

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LASALLE, IL 61301

July 2024 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR:

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Mon – Fri 9 am – 1 pm

Worship Times:

Sunday 9: 00 AM

Wednesday 5: 30 PM

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

(Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence Document)

Dear Friends:

Greetings to you all in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ!

By the time you receive this letter you all might have completed your July 4th celebrations, travel and time with your family and friends. At LaSalle/Peru and surrounding towns we have had great fireworks display and other activities. On this occasion I thought of bringing to our thoughts the works and sacrifice of many for the freedom and liberty of the whole. The excerpts from the Declaration of Independence as quoted above is a testament of the great resolve of the founding fathers to ensure the right of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of all people. It is a great document to visit once in a while and understand the importance of it for us today.

At the same time, I also want all of us to focus on the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians 5: 1 where he says, **“For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage”**. St. Paul here is trying to explain to us the importance of the freedom that Christ has offered to each one of us through his passion and sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary. Let us therefore strive to experience the freedom that he has provided to us. And let us prepare ourselves to be the channels of God’s freedom to all those around us who long to experience the freedom and love of Christ.



Also recently, I informed you all that some of us attended the Annual conference at Schaumburg, IL. George and Barb White represented our church and I was very glad that they were able to come and give their time for this event. I am also including their Report of the Annual Conference in this newsletter. On behalf of Grace UMC thanks to them both. This year's Annual Conference focused on the theme "Yield". In his Episcopal address, the bishop mentioned that, "Undergirding our theme calling us to yield are the words from James 3:17-18: *"For the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace"*. And he continues to say that, "Let me be clear that the primary purpose of an annual conference is to equip the vitality of local congregations and clergy to do their ministry. Our Conference Shepherding Team has raised this vision for the Northern Illinois Conference: "Making and supporting vital Christians in vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice, and mercy." "This time is full of opportunities to yield to the call forward." The bishop also announced this year as the "Year of Grace". Despite doors closing, financial challenges and a rapidly changing religious landscape, the bishop encouraged local churches to look for grace and move forward with hope.

Finally, I wish you all a great and a Blessed month of July 2024.

Peace of God be with you all.

Truly,

Pastor Solomon

2024 Northern Illinois Annual Conference Laity Report

By George and Barb White

Thanks so much for allowing Barb and I to represent you at this year's Northern Illinois Annual Conference.

First thing, we unloaded at the Fill the Truck site. We had a bike and the pastor had other supplies totaling 55 pounds. A total of 7000 pounds was collected. We also had your check totaling \$516, the total collected was \$2,100. There was a Bishop's appeal this past year to support United Voices for Children, including Rosecrans, Kids above All, and Methodist Youth Services INC, which raised over \$35,000.

The three days that we attended the Northern Illinois Conference were a great learning experience. We learned that the Northern Illinois Conference and Wisconsin Conference will be sharing a bishop soon. The bishop for this will be selected at the end of July. Of course, the NIC is hoping for our Bishop Schwerin to be elected.

The Northern Illinois and Wisconsin Episcopal area office will be in Glenview, IL and each annual conference will continue with their own executive team. The newly appointed bishop will be offered housing so at this time both houses of the bishops will be sold. This move from two bishops down to one is an economical move that will reduce the budget by 38-42%. However, the availability of a bishop will be a lot less due to the larger area of coverage with more responsibility placed on our district superintendents. Also, ministers will not be expected to be relocated from Illinois to Wisconsin and vice versa unless the minister asks for that change. Many more decisions were made at the General Conference in early May but were not discussed in length at the Northern Illinois Conference. So, there will be a de-briefing in September 2024 about all these decisions.

All the pieces of legislation were passed, which included nine churches being discontinued and one piece of legislation was withdrawn because the General Conference had already approved it. The agenda for the conference included an Ordination Service, a Retirement Service, a Bishop's reception, a Memorial Service which included one of our previous pastors, Bertie Hakeem, who passed on June 27, 2023, and we will also want to remember Lynn Longenbaugh who passed on June 6, 2024 and should be part of the 2025 Memorial service. There were table displays representing 30 different NIC programs. We also enjoyed a bible study on "Jonah".

