

GRACE UMC, LASALLE IL 61301

PASTOR:

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Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 8am – 4 pm

Worship Times

Sunday 9:00 AM



SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Watching and waiting, looking above,
“.....looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of
the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus”.
Titus 2:13

Dear Friends:

Greetings to you all in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ! Hope you all had an exciting summer time with family and friends. The month of September is here, it means a lot of changes in our lives both in the family as well as in the church. Children are back in schools and colleges. Please pray for God's protection and for the gifts of wisdom and knowledge for them to excel in academics, sports and games. Very soon the landscapes and the colors of nature keep changing and before too long we will have to pull out our jackets and scarves out. Times and seasons change but the love of God that passeth all understanding never changes. And we need to constantly renew our faith towards, 'looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus', in our lives.

At church, we are following the lectionary series on the Prophets of the Old Testament for our Sunday meditations. I am very happy and looking forward for the Choir to resume singing after a long gap due to covid-19 and its restrictions. The Tone Chimes members have helped us fill that gap and on behalf of the church I like to thank Chris, all the musicians, chimes group and individual soloists. This month we will be resuming the following:

- Men's Fellowship Meetings.
- Adult Sunday Bible Studies following the coffee hour.
- Weekday Wednesday Services.
- Choir – twice a month.

The Summit Learning Academy had a wonderful summer program and the new academic session has started. We have a new Director and I request you all to uphold the teachers and the Director in your prayers. In the light of frequent leaving of Directors, I had a conversation with the new Director and discussed the challenges they face, and new approaches and roles of the director and the teachers. On behalf of the church, I wished her all success and encouraged her to make Summit an even better place for teachers and children and to become an even more effective ministry of our church. I request the church for your prayers and support for Summit.

As we all go through these changes both individually and collectively as a church, I want to remind ourselves the words of the psalmist as quoted above, "*as the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.*" Our lives and life's situations may change from time to time. Some circumstances might be difficult and threatening, we might be struggling with issues and problems, such as, illness, loss of a loved one, difficult financial situations and challenges, we might be taking up new jobs, or we might be getting ready to retire from full time vocations, children might be leaving home for colleges, new jobs and so on. The promise we have in these words of the psalmist is that in all our experiences, we are surrounded by the love and protection of our LORD. Therefore, believe in the LORD, commit your ways to our God and God will lead you through. Have a blessed month of September 2018. God Bless!

Pastor Solomon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

4 September 2022

THEME: Counting the Cost / Having Words with Jesus
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)
Philemon 11:-21
Luke 14:25-33

11 September 2022

THEME: Finding the Lost / Having Words with Jesus
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14 (UMH 746)
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

18 September 2022

THEME: Debts Are Tossed / Having Words with Jesus
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4 (UMH 741)
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

25 September 2022

THEME: Gulf is Crossed / Having Words with Jesus
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (UMH 810)
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

GRACE UMC/SUMMIT NEWS / HAPPENINGS



When is a zucchini not just a zucchini?

When it is an impetus for connection, communication, creativity, and sharing? How many times have you sat in the same pew and said "Good morning. How are you doing?" to those around you, and that's it? When it is zucchini season, you find yourself crowded around the Market for Missions table, selecting prime produce, and this is what you hear: "I love fresh green beans. What is that? How do you fix okra? What do you do with those gigantic zucchinis? Are there any beets left? Those onions are beautiful! I eat the cherry tomatoes just like candy. My grandmother/mother/ sister-in-law had a great zucchini bread recipe. That cabbage would win a prize at the fair. We grill the zucchini. The eggplant is beautiful. Smell the basil!" This is profoundly biblical. Think Matthew 15 and the multiplying of the loaves and fish to feed thousands. Our friend planted a few extra zucchini seeds, then gave us six tiny plants. Ryan, our son, cared for the seedlings and transplanted them in the garden. Under his watchful eye they became huge plants with 19" leaves that covered the entire garden and protected the fruit below. (Did you ever have a 6" zucchini that was a foot long the next day?)

