

“No matter who you are or where you’re from, you are welcome here”

MESSENGER

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00a-3:00p

**Sunday Worship: Traditional Service-8:45 am
Contemporary Service-11:15 am**

Community Outreach Programs:

Cub Pack 576 and Scout Troop 576

**N.A.M.I. (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) Meetings are held on the 3rd
Tuesday of the month**

Grace Preschool: 2 years-Pre-K (Please call 636-240-5856 for details!)

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8326 Mexico Road

O’FALLON, Missouri 63376

Phone: 636-240-7621

Website: www.wearegraceucc.com

E-Mail: graceuccoffice@gmail.com



OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIS LOVE KNOWN TO ALL



Facebook.com/graceuccofallon



O’Fallon@WeAreGraceUCC

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

Greetings and Peace in Christ's name. We are quickly closing in on June and I have three important events to share with you. Sunday, 2 June, our confirmands will share in worship leadership at 8:45a and 11:15a. They will share with you their statement of faith they've been developing this year. Please make every effort to be in worship.

Pentecost Sunday is on 9 June 2019. What is it? Many Christians don't know why the day is special or what exactly is celebrated. It is not like Easter and Christmas that is celebrated by secular society. For those who need a quick and basic understanding of what Pentecost Sunday is about, here are 10 things you should know.

1. Pentecost Sunday marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles.
2. Pentecost Sunday occurs 50 days after Easter.
3. Pentecost is recorded in Acts 2:1-13.
4. Pentecost comes 10 days after the Ascension of Jesus Christ.
5. Pentecost is also known as "the birthday of the Church".
6. Pentecost fulfills Jesus' promise to send the "Counselor" and "Spirit of Truth" in John 16-5-15.
7. Pentecost begins the large-scale spreading of the Gospel after Jesus' ascension. (Acts 2:41).
8. The Pentecostal movement derives its name from Acts 2.
9. Jews also celebrate Pentecost, but not for the same reason as Christians. The celebration by Jews of Pentecost is to observe God giving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai 50 days after the Exodus. The Pentecost in Jewish tradition takes place 50 days after Passover.
10. Pentecost is usually represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is June 9, also the day we celebrate the confirmation of Alexandria Fuehrer and Mariah Mattox. PLEASE NOTE we will have only ONE WORSHIP at 10a. This is an important day in the life of our Grace Family. Please also note that we will honor the ministry of Ed and Connie Smith. The Smiths are moving to Iowa. We intend to send them with a blessing. Again, please make every effort to be present as this is an important time in the life of our Grace Family!

As Always, I'm praying for you and Sending with Christ's Love,

Pastor Polly

Worship News

After much prayer, discussion and deliberation between Jon, our Music Minister, Missy, our Office Manager, our Worship Design Team, and myself, your pastor, we will be making a few changes in the flow of our contemporary services. You will notice this change beginning at our Pentecost Combined Worship on Sunday, June 9. After announcements, we will begin worship with 2 - 3 contemporary praise and worship songs. On the combined Sundays we will sing hymns and songs so that everyone's worship style is represented. During two-service Sundays, only the 2nd service will be affected. Finally, in the near future, we will hold auditions for singers and musicians in an effort to refine and focus our sound for contemporary worship and ensure that everyone who wants to serve in our music ministry is making the best use of their gifts and talents. In the coming weeks, we will form a team to help with the audition process. Thank you for holding this matter in prayer.

ATTENDANCE AND FUNDRAISING

JANUARY: 236

JULY: 75

FEBRUARY: 246

AUGUST: 71

MARCH: 349

SEPTEMBER: 402

(not including Wednesday Lenten Services)

APRIL: 406

OCTOBER: 288

MAY: 248 as of 19 May

NOVEMBER: 361

JUNE: 86

DECEMBER: 622

Scrip Announcements!