We learned that the apportionments payment's goal is to achieve 80% of payments up from 75%. Currently 1/3 of the churches give less than 50%, 1/3 give between 50-75%, and 1/3 give between 75-100%. We learned that about 54% of the 330 churches in the NIC have 35 or less in weekly attendance. In the Bishop's closing remarks, he explained that 2024's theme was Yield. And looking forward the year 2025 will most likely be a focus on a year of GRACE. Graceful singing, Grace in our financial decision making, Grace sighting in our community and our church. I'm sure we will hear more about this.

Respectfully,
George and Barb White

[Lectionary Readings for July 2024](#)

14 July 2024

THEME: Gathering for Worship / Worship with Rejoicing

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

21 July 2024

THEME: Call to Worship / Worship with Rejoicing

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

28 July 2024

THEME: Call to Confession / Worship with Rejoicing

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

July BIRTHDAY LIST
HAPPY BIRTHDAY & GOD'S BLESSINGS!

- 1 Stacey Ernat
Katie Kelsy
- 5 Tom McClintock
- 7 Barb White
- 9 Cathie Angelico
- 12 Katherine Danekas
- 13 Bridget Wilmot
- 14 Alicia Detmers
- 15 Dan Wilcoxon
- 17 Don Kubberness
- 18 Maryann Ennenbach
- 19 Jaime Walter
- 20 Jon Litwiller
- 21 George Hodgson
- 22 Cathy Renk
- 26 NoJo Sawin
Avery Detmers
- 28 Pamela Kneebone
- 30 Lynn Perry
- 31 Leann Wilcoxon

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

🔔 🧐 **Eyeglasses** - Put your old glasses, frames, or lenses in the: I Care International Eyeglasses Box in the foyer at Church. We have collected 20 big bags of glasses so far.

4th of July

Celebrations across the land with parades, food, bands, and flags waving high.
It is America's birthday as Americans celebrate over two hundred years of freedom and prosperity all because of a few band of colonists who chose to fight to be free.

Blood was spilled to gain the right to be free and blood continues to be spilled
to keep that right to be free.

A new nation was birthed on that 4th of July long ago.

It is a nation of many nationalities, but of one people.

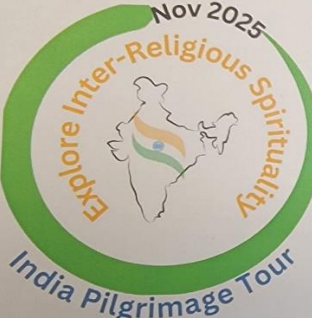
A nation founded on principle and value.

A nation deeply rooted in God and Country.

Fireworks bursting bright with color will fill the nighttime sky as we
Americans look up with pride as we celebrate the 4th of July.

By: Elizabeth Schuetz


India Pilgrimage Tour - Nov 2025

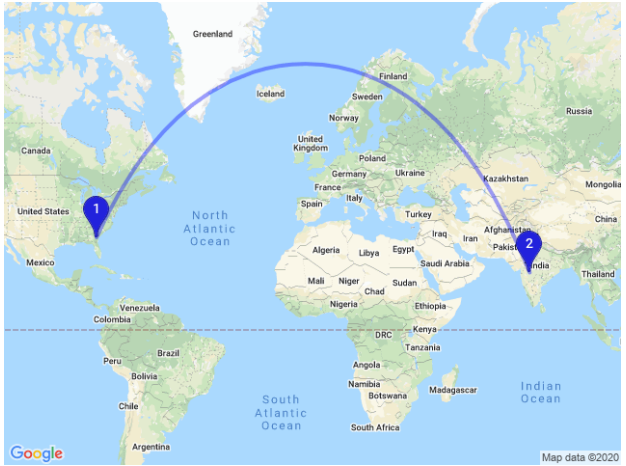


Mission: To explore India's history in the context of faith, culture, and casteism and to experience the Christian response in bringing forth a new understanding of belonging.

Vision: This visionary work will bring forth a clearer understanding of the sacred worth of all humans as mandated by the great commission.

Experience the richness of India's pluralistic spiritual worldviews in our ministry setting. Embark on a transformative journey to explore the vibrant soul of Indian spiritual diversity as we visit Varanasi, New Delhi/Agra, Hyderabad, and Southern India, where St. Thomas visited. Please scan and fill out the inquiry form to receive more information.





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 or 815-223-1143

Dick Graff 505 College Ave, Ottawa, IL 61350
Harold & 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

HAVE A BLESSED MONTH OF JULY 2024





Recipient Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code