

GRACE TO YOU

July 2024

JOIN US FOR CELEBRATING GRACE U.P. CHURCH'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY!!!

Sunday, October 27th, 2024

Please save the date of Sunday, October 27th, 2024, for a great celebration of our many years as a church.

A planning committee has met to form ideas and make arrangements for the special day and events leading up to the celebration. Anyone is welcomed to join us!

We need names, addresses, and email addresses of former Grace members or people that have moved away so that we can invite them! Please send all information to Valerie Nicholson. Her email is Valerie.nicholson9@gmail.com. Please do this no later than August 15, so that we have ample time to get the message out.

A questionnaire is on the last page of this GTY. Please fill it out and return to the church by August 15.

Start gathering pictures or items from the past to share and display.

There will be a meal after church on Sunday, October 27th.

There is also a concert series and other special events being planned leading up to the celebration. **Do you have any other ideas? Please share them!**

Hope to see you all there and please let us know contact information for our members throughout the years!!!

The Pastors Page

Yield All Things

The 185th Northern Illinois Annual Conference took place from June 16 to 18, 2024, under the theme of 'Yield'. Bishop Dan Schwerin focused on John Wesley's Covenant Prayer, a fundamental aspect of the Methodist Movement. This prayer, used by Wesley to unite early members, emphasizes the surrender of every aspect of life to God - including wealth, education, family, poverty, and challenges. By embracing this concept, individuals could connect with God and their fellow believers, fostering a strong sense of community. Here is the Prayer:

~~I~~am.no.longer.my.own.but.yours;Put.me.to.what.you.will.rank.me.with.whom.you.will;Put.me.to.doing?put.me.to.suffering;Let.me.be.employed.for.you.or.laid.aside.for.you?exalted.for.you.or.brought.low.for.you;Let.me.be.full.let.me.be.empty;Let.me.have.all.things.let.me.have.nothing;.I.freely.and.wholeheartedly.yield.all.things.to.your.pleasure.and.disposal;And.now?glorious.and.blessed.God?Father?Son?and.Holy.Spirit?you.are.mine.and.I.am.yours;So.be.it;And.the.covenant.now.made.on.earth?let.it.be.ratified.in.heaven;Amen;

Similar to Wesley's time, we are all encouraged to yield everything to God – time, gifts, resources, talents, families, and work. This is how we can faithfully obey Jesus' command of loving God and loving our neighbors. Our ultimate focus should be to be with Jesus in eternity, for where your treasure is, your heart will also be. Therefore, let us continue to read and pray this prayer as it is in our Hymn #607. May God grant us his Holy Spirit to continually remind us of who we are and our ultimate goal as Christians.

The Annual Conference affirmed all the decisions made at the General Conference. Please see June's newsletter. As usual, there were celebrations of ordination, retirement, and Memorials. Please check the other page for reports on the Annual Conference.

It is Summertime! Time for vacation and travel! It is also the time when we have fewer people in the sanctuary! Whatever your plans, please always remember your church family and the church's mission. Let us practice love by assisting each other, making telephone calls, or mailing cards to those missing from church fellowship. Please do not say it is someone's task (and not yours) to do this! It is the communal effort that will lead to a stronger relationship. Doing this will change people's attitudes. 'They will know that we are Christians (family) by our love!'

I hope you enjoy Music! Do you have favorite hymns, songs, or poems? Please bring them along, as we will have another style of worship during this summer. Our worship will be interactive! I believe there will be plenty of fun as we worship together!

The church plans a Family Fun Nights from July 9 to 12, 2024! Please publicize the event and invite friends and family to make it successful! More information is available on another page.

We congratulate all birthday and anniversary celebrants this month. We rejoice with you and pray to God to continue his mercy and blessings upon you. Our prayers are with those facing different life challenges – health, finances, and relationships! We pray they will continue to experience God's presence in their challenges! Have a great summer!

IT'S HERE!

Our new website is active! Our web designer, Kate Curran, has worked diligently on creating a beautiful website for Grace Church with a new website address! Check out the site!

graceupc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The WCA Fall Field Trip — On Saturday, September 21st, all women and men are invited to join us at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfort. The address is 9263 W. St. Francis Road, Frankfort. Please plan to meet at the Port at 10:30 AM. This is a wonderful time of meditation and self-reflection. A short program follows your time in the labyrinth. After our time at the Port, we will join together for a self-paid lunch at Jameson’s Pub at 9545 W. St. Francis Road.

