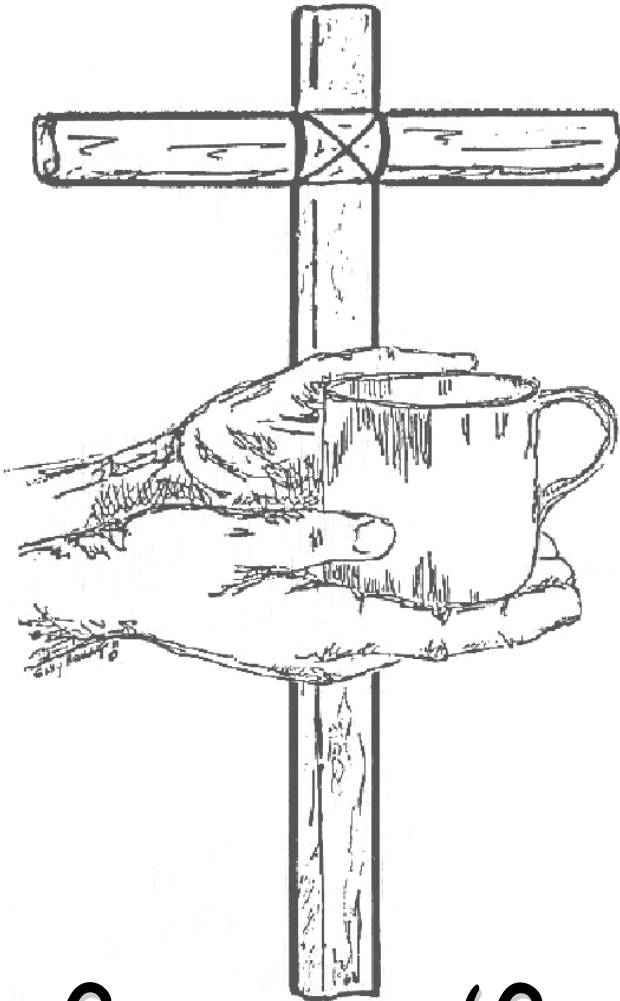


# The Celebration of Worship



Community of Grace  
September 13, 2026

**As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a time of quiet reflection and prayerful preparation for worship.**

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Choral Opening

*"Sing to the Lord a Praise Song"*

\*The Call to Gathering

Leader: Summer is ending. Our mornings have gotten earlier.

**ALL: God is with us in the ending and the beginning.**

Leader: New rooms, new names to learn, new questions we don't know how to ask yet.

**ALL: God is with us in the not knowing.**

Leader: Some of us are excited. Some of us have dreaded it. Most of us are both.

**ALL: God is with us in all of it.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Holy One who goes with us – into every classroom, every hallway, every bus ride, every new adventure.

**ALL: Let us worship together.**

\*The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise

*"Called as Partners in Christ Service"*  
(No. 495 v. 1,3,4)

Quilt Time– Book Bag Blessing  
(Insert)

The Offertory

The Prayers of the People

The Scripture Lesson

Mark 10:13–16

The Choral Meditation

*"All This and More"*

Words of Grace

*"Showing Up at School"*

\*The Hymn of Reflection

*"We Thank You, God, For Teachers"*  
(Insert)

The Choral Benediction

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

## **Announcements**

Today we resume our schedule with **Sunday school at 9am and Worship at 10am** ,  
with a Back to School Covered Lunch after worship.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Grace is proud to have a booth again at the Statesville Pride Festival on Saturday, Sept. 26. If you would like to help work at our booth, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., let Nancy know at ndavis49@gmail.com.

We are now serving a meal twice a month at Fifth Street - the second Monday and the fourth Thursday of the month. For the month of August that will be 9/14 and 9/24. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board or you can let Phyllis Rogers or Renae Keesbury know.

During August and September, we will be clearing out the beds on either side of the main entrance door to prepare for planting this fall. Over the next 2 weeks, we'll be working further to take out the daylilies. Please let Andora or any member of the Grounds Committee know if you would like transplants of the daylilies to take home.

