

# Grace Notes

JULY/AUGUST 2023 EDITION

Grace United Methodist Church



WE GATHER



WE GROW



WE GO

[WWW.PEOPLEOFGRACE.ORG](http://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

- VBS Mission Partner
- KinderTot Summer Fun Days
- Sunday Fun Days
- All Church Pizza, Play, & Praise
- Grace Community Builders
- Annual Conference Lay Report
- ...and much more!

## Outdoor Summer Worship In the Field

**JULY 2, AUGUST 6, & SEPTEMBER 3 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 on these Sundays.
- ❖ 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://facebook.com/gracenaperville).



## Grace Summer Concert

**Henry Rye and Myroslav Mykhailenko**  
**Sunday, July 16**  
**5:00PM Concert**

Don't miss this special performance! Henry Rye will play organ and Myroslav Mykhailenko will play piano for this free concert.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JULY 10 TO JULY 14**



Anyone over 18 years of age and SafeGatherings approved.

**Registration and information at**  
[peopleofgrace.org/vbs2023](https://peopleofgrace.org/vbs2023)

## VBS Mission Partner

We have chosen KidsAboveAll as our mission partner/recipient for Vacation Bible School. Everyone is invited to participate in the Back to School Backpack Drive from **July 2 to July 16**. We are focusing on a collection of the following items but school supplies are needed for all school aged children. Visit [peopleofgrace.org/vbscollection](https://peopleofgrace.org/vbscollection) for information and the list of most needed items. Please contact Becky Blachford at [vbs@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:vbs@peopleofgrace.org) or Gaye Lynn Loufek at [gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) with questions.



## KinderTot Summer Fun Days

**Wednesdays on July 19 to August 9 from 9:30AM to 10:30AM**

Calling all Kids under Kindergarten! Grab your favorite adult and come have some themed summer fun! Each week will have a different theme that includes play, music, a story, a prayer, and building relationships with other KinderTots and their favorite adults. Invite friends and neighbors to be part of the fun. It's a great time to hang out and get to know others in a play setting. Visit [peopleofgrace.org/kindertot](https://peopleofgrace.org/kindertot) for information and registration. Contact Pastor Kim Neace at [kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org) if you have questions.



## Pizza, Play & Praise!

Save the evening of **Friday, July 28 at 5:30PM to 7:00PM**, and join us for an ALL CHURCH PIZZA party! Come have dinner and join our church family for some pure, simple fun--yes, FUN for ALL ages! Let's worship and praise God in unique ways! Be sure to invite your friends, neighbors, and family to spend the evening getting to know the people of Grace.

The cost is \$5 per person, \$20 max per household. Registration and payment by credit/debit card can be done by visiting [peopleofgrace.org/pizzaplaypraise](https://peopleofgrace.org/pizzaplaypraise). If you want to pay cash or check or need help with registration, please contact Pastor Kim at 630-975-0696 or [kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org), or Gaye Lynn at 630-254-8986 or [gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org). They would be happy to help.



## Reel People

Are you a movie buff? Do you like to see movies on the big screen? Do you also prefer the good old movies with Jimmy Stewart or Clark Gable or Liz Taylor to today's super heroes? Come join us! We are "Reel People," a senior movie review group who have been meeting since 2006. We select a film (either currently showing or on DVD), watch it independently, and then convene at the church for a critique. Meetings are usually on the **4th Thursday at 1:00PM**. We'd love to have you join us! Questions? Call Dick Trondsen at 630-340-5080.



## SUCCESSFUL Suds on Sunday!

Thank you to ALL who supported our fundraiser on Sunday, June 4! We washed approximately 45 cars and sent all of them home with their rightful owners! We truly appreciate your generosity and support!

## Thank You from Pastor Kim

I want to thank everyone for such a warm and friendly welcome to Grace UMC. I feel right at home and am so happy to be here. I look forward to being in ministry together.

