



Grace Notes

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023 EDITION

Grace United Methodist Church



WE GATHER



WE GROW



WE GO

WWW.PEOPLEOFGRACE.ORG

300 E. Gartner Rd.
Naperville, IL 60540
630-355-1748

Grace Notes

Grace United Methodist Church | 300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville, IL 60540 | 630-355-1748



In This Issue

- Fall Sermon Series and Discussion
- Youth Sponsored Yard Sale
- Sunday Fun Days
- All Church Faith, Food, & Fun
- Singing & Ringing
- Renovation Update
- ...and much more!

You're Invited This Fall!

Gospel Concert, Fall Sermon Series, & Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

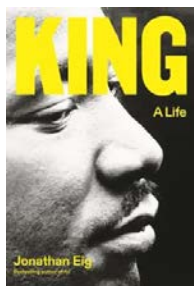
We are looking forward to the start of a new school year and the start of a new year where we focus on growing in Christ. The Mission of Grace UMC is forming disciples of Jesus who further the Kingdom of God. Grace also embraces diversity in our congregation. We dedicate ourselves to a ministry of Christ-like hospitality and compassion and we believe all persons are of sacred worth. We are committed as pastors to that mission.

On September 24, we are starting a new sermon series entitled **"Called."** We will explore what it means to be called and how a divine calling produces the Compassion, Courage, Commitment, and Contagious Spirit to participate in God's great mission of bringing about a just and reconciled kingdom.



During this sermon series, we will hear inspiration from Martin Luther King, Jr. and his life (from the book, *King, A Life*), as well as focusing on the highlights from a book titled *How to Fight Racism* by Jamar

Tisby. As we study scripture, King, Tisby, and today's issues of racial injustice, together we will seek to learn how to find a way to make a difference. This series will be intentional about bringing awareness to the issues, finding ways to be in relationship with those different from ourselves, and work toward making a commitment to work for reconciliation.



(Continued on page 2)

Outdoor Worship In the Field



SEPTEMBER 3 & SEPTEMBER 17 AT 9:00AM

Mark your calendar for Outdoor Summer Worship in the lower field. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy worship in the great outdoors with music and Holy Communion!

- ❖ There will be no 8:00AM worship.
- ❖ In the event of inclement weather, we will gather at 9:00AM in the Sanctuary.
- ❖ We will also have worship at 10:30AM in the Sanctuary. Watch livestream at 10:30AM at [facebook.com/gracenaperville](https://www.facebook.com/gracenaperville).

2023-2024 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
All Ongoing **Children** and **Youth** Programs!

[peopleofgrace.org/register](https://www.peopleofgrace.org/register)



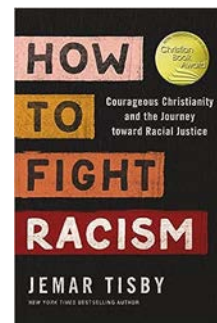
You're Invited This Fall! *(Continued from page 1)*

To kick off the series, we have a wonderful opportunity to support one of our former North Central Grace Scholarship participants, Mikel Mays. Mikel has formed his own music company in Naperville. One of the organization's missions is to share the rich history of gospel music through participation in the Divine Sound Gospel Choir. We will be supporting this choir and Mikel's vision through the **Gospel Festival Benefit Concert on Sunday, September 24 at 4:00PM**. Please mark your calendar to support Mikel and this group of talented young musicians and take that first step to make a difference.

We feel our mission is so important we want to offer additional ways to participate, so we are working with a few leaders to create several Faith Formation opportunities. The following groups will begin the week of September 24 to dig deeper into thinking about and discovering ways to be a reconciling force in the community. More dates and times will be added with additional leaders.

1) **Join a "Called" Sermon Discussion Group** – This is a four-week discussion group based on the sermon series during the weeks of September 24, October 1, October 8, and October 15. Leaders will facilitate the pastor-prepared discussion questions and address the topics of building Awareness, Relationship, and Commitment (A.R.C.) from the Tisby book, all of which will be covered in sermons. (It would be helpful to purchase and read the book titled *How to Fight Racism* by Jamar Tisby for better discussion, but not necessary.)

- ▶ **Sundays at 9:15AM to 10:15AM** (The Forum Class) led by Sandy Bray
- ▶ **Mondays at 1:00PM to 2:30PM** led by Jean Ives
- ▶ **Tuesdays at 7:00PM to 8:30PM** led by Rev. Doug Bowden



2) **Join a Tisby-in-10 Group** – This is a ten-week more in depth book study with a video and study guide.

