

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1345 CHARTRES STREET, LA SALLE IL 61301

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2025



**Grace and Peace to you all in the name of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ!**

The year 2025 is a very special year in the life of Grace UMC. In September 2025 we celebrated our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I feel blessed to be your Pastor and friend at this moment of our collective 175 years of witness and ministry here in LaSalle, IL. I want all of us to appreciate and celebrate this great event in the life of the church. I was amazed to read our church's history and accomplishments that had both ups and downs. The Anniversary Committee compiled a list of *'Glimpses from the Past'* that is available soon to you all. We have a Bookmark commemorating 175 years of history, a beautiful banner, special anniversary cake and also the 175<sup>th</sup> Plaque donated by Karen Swain in memory of her husband Thomas (Tom) Swain. For our special worship service on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2025, we had Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert, Rev. Christian Coon, who delivered the message, Rev. Toni Lucas and Rev. Satya Sudhakar and several other visitors. We had a Festival of Song and Music, hymn-sing Sunday where some of our friends visited back and presented special music and song. Thanks to the Anniversary Committee for all the planning and hard work. Friends, it is God's will that established this church and it is God's guidance and God's faithfulness that led us through the past 175 years. And it is my prayer that Grace UMC will continue to be a faithful witness in this area serving all God's people in the future.

Also, I thank God for all blessings on our congregation and all its ministries during the past year. The leadership, and all the members of various committees have worked very hard since the beginning of the year. The Trustees had taken up several big projects. I want to commend the work and ministry of the Missions and Stewardship committee members for all their outreach ministries. Some of the women gather weekly as prayer shawl ministry group and the shawls are given with prayers for members going through health challenges, nursing homes along with our graduates, visitors and others. The church is thankful for the choir and music ministry. Also, big thanks for all the volunteers for doing children's time during worship. The following are some of the programs and events we attended and conducted collectively here at Grace UMC.

**STEWARDSHIP & BUDGETING TRAINING  
KEAGY GRANT CONFERENCE GATHERING  
SAFE GATHERING TRAINING EVENT  
COMPASS/INSURANCE TRAINING  
SAFETY FAIR  
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE  
BLESSING & ANNOINTING OF MEMBERS  
VBS with another local church  
ECUMENICAL LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE NICUMC  
PET BLESSING EVENT  
FESTIVAL OF SONG AND MUSIC  
CHILDREN'S TIME DURING WORSHIP  
PADS, FRIENDS OF FOSTER PROGRAM  
The Adult Bible Studies (Sundays after service)  
Men's Fellowship (Thursday Evenings)  
Prayer shawl ministry and Naomi's Fellowship  
Visitation of homebound & Nursing Home members  
Women's LIFT program  
24/7 Dry Food Pantry, Clothing, Hygiene Products etc.  
CULVERS NIGHT Fund Raising  
Garage Sales**

As I mentioned last year, the effects of Covid-19 pandemic continue to affect our gatherings, membership and even more the finances and offerings of our church. But the bills and other expenses do not give us a break. The Finance committee under the leadership of Steve Davis is working on ways to increase giving along with managing the finances in a fair and transparent manner. Myself along with Steve Davis sent in a request to the Conference and our DS Rev. Brian Gilbert to advise and help our congregation during this time. I am encouraging the Finance committee and the Church Council to prayerfully and seriously start planning for the future of Grace UMC. Some of the suggestions is to begin projections of future budgets, I am glad to inform that our Finance Chair Steve Davis worked on it projecting the next 3 years. Other suggestions are to start considering "Yoking" and "Merging" with other congregations or opting for a part-time Pastor or sharing a Pastor with another congregation.

Again, I humbly request all of you to think, pray and generously contribute for our church and all its ministries. You might be receiving a Pledge Drive letter soon in your mail, please pray and let your giving bring praise to God's holy name. This is our church and our family! Therefore, I invite each of you and also welcome you all to the 2026 Annual Pledge Drive of our loving church. It is God's grace and the work and sacrifice of countless members and leaders over the years, since we came together as a small group in LaSalle and Peru neighborhood, for continuing to be strong community today. Because of each of you and your generosity, our missions and ministry is made possible here. I want to remind you all that the vast majority of our annual budget relies on your continued stewardship, generous giving and pledges.