We had a great start this summer with our first Sunday Fun Day: God's Wonder Full World. We had 20 children and many youth helpers and adult leaders. The children found many "wonder full" things on our nature scavenger hunt. They painted beautiful rocks to remind them that they are "children of God." Pinecone bird feeders will be placed in a special place at their home as a place to connect with God and nature. We even ate dirt. No, not real dirt, but had an Oreo pudding Dirt Dessert for our snack with some tasty worms. Children and youth, be sure to register for our next two Sunday Fun Days: **Water Wonder on July 16 and Wonderful School Year: Bubbles, Beach, and Backpacks on August 20** by visiting [peopleofgrace.org/sundayfunday](https://peopleofgrace.org/sundayfunday).

I have had many Meet and Greets and I so appreciate the time and conversations with each person as they have been so meaningful. It has allowed me to get to know others better as well as get to know the hopes and dreams of the people for our church. It also helps me to learn many of the wonderful ministries at Grace UMC.

These Meet and Greets are for all ages. So, if you have not signed up for a time, please do so by visiting [peopleofgrace.org/greetpastorkim](https://peopleofgrace.org/greetpastorkim). I would love to spend time with you and be in conversation with you. If you don't see a time that works, please email me at [kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org) and we can set up a good time.

Blessings,  
Pastor Kim Neace



## Sunday Fun Days

**July 16 & August 20 at 9:15AM to 10:15AM**

These are special themed Sundays that have a VBS feel. These Sundays take place during our Sunday school 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 out.

### Sunday, July 16 - Water Wonder

Come learn about the amazing story of the parting of the Red Sea as we experience water in new ways along the River. Play games with other friends and have a themed snack together. Invite friends and neighbors.

### Sunday, August 20 - Wonderful School Year: Bubble, Beach, and Backpack Day

"Pop" in for some fun as we transition out of summer and get ready to celebrate the start of a new school year. Come play with bubbles in a beach themed atmosphere and pack your backpack with lots of love for the year. Be sure to get your Backpack blessed in one of the worship services. Invite friends and neighbors.

To register, visit [peopleofgrace.org/sundayfunday](https://peopleofgrace.org/sundayfunday). Please contact Pastor Kim Neace at [kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:kim.neace@peopleofgrace.org) with questions.



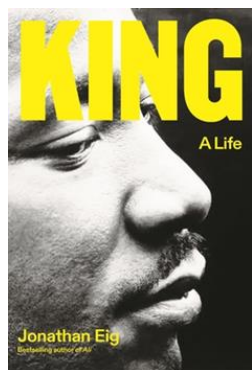
## Active Shooter Training Sessions

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](mailto:lehartman@sbcglobal.net).



## Celebrating the 95th Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We invite you to get a head start on the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s 95th birthday by reading the new biography, appropriately entitled, "King, A Life" by Jonathan Eig. "Vividly written and exhaustively researched, this book is the first major biography in decades of the civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. In this revelatory new portrait of the preacher and activist who shook the world, the bestselling biographer gives us an intimate view of the courageous and often emotionally troubled human being who demanded peaceful protest for his movement but was rarely at peace with himself." ([amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

Watch for further opportunities for discussion groups using this new book, allowing us to explore the scope of King's humanness and leadership through his commitment, compassion, courage and confidence in God's call upon his life.

We will enhance the book reading on **Sunday, September 24** with a special gospel choir concert! Save the date for this performance featuring Mikel Mays and the Divine Sound Gospel Choir. Mikel is a past recipient of the Grace Religion and Race Minority scholarship and founder of Mays Music Centre of Excellence in Naperville. This nonprofit organization was created to provide individuals in the Chicago area with high-quality, diverse music lessons, programs, and ensembles that are affordable and accessible to all. Learn more at [maysmusic.org](https://maysmusic.org).



### Congratulations Confirmands!

On Sunday, May 7, the 2023 Confirmation Class gathered to confirm their baptism and became the newest "new" members of Grace. We celebrate with these twenty young people becoming full members of the Body of Christ. **Congratulations Confirmands!**



### Congratulations Seniors!

On Sunday, May 21, we recognized our graduating seniors and heard about their plans for the future. **Congratulations Graduates!**



## 2023 Grace Community Builders

You're invited to join a Grace Community Builders (GCB) Group beginning the week of September 17!

Grace Community Builders help build a stronger sense of community within our church. This powerful idea is based on getting to know other members of our church better and to have an enjoyable time while doing it. Each (GCB) Group is comprised of six people. Each Community Builder will spend approximately one hour a week with a different participant in his/her group over a period of five weeks.