- ▶ **Sundays at 10:30AM to 11:30AM** on September 24 through November 26 led by Rev. Doug Bowden
- ▶ **Mondays at 7:30PM** via zoom September 25 to November 27 led by Lauri Tredinnick, Lynn Leitzen, Lisa Borton, and Trudy Walters
- ▶ **Wednesdays at 7:00PM to 8:30PM** on September 27 to November 29 led by Al Williams and Richard Newell

To register for one of the Tisby Faith Formation opportunities, please visit peopleofgrace.org/called.



Looking Ahead

We are also very excited about our Stewardship Series coming in October: **Gifted for More**. The pastors will host a four-week course on Wednesday evenings, October 25, November 1, November 8, and November 15 at 7:00PM to 8:30PM with a large group/small group atmosphere. We are encouraging any current groups and classes to participate in this study. Great resources are available for leaders/participants.

More information and registration will be coming in the future. Visit

peopleofgrace.org/giftedformore to register for the *Gifted for More* four-week study.

Please contact one of the pastors if you are interested in learning more about these studies or how to get involved.

Pastor Cindy, Pastor Eric, Pastor Mark, and Pastor Kim

Small Group Leader Training

Being in community is so important in our Faith Formation. At Grace, we want to develop and grow some new community groups and we are looking for leaders. The small group leader training will run similar to a small group but in a training format. The training is three two-hour sessions on **October 16, October 23, and October 30 at 7:00PM to 9:00PM**. Come learn tips on being a small group leader. You will learn practical advice and meet new people who will also lead new groups. This is both for new group leaders and current leaders who might need a refresher or new ideas. Visit peopleofgrace.org/training to register.



Children & Family Ministry

It has been an amazing and exciting summer in Children and Family Ministry! It began with several Sunday Fundays where we teamed with Youth Ministry to have fun, learn about God, and be in community.

We also had such a successful VBS with 45 students, 25 adult helpers, and seven youth helpers. Many thanks to Becky Blachford as our Director of VBS and to all of the amazing volunteers who were heroes that stepped forward to make the week a welcoming and fun environment to learn about God.

In August, we celebrated Rachel Wiskari and the eight years that she served as a Sunday School teacher. We pray for her endeavors at the University of Illinois as she starts Graduate School. We give praise for our faithful teachers each week: Nancy Wiskari, Polly White, and Becky Blachford.

Summer Fundays with our KinderTots was such a fun-filled, engaging time. We learned through circle time with music, play, crafts, stories, and creative snacks. Lynn Leitzen and I look forward to more KinderTot time once a month on Monday mornings [beginning September 25](#).

Pizza, Play, and Praise was a night filled with joy and excitement as many people of all ages connected with one another as a church family. It was a great night of intergenerational fun. We are planning our next all-church night on October 29 called [Faith, Food, and Fun](#). Be sure to register and invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

We look forward to many new ministries and small group opportunities in the coming months!

Blessings, Pastor Kim Neace



CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN & YOUTH OF GRACE!

We are looking to expand and further develop our Sunday morning Faith Formation team with **loving, caring, and gifted teachers** for toddler/preschool, elementary, and youth. There are also **many opportunities** to be part of Children and Family Ministry.

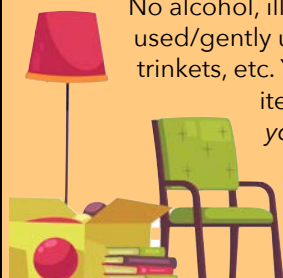
Visit peopleofgrace.org/serve for information and registration

Yard Sale sponsored by Youth Summer Missions

Got Junk? Youth Summer Missions will sponsor a YARD SALE on **Saturday, October 21** and welcomes you and your "stuff." Spaces are available for purchase for you to sell your family-friendly "treasures." Each 8' x 10' space is \$35.00 and includes one 8 foot table, 2 chairs, and a place for selling your items among others doing the same thing! Additional tables are available for \$5.00 per table.

No alcohol, illegal substances, or weapons are permitted on church property and all items being sold must be used/gently used. No handmade or new items will be sold. All items are welcome such as furniture, clothing, trinkets, etc. You are responsible for bringing your items, setting up your space, and staying to sell your items. Any items leftover are your responsibility. *Don't want to take your leftovers with you?* Add on \$15.00 and we'll take care of getting it donated to a worthy cause.

Set-up of vendor tables will be at 8:00AM to 9:30AM with the event being at 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Please contact Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org for more information. Visit peopleofgrace.org/yardsale for guidelines and registration.



Mums and Fall Bulbs Sale

Youth Summer Missions will offer mums and bulbs for sale at Fall Festival. Place your orders at peopleofgrace.org/mumsale or at the Welcome Desk **by September 4**. Proceeds from the sale will benefit Side x Side and Hope@Home. Advanced orders are required. Mums/bulbs will be **available for pick-up at Fall Festival on Sunday, September 17 from 11:30AM to 1:30PM**. Any mums or bulbs not picked-up by Tuesday, September 19 at 2:30PM will be sold or donated on a first come first served basis. Please contact Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org with questions.



Over 50 Fellowship

Join us for Over 50 Fellowship on **Thursday, September 7 at 12:00PM** in Fellowship Hall for "Program Travelogue: The Canadian Rockies" presented by Jim Nelson! A healthy, hot, and catered meal will be served. Cost \$10. Sign-up sheet in Gathering Space on the cabinet. We will select a new group name. Choices are: Off Our Rockers, Prime-Timers, or Perennials. Contact Kathy Carey with questions at 630-699-4070.



Active Shooter Training Sessions

Staff, ushers, and interested church members are invited to two active shooter training sessions provided by the Trustees and the Naperville Police Department:

- **Thursday, September 14 at 1:30PM with a presentation**
- **Thursday, September 28 at 1:30PM with an active shooter drill**

Both are one hour in duration and will be held in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact Larry Hartman at 630-269-3004 or lehartman@sbcglobal.net.



Bible Sunday

We invite all families to register their kindergarten and 3rd grade students for Bible Sunday on **September 24 during the 10:30AM service**. If your child did not receive a kindergarten Bible and are now in 1st or 2nd grade, or if you have a child above 3rd grade that did not receive a Bible, please also register. We will make sure each child receives a Bible. Visit peopleofgrace.org/biblesunday to register so we can have a Bible ready for your child. **Registration closes on September 20.**

Immediately after the Bibles are distributed and blessed in worship, the families are asked to head to the Fellowship Hall and participate in Bible navigation games and other activities. We look forward to seeing the students and their families! If you have questions, please contact Pastor Kim Neace at kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org.



Parenting with Grace Meet and Greet

Parenting and grand-parenting can be wonderful and difficult all at the same time. Sometimes, we might feel like we are the only parents out there who feel a certain way, or we might just want to talk with others who are at the same stage of life and who have already gone through it. The Parenting with Grace ministry is a newer ministry that we would like to expand and develop further. Visit peopleofgrace.org/parenting to register for one or all of the upcoming Meet and Greet. The first event is on **Sunday, September 24 from 11:45AM to 12:45PM**. Children, youth, parents, and grandparents are welcome, and a light snack of fruit and veggies will be served.



KinderTot Fall Fun Days

September 25, October 23, November 27, December 18 at 9:30AM to 10:30AM

Calling all Kids under Kindergarten! Grab your favorite adult and come have some seasonal and themed fun! Each 4th Monday will have a different theme that includes play, music, a story, and craft, but most importantly, building relationships with other KinderTots and their favorite adults. Invite friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to be part of the fun. It's a great time to hang out and get to know others through a play setting. Visit peopleofgrace.org/kindertot to register. Contact Pastor Kim Neace at kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org if you have questions.





Fall Sunday Fundays

These are special themed Sundays that have a VBS feel with songs, craft, fun snack, story, and games. These Sundays take place during our Children/Youth Faith Formation hour and are great opportunities to invite friends to join in on the fun! Our youth are part of the fun, too, as they help lead. Visit peopleofgrace.org/sundayfunday to register. Please contact Pastor Kim Neace at kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org if you have questions.

Sunday, October 15 - Scarecrow Day

This is a fun-filled scarecrow themed day. Some days and situations can be scary. We will learn that Jesus will always be with us in times of fear or trouble.

Sunday, December 17 - Christmas Party

Let's celebrate the Christmas Season and birth of Jesus together on this fun-filled Christmas



Trunk or Treat Grace!

All children and youth ages birth to 8th grade are invited to participate in Trunk-or-Treat on **Wednesday, October 18 from 6:00PM to 7:30PM** on the side lot of Grace. (Rain date is October 25.) Non-violent costumes are welcome and encouraged. Come enjoy a safe place to trick-or-treat for candy and goodies and bring your friends! All are welcome!