Please plan to join us for the very meaningful day.

TREASURER’S REPORT FROM BRUCE NEEL

OFFERING

	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
	May	May 31, 2024
Amount Needed	\$ 15,102	\$ 67,319
Amount Received	\$ 11,066	\$ 72,656
Surplus / Deficit	\$ (4,036)	\$ 5,337

~Bruce Neel, Treasurer

MISSION NEWS

Through the summer, please keep in mind our year- round donations to three organizations:

Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation- ships toys to the treasure chests at hospitals throughout the US where children can pick out a toy when they are at the facility for cancer treatments. Let's fill the box by the coat rack this summer

Kids Above All- bring loose change to our penny jar in the hallway. Formerly called ChildServ, this organization continues a 130-year legacy of advocating for children and families in the Chicago area.

Respond Now- leave non-perishable items in the grocery cart outside the church office. Especially needed now are personal hygiene items- toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, etc. In addition to a food pantry that helps thousands of households a year, numerous programs assist the working poor, disabled, elderly and children in the south suburbs.

Monetary donations to any of our designated charities can also be made in the church collection plate by clearly indicating your distribution request (Checks made payable to Grace UP Church)

Thank you for continuing the generous mission support here at Grace.

CELEBRATIONS FOR JULY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Carl Stover—4th

Glennace Rocker—12th

Janet Whitson Marcus—15th

Marge Neel—31st

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Glenn and Sheena Gilbert—1st

We love celebrating your birthday with you! There are many people whose birthdays we don't have and would like to include in the celebration list! If you haven't seen your name in the last year, please send me quick email with your birth date (anniversary, too) so I can add it to the incomplete list that I have. Please email Gracetoyou266@gmail.com. Thank you!

PRAY FOR:
OUR VETERANS AND TROOPS AND OUR COUNTRY

world peace that the hungry can be fed end of violence

Victims of Gun Violence	People of Ukraine	People of Israel & Gaza
Freddy Barras	Nan Beard	Family of Nick Boyer
Jonah Burns	Marnie Burns and Family	Jackie Ceres
Bea Chachakis	Gabe Chachakis	Daniel Christain
Family of Fred Claypool	Adric Garlick	David Garlick
Niki Juarez Cummings	Family of Mary Laipple	Leslie Langmeyer
Brian Long	Marge Neel	Lee Nelson
Wylladene Nelson	Kyla Jo Purvenas	Allan Smith
Kitty Smith	Jennifer Steiner	Carl Stover
Alma White	Steve Winefka	Family of Kehinde Joel Fasure

Please welcome the newest member of Grace Church:

Jennifer Steiner!

*Jennifer signed the book at the June 23, 2024
Sunday Service with her parents in attendance.*

Welcome, Jennifer!



People You Should Know

ALICE WASNEY

My husband, Rick, and I moved to Park Forest 40 years ago, and started attending Grace Church a few months later. I'm a lifelong Methodist girl, so it seemed like a good fit. At the time, we only had one child, our son, T.J., and I wanted to get him started in Sunday School. A few years later our family grew by one daughter, Kim, and then another daughter, Amy, and they started at Grace as soon as they were old enough to leave the house, because by that time, I was teaching Sunday School. It's hard to believe those little ones are all grown up now, but we're proud of the adults they've become.

I've spent the years filling various roles at Grace; teaching Sunday School, on the WCA board, singing in the choir for a bit, Missions committee. I think the best of it has been time with the friends in Rebekah Circle through the years.

My job through all that has been my family, my home, with a good bit of volunteer work at the kids' school. Library mom, room parent, field trip chaperone, and anything else that was needed.

In my own time, I read, sometimes I write a little bit, and I generally have a knitting project in my hands. (Have knitting, will travel.) These days, I'm also doing some gardening, trying to get our yard into better shape, and I volunteer with the Park Forest Historical Society.



GRACE UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

Questionnaire

In preparation for our 70th anniversary celebration, we are compiling memories of current and former members and friends of the church. Even if you can't be at the church on October 27th, please complete this questionnaire and return it. We look forward to hearing from you. Please send completed forms to: Grace United Protestant Church, 266 Somonauk St., Park Forest, IL 60466 Thank you in advance!

Name:

Family Members who also attended Grace:

Were you baptized at Grace, if so, when?

Were you confirmed at Grace, if so, when?

Were you married at Grace, if so, when?

Special Memories: