



GRACE TO YOU

October 2026

**Grace United
Protestant Church**

266 Somonauk St.
Park Forest, IL 60466
Phone: 708-748-4567

Our Scout Troop #185 has been so busy that one page of pictures just wasn't enough! Check out the rest on page 9.

Order of the Arrow Fall Fellowship



It's Popcorn Sales Time! Support Troop #185 and enjoy yummy popcorn at the same time!



Congratulations to Alijah on becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow! He is the first in 10 years!

Mission Statement of Our

Reconciling Ministries:

Through God's grace and as apprentices of Christ's living example, we stand united in our commitment to welcome and embrace the diversity of all children of God, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and wish to reach out to those underserved to provide a safe space for spiritual growth. We strive to create an inclusive fellowship welcoming of the LGBTQ+ community, their families, and support networks, to foster fairness, justice, peace, love, and understanding among all as is reflected in our name—Grace United Protestant Church.



*A spiritual home for
worship and service.*

Website: graceupc.org

UPCOMING CALENDAR

**PLEASE CHECK OUT THE
CALENDAR ON PAGE 12.**



October 2026

Stewardship: A Grateful Offering to the Lord

This month is dedicated to stewardship for 2027. As we enter this season, my heart turns to the powerful words of Psalm 50, where God speaks not with condemnation but with clarity and invitation. The psalm reminds us of a truth that grounds all Christian stewardship: "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 50:12). In Psalm 50, God tells His people that He neither needs their sacrifices nor depends on their offerings, nor does He lack anything. Instead, God desires something far deeper—a heart of thanksgiving and a life of faithfulness. (Psalm 50:14).

This is the foundation of stewardship: not obligation, but gratitude. Not pressure, but praise. Not ownership, but trust. God reminds us that everything in the earth already belongs to him, including the resources in our hands and the breath in our lungs. We are stewards and caretakers of what God has entrusted to us for His glory and the good of others. Stewardship is not only about what we give; it is also about whom we trust. It involves calling on God, depending on God, and glorifying God with our entire lives. (Psalm 50:15).

As we enter this season, consider these truths: 1. God owns everything. 2. God desires our thanksgiving; our generosity is an act of worship, and our stewardship is gratitude made visible. 3. God responds to our trust; when we call on Him, He delivers and multiplies our blessings.

We will celebrate God's generosity and financial commitments for 2027 on Commitment Sunday, October 25, 2026, when we can connect our discipleship with our giving as we reflect on God's goodness with gratitude. Please bring your Commitment Card that day so we can bless it together. If you can't attend the service, please mail your card to the church. Remember, your pledge is an act of gratitude to God and a way to fulfill God's outreach mission to the world!

Our Church Conference is also scheduled for 5:30 PM on our Commitment Day, October 25, 2025. This gathering is a time to celebrate our ministry together and look forward to a bright, fruitful year ahead. Please make arrangements to be there.

The fall virtual Bible study has started and will continue until November 24, 2026. Please find time to participate in this spiritual growth opportunity every Tuesday at 7 PM as we explore the importance of Psalms in our faith journey. We email study notes and the Zoom link on Mondays.

Our condolences to the family of Nan Beard, who transitioned to eternity on August 24, 2026. May God comfort and strengthen the family. May God grant her soul eternal rest.

We celebrate this month's birthday and anniversary celebrants! We pray that God blesses them and grants them good health, so they can continue enjoying their lives.

We will continue to pray for healing for those with health concerns and for God's presence among those facing various life challenges. Be rest assured of Immanuel—God is with us.

Yours by His Grace,
Pastor Amos Oladip



WCA NEWS

WCA Board monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month in the parlor. The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 1st at 10:00 AM. All women are invited and encouraged to attend.

FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Saturday, September 26th — 10:30 AM

This year, our Spiritual Retreat will be at the church with the movie St. John in Exile. There will be a discussion following; this proves to be a wonderful retreat. We will plan to go to Peachtree Restaurant in Matteson following the retreat. Please plan to join us!

Everyone is welcome (men, too)!

PANERA NIGHT

Panera Bread in Matteson has been very gracious with offering us many Panera Night fundraisers. This has been a well-supported activity in the past...everyone loves food, right?!

With that in mind, the WCA will have their next Panera Night on Sunday, November 8th from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. Watch for the needed flyer in the November GTY.