Have a Blessed month of October 2025!

**Rev. Solomon Sudhakar,  
Pastor, Grace UMC, LaSalle IL  
October 2025**

**pampered|chef** Online Fundraiser

Scan the QR code to shop online.  
Or type this link into your browser:

<https://www.pamperedchef.com/party/lasallegrace>



Every sale helps! Runs through early Nov.  
A % of all sales will go directly to the church!  
Contact our consultant  
with questions: Holly Dicke  
(937) 400-601

**Thanks to all who  
donated, shopped,  
baked, and worked  
the rummage sale. It  
really is a team effort!**  
*Trudy*

## Note from Nancy Otto—Finance Secretary

The 2026 Pledge Forms will serve TWO purposes this year.

The information on the form will be used to compile a new, up-to-date directory as well provide information on pledges for 2026.

*(Please note that pledge information will remain private as I will only pass along contact information.)*

It is important that every member of the church fill out and return the Pledge sheet. If you attend Grace UMC and are not a member, you are invited to fill out the form as well.

Our current directory is out of date and needs to be revised. Pledges help the finance committee get a better estimate of what offerings will be in the coming year. Please remember that you are not committed to give this amount as we understand life situations can change.

Even if you choose not to pledge, please complete the top section of the form. These forms are available in the entryway of the church. Forms will also be mailed to those unable to attend church.

All women are invited to our upcoming **Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT)** events. Hope to see you there, and feel free to invite a friend...

**Sunday, November 9** - 2 pm Game Party in the Cafe. Come and have some fun, participating in some exciting group games and eating delicious food! Hope you can bring a friend too!

Fall



Every year as fall comes, I think of the changes it brings. There are shorter days, longer nights, trees dressed in bright colors of reds, yellows, oranges, browns, and greens, and leaves that let go and dance swirling down to the ground.

There are fields of corn, wheat, and beans being harvested and the bounty brought in. There are squirrels and other animals gathering food and preparing for their long winter's night. There are birds flying south seeking warmer climates that are just right. Cool crisp breezes are blowing all around. There are people dressing warmer and turning on heat to stay warm. Fall brings so many changes which are to be enjoyed before winter comes.

Elizabeth

**Homebound & Shut In members:**

How about sending a greeting to one of Grace UMC's shut-ins? If you know of anyone else who should be included on this list or of any corrections, please contact **Leann Wilcoxon** at [llwilcoxon@comcast.net](mailto:llwilcoxon@comcast.net) or

815-223-1143

Dick Graff [505 College Ave, Ottawa, IL 61350](#)

Mary Fran Walter [259 N 2559th Rd, Peru, IL 61354](#)

Don Kubberness/Manor Court [3230 Becker Dr, Peru, IL 61354](#)

Rose Marie Redeen [714 12th St, Peru, IL 61354](#)

Tabby Chandler [1828 15th St, Peru, IL 61354](#)

Myrtle Hitchins, Manor Court [3230 Becker Dr. Peru IL 61354](#)

Russ Defenbaugh [206 N. Central Ave. Ladd, IL 61329](#)

Ginny Kochanowski, [1811 Sterling St., LaSalle, IL 6130](#)

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Steve Lewis
7. Don Ernat  
Melinda Magerkurth
9. Makayla Reese
11. Jim Renk
12. Emily Anderson  
Grant Magerkurth
13. David Donahue  
Kathy Litwiller
14. Cheryl Detmers
16. Nancy Nieslawski
17. Jeannine Anderson
12. Larry Goodbred
18. Trudy Forkner
20. Carol Sell
20. William Welch Sr.
21. Carla Reese
27. Molly Haupt
28. Janet Laird
30. Janie DeVore
31. Nate Reeland

**Did you know that 32 lbs. Of  
cans equals \$20.00?  
Total for the year is \$78.50.  
Leave your aluminum cans in  
the Church's garage**



**Be sure to pick up a commemorative 175th  
bookmark in the foyer.**

**\*Monday 10/20/25 - 6:30 pm SPRC/7:00 pm  
Church Conference**



Some 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memories / Available for in the Office