**\*\*ICM needs Peanut butter, Jelly, Canned chicken, Canned tuna  
Mac & cheese, Cereal, Individual snacks\*\***

## **CELEBRATIONS**

### **Birthdays**

16 - Jen DeLong  
18 - Sydney Koppelmeyer

## **CONCERNS**

*Continue to remember:*

*Our friends on homebound:*  
*Clara Rogers.*

*Those issues close to us:*

*Janice Comer, Spencer Cox, Billy Adams, Kate Campbell, Lisa Wardo, Jeff Corbet,  
Allison & Arnold, Regina's friends, Hispanic community, Louise's brother, Jack,  
Government workers and others with job instability, all those affected by Hurricane Helene,  
Middle East crisis, Cameron Gray, Iredell Statesville Schools students and staff, peoples of the Ukraine,  
caregivers, healthcare workers, those on disability homeless children, our nations immigrants.*

*Those facing tough times, those who are mentally ill, those who are affected by violence,  
those who are incarcerated, children who are a part of the Guardian ad Litem program,  
local law enforcement officers and fire fighters.*

*Those in the military:*

*James Pulliam, Adam Ivey, Anthony Corcoran, Kelso Igano, Zach Thompson, Zy'cale Bowling, Ethan Matthews.*

## **Church Maintenance**

Before next Sunday - **DeLong**  
**September 27 - Keesbury**  
**October 4 -Tilley**

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

Needed Year to Date: \$76,248.88  
Received Year to Date: \$80,019.51  
**OVER** budget: \$3,770.63  
Weekly Needs: \$2,118.00  
This Week's Offering: \$1350.11

## **Second Hour Helpers**

Today - Paul V, Louise, Phyllis, Landon  
September 20 - Brandon, Sandy, Emma, Ava  
September 27 - Andrew, Nancy, Marco, Serenity



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We are Grace Baptist Church - a ministering people of God, reaching beyond our walls to the needs of our local and global community. We are an intergenerational faith community called and committed to the life of love and servant-hood through the experience of celebrative worship, the development of each person's gifts and the work for peace and justice.

In our diversity we find strength and a way to understand the inclusiveness of God. We recognize each individual as a child of God. We welcome and affirm ALL people, who and where you are, to join in our common mission through participation and leadership in this community of faith.

We are affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists,  
the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and the  
Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.

### **Ministers: All Members of the Congregation**

Interim Pastor: Carrilea Hall  
Secretary: Lisa Wardo

Music Director: LeAnda Barnard  
Church Musician: Nichole Tilley

### **Boards**

Cabinet: Carole Hendrix

Deacon: Janna Brown

Mission: Louise Grose

Education: Sam Scott

Stewardship: Jen DeLong

Worship: LeAnda Barnard

*WELCOME TO ALL who have chosen to worship with us today. We pray that being here will bring joy, peace and the presence of God to you.*

*If you are interested in joining this congregation, as we seek to discern and live out God's call to us, please speak to our pastor or a deacon (Janna Brown, John Barnard, Renae Keesbury, Tom Wiberg, Chris Brown, River Irby, Paul Vanderstreek)*

*You are welcome to be a participant in the church activities at Grace.*

You may also contact us by phone at 704-872-5130, or by email at [gracestatesville@gmail.com](mailto:gracestatesville@gmail.com).

Visit our website at [www.gracestatesville.org](http://www.gracestatesville.org).

Our Facebook page is: Grace Baptist Church of Statesville, NC

## BLESSING OF THE BAGS

**Leader:** These are our students. Will you fill their bags with your prayers, your attention, and your help?

**ALL: We will, with God's help.**

**Leader:** I ask the congregation to raise your hands like this (*waving and motioning hands towards children*) and imagine all the love and hope in you pouring out onto our children. (*to the children*) Look how much they love you!

**Leader:** Gracious and loving God, we ask you to bless these backpacks.

Make them strong for their job of helping our children to learn.

May their straps never break, their padding never give out, their zippers never jam....

May they never be forgotten in strange places;

may the burdens in them be light;

and may the bodies that bear them be strong, and growing, and whole, and blessed, ever blessed, by your love.

**ALL: Go with our students into every room, every study nook.**

**And remind them on the days they may forget,**

**that they are already loved,**

**already enough,**

**already yours**

**before a single grade is entered.**

**In the name of the great Teacher at whose knee we are all students, Amen.**

## WE THANK YOU GOD FOR TEACHERS

We thank you, God, for teachers

Who help us learn your Way,

Who show by their example

How we can serve and pray,

Who find great joy in worship,

Who listen with concern;

For in their loving witness,

They help us want to learn.

We thank you, God, for families

Of every kind and size,

Who keep the vows they spoke when

Their children were baptized,

Who pray and read the Bible,

Who love and serve the poor;

They teach, by what they value,

The way of Christ our Lord.

We thank you, God, for churches

That welcome one and all,

That nurture every person

In answer to Christ's call.

So fill us with your Spirit,

And give us life anew,

That we may help each other

Live faithfully in you.