A pairing sheet, with phone numbers and email addresses, is provided, in advance of the meetings, which identifies each Community Builder and who he/she will meet with during each of the five weeks. The meetings are set up by each participant and can be at the church gathering space, at a restaurant, coffee shop, or wherever you choose.

Soon after the five weeks, we will have a potluck at the church for participants and their spouse, significant other, or a friend. To join a group or for more information, contact Bill Fronk at 913-961-2903 or [wcfronk1@gmail.com](mailto:wcfronk1@gmail.com). **The deadline to join is August 28.** Groups will begin meeting the week of September 17.



## Over 50 Fellowship

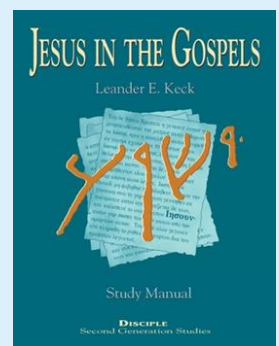
We are working on a new name as we revitalize the Over 50 Fellowship Group. Come to the first meeting and find out who we are. We will have food, fellowship, and fun! Join us on **Thursday, September 7 at 11:30AM** in Fellowship Hall. A catered hot lunch will begin at 12:00PM. Program following the meal. We will have a sign-up sheet beginning in mid August. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Carey at [percula4344@sbcglobal.net](mailto:percula4344@sbcglobal.net) or 630-699-4070.

## Jesus in the Gospels Study

We would like to invite our Grace Church congregation to join us in the Disciple Bible Study Series, **Jesus in the Gospels**. The overarching aim of the study is to deepen discipleship through better understanding of the biblical texts and their message. This study helps group members explore how Jesus is rooted in Judaism and the Scriptures of Judaism, and that Christianity and the New Testament are rooted in the Scriptures of Judaism—our Old Testament. This course will run for 30 weeks from September 2023 until May 2024. Class breaks will occur during the holiday season.

There will be two classes offered: one on **Thursday mornings from 9:30AM to 11:30AM** and on **Thursday evenings from 7:00PM to 8:30PM**. Pastor Doug Bowden will lead the morning class, beginning on Thursday, September 14 in Room 254. Sandy Bray will lead the evening class beginning on Thursday, September 21 in person (room TBD) and on Zoom.

If you wish to participate, please contact Sandy at 630-853-8347 or Doug at 815-990-0187 by no later than August 25 so course materials can be ordered prior to the start of classes on September 14.



## United Women in Faith September General Meeting



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Tuesday, September 5**

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

At 9:15AM, meet in the lower parking lot to carpool to the Naperville Police Station or meet us at the Police Station. Lunch out at a local restaurant to be announced later. For more information about United Women in Faith, contact UWF President Kathy Carey at [percula4344@sbcglobal.net](mailto:percula4344@sbcglobal.net) or visit [peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women](http://peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women). If you would like to join United Women in Faith, or a monthly circle, contact Erin O'Brien at [eobrien1451@gmail.com](mailto:eobrien1451@gmail.com) or Chamus Burnside-Savazzini at 919-219-6363. All women are welcome!

## United Women in Faith Book Group

Join the Grace UWF Book Group on the 4th Wednesday of each month in January through October. We will meet in person at the church with a ZOOM option to discuss the book of the month. Please contact Cathy Connor at [cathy.connor.05@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.connor.05@gmail.com) for more information.

### July Book

*Have A Little Faith* by Mitch Albom  
Meets Wednesday, July 26 at 12:45PM

### August Book

*A Woman on Fire* by Lisa Barr  
Meets Wednesday, August 23 at 12:45PM



## NaperVoice

By Barb Ceruti

Big congratulations to NaperVoice for winning the \$5,000 first place prize in Old National Bank's "Choose Your Charity" contest!

NaperVoice is a unique philanthropic choir of professional and amateur singers ranging in age from 20-75, five of whom are vocalists from Grace. Founded and conducted by frequent Grace guest organist Phil Spencer, NaperVoice performs two concerts a year in our Grace sanctuary.

