



GRACE TO YOU

November 2025

**Grace United
Protestant Church**

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

FUN AT FALL FEST



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, and to foster fairness, justice, peace, love, and understanding among all as is reflected in our name—Grace United Protestant Church.



MISSIONS NEWS

Our November mission offering will go to the social service programs of Respond Now. Their mission: "Respond Now exists to provide immediate relief for residents of Chicago's south suburbs who are in the most need while maintaining their dignity and affording them respect. We do this by: Helping people through their temporary emergencies with financial assistance; Providing food to families and individuals in need; Providing sound referrals and counseling for other needed services."

Grace Church is a longtime supporter of Respond Now and our members, Bruce Neel and Ray VanDyke, were very active volunteers. Pastor Amos, in a recent sermon on giving by grace says "...gracious work encourages personal involvement and support from the faithful, fostering a spirit of generosity and community involvement."

Please donate as you are able using the blue pew envelope during November. Checks should be payable to Grace Church, indicating for Respond Now.

Look at their website, <https://respondnow.org>, to see details of the amazing work of Respond Now.

***A spiritual home for
worship and service.***

Website: graceupc.org

UPCOMING CALENDAR

**PLEASE CHECK OUT THE
CALENDAR ON PAGE 11.**



GRACE TO YOU

Page 2

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

November 2025

The Will to Dream

We are just one month away from the end of the year. Before we reach November, I would like to share two important upcoming events with you. **First, on October 19, 2025, we will observe Laity Sunday** with our Lay Leader, Alice Wasney, who also serves as our representative at the Annual Conference, as the speaker. Laity Sunday is a special occasion “to celebrate the ministry of all Christians,” recognizing that we are all called to participate in this ministry, not just the clergy. **The theme for the 2025 Laity Sunday is “Be Strong in the Spirit”** (Ephesians 3:16). Please encourage others to join us for this great celebration.

Secondly, our Church Conference is scheduled for October 20, 2025, at 5 PM in the parlor. This gathering is a time for us to celebrate our ministry together and look forward to a bright and fruitful year ahead. You are also invited to be part of this celebration.

“Dreaming God’s Dream” is our theme for this year’s Stewardship. I thank you for your faithful generosity that enables us to fulfill our mission this year. Your giving stems from trust, deliberate decisions, and deep faith, which has become part of our DNA. **Please mark your calendar for our commitment on Sunday, November 16, 2025.** It’s a day to respond to God’s invitation with our financial pledges for the upcoming year and as a sign of gratitude for God’s goodness. Please bring your pledge cards on that day, as we will bless them together. If you are unable to attend church, please mail your cards to the church.

Thanksgiving is around the corner! David, in Psalm 103:1, wholeheartedly thanks the Lord for God’s blessings. I encourage you to emulate his example this Thanksgiving by reflecting on your blessings and expressing gratitude to God as you bring your **special Thanksgiving offering on Sunday, November 23rd.** As we gather around our Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 27, let us be grateful and remember those who struggle to have meals on their tables.

The Advent Season begins on November 30, 2025, with the theme “The Will to Dream.” In a time of upheaval, we see trust eroding and divisions widening, and ongoing political tensions leaving many feeling anxious and uncertain. People are seeking understanding, healing, and hope—a sacred desire for a restored world. From this longing, **the will to dream emerges, alongside the courage to envision and rebuild a better future.** Please join us this Advent as we draw from the wisdom of the prophets and challenge systems that prioritize power over people. **The series, “The Will to Dream,”** will help us confront despair, embody justice, and embrace hope as a radical act. **Together, “we can dream not as an escape, but as a powerful act of spiritual resistance.”**

The Advent Bible Study starts on December 2 and continues until December 23, 2025

Our condolences to Sheena Bass-Gilbert on the transition of her father, Curtis Bass, Jr., to eternity on September 12, 2025. May God comfort and strengthen the family.

We rejoice with our November birthday and anniversary celebrants. We pray for God's blessings to be with them as they celebrate another year. Congratulations!!!

I pray for your safe travels during this Thanksgiving Holiday.

Yours, By His Grace, Pastor Amos



WCA NEWS

WCA Board monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM in the parlor. All women are invited to attend any of the meetings.

