

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, LASALLE, IL 61301

## SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

**PASTOR:**

REV. DR. SOLOMON SUDHAKAR, PHD

[solomonsudhakar@yahoo.com](mailto:solomonsudhakar@yahoo.com)

773 936 8979

**Grace United Methodist Church**

1345 Chartres Street

LaSalle, IL 61301

**Phone: 815 223 1001**

[gracelasallechurch@gmail.com](mailto:gracelasallechurch@gmail.com)

**Website: [gracelasalle.com](http://gracelasalle.com)**

**Office Hours:**

Mon – Fri 9 am – 1 pm

**Worship Times:**

Sunday 9: 00 AM

Wednesday 5: 30 PM

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so  
the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.**

*Psalm 125:2*

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. Very soon the landscapes and the colors of nature keep changing and before too long we will have to pull our jackets and scarves out. Times and seasons change but the love of God that passeth all understanding never changes. As we read in the scriptures, *"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."* Genesis 8: 22. Also, we are reminded in the scripture that, *"He made the moon for the seasons; The sun knows the place of its setting."* Psalm 104:19. The scripture calls us to profoundly comprehend the cycle of seasons and times. This realization in all humility lets us appreciate that our creator God has put in place everything in its cycle including the cycle of our lives! Therefore, 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 and all our experiences.

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.



At church, we are currently following the sermon series – The Journey Begins! Please come and also invite and bring your family and friends for our Sunday worship services at 9 am. Our Choir starts singing this month and those interested to join the choir please meet our wonderful Director Chris Kelsey. The Trustees committee members deserve a word of appreciation for all the hard work in keeping the church properties in good shape. Very soon I will let you know about our Fall Bible Study, which meets every Sunday at 10:30am after the Service and fellowship time. On November 23rd 2023 we will have our Annual Conference. In our preparation for our Annual Conference, all the Committee Chairs will start working on the Church Forms and Reports to be submitted to the Conference.

I therefore urge each of you to uphold our church and community in your prayers and thoughts. Also continue to pray for one another and for our church. Thanks for your prayers for my wife Rev. Satya who is in India visiting her elderly parents. Please pray for her travel back. Also specially remember the elderly and the sick among us. Also I encourage each of you participate and contribute to the life, ministry and mission of our church.

Have a blessed month of September 2023

*Pastor Solomon*

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### **MINISTRY & MISSION GRANTS AVAILABLE**

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#### **Midwest Methodist Fdtn. Creative Ministry Grants**

The foundation annually offers funding of \$500 to \$2,000 to churches and church-related organizations for new or expanded creative ministries. (A church-related organization is any organization within our conference area that partners with a local UM church and/or members of a UM congregation in our conference.) Applications are due Sept.15.

<https://umfnic.org/grants/>

#### **Grants Available to Help Strengthen the Ethnic Local Church:**

Discipleship Ministries is pleased to offer the Racial Ethnic Local Church Concerns (RELCC) Grant, which provides funding to support the ethnic local church through leadership training, small groups, worship, stewardship, and spiritual formation as it engages in developing disciple-making systems inside the church walls and in the community. Applications are due Sept. 30.

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*If interested to apply or write a grant application please meet Pastor Solomon*

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### **Lectionary Readings for September 2023**

**3 September 2023**

THEME: Who Am I? - The Journey Begins  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- Exodus 3:1-15
- Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
- Romans 12:9-21
- Matthew 16:21-28

**10 September 2023**

THEME: What is the Sign? - The Journey Begins  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- Exodus 12:1-14
- Psalm 149
- Romans 13:8-14
- Matthew 18:15-20

**17 September 2023**

THEME: How Many Times? - The Journey Begins  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

**24 September 2023**

THEME: The Burden of the Day / For the Long Haul  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

**Advice from the Garden**

Squash gossip.

Beet evil.

Lettuce be kind.

Turnip in Church.

**PADS:** Grace UMC is supplying the evening meal for PADS on the 4th Thursday of each month. Thank you to all that have already volunteered. If you can help in December, please contact Lynn Perry [lperry72@comcast.net](mailto:lperry72@comcast.net) or Diane Davis [ddavis8266@hotmail.com](mailto:ddavis8266@hotmail.com)

**change for change-** The August total for Change for Change was \$46.00 for a total of \$379 in 2023. Every penny counts! Thank you

**The Grace Market for Missions** is going strong. \$32 was contributed August 27th for a year-to-date total of \$402.00. The tomatoes are plentiful, and of course, there's always Zucchini. Special thanks to the gardeners and to Kathy Litwiller for baking wonderful varieties of Zucchini Bread!

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST

- |                   |                      |                    |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nancy Otto     | 14. Donna Downey     | 28. Imogene Hammer |
| 4. David Haupt    | Gail Haas            |                    |
| 7. Nathan Roebuck | 15. Art Snider       |                    |
| 8. Harold Walter  | 19. Micki Graff      |                    |
| Linda Barnard     | 22. Brian Kelsey     |                    |
| 10. Carol Mohr    | Jim Walter           |                    |
| Matt Wilcoxon     | 24. Addison Ernat    |                    |
| 11. Janet Henak   | 26. Lois Croasdale   |                    |
| Kate Reeland      | Nancy Gartner        |                    |
| 13. Sue Opsal     | Leslee Beams-Stacker |                    |

## What are the multi-facets of you?

When we think of facets, we think of jewels like diamonds, emeralds, rubies, sapphires, and crystals that sparkle and shine as light glistens on their many facets and show a rainbow of color.

God created you unique and special like a rare jewel and like jewels there are many facets to you which sometimes when the light shines on them, you sparkle and shine creating your own rainbow of color.

There is your soul which is the rarest of facets, the inner core of you.

There is your heart which beats with radiance as its rhythm is steady and smooth.

There are your eyes which sparkle and shine at the many reflections of the world around you.

There is your smile which glistens with joy and laughter.

There is your mouth through which words of kindness soft and gentle spill out.

There is the uniqueness of you, for God created no one exactly like you and when all the facets of you sparkle and shine you reflect God's glory in you for the entire world to see.

Yes, there are many facets to you, each one is as precious as the rarest jewel.

By: Elizabeth Schuetz

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### Summit Learning Academy, August 31, 2023 – *Abigail Cervantes, Director*

Summit has started its 2023-2024 school year! We are wrapping up week #3 and it has been a very busy last couple weeks! We are incredibly blessed with great families again this year and who have been very patient and supportive as we transition to school mode. Our 1st 3 weeks have been all about getting to know each other, getting to know the school and adapting to schedules and routines. I would like to take the time to thank the Education Committee for their involvement in greeting the families and their children as they arrived on their 1st day of school. I received multiple compliments from parents who enjoyed the welcoming and the smiles! Thank you, Education Committee, for putting smiles on our students on such a special day!

Here are a couple things that we will look forward to this upcoming September:

1. We will be having picture day for the students on September 8th.
2. We will begin to plan for our yearly field trip to Boggio's Orchard.
3. We will be discussing any ideas that we can implement for this year's Fall Fest.
4. We will begin our religion classes with Grandma Kerry which our kiddos and their family love. Thank you, Miss. Kerry!
5. We will welcome Miss. Elizabeth to another year of reading to our kiddos. Thank you, Miss. Elizabeth!

We look forward to a great year and continuing our work with Pastor and the Education Committee to help our kiddos' school days be extra special!

## LAY SERVANT REPORT

By *Kerry Izzo-Dauber*

For those of you that are not familiar with me, my name is Kerry Izzo-Dauber. I am proud to say that I am a Lay Servant of the Grace United Methodist Church.

Being a Lay Servant is an extreme privilege. I am thoroughly happy that I studied and took the required classes to become a Lay Servant. I've long talked about my love and devotion to Grace. It is a privilege and an honor to be a Lay Servant with Grace and its congregation.

In so many ways becoming a Lay Servant has made me a better Christian and a better leader. It has helped me become more in tune and committed to the bible and the scriptures.

The duties of a Lay Minister are to assist the Pastor in his needs. It can also include leading a study, serving at a certain program, teaching Sunday School, sending out church or personal prayers. Should the Pastor be unable to perform a task, I can step in for him including giving a Sermon or run an entire Service.

Should there be a special request or need, I am there for anyone.

And it is an exciting and rewarding ministry and I am truly honored to be a Lay Servant.

### Save the Date: Men's Spiritual Congress, Sept. 15-17

Meet other UM men, relax, and nurture your faith at UM Men's 2023 Spiritual Congress, Sept. 15-17, at Conference Point Center in Williams Bay, Wis. The theme is "Relevant Conversations"; guest speaker is Major Gen. John L. Borling, USAF (Ret.), a highly decorated veteran who spent more than six years as a POW in North Vietnam. He is the author of *Taps on the Walls: Poems from the Hanoi Hilton*



September 10th

**Our Church Conference is on Tuesday  
November 21<sup>st</sup> 2023  
6:30 - SPRC  
7:00PM - Church Conference**



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**Recipient Name**  
Street Address  
City, ST ZIP Code