"I've always admired Grace Church as a concert space," said Phil, an accomplished conductor, concert organist, harpsichordist, and composer whose moving anthem "That Would Be the Day" was sung by our Chancel Choir on June 4. Directed by Grace Music Minister Dr. Peter Jarjisian, the anthem was accompanied on the piano by Phil.

NaperVoice offered its first concert of 2023 this past spring. If you would like to enjoy this talented group's broad variety of music again, or for the first time, be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, November 19, 4:00 p.m. in the Grace sanctuary.

Tickets can be purchased at [napervoice.org](http://napervoice.org) or at the door.



## People Helping People

By Richard Newell

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

In this Bible verse, God makes His desire for us clear; to care for one another.

But how do we care, love one another? We do so by checking in with others, by coming along side someone who is experiencing a difficult time. At Grace Church, we have multiple ministries specifically formed to help carry out God's commandment.

Two such ministries are **Stephen Ministry** and **GraceCares**.

### Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are lay people from this congregation who are trained to provide support for other members who are experiencing challenging times. Confidential support is provided by coming along side you and bringing Christ's love and care. These challenges can be issues with life changes such as loss of a loved one, a job, perhaps a relationship, or if you are struggling with chronic or a terminal illness.

### GraceCares

GraceCares is another ministry geared to provide social support for people who are unable to attend church in person and would like to stay connected with Grace Church. GraceCares team members visit people where they live, or perhaps in a hospital. These members can bring social support and help people stay connected to Grace Church by bringing bulletins and newsletters, reading scripture, and praying with you. Additionally, they can bring Communion.

If you would like to connect with one of these ministries, please contact the church at 630 355-1748 or one of the leaders listed below.

#### Stephen Ministry

Pam Valesh

Email: [pamelariley@gmail.com](mailto:pamelariley@gmail.com)

#### GraceCares

Rich Newell

Email: [richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org)

Phone: 630-947-9311



## DivorceCare Support Program

Visit [peopleofgrace.org/divorce](https://peopleofgrace.org/divorce) for more information and to register your interest.

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. If this sounds like something you are looking for, visit [peopleofgrace.org/divorce](https://peopleofgrace.org/divorce) for more information and to register your interest or contact Richard Newell at [richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org) or 630-947-9311. Once we have a group formed, we will contact you with preferences for date and time of the first session.





## Grace in Mission!

By Rev. Cindy Marino

The people of Grace UMC have long been passionate about supporting missions. The leadership of Grace has always looked for opportunities where providers and recipients work in partnership for mutual edification. The goal is to raise the quality of life for all and to nurture God's kingdom through food and housing support, expanding our awareness of God's love together. We believe we are all in need in one way or another.

The leadership of Grace considered this a few years ago in determining how to address missions in the church's budget. The Leadership Council approved a new strategy of choosing three missions on which to focus the church's giving. One of the criteria was that there be people from Grace participating in these missions in some hands-on capacity. The three choices were Faith Build, supporting local housing needs; Feed My Starving Children, a global hunger initiative, and Hessed House, addressing regional homeless needs. Teams from Grace are active in each of these ministries. Grace also supplements three food pantries with weekly food drives. This narrowing of focus allows Grace to provide both funds and volunteers for these vital ministries.

This giving strategy for Grace has not limited giving to other initiatives supported by groups and individuals throughout Grace. Each summer our Children's Ministry supports a school supply drive. Grace Youth Ministry raises funds for a weeklong mission trip that impacts both nonprofits and struggling individuals. Last year, the pastor and children's director traveled to New Orleans for hurricane recovery efforts through the conference Volunteers in Mission program. The people of Grace also support various clothing and shoe drives and Christmas gift-giving programs. Grace members participate with their time and funds to Bridge Ministries, Wayside Cross, and immigrants' needs (including this year's Bishops' appeal at the Annual Conference which raised almost \$700!). Grace has brought awareness to ethnic and racial issues by supporting gifted musicians in its concert ministry. The United Women of Faith, Questors, and other groups choose additional worthy recipients to support with their tireless efforts and thousands of dollars each year. Global missions are also funded through the Grace Foundation and through Grace's giving to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Grace members are also passionate about supporting the environment through the collection of Styrofoam, cleaning the riverbanks, recycling, and working to make the building energy efficient.