FALL FUNDRAISER

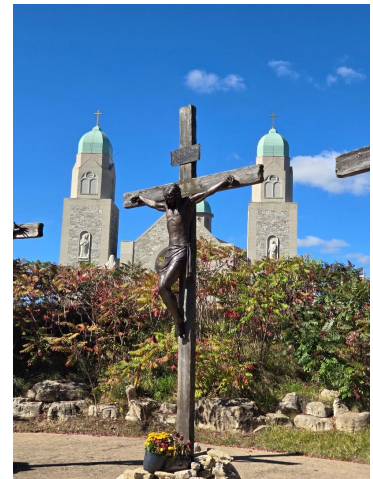
Mark your calendars for the Fall Fundraiser — Butter Braid coffee cakes, Joyful Traditions cake rolls, Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, Amish Pretzel Co. pretzels, and the new Croissant Crowns will be available. Sale dates are **October 26th, November 2nd, and November 9th**. Delivery date is November 20th and the pickup date will be November 23rd after church. Please check out the information on page 10 and then get your taste buds ready!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We are excited to announce that Juana Morales from Jones Memorial Community Center will be our guest speaker at the December 13th Christmas Potluck Luncheon. We have supported Jones Memorial for many, many years and look forward to hearing about all the good work they do in the community.

FIELD TRIP TO THE SHRINE OF CHRIST'S PASSION

On October 11th we went on the most amazing trip! We were able to share in Christ's journey.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our 3-12 year old Sunday School class meets during church each Sunday. We will continue the schedule of starting in church with our families at 11:00 and leaving before the sermon for room 103. On the first Sunday of each month we will return to the sanctuary to participate in communion. Fall themes are: We Share; We Give; We Grow; We Love; We Praise.

Parents and grandparents are always encouraged to join us anytime.



Fall Fest



Lunch after the WCA field trip

THE LINK FOR 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 sends the Zoom link each Sunday morning for anyone 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 new 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.

Although I find devotions from my daily readings that I like to share, it's always from the same sources. I would love some other contributions to this page! Please share your devotions, readings, and inspirations that are special to you so that others can be inspired, too. I hope that this will be a page that everyone will enjoy and contribute to. Please email me with your contributions at llangmeyer@aol.com. Thank you!

Thank you to Alice Wasney for sharing this.

This prayer was offered by Mr. Jeff Bivin as the Prayer of the People:

In 1902, Adelaide A. Pollard had hopes to go to Africa as a missionary. However she was unable to raise the necessary funds to make that journey. Discouraged and disheartened, she visited a prayer service where she found encouragement for her life from the verses in Jeremiah 18. When she returned home that evening, she wrote the words to what would become the hymn we know today as "Have Thine Own Way, Lord." It is my understanding that the Lord's plan for her life was to teach girls here in America at a missionary school.

This prayer is an adaption and extension of Adelaide Pollard's words that became the hymn "Have Thine Own Way, Lord."

Have Your own way, Lord! Have Your own way!
You are the Potter, we are your clay.
Mold us, make us, fill us and use us in accordance to your will.
Help us to wait patiently, quiet and still for you to work in us your own way.

Have Your own way, Lord! Have Your own way!
Search us and know us, for You are our Master today.
Whiter than snow, Lord, cleanse us each day from all that soils our relationship with you.
As we come into Your presence, we can do nothing but humbly bow this and every day.

Have Your own way, Lord! Have Your own way!
We are a people wounded and weary, tired and questioning, please help us in our walk each and every day.
Power, all power, is unquestionably Yours, for You are our strength, our shield and our guide.
Precious Savior divine, touch us, heal us, make us whole in our walk along the way.

Have Your own way, Lord! Yes, in us, have Your own way!
Hold us in our weakness so that from the truth we may not sway.
Fill us with Your Spirit so that in our daily walk all shall see You and Your Glory.
For you have given us Christ, and it is Christ alone who lives in us today.
Precious Lord, today, we would add at least one more verse to that hymn.

Have Your own way, Lord! Have Your own way!
We lift up the disenfranchised, the marginalized, the vulnerable, and the immigrant for their security is in peril this day.
Your word in Proverbs 14 teaches us that "whoever is kind to the needy honors You."
Your word teaches us in Jeremiah 22 that we are to "do no wrong or violence to the foreigner."
Precious Savior, guardian of all, hold and protect those in peril and help Your Church, and us, to be a refuge and a pillar to those in need this day.