Then the Market for Missions opens, and people buy the zucchinis, and take them home to share with family and friends in casseroles, bread, salads, and on the grill. Thanks to Kathy Litwiller they even appear at the Market the next week in the form of Zucchini Bread with pineapple/bananas/Aronia berries, and the donations increase exponentially. Grace UMC is able to contribute to the Illinois Valley Food Pantry, the Hall Township Food Pantry, and P.A.D.S. as well as the six mission Advance Projects around the world, organized by the United Methodist Church, that we help support.

So, when is a zucchini not just a zucchini? When it is a fish and a loaf of bread that feeds many. It starts the conversation, the communication, the connection, and sharing, and contributes to many worthwhile projects. With many thanks to the gardeners, the veggie eaters, the generous donators, the bakers, and those who go home and share a loaf of bread with their neighbors. Bless you, all. Leann Wilcoxen

Health & Wellness Tip

Bananas can help improve your mood. A banana has approximately 30% of your daily recommended intake of vitamin B6. Vitamin B6 helps the brain produce serotonin, which is considered a mood stabilizer. Serotonin impacts your motor skills and emotions. It is also the chemical that helps you sleep and digest food. Eating a banana can help relieve depression and anxiety by stimulating the serotonin levels in your body. *source: Spectrum Health Care

"Change for Change"- Bring your coins to Church this Sunday and leave them in the "Change for Change" bucket in the foyer. If you prefer, just drop \$1.00 in the "Change for Change" bucket. Thanks to your July contributions, \$60.00 was added to support the Grace Missions. That's 6000 pennies!

Sunday School- We are looking for someone to head up our Sunday School program beginning this September. If this is something that you would be interested in, please contact the office at 815-223-1001 or email gracelasallechurch@gmail.com.

The CDC - Listed LaSalle County as at Medium Risk for Covid-19. We are not mandating masks, however, for your protection, we do recommend them. For your convenience, we have masks located by the main Church entrance.

Wednesday Evening Services- We will be pausing our Weekday services for the Summer. We will resume again in September.

P.A.D.S. will open this coming Monday. Grace UMC will provide meals on the 4th Thursday of each month, starting August 25. What can you volunteer to bring to go with Mostaccioli? Food is to be delivered before 6:00 p.m., so it can be earlier than that, whatever fits your schedule. *We would like to have various groups in the church plan a meal, and also have one person be in charge for each month. Watch for more details.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- If you are interested in working in our Nursery during Church Service, Please contact Gina at 815-223-1001 or email at gracelasallechurch@gmail.com.

Chancel Choir is resuming with a new schedule this fall. We will plan to sing on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month, starting on September 11th. We will perform extremely simple music starting out, and see where God leads us. Practices will be held, only on the Sundays that we sing, in the sanctuary at 8 AM. We will spread out and it will be up to each individual singer, whether or not they will wear a mask. New singers are welcome! If you have questions, please contact Chris Kelsey (csing_kelsey@comcast.net).

LADIES IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER (L.I.F.T.) upcoming dates:

Sunday, September, 18 - Gathering with fun and refreshments in the Cafe at 2:00 pm.

Saturday, October 8 - meet for lunch at the Four Star Family Restaurant at 11:00 am.

Sunday, November 6 - Ornament making gathering with refreshments in the Cafe at 2:00.

Saturday, December 10 - lunch gathering at a local restaurant at 11:00 am.

Eyeglasses- Put your old glasses, frames, or lenses in the I Care International Eyeglasses Box in the foyer at Church. We have collected 5 big bags of glasses so far.

Bumper Stickers- We have "Proud Member of Grace United Methodist Church" Bumper Stickers available for only \$2.00! If you would like to purchase, please see Gina or Kerry.

Dedication Wall - If you would like to have a Dedication Plaque for a loved one, there are forms next to the wall. You can fill it out and turn it into the office by mail, email or place it in the offering basket.

You're Invited!! - Join us each Sunday immediately after worship Service for Fellowship Hour! If you would like to volunteer to bring cookies or doughnuts there will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby.

Men's Group- Men's group is breaking for the Summer. We will resume again on Sept 8th at 6 PM.