Missional giving is vital to the life of a disciple, and these and other efforts combine to support our overall mission of forming disciples of Jesus Christ to further God's kingdom. Sharing God's love requires that we offer that cup of water, sharing in the blessing we have received in God's generous love.



### July Food Pantry Collection

Our July pantry collection will benefit Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry. They are currently feeding more than 1,100 families every week. Many are impacted by inflation and the recent reduction of SNAP benefits has put a further strain on families who were already struggling to make ends meet. Every \$1 donated helps the pantry purchase \$8 worth of food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Your monthly donations to Grace's Love Loaf via Push Pay are greatly appreciated! Visit [peopleofgrace.org/give](http://peopleofgrace.org/give) and selecting the "Love Loaf" option.



### August Food Pantry Collection



Our August pantry collection will benefit the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry.

Clients visit either their West Pantry on Highland Ave or their East Pantry behind the East Aurora High School once a week to shop for milk, fresh produce, frozen meat, nonperishable food items, bread and bakery items. Personal care items, paper goods and cleaning supplies are offered when available. Many guests are children, seniors, low income residents and persons with disabilities. Many are employed but don't earn enough to make ends meet. Please give generously to Grace's Love Loaf at the Welcome Desk or donating via Push Pay at [peopleofgrace.org/give](http://peopleofgrace.org/give) and choosing the "Love Loaf" option.

## 2023 NIC Annual Conference Lay Report

By John Bodine and Jaci Tschirhart



Every year, representatives from the Northern Illinois Conference, which includes over 300 churches, meet. Over the course of three days, lay members and clergy discuss legislation, the conference budget, pray, share bible study, greet old friends, and make new friends. This year's meeting took place on June 6 through June 8. This was the second in-person Annual Conference in several years due to the COVID pandemic, and the first for our new Bishop, Dan Schwerin.

The NIC Annual Conference, one of many across the US, is run by parliamentary procedures. This year's conference had a very strong emphasis on inclusion and equity, "welcoming all people to our table." The first lay gathering was a coaching session on effective ways to handle disagreements while engaging in conversation on very heated topics. We anticipated challenging sessions thereafter but for the most part discussions were respectful. In previous years, questions related to sexuality had been very volatile and led to a schism in many church communities. In the end, with respect to this NIC Annual Conference, there seemed to be calmer spirits and greater solidarity on inclusion than seen in the past.

The United Methodist Church (UMC) has struggled in recent years with disagreements concerning LGBTQIA+ concerns, particularly regarding openly gay ministry and gay marriage. The UMC is in the midst of a breakup with some churches "disaffiliating," meaning that they are breaking away to become an independent church or to join another group of churches. One piece of legislation involved approving the disaffiliation of eight churches who have gone through the proper procedures to leave the UMC. These churches paid a sum that included their share of clergy pensions, their apportionments through 2024, any remaining loans that were held by the conference, and an assessment of their building, which they would be permitted to take with them. The reason these churches were leaving was their discomfort with acceptance of LGBTQIA+ members and the realization that the discriminatory language that currently exists in the UMC Book of Discipline would likely be removed in the near future. Two churches in the NIC wanting to disaffiliate were unable to do so because they could not satisfy the financial requirements.

Other events included the celebration of new ordinations, the announcement of new clergy assignments, retirements, and those who have passed in the past year were remembered. Former associate pastors Rev. Daniel Cochran and Rev. Tammy Scott were assigned to Wheaton Gary UMC and Aurora Wesley UMC, respectively. Rev. Lisa Telomen is relocating to California and will work in adjunct conference roles in her new area.

Proposed legislation is constructed for varying purposes: to give direction to conference staff, as well as to signal commitment to actions and philosophies that govern our faith in the NIC. For legislative changes to be enacted in the Book of Discipline, however, all locally approved changes must be considered by the General Conference, a global meeting of world-wide Methodists every four years. At that point, our Northern Illinois interests are weighed and measured in context with all others from around the world. Some NIC ideas succeed and some do not. Legislation that was approved included establishing minimum pay for clergy, removal of discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline, supporting a US regional conference, support of immigrants, and opposing apartheid in the Holy Land, to name a few. If you are interested in reading the details, they may be found at the conference website at [umcnic.org](http://umcnic.org).