Vehicles, Candy, and Volunteers Needed

There are many ways to participate in Trunk or Treat! Donate individually wrapped candy in the receptacles provided in the Welcome Area between October 1 and October 16, decorate a trunk, help with traffic/parking control, welcome guests, help in the s'mores area, or help with set-up/clean-up. Our goal is at least 25 vehicles; more are always welcome! Let's make this another fun event for our community and our own children and youth! Visit peopleofgrace.org/trunkortreat to register a vehicle or sign up to volunteer.



Faith, Food, and Fun

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, October 29 at 5:30PM to 7:00PM** for an all-church night. We will start with a community meal and then engage in some faith and intergenerational fun together. This is similar to our Pizza, Play and Praise night and truly is a night for all ages. Our theme is football. Wear your favorite shirt, hat, or jersey if you'd like. After our Faith, Food and Fun event is over, anyone interested can watch a game at 7:20PM in the Activity Center. We will have fun watching it together and being in community. This is a great night to invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Visit peopleofgrace.org/faithfoodfun to register for the meal.



Thank You, Grace!

Thank you for your donations to the Kids Above All Backpack Drive. Many mission partners got together August 12th to stuff the backpacks and pray over them at their Des Plaines center. Thank you for your mission partnership. These contributions make a huge difference in helping children and families impacted by poverty, violence and injustice. Your donations and partnership with Kids Above All help them to realize their full potential while we all work together to build better lives.

SISTERS BIBLE STUDY
A SMALL GROUP FOR WOMEN

It's Not About Me
BASED ON THE BOOK BY MAX LUCADO

**MONDAYS AT 1:00PM IN ROOM 254
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11**

CONTACT KATHY CAREY FOR MORE INFORMATION AT PERCULA4344@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Save the Date

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Join Us for the 2023 Naperville CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, October 15
1:00PM in Grace UMC Lower Parking Lot
More details to come soon!
Contact Larry Hartman at lehartman@sbcglobal.net with questions.

JULIETS
Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together & Shopping

November 10 at 11AM to 2PM
Join us for a special lunch
(\$15.00/person) and a day of shopping
at *The Little Traveler* in Geneva!

Proceeds donated to Youth Summer Missions

VISIT PEOPLEOFGRACE.ORG/JULIETS
TO REGISTER AND LEARN MORE

**GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER:
UNWRAPPING THE JOY OF THE SEASON**

Sunday, November 19 at 9:00AM to 10:15AM

The best way to grow in faith is together with family. It is truly a G.I.F.T. Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) days are opportunities for parents and grandparents to come to the children and youth Sunday morning Faith Formation hour where we will all learn and grow in faith together.

Register your child & youth and family at peopleofgrace.org/gift

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas ADVENTure
Saturday, December 2

Grab your children and grandchildren and come out for some Christmas ADVENTure as we kick off ADVENT and prepare for Christmas. Tickets are \$10 per person and \$40 per household and will include:

- A family breakfast (there will be two different seating times)
- Fun intergenerational Advent and Christmas activities
- The Christmas Story
- A special visitor dressed in red. Photo opportunities will be available.

More information and registration will be coming soon.

Save the Date
Friday, February 9, 2024
A Living History Portrayal by Leslie Goddard
Galentine's Tea with Julia Child to Benefit Youth Summer Missions

Tickets will go on sale on sale on **December 1, 2023.**
Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org or Betsy Koepnick at betsykoepnick@gmail.com with questions.

Jesus in the Gospels Study

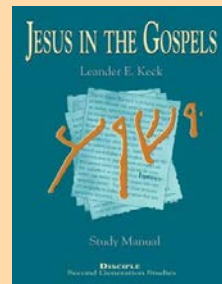
Leander E. Keck, beloved Professor of New Testament and Retired Dean in the Yale Divinity School, is the author of the Study Manual for *Jesus in the Gospels*. He is a teacher/writer, who will guide us well in 30 weeks of study on both Thursday mornings and Thursday evenings from September 2023 to May 2024.

We invite you to join us. Thursday morning, *Jesus in the Gospels*, will meet in Room 254 and on Zoom, 9:30AM to 11:30AM. Thursday, September 14 is our first class. Rev. Doug Bowden will be the teacher and hopes especially for new members to join us.

Thursday evening, *Jesus in the Gospels*, will be taught by Sandy Bray, beginning on September 21. Sandy will let us know our meeting room and our Zoom link. Sandy invites the many of us, who work in the day, to join *Jesus in the Gospels*, in the evening.

Doug and Sandy are eager to hear from all who choose to join *Jesus in the Gospels*. Please call Sandy at 630-853-8347 and Doug at 815-990-0187 **by September 7.**

Leander Keck asks this question, in the first lesson of *Jesus in the Gospels*. "Who is the Jesus you bring with you to this study?" Please join and help us answering this question over 30 weeks of study and fellowship. May we become "Christ for others," (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) in *Jesus in the Gospels*.



New Season of Singing and Ringing from the Adult Music Ministry

Rehearsals begin the week of September 3, unless otherwise noted.



Chancel Choir – Our Chancel Choir, directed by Dr. Peter Jarjisian, returns to rehearsals on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00PM and to singing in worship on Sunday, September 10 at 10:30AM. We welcome capable new members. (No auditions required!) If you're someone who reads music, loves to sing, enjoys dramatic story telling, and is drawn to using your gifts to enhance the worship experience for others, contact Peter at peter.jarjisian@peopleofgrace.org.

Grace Praise Team – September marks the 18th season of the addition of a contemporary worship service at Grace and we couldn't be more excited about the future! The team is always open to new members with the talents and passion for contemporary worship. Rehearsals are Tuesdays (September through May) at 7:30PM to 9:00PM for the upcoming 9:00AM Gathering Sunday worship in the Activity Center. The team rotates vocalists, and band members choose their Sundays. We'd love to have you join us! Contact Lynn Leitzen at lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org for more information. Please register at peopleofgrace.org/register.

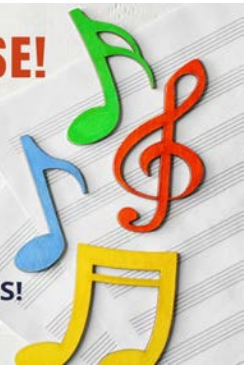
New Life Singers – We are thrilled to announce the once-a-month-ish return of the New Life Singers choir to the 8:00AM sanctuary worship service under the leadership of Shelly Drescher (director) and Claudia Winterrowd (accompanist). Register your intent/interest at peopleofgrace.org/register and all updated information will come to your inbox! Watch for more information or contact Shelly at shelly.drescher@peopleofgrace.org.

Grace Bell Ensemble – It's official! The baton is being passed. Debbie John will take over directorship of the adult handbell choir from Val Dudley, who lovingly served in the role for over 35 years. Val's amazing ministry will be celebrated by Grace on Sunday, October 8, so mark your calendars! Debbie has served in an interim role off and on for the past few years and looks forward to the challenge of leading this talented group of ringers. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:00PM to 8:15PM in Rm 160. Contact debbie.john@peopleofgrace.org for more information.



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!
JOIN A CHOIR!
MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ALL AGES

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER
CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS!
PEOPLEOFGRACE.ORG/MUSIC



Mikel L. Mays is an accomplished artist, composer and entrepreneur involved in the music and construction industries. Graduated North Central College in May 2022 and he was a recipient of Grace UMC North Central College scholarship in 2020-2022. In 2021, Mays founded the Mays Music Centre of Excellence (MMCOE), a 501c3 organization that provides affordable and accessible music ensembles, lessons and programs. Divine Sound Gospel Choir is a dynamic and soul-stirring ensemble that embodies the essence of gospel music. Founded in 2022 at Mays Music Centre of Excellence, this talented group of singers has become a beacon of inspiration, spreading the uplifting messages of freedom, hope, and love through their voices. We welcome Mikel and this group of talented young musicians on **September 24 at 4:00PM** for a concert you won't want to miss! Learn more at maysmusic.org.

**Save
the Date!**

The Ohio State University
Men's Glee Club Concert

**Saturday,
February 24, 2024
7:00PM**

United Women in Faith

September General Meeting

Tuesday, September 5

Program: Naperville Police Department Tour and Program, "How Not to be a Victim"

Please meet at 9:15AM in the lower parking lot to carpool to the Naperville Police Station or meet us at the Police Station. RSVP sign-up for lunch at the Olive Garden following the tour can be given to Ruth Wills at ruthwills1@gmail.com by Sunday, September 3.



United
Women
in Faith

October General Meeting

Tuesday, October 3

Program: United Women in Faith Give Thanks



Join us on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 9:30AM in Fellowship Hall for our World Thank Offering Program presented by Diana McIlvane, Spiritual Growth coordinator. We will learn a little about the World Thank Offering, some of the missions we support, and ways we can show our gratitude to each other. We are looking forward to seeing everyone! All are welcome!

Interested in learning more about United Women in Faith and our mission projects? Visit peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women or contact United Women in Faith President Kathy Carey at percula4344@sbcglobal.net for more information.

If you would like to join Grace United Women in Faith, or a monthly circle, contact Erin O'Brien at eobrien1451@gmail.com or Chamus Burnside-Savazzini at chamusb@gmail.com. Childcare is provided by reservation for all United Women in Faith activities. All women are welcome!

Save the Date! Mistletoe Marketplace

United Women in Faith
Fundraiser for Missions

Saturday, November 11

9:00AM to 2:00PM

Fellowship Hall

There will be many handcrafted items, quilted items, baked goods, and a silent auction of many wonderful items.

More information to come!



2023 United Women in Faith Mission Quilt

"Coastal Lily" - Hand Quilted by Grace Quilters

The donation is \$5.00 for six tickets or \$1.00 for one ticket. With your donation, you will receive a quilt pattern and be entered into the drawing.

Tickets will be sold after worship services beginning October 22. All proceeds benefit United Women in Faith Missions.

The Drawing will take place at Mistletoe Marketplace on Saturday, November 11, 2023. You do not have to be present to win.



DivorceCare Support Program

DivorceCare is a safe place where caring people come alongside you as you find healing from the pain of separation or divorce. At this 13-week, video-based support program, you will find helpful counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and practical tools for decision making.

You will meet others who understand how you are feeling and the struggles you are dealing with. You will find that you are not alone and there is hope. Through the videos and small group discussion time, you will hear from others who have thought there is nothing to look forward to who are now beginning to smile again and find that there is something to look forward to. This 13-week class will be broken up into two segments:

Segment One - Thursdays, October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16 and 30

Topics will include; deep hurt, road to recovery, anger, grief and depression, and loneliness. Since we will be coming up on the holiday season, the class on November 16 will be on, "How to Survive the Holidays."

Segment Two - Thursdays, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15

Topics covered will be fears and anxiety, family and friends, financial and legal issues, conflict, forgiveness, your former spouse, single living, and brighter days.

Support Group

During the time between the first and second segments, you will find support via a drop-in support group.

If this sounds like something you are looking for, visit peopleofgrace.org/divorce for more information and to register your interest or contact Richard Newell at richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org or 630-947-9311.



September Food Pantry Collection

Our September Pantry collection will benefit the Common Pantry in Chicago. They are finally moving from their long-time home in a church basement to a larger facility at 3908 N. Lincoln Ave. They will be able to better meet the emergency needs of their north-side neighbors by providing free hot meals, produce, groceries, and social service assistance. They really appreciate continued support. Please donate by visiting peopleofgrace.org/give and selecting the "Love Loaf" option.



October Food Pantry Collection

October's pantry collection will benefit Loaves and Fishes. They report that their food supply from local vendors, rescue programs, and donations isn't keeping up with the requests for food by the 8000 people they serve each week. They must buy more food so are asking us to help "Fill the Food Gap." Please give generously to Grace's Love Loaf at the Welcome Desk or donating via Push Pay at peopleofgrace.org/give and choosing the "Love Loaf" option.



Harvest Home

Potluck Turkey Dinner and Celebration
Wednesday, October 11 at 6PM to 8PM
Fellowship Hall

Honoring 50/75-year Members & Welcoming the Newest Grace Church Members

Tickets available for purchase at the Welcome Desk in the church office during the week and on Sundays on September 17, September 24, October 1, and October 8. \$10 per person, \$25 maximum per family, 12 years old and under are free.

Deadline to purchase tickets is October 8.

Tickets will not be available at the door.
 Childcare but must be reserved at the time of ticket purchase.

Potluck Turkey Dinner:
 Turkey, stuffing, gravy, and beverage is supplied.

Attendees are Asked to Bring:

- + A dish to serve 12 (a vegetable, salad or dessert)
- + Their own table setting, including flatware, plate, and cup

Grace UMC Renovation II

As previously communicated, on Tuesday, June 27, the Grace Leadership Council authorized funding to tackle a series of projects focused on continued renovation of our Grace Facility, and particularly considering expanded potential for Fellowship Hall. We've worked with the architects during June and July to refine concepts for enabling multi-purpose use, including worship, and have considered a rebranding of Fellowship Hall to "Grace Commons", a term that seems to have a lot of traction.