Dry Pantry/ Winter Warmth - Thank you all for making this such a successful ministry! We are helping so many families with our donations daily! We currently have helped over 1500 people since this ministry has begun! THANK YOU! Donations needed are blankets, new socks, shoes, and boots, Jackets and coats for children and adults. Dry Pantry donations of, Hamburger Helper, Instant potatoes, Pasta Sauce, Pasta, cereals, Tuna, spaghetti-o's, crackers, dish soap, and Laundry soap, along with toothbrushes and toothpaste.

"Living the Beatitudes": Learn about this "Living the Beatitudes" Advance Project: Tree of Life Ministry on Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, one of the ministries supported by Grace Church
PROBLEMS: Diabetes, Unemployment, Quantity, and Quality of Food, Adequate housing, Dropout rate, Alcoholism

SOLUTIONS: Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, Advance Project #123615 "Be the working hands and feet of God to the Lakota Nation." 1) Increase Soup Kitchen-Quality and Quantity of food; 2) Expand Thrift Store; 3) Provide Job opportunities; 4) Increase Volunteer In Mission Projects VIM

RESULTS: 1) Physically healthier community, with an increase of family gardens grown; 2) Clothing needs, household needs, and furnishings available; 3) More job opportunities; 4) More VIM visits to share the redeeming power of God. https://issuu.com/niconference/docs/_mission_links_book_v_1?fr=sZT15NjMzNDI0MDk

Shut In's- If you know of a shut-in that would like to receive Communion, please contact the office at gracelasallechurch@gmail.com or 815-223-1001

Bibles- If you are in need of a Bible of your own, we have Bibles available for you in the Tech Booth.

Missions: Another way to help those in need is to donate to P.A.D.S., 1320 Menards Ave, Peru 61354; Illinois Valley Food Pantry, 122 Wright St. LaSalle 61301; and the Hall Township Food Pantry, 500 N. Terry St., Spring Valley 61362. Thank you for your generosity and the way you care about the people in the Illinois Valley.

Shut In's- How about sending a greeting to one of Grace UMC's shut-ins? If you know of anyone else that should be included on this list or of any corrections, please contact Leann Wilcoxen at lwilcoxen@comcast.net or 815-223-1143

Myrtle Hitchins - Liberty Village 1101 31st St. Peru IL 61354
Edna Davis- Liberty Village 1101 31st St. Peru IL 61354
Micki Graff - Heritage Health 1301 21st St. Peru IL 61354
Dick Graff - 505 College Ave, Ottawa, IL 61350
Arnold & Marla Zolli - 52 Sandy Dr. Spring Valley, IL 61362
Harold & Mary Fran Walter - 259 N 2559th Rd Peru, IL 61354

Prayer Chain - If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain, Please contact Nancy Leonard at nancyleehall38@gmail.com.

Bright Futures Start At...

Summit Learning Academy



Summit Learning Academy: Summit is off to a great start! Many families came back this year and we also welcomed new ones to our Summit family. We welcomed 2 new teachers; Miss. Melissa (2 years-old class) and Miss. Molly (3 years-old class) Both doing an amazing job thanks to their hard work and the support of helping staff members. This month, we focused on helping children and their families get accustomed to their teacher, their classroom, their friends and the school. Summit is also proud to share that thanks to generous sponsors, two low-income families will be able to attend Summit and will be able to experience all of the great opportunities and experiences that Summit has to offer. We are incredibly blessed and thankful for these sponsors for going above and beyond for these families in need! As August quickly comes to an end, we are looking forward to the things that we have planned for September: 1. Visit from the police department for community helpers week 2. Planning for our October events and fundraiser. We are also looking for a new teacher with the hopes of opening a new classroom as we have the numbers to do so. If you know anyone who would be interested, send them our way. We look forward to all of the adventures that we will be having with our students, families and staff here at Summit! – Abigail Cervantes - Director



SEPTEMBER

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|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Nancy Otto | 14. Donna Downey |
| 4. David Haupt | Gail Haas |
| 8. Harold Walter | 15. Art Snider |
| Linda Barnard | 19. Micki Graff |
| 10. Carol Mohr | 22. Brian Kelsey |
| Matt Wilcoxen | 24. Addison Ernat |
| 11. Janet Henak | 26. Lois Croasdale |
| 13. Sue Opsal | Leslee Beams-Stacker |



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1345 Chartres Street
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Recipient Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code