and afraid. Moses understood that stepping into the Promised Land without God's presence would be foolish. In the same way, when we move forward without God's guidance, we expose ourselves to isolation and become vulnerable to the enemy's attacks. In the wilderness seasons of our lives, it is easy to feel alone when we neglect to seek God. This is where the danger lies—not only in the external challenges we face, but also in the internal battles raging within us.

Where you go I will go,
and where you stay I will stay.
Your people will be my people
and your God my God.

Ruth 1:16

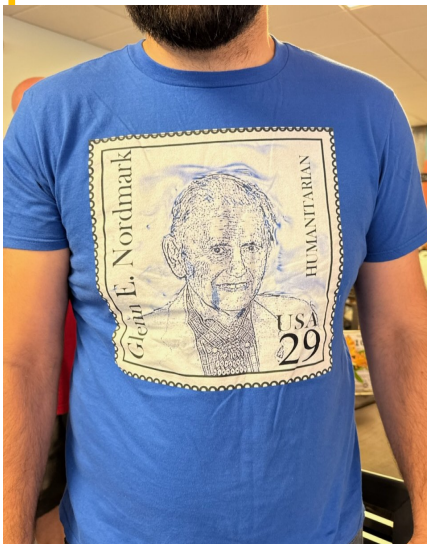
Community Events



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Saturday, November 7th—

Vendor Fair to benefit Operation Christmas Child— more details on page 5.



Glenn Nordmark's family had breakfast at the Knead Café the morning of the memorial service. They were wearing shirts created when they went on a cruise for Glenn's 90th birthday.

Memorial Garden for Ken McGeary.

The memorial service for Ken McGeary was Saturday, July 25th and it was a beautiful tribute to Ken through music and testimony.



Mark your calendars! Grace Church will host its first ever Vendor Fair on Saturday, November 7th. Vendor tables will be set up in Cana Hall and we will have grab-n-go food and baked items available for purchase. A basket raffle will be held in the Narthex (you need not be present to win). We hope it will bring in the community and raise money for Operation Christmas Child shoebox processing. More information and a flyer will follow soon. If you or someone you know would like to rent a table and have any questions, please contact Valerie or see Kellie at the office. Please consider providing an already-assembled gift basket or new items to include in a gift basket. The vendor fair will be in lieu of our spaghetti dinner as the main fundraiser for shoebox processing. We hope it will be a fun time for all.

With the back-to-school sales going on, now is the time to get bargains on OCC shoebox items. Items in greatest need are crayons, markers, and colored pencils. If you'd like to have someone else do the shopping, you can donate to Grace Church with "OCC" in the memo line. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Operation Christmas Child Shopping List

School Supplies

Spiral single-subject notebooks

(Wide-ruled if possible) Target, Walmart, Staples: \$0.35 / ea

Colored pencils (Pen & Gear) Walmart, Target \$0.50/pack

Markers (Pen & Gear) Walmart \$0.50/ pack

Crayons /24-pack

Walmart, Staples, Target \$0.50 (Crayola) Walmart \$0.25 (Pen & Gear)

Pencils – Ticonderoga or other reliable brand Sam's Club, \$13.06/96 ct (13.6 ¢ each) Other online retailers at similar price

Pens Target \$14.29/144 (9.9 ¢ each) Walmart, Bic 10-pk \$0.99 (9.9 ¢ each)

Summer Items

Sidewalk chalk Look for end-of-summer clearances

Flip-flops Dollar General

Bandannas (no camo)

* * Please remember, no liquids (liquid glue, bubbles, hand gel, glitter balls with liquid inside) and no toothpaste or soap . Also, no war related toys with weaponry.* *

VBS– 2026– CAMPING WITH JESUS



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Get to Know.....

Reitha Bieranoski

Name: Reitha Bieranoski

Family Members: Joe (Husband), Pamela (Daughter),
Nick (Son)

Number of Years w/Grace Church: 16 years

Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church: How we watch out
for each other. We are truly a church family.

Occupation and/or Retired from: Retired from Grace Church
after 17 years

Favorite Meal: Chicken Parm

3 Items Always in your Refrigerator: Iced tea, cheese, apples

Favorite Type of Vacation: Anywhere with a beach.

Favorite Hobby or Recreation: Reading
basketball. Singing– barbershop and choir in the past.

People Would Be Surprised to Know: I'm an only child and Terri
Ludwig and I grew up across the street from each other.

Always Wanted to: Travel to Alaska

What Makes My Heart Smile: My granddaughter and seeing
my kids happy.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

August 4– Randy Daughtry
August 10– Beulah Brown
August 14– Rich Acre
August 22– Quintin McGeary
August 23– Margie Bistline
August 25– Scott Rupert

August 1– Mike and Sue Pish
August 5– Scott and Sharon Rupert
August 16– Lee and Linda Johnson

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 22, 2026

Highlights from June 22, 2026, Session Meeting:

- Cathy Brady was named Clerk of the new Session.
- Rev. Ken Foust will be preaching and leading communion on July 5, 2026.
- VBS will be held July 21-23, 2026.
- The choir will be planting a memorial garden for Ken McGeary.
- There was discussion regarding ways in which long time members of Grace Church who are deceased may be honored.

Note: Session did not meet in July. Next meeting August 24th at 6:30pm.

Liturgist Schedule– August

August 2	Pat Briscoe
August 9	Elsie Deem
August 16	LaVonne Pelisari
August 23	Michael Cochenour
August 30	Cheryl Landis

Children's Message Schedule

August 9– Michael Cochenour

August 23 – Elsie Deem



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Pat Cochran had shoulder and arm surgery on July 7th.
 - Judy Sulitz spent some time in the hospital recently and is back at home. Please remember Judy and Paul (and their daughter Melissa) as they recover.
 - Frank Leipertz was hospitalized with chest pain and had a heart cath and is hoping to get into a rehab unit soon to get stronger.
 - Billy Pish (Bill and Pam's son) has been dealing with lung issues and hopes to resolve these soon.
- * If you have a prayer request for this newsletter, please let the secretary know. Thank You



Altar Flowers

Do you miss fresh flowers in the sanctuary? If you wish to purchase altar flowers, the sign-up calendar and order forms are on the bulletin board outside the church office. They are \$60 for 2 arrangements and provided by "Just for You" Florists.