A continuing problem that gained increasing attention as we plunged into the summer months, however, is very high humidity in all of our spaces that are below ground level, including the Music Wing, Fellowship Hall, and spaces below the Activity Center. We've experienced this for several years without a clear solution - relatively dry in the winter and very humid in the summer - without identifying a clear cause. Recent investigations have revealed some opportunities for guttering along parts of the roof, renovation/repair of a sump system in this area, and further work controlling water drainage around the building. We've recognized that solving this humidity problem is a prerequisite to effectively revitalizing and using Fellowship Hall. Leadership for this effort includes John Bodine, Ron Laub (Facility), Pastor Eric Blachford (Adult Programs), Pastor Kim Neace (Children's Programs), Lynn Leitzen (Music Director), Kathy Carey (United Women in Faith), and Gaye Lynn Loufek (Youth Programs).

In the meantime, great work has been done addressing unfinished business from our 2019 renovation effort, including installing new internet-based phones throughout the building, completing installation of LED lighting in all spaces outside of the Sanctuary, replacing aged and sagging ceiling tiles in the Music Wing and back lower-level hallway, planning for a sound system upgrade in the Sanctuary, and planning for LED lighting in the Sanctuary.

Many thanks are due to our Renovation work team volunteers for all that's been accomplished to date: John Bodine, Greg Chalecki, Larry Hoopes, Nick Hoyle, Ron Laub, Bob Schmitt, John Strain, and Ron Wills. Ron Laub has been managing contact with our contractors and material suppliers, and we'll continue to try to get as much done over the remaining summer months as possible. Please bear with us as we work our way through the building. Notice of progress and future work efforts will be communicated, and, as we develop architectural concepts for Fellowship Hall, we'll convene review and Q&A sessions for members.

John Bodine & Ron Laub



Pictured is the Grace Renovation II volunteer team (left to right) Nick Hoyle, Ron Wills, Bob Schmitt, John Strain, and John Bodine. Not pictured are Gregg Chalecki, Larry Hoopes, and Ron Laub.

Welcome Riverwalk Adult Day Services

Grace will be welcoming a new program of Riverwalk Adult Daycare Services (RADS) beginning in September. The program will serve special needs young adults, a group for which few options are currently available. It will be "housed" on the lower level in rooms 152 and 153. More details to come in future postings. On behalf of the church, Trustee Chair Betty Long signed the church-approved agreement with RADS Board President Marian Stricker at the RADS Board meeting on Wednesday.

Pictured are Grace representatives Betty Long, Trustees Chairperson; Linda Kottis, Trustee who drafted agreement; Rev. Kim Neace; and Nicole Zaccharia, Open Doors Ministry. Grace representatives were given RADS glasses with ivy, signifying our growing relationship. The RADS historian had located a 1983 newspaper photo about Ecumenical Adult Daycare (RADS predecessor) at Grace Church.



Visit <https://www.nctv17.org/news/napervilles-riverwalk-adult-day-services-celebrates-40th-anniversary/> to watch a video about Riverwalk Adult Day Services featured on Naperville Community Television

Save the Date!

SEPTEMBER

9/3/2023	Sunday	9:00AM	Outdoor Worship	Lower Lot
9/7/2023	Thursday	11:30AM	Over 50 Fellowship Group Revitalization meeting	Fellowship Hall
9/10/2023	Sunday		Choirs back in worship (Rehearsals begin week of 9/3)	
9/14/2023	Thursday	1:30PM	Active Shooter Training Session	Fellowship Hall
9/17/2023	Sunday		Sunday School Launch	
9/17/2023	Sunday	9:00AM	Outdoor Worship	Lower Lot
9/17/2023	Sunday	11:30AM	Fall Festival (9/24/23 rain date)	Lower Lot/Field
9/24/2023	Sunday	All services	Bible Sunday	
9/24/2023	Sunday	11:45AM	Parenting with Grace Meet and Greet	122, 123, Fellowship Hall
9/24/2023	Sunday	4:00PM	Gospel Choir Concert featuring Mikel Mays/Divine Sound Gospel Choir	Sanctuary
9/25/2023	Monday	9:30AM	KinderTot Fall Fun Days	122, 123, Fellowship Hall
9/27/2023	Wednesday	12:45PM	United Women in Faith Book Group	Room 254
9/28/2023	Thursday	1:30 PM	Active Shooter Training Session	Fellowship Hall