A FAN FAVORITE! FALL FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars for the Fall LaBraid Fundraiser — ButterBraid coffee cakes, Joyful Traditions cake rolls, Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, and Amish Pretzel Co. pretzels will be available. Sale dates will be **October 18th, 25th, and November 1st**. Delivery will be after church on Sunday, November 15th. The proceeds of this and all WCA fundraisers support our missions. You can see a list of those missions in the WCA yearbook. **Please check out the information for the fundraiser on page 10.**

FLOWERS

Flowers on the piano/altar help to brighten the sanctuary each Sunday. The 2026 flower chart has been posted in the narthex. Be sure to pick your special date(s) and sign up to beautify our sanctuary before your date is gone.

We are asking that you either supply your own flowers...there are vases at the church...or contact our flower chairperson, Sue Cassara at 708-785-5186, and she will purchase the flowers for you. The cost will be \$20. **We are also asking that you contact the church office at 708-748-4567 or graceupchurch2@gmail.com to tell Elaine Degenhart what you would like printed in the bulletin.** Thank you!



WHY UNICEF?

Through October Grace Church supports the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) because of their 80 years of relentless work to deliver the essentials that give every child an equitable chance in life, health care, safe water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more.

UNICEF USA advances the global mission of UNICEF by rallying the American public to support the world's most vulnerable children. Alliance participants include public and private sector partners committed to protecting children's rights. One area of focus is the prevention and mitigation of hazardous child labor in the U.S. supply chain.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has inspired generations of children to participate in an iconic event that has strengthened American communities and raised millions of dollars.

Pick up a UNICEF box from the church hallway to take home and fill or use a blue mission envelope for your donation. Checks should be payable to Grace Church with UNICEF in the memo line.

TREASURE CHEST TOY DRIVE

Long-time church member Nan Beard passed peacefully last month. After losing two daughters to cancer, Nan became an active volunteer at the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation and brought the Orland Park non-profit to our attention at Grace. Treasure Chest ships toys to cancer treatment centers around the country so children can pick out a toy each time they have a procedure- a small reward for their bravery. In Nan's honor, let's keep our treasure chest box full! It's located at the hallway coat rack with a list of suggested items.

GO TEAM TRAINING

"The mission of the Lake South District of the Northern Illinois Conference is to encourage, equip, connect and support our local churches in their call to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

In keeping with this, Dr. Audrea Nanabray invites you to scheduled Zoom meetings, for Go Team training for members and friends of the church.

The next one will be held Saturday, October 3rd at 10:30 AM. The topic for the morning will be "We are ambassadors for Christ, restoring the world to God." (2Corinthians 5:18-21)

The Zoom link is [Zoom Link](#), Meeting ID 964 1732 9893, Passcode 081053

INSPIRATION PAGE

Please share your devotions, readings, and inspirations that are special to you so that others can be inspired, too. Please email me with your contributions at llangmeyer@aol.com. Thank you!

~ Leslie

From *Walking in Grace*

ANGEL WHISPERS: God's Messengers

A good word maketh (the heart) glad. – Proverbs 12:25 (KJV)

Here's an amazing truth: you can be God's messenger, His angel whisper.

I'm checking my email when a note pops up from a *Walking in Grace* reader named Phyllis.

"So many times, we neglect to do this, but I wanted to take time to thank you. I wanted to let you know that your work with the children in Zimbabwe is precious. God sees your efforts."

Another day, I open a letter and a beautiful fluffy feather falls out. "An angel feather for you," my friend Julie writes.

Ah! I believe, with all my heart, that an angel whisper floated into my friends' heads, straight from God. *Pam needs a bit of a boost.* They listened. They heard. They acted.

I wish I could show you the profound impact their acts have had so far.

And now, it's my turn and yours. The whispers are there, hanging near, waiting for us to bring God's messages to others. Recognize God's opportunities. Develop the angel whisper habit.

Call Mr. Smith. Make cookies for a neighbor's children. Send a thank-you to your high-school teacher. Ask the friend who recently lost a loved one to lunch. Stop and praise the work of a laborer who might not otherwise be appreciated. Buy that grumpy cashier a rose!

Who says we can't change the world? Bring comfort? Spread joy? Send surprises, like feathers that float from envelopes?

I'm in. Are you?

Father, keep sending Your messages, Your angel whispers, Your opportunities for us to make life better for others. I'm in. I'm ready.

~ Pam Kidd

.....
Thank you to Arrie Christain for some wonderful thoughts to ponder:

** Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – no point.

** Be kind whenever possible. Pro Tip – It's always possible.

** If you are more fortunate than someone/others, build a longer table not a taller fence.

** Sin burn is prevented by Son screen.

** Seven days without prayer makes one weak.

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. What Kings household was carried in the only ferry boat mentioned in the Bible? (2 Samuel 19:16-18)
2. What was the material used in making the basket the infant Moses was floating in? (Exodus 2:3)
3. What nervous prophet actually requested that he be thrown off a storm tossed ship at sea? (Jonah 1:4-16)
4. What king of Israel had two navies? (1 Kings 9:26-28; 10:22)
5. What was Jesus doing when the storm struck the boat carrying him and his disciples? (Luke 8:22-24)
6. What was the only ship in the Bible mentioned by name? (Acts 28:11)

Answers are on page 8.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school class returned on September 13th following the Children's Moment in worship.