### Update on Parking Agreement with North Central College

North Central College has withdrawn their request for students to use the upper park lot in the fall and spring.

## The ROCK Relocation

### *Where there's a will, there's a way!*

"If the pharaohs could build the pyramids, we can move this rock!" declared Bob Schmitt. He was referring to an interesting boulder that resided in the woods bordering Gartner and the upper parking lot. With a lot of thought and some muscle, that rock has been relocated to our newly landscaped main entry bed.

The attractive boulder existed in the woods for we know not how long, likely many years before the upper parking lot was constructed in 1988-9. Bob Schmitt and Joe Roop noticed it there and thought it should be moved somewhere where it could be seen. They have thought about moving it for several years, but it came to pass this April-May!

Bob and his son Mark wedged it up onto some boards in a makeshift sled, then used a "come along" to pull it out of the woods by rolling it across fence posts. It took the first day to inch it 20 feet to the asphalt.



Another day's work moved it to the area between the woods and upper parking lots. Only occasionally did Bob push the rock, as in this photo; mostly, he used his car to inch it forward. Repositioning the logs repeatedly was labor intensive and made it a slow process.

The engineers, Bob and his son Mark, learned as they went! The next phase involved an improved sled and a different rolling system, with rods through post pieces. This eliminated the need to shift the posts repeatedly.

Visit [peopleofgrace.org/rockrelocation](http://peopleofgrace.org/rockrelocation) to view a video showing how the rock traveled through the last half of Grace parking lots. Finally, with some additional heft, the rock was positioned in the garden bed, the sled disassembled, and the rock rolled into place.

## Gardeners Rally to Transform Entry Bed

Grace Gardeners have answered the call to transform the main entry garden bed where the maple tree was lost. Since plants there were shade lovers, they were not going to survive full sun.

After the tree was cut down and the stump ground, Bob Schmitt came to the rescue with a rototiller to chop up the dense network of surface maple tree roots. Grace Gardeners then pitched in, transplanting hundreds of Solomon seal tubers out to other shady areas.

Many also divided perennials from the campus and elsewhere, moving them to the bed. This took many days throughout the month of May. Finally, with temperatures getting too warm for making plant divisions, the bed was finished off with annuals.



A new Red Sunset Maple was donated, and costs were kept below \$150. Thank you to gardeners who "dug in": Betty Long with assistance from Linda Fronk, Barbara Hartman, Jean Ives, Brenda Miskiewicz, Beth Pacanowski, Gary Pauline, Joe Roop, Bob Schmitt, and Amy Westerhold. Now the challenge is to keep it watered in what is shaping up to be a dry summer.

*Photos show final day of planting with Gary Pauline, Amy Westerhold, Linda Fronk, and Brenda Miskiewicz and bed transformation as of late June.*

## Save the Date!

Join us Sundays for worship at **8:00AM, 9:00AM, and 10:30AM**, unless otherwise noted below on the Sundays we have *Outdoor Worship in the Field*.

- ❖ There will be no 8:00AM worship on those Sundays.
- ❖ 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).

JULY				
<b>7/2/2023</b>	Sunday	9:00 AM	Outdoor Worship	Lower Lot/Field
<b>7/10/23-7/14/23</b>	Monday-Friday	9:00-11:00AM	Hero Hotline Vacation Bible School	
<b>7/16/2023</b>	Sunday	9:15-10:15AM	Sunday Funday Special Summer Sunday School	
<b>7/16/2023</b>	Sunday	5:00PM	Rye and Myhailenko Concert	Sanctuary
<b>7/19/2023</b>	Wednesdays	9:30-10:30AM	KinderTot Summer Fun Day	
<b>7/19/2023</b>	Wednesday	7:00-8:00PM	Summer G.Y.M.	
<b>7/26/2023</b>	Wednesdays	9:30-10:30	KinderTot Summer Fun Day	
<b>7/26/2023</b>	Wednesday	7:00-8:00PM	Summer G.Y.M.	
<b>7/28/2023</b>	Friday	5:30-7:00PM	Pizza, Play, & Praise	
AUGUST				
<b>8/2/2023</b>	Wednesdays	9:30-10:30am	KinderTot Summer Fun Day	
<b>8/2/2023</b>	Wednesday	7:00-8:00PM	Summer G.Y.M.	
<b>8/6/2023</b>	Sunday	9:00AM	Outdoor Worship	Lower Lot/Field
<b>8/9/2023</b>	Wednesdays	9:30-10:30AM	KinderTot Summer Fun Day	
<b>8/20/2023</b>	Sunday	9:15-10:15AM	Sunday Funday Special Summer Sunday School	
<b>8/20/2023</b>	Sunday	10:30AM	Blessing of Backpacks in worship	Sanctuary
SEPTEMBER				
<b>9/3/2023</b>	Sunday	9:00AM	Outdoor Worship	Lower Lot/Field
<b>9/7/2023</b>	Thursday	11:30AM	Over 50 Fellowship Group Revitalization meeting	Fellowship Hall
<b>9/10/2023</b>	Sunday		Choirs back in worship (rehearsals begin week of 9/3)	
<b>9/14/2023</b>	Thursday	1:30PM	Active Shooter Training Session	Fellowship Hall
<b>9/17/2023</b>	Sunday	9:15-10:15AM	Sunday Funday	
<b>9/17/2023</b>	Sunday	11:30AM	Fall Festival / Sunday School Launch	Lower Lot/Field
<b>9/24/2023</b>	Sunday	11:30AM	Fall Festival - rain date	Lower Lot/Field
<b>9/24/2023</b>	Sunday	All services	Bible Sunday	
<b>9/24/2023</b>	Sunday	Afternoon	Gospel Choir Concert featuring Mikel Mays and the Divine Sound Gospel Choir	Sanctuary
<b>9/28/2023</b>	Thursday	1:30PM	Active Shooter Training Session	Fellowship Hall
OCTOBER				
<b>10/11/2023</b>	Wednesday	5:30PM	Harvest Home Dinner	Fellowship Hall
<b>10/15/2023</b>	Sunday	12:00-3:30PM	CROP Walk	
<b>10/15/2023</b>	Sunday	9:15-10:15AM	Sunday Funday	
<b>10/18/2023</b>	Wednesday	6:00PM	Trunk or Treat	
<b>10/23/2023</b>	Sunday	10:30AM	Children's Sabbath	Sanctuary
<b>10/25/2023</b>	Wednesday	6:00PM	Trunk or Treat - rain date	

## What's Doing with Raise the Roof?

By Betty Long, Chairperson Trustees

Beginning soon, a lot of different infrastructure projects will be getting underway. Expect to see both professionals and volunteers\* at work weekdays. Listed are five projects now in the hopper and rough cost estimates:

- Complete LED lighting installation throughout rooms & halls of the church (\$10,000)
- Replace Sanctuary lighting with LEDs and a unified control system (\$95,000)
- Replace aging and sagging ceiling tiles (\$5,000)
- Upgrade sound systems in the Sanctuary (\$20,000)
- Upgrade phones and network components (\$10,000)

This past May, we expected to replace the Sanctuary air handler (blower), but parts were not available. Down payment of half the \$75,000 cost was made in January when equipment was ordered. Equipment is now scheduled to arrive in August for installation in September/October. The remaining half of payment will be paid when installed.

Your Raise the Roof donations are greatly appreciated! There are more projects on our list, so continued donations are encouraged. Raise the Roof capital improvements fund-raiser will conclude at the end of this year.

\*Call or text Ron Laub at 630-294-8154 to help on a crew.



## Grace Notes Newsletter 2023 Publication Dates

In 2023, the *Grace Notes* newsletter will be published *every other month*. The next publication dates will be:

**September 1 and November 1.** The deadline for materials for the newsletter is the **20th of the previous month.**

Please send your questions and submissions to [communications@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:communications@peopleofgrace.org).

*Grace Notes*  
*Monthly*  
*Newsletter*

Grace United Methodist Church  
300 E. Gartner Rd.  
Naperville, IL 60540  
630-355-1748  
[www.peopleofgrace.org](http://www.peopleofgrace.org)  
We Gather | We Grow | We Go