OCTOBER

10/11/2023	Wednesday	6:00PM	Harvest Home Potluck Dinner & Celebration	Fellowship Hall
10/12/2023	Thursday	7:00PM	Divorce Care Support Program begins	
10/15/2023	Sunday	1:00PM	CROP Walk	
10/15/2023	Sunday	9:15AM	Sunday Funday: Scarecrow Day	Room 123
10/16/2023	Monday	7:00PM	Small Group Leader Training begins	Room 231
10/18/2023	Wednesday	6:00PM	Trunk or Treat (10/25/23 rain date)	Lower Lot/Field
10/21/2023	Saturday	10:00AM	Yard Sale sponsored by Youth Summer Missions	Lower Lot
10/22/2023	Sunday	10:30AM	Children's Sabbath	Sanctuary
10/23/2023	Monday	9:30AM	KinderTot Fall Fun Days	122, 123, Fellowship Hall
10/25/2023	Wednesday	7:00PM	Gifted for More Stewardship four-week course begins	Fellowship Hall
10/28/2023	Saturday	9:00AM	Parenting with Grace Meet and Greet	122, 123
10/29/2023	Sunday	5:30PM	Faith, Food, and Fun (stay afterward to watch the game)	Fellowship Hall

NOVEMBER

11/5/2023	Sunday	2:00AM	Daylight Saving Time Ends	
11/10/2023	Friday	11:00AM	JULIETS Outing to The Little Traveler	Geneva, IL
11/11/2023	Saturday	9:00AM	Mistletoe Marketplace	Fellowship Hall
11/19/2023	Sunday	All services	Noisy Offering	
11/19/2023	Sunday	9:00AM	Growing in Faith Together: Unwrap the joy of the Season with Family	122, 123, Fellowship Hall
11/19/2023	Sunday	4:00PM	NaperVoice Concert	Sanctuary
11/27/2023	Monday	9:30AM	KinderTot Fall Fun Days	122, 123, Fellowship Hall
11/27/2023	Monday	6:30PM	Parenting with Grace Meet and Greet	122, 123, Fellowship Hall
11/30/2023	Thursday	12:00PM	Over 50 Fellowship Group	Fellowship Hall
11/30/2023	Thursday	7:00PM	Grace Church Conference	

DECEMBER

12/2/2023	Saturday	Morning	Christmas ADVENTure	Fellowship Hall
12/3/2023	Sunday	Afternoon	Prairie Central District Choir Concert	Sanctuary
12/10/2023	Sunday	10:30AM	Children's Christmas Musical	Sanctuary
12/16/2023	Saturday	9:00AM	Parenting with Grace Meet and Greet	122, 123, Fellowship Hall
12/17/2023	Sunday	9:15AM	Sunday Funday: Christmas Party	122, 123
12/18/2023	Monday	9:30AM	KinderTot Fall Fun Days	122, 123, Fellowship Hall
12/20/2023	Wednesday		Luminary Drive (12/22/23 rain date)	
12/24/2023	Sunday	9:00AM, Noon, 3PM, 4:30PM, 8PM, 10PM	Christmas Eve Worship Services	Sanctuary

Fall Festival for All Ages!

All are welcome to join us for a day of food, fellowship, and fun on **Sunday, September 17 at 11:30AM to 1:30PM!** Tickets and registration are required. Visit peopleofgrace.org/fallfestival to purchase your tickets or register at the Welcome Desk. Tickets are \$5.00 each (children 2 & under free). Families of 4 or more are offered a family ticket for \$20.00. Families of 8 or more are asked to purchase multiple family tickets. Ticket price includes entry, lunch, and all activities at the festival! Activities include, but are not limited to, Belgian horse-drawn wagon rides, a petting zoo, crafts, face painting, and more!

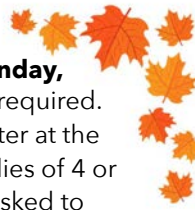
Fall Festival Volunteers are Needed

Fall Festival is such a fun and exciting day for our church family and our community. Please prayerfully consider signing up for one of the many volunteer opportunities!

Visit peopleofgrace.org/fallfestival to sign up. Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek at gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org with questions or for more information.



Join us for Outdoor Worship on Sunday, September 17 at 9AM!



Save the Date!

**Christmas Eve
Worship Services**

Sunday, December 24

9:00AM

Noon

3:00PM

4:30PM

8:00PM

10:00PM

Grace Notes Publication Dates

In 2023, the *Grace Notes* newsletter will be published every *other month*. The next publication date is **November 1**. The deadline for materials for the newsletter is the **October 20**. Please send your questions and submissions to communications@peopleofgrace.org.

Mailed Newsletters

Due to rising printing, paper, and postage costs, we are trying to reduce expenses for Grace as much as possible. If you would like to **continue to receive a printed copy** of the bi-monthly *Grace Notes* newsletter, please email communications@peopleofgrace.org or call the church office at 630-355-1748. Thank you for your help!

*Grace Notes
Monthly
Newsletter*

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We Gather | We Grow | We Go