While the lessons are geared to 3-12 year olds, we welcome our older students to join anytime.

The theme for September/October is "Fall Faith" including Bible verses that express our faith.

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

The prayer group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Banner Room (room 116). Everyone with concerns for the church, the community, the country, or themselves, is welcome and encouraged to join this informal group.

Please let Alice Wasney or the church office know of any prayer needs.

FLOWERS

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We are asking that you either supply your own flowers...there are vases at the church...or contact our flower chairperson, Sue Cassara at 708-785-5186, and she will purchase the flowers for you. The cost will be \$20. **We are also asking that you contact the church office at 708-748-4567 or graceupchurch2@gmail.com to tell Elaine Degenhart what you would like printed in the bulletin.** Thank you!



RECYCLE BOXES

Our congregation is very “eco friendly.” Everyone has been using the small recycle bins outside the Sanctuary and in the Office for paper and plastic. But, please remember the two boxes on the bookcase across from the Parlor. One is for used printer ink cartridges. The church treasury benefits from these recycled cartridges. The other box is for bottle caps. Our Boy Scout Troop 185 is collecting plastic bottle caps to make park benches. Anything you can add to these boxes will be greatly appreciated.

Also, please note that the Park Forest Village Hall offers battery and eyeglass recycling services. There are boxes on the left table inside the front door.

AND THINKING ABOUT RECYCLING...

The Homewood Disposal does not pick up recycling at the church like it does throughout the Village of Park Forest. So...if you see one of the blue recycling bins full, please grab a bag and take recycling home to your bin for pick up. Thank you!

THE SUNDAY VIRTUAL SERVICE

Each Sunday, the church service is available virtually on Zoom. The service is live. *The bulletin and the words to the songs are on your screen each week. If you join by phone and want the bulletin emailed to you, please let the church office know.*

Pastor Amos emails the Zoom link each Sunday morning for anyone who would like to have it. Please let the office know if you want to have him send the link to you. Email the office at graceupchurch2@gmail.com.

A gentle reminder: It's wonderful to be able to socialize before and after the service, but with the virtual system in place, we need to mute our own computers during the service. As a courtesy to others, please remember to mute during the service.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Jemiyo Oladipo—14th

Tomi Ajayi—18th

Chris Long—31st



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Biodun and Fikayo (Oladipo) Ajayi—23rd



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

We thank God for many answered prayers as we continue to pray for:

The Members of our church, near and far, Our Veterans, our Troops, and our Country,
World Peace, that the hungry can be fed, and the end of violence.



Ray Abels

The Family of Nan Beard

Sophia Buie

Brian Butler

Jackie Ceres

Gabe Chachakis

Daniel Christain

The Family of Ray Dunbar

Charlotte Earving

Melissa Harms

Niki Juarez-Cummings

Alice Knox

Malcolm Knox

Pat MacInnes

Becky Meyery

Marge Neel

Forrest (Lee) Nelson

Ronan Nelson

Valerie Nicholson

The Family of Nancy Schlenke

The Family of Allan Smith

Jeff Steiner

Rick Wasney

Alma White

The Migrant, Immigrants, and
Refugees among us

The Victims of Gun Violence

The People of Iran

The People of Iran

The People of Israel and Gaza

The People of Ukraine

Pray, not until God
hears you, but until
you hear God.

THE LORD
WILL FIGHT FOR YOU
you only need
TO BE
STILL

EXODUS 14:14

Answers to Bible Trivia:

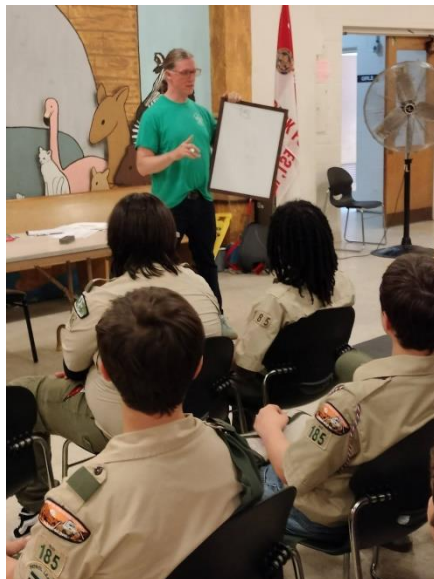
1. David's
2. Bulrushes daubed with slime and pitch
3. Jonah
4. Solomon
5. Sleeping
6. Castor and Pollux

Our Scouting America Troop 185 is a family scouting experience for boys and girls in the fifth grade through high school. Service, community engagement and leadership development are important parts of the program as youth lead their own activities and work their way toward earning Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. We meet on Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM. Point of contact is Dan Chachakis, dchachak@prodigy.net

It was great to see the Scouts in the Village of Park Forest Labor Day parade



September 1st – Summer Court of Honor



Sale dates are October 18th, October 25th, and November 1st.

Delivery will be after church on Sunday, November 15th.

If you are unable to pick up your orders, arrangements can be made to deliver them. Butter Braid Pastries, Cake rolls, Otis Spunkmeyer cookie doughs, Soft Pretzels and bites, and Croissant Crowns are all available:

The Holidays are coming— Be sure to stock up now!

Butter Braid Pastries — \$18.00 each:

Apple	Four Cheese & Herb
Bavarian Crème	Raspberry
Blueberry Cream Cheese	Strawberry Cream Cheese
Cherry	Caramel Rolls
Cinnamon	Cinnamon Rolls



Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls—\$18.00 each:

Carrot Cake roll	Pumpkin cake roll
Chocolate cake roll	Red Velvet cake roll
Lemon Crème cake roll	Strawberry Cheesecake cake roll



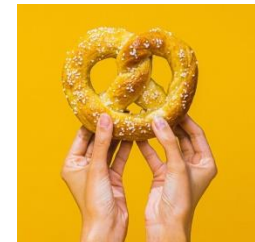
Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough—\$20.00 each:

Chocolate Chip	Lemon Burst
Chocolate Chip Toffee Crunch	Peanut Butter
Snickerdoodle	Triple Chocolate Chunk
Strawberry Shortcake	White Chocolate Macadamia Nut



Amish Pretzel Co. Soft Pretzels and Pretzel Bites—\$20.00 each:

6 Pretzels per box or Approx. 30 Pretzel Bites per box



Please order at church or call/email Sue Dukes (815-931-5145; email sdukes555@hotmail.com) or Chris Long (708-606-9143; email longabc51@gmail.com) or Leslie Langmeyer (708-481-1578; email llangmeyer@aol.com) to place your order.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL ORDERS NEED TO BE PRE-PAID.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO THE WCA MISSIONS.**

Park Forest
Live Grow Discover

FALL Festival

• AT SOMONAUK NATURE ADVENTURE PARK •

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



- HAYRIDES • PUMPKINS • PIE EATING CONTEST • SCARECROW MAKING
- RAFFLES • INFLATABLES • TOUCH-A-TRUCK • CARNIVAL THEMED GAMES



266 Somonauk Street
Park Forest, IL 60466



708-748-2005

REGISTER
NOW!



Where fun meets adventure
with games, rides, and unforgettable
experiences for all ages!



Trustee John V. Moore



Trustee Erin L. Stone



Trustee Tiffany Graham



Mayor Joseph A. Woods



Trustee Theresa M. Scifano



Trustee Moss Bailey



Trustee Randall White

www.villageofparkforest.com



OCTOBER 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 WCA Board meeting 10:00 AM	2 Village of Park Forest Fall Fest 5:00-8:00 PM	3 Go Team training on Zoom 10:30 AM
4 World Communion Sunday Worship and Sunday School 11:00 AM	5	6 Men's Chat and Chew at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Virtual Bible Study 7:00 PM	7 Prayer Group 9:30 AM	8	9	10 ART meeting 9:30 AM
11 Sunday Worship and Sunday School 11:00 AM	12 Rebekah Circle at Janet Whitson Markus's 7:00 PM	13 Men's Chat and Chew at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Virtual Bible Study 7:00 PM	14 Prayer Group <u>9:30 AM</u> Tabitha Circle 2:00 PM in parlor	15	16	17
18 Laity Sunday and Jazz Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Coffee & Fellowship <u>following church</u> WCA LaBraid fundraiser sales	19	20 Men's Chat and Chew at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Virtual Bible Study 7:00 PM	21 Prayer Group 9:30 AM	22	23	24
25 Stewardship Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> WCA LaBraid <u>fundraiser sales</u> Annual Church Conference 5:30-6:30 PM	26	27 Men's Chat and Chew at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Virtual Bible Study 7:00 PM	28 Prayer Group 9:30 AM	29	30	31 