Have Your own way, Lord! Have Your own way!
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

CELEBRATIONS FOR NOVEMBER**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

Sue Cassara—2nd
Maddi Kunkel—19th
Alice Wasney—26th

**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.



Barbara Abels	Marge Neel
The Family of Curtis Bass, Jr.	Lee Nelson
Nan Beard	Ronan Nelson
Jackie Ceres	Wylladene Nelson
Gabe Chachakis	Stacey Peterson
Daniel Christain	Kyla Jo Purvenas
Ralph Duncan	Szymanski Family
Niki Juarez Cummings	Alma White
Mona Earving	The Migrants, Immigrants, and
Malcolm Knox	Refugees among us
Jim Lewis	The Victims of Gun Violence
The Family of Patty McLeod	The People of Israel and Gaza
Helen Neel	The People of Ukraine

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.

BIBLE STUDY

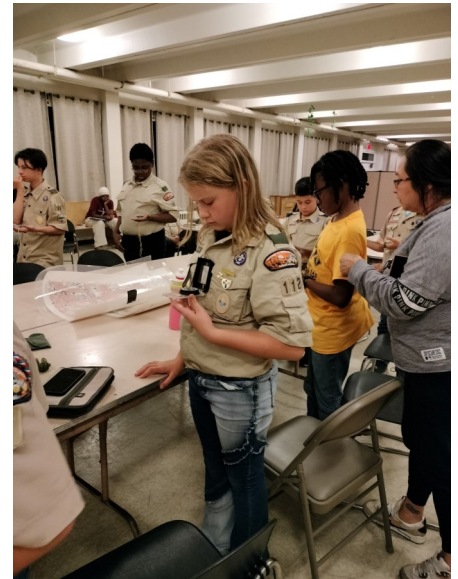
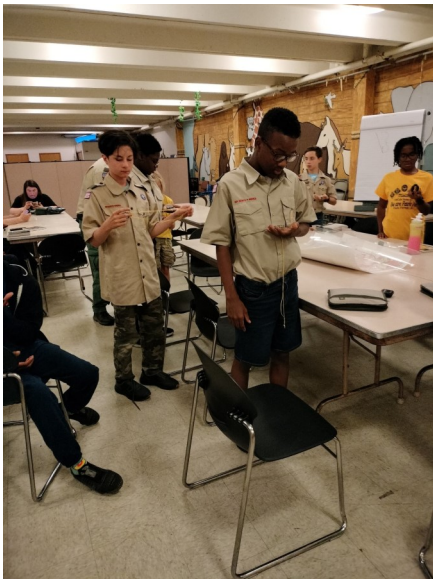
Our fall Bible Study continues on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. Please find time to be with other disciples for this weekly Bible Study via Zoom. This study of the Minor Prophets (Jonah, Micah, and Nahum) and their relevance in today's world will continue until November 25, 2025.

To access the Zoom link, please contact the church office at graceupchurch2@gmail.com and the link will be sent to you.



Arrow of Light Scouts, Lucas, Blaise and Caleb are attending meetings during the month of October in preparation for their outdoor adventure.

On Tuesday, September 30th, the scouts learned about how to orient a compass.



MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE!



VOICES OF GRACE

Rehearsals have begun for the Advent Cantata (Nine Lessons and Carols) and we would love to include your voice in the beautiful Christmas music. Consider joining the "Voices of Grace," our wonderful Grace Church choir.

Rehearsals are the first Sunday of the month after church and the second and fourth Sundays before church at 10:00 AM.

Also needed are readers for the program.
Please contact Valerie Nicholson!



RINGALINGS

Have you thought about joining the Grace Church "Ringalings" Handbell Choir? They rehearse every second and fourth Sunday after church. All are welcome regardless of age or prior experience.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE 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 a park benches. Anything you can add to these boxes will be greatly appreciated.

A box was added that stamps are being collected in. However, at this point, we don't have anywhere to send the stamps. Does anyone know of a place?

Also, please note that the Park Forest Village Hall offers battery and eyeglass recycling services. There are boxes inside the front door on the table to the left. Walgreens in Olympia Fields also offers medicine disposal near the pharmacy.

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!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE PLUMBERS FUND!

As you know our plumber found some cracked sewer pipe in the front yard of our church. Therefore, we needed to have part of the front yard dug up and the original pipe was replaced with new pipe. This cost was \$13,000 for the whole project. With your help, **we are getting closer and closer to the final goal!** So far we have collected **10,450!** We appreciate all of you and know we'll be able to reach 100%. Please put "Plumbers Fund" on your check or envelope. We will continue collecting for this during the rest of 2025.



Nature's Lesson: Cliff-Side Trails

Hike cliff-side trails with sheer drop-offs and you'll cherish every blessed square inch of "terra firma" on that trail -- and tread it with more "attention" and "intention."

When walking through life, it's easy to miss how precious - yet precarious - it is. Then you - or someone you love - stumble toward drop-offs. While frightening, drop-offs teach valuable lessons about life's fragility and can awaken you from complacency to a sense of wonder, yearning, and purpose. Recognizing you have a finite number of days on earth allows you to walk this path of life with wisdom, intention and gratitude. You will treasure life - and those in your life - in a profound new way.

"Teach us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom..."
~Psalm 90:12

Q. Today, ask God to give you a heart of wisdom for where He is leading you on this precious, precarious walk of life.

Thank you to Sue Dukes for sharing all these wonderful inspirations from Carol "Scout" Ruhter & Marty "Acorn" Ramey, Trailbound Trips.

Sale dates are October 26th, November 2nd, and November 9th. Delivery date is November 20th

Orders can be picked up after church on Sunday, November 23rd.

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 new Croissant Crowns are all available.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming — Be sure to stock up now!

Butter Braid Pastries — \$18.00 each:

Apple

Bavarian Crème

Blueberry Cream Cheese

Cinnamon

Four Cheese & Herb

Strawberry Cream Cheese

Cherry

Cinnamon Rolls



Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls—\$18.00 each:

Carrot Cake roll

Chocolate cake roll

Lemon Crème cake roll

Pumpkin cake roll

Red Velvet cake roll

Strawberry Cheesecake cake roll



Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough—\$20.00 each:

Classic Chocolate Chip Pecan

Chocolate Chip Toffee Crunch

Chocolate Chip

Peanut Butter

Snickerdoodle

Strawberry Shortcake

Triple Chocolate Chunk

White Chocolate Sweet

Macadamia Nut



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

6 Pretzels per box

Approx. 30 Pretzel Bites per box

NEW: Croissant Crowns—\$20.00 each

Breakfast: The Ultimate morning pastry! Scrambled eggs, Swiss cheese, Ham & Sausage or Ham & Cheese: Savory mix of Swiss cheese and ham, perfect for a mid-day snack. 6 Crowns 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.



November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal <u>after church</u> WCA fundraiser	3	4 Men's Chat and Chew Breakfast at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Boy Scout <u>meeting 7:00 PM</u> Bible Study 7:00	5 Prayer Group 9:30 AM	6 WCA Board Meeting 10:00 AM	7	8 ART meeting— in parlor 9:30 AM
9 Choir Rehearsal <u>10:00 AM</u> Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Bell Choir rehearsal <u>after church</u> WCA fundraiser	10	11 Men's Chat and Chew Breakfast at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Boy Scout <u>meeting 7:00 PM</u> Bible Study 7:00	12 Prayer Group <u>9:30 AM</u> Tabitha Circle in parlor 2:00 PM	13	14	15
16 Jazz Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Coffee & Fellowship following church	17	18 Men's Chat and Chew Breakfast at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Boy Scout <u>meeting 7:00 PM</u> Bible Study 7:00	19 Prayer Group 9:30 AM	20	21	22
23 Choir Rehearsal <u>10:00 AM</u> Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Bell Choir rehearsal <u>after church</u> WCA fundraiser delivery	24	25 Men's Chat and Chew Breakfast at Big Apple <u>8:00 AM</u> Boy Scout <u>meeting 7:00 PM</u> Bible Study 7:00	26 Prayer Group 9:30 AM	27 	28	29
30 First Sunday of <u>Advent</u> Sunday Worship and Sunday School <u>11:00 AM</u> Hanging of the Greens						