In April, \$17.50 was donated to Evangelism and \$17.50 was donated to the Capital Campaign. \$20.00 was used in the Marketplace raffle. A profit of \$128.56 was made in April. Don't forget to pick up your gift cards! Shop with scrip - www.shopwithscrip.com

Amazon Smiles ☺

If you have an Amazon account, you can designate Grace as your charity to receive a percentage of the amount you purchase at Amazon. Simply copy the following link into the browser and you will be asked if you would like to support Grace United Church of Christ. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-098919>

Culver's Fundraising Nights

Our next Culver's Youth fundraising night will be on Tuesday, June 4 from 5pm – 9pm. 10% of all sales will be donated to our 2019 youth mission trip to Milwaukee so tell your friends to come join us! Even if you can't make it, please tell your friends to drop by!

Savearound Coupon Book

We have a unique link that we can use to sell coupon books online in our hometown and across the country, to help our group reach our fundraising goal: <http://www.supportourgroups.com/GN/172079>. Right on the fundraising page are buttons to share our group's link across Facebook, Twitter and email. You can simply click this link <http://www.supportourgroups.com/GN/172079/referral> to access the email referral portion of our page, which is a great way to reach a lot of people quickly! This link is active all year long, so you can continue to drive sales even after our physical fundraiser ends!

Collecting for General Synod and Mission Trip Information

At General Synod there will be additional service opportunities. We will be bringing a bag of donations of small airplane/hotel size toiletries for homeless youth. We will also be collecting new underwear and socks for children, teens, women and men. All donations can be placed in the labeled bag by the gift card table in the sanctuary. Peace & Blessings, Reverend Susan Shumway.

On June 19, Mariah Mattox, Allison Summers, Ian Sheridan, Susan Shumway, Eddy DeLong, and 'Pastor Polly' McWilliams will be leaving for Milwaukee for our mission trip and General Synod. We will be working at a restaurant that serves local healthy food to the community and charges what a person is able to pay. We will be serving dinner to several hundred people. We will be addressing the needs of chronically homeless men in Milwaukee. Then as part of General Synod we will be part of the larger youth working with homeless youth. Thanks to everyone who has made this trip possible.

NOTE: Rev. Susan Shumway is now a notary and will be offering free notary services to church members.

Grace Opportunities

Ink Jet Cartridge Recycling helps Camp MoVal Scholarship fund!

Any inkjet cartridge with a print head can be recycled, regardless of brand or type. Do you have an HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Brother, Dell, Canon, or Apple printer? Bring in your empty OEM inkjet cartridges (placed in the original box that you would have thrown away to keep it safe from spills and damages, or a Ziploc bag) to church (Note: Epson cartridges cannot be recycled – they don't have a print head.). We get paid up to \$4 per cartridge. For any questions, please contact Cindy Rose.

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

Needed for June: Canned carrots, Hamburger Helper, Popcorn, Canned pasta. THANK YOU!

Every Child's Hope

Please contact Ashley at 314-427-3755. www.everychildshope.org.

Re-Group

Re-Group will be meeting at Applebees on 23 June at 1:30p. 1377 State Hwy K, O'Fallon, MO 63366. Please RSVP by using the signup sheet or by contacting Ana Kniesel by 20 June. See Susan Shumway for Scrip Cards between services and remember, Grace receives a percentage for every card sold!

National Alliance on Mental Illness

For more information, 314-962-4670 or www.namistl.org/programs-2/nami-family-to-family/

Grace's Backpack Program

Grace's Backpack Program will not be accepting food donations again until August 2019. School is out for SUMMER! Please support the Hope Food Pantry during the summer months instead. Thank you.

Mowing

We provide a push mower, an excellent 5' deck riding mower and a weed eater. You will need to purchase gas and will be reimbursed. Training is available if you are interested. We would like 2 people per month, one to mow and the other to use the weed eater. It takes about 2 ½ hours each. There is a sign-up sheet on *Ministry Outreach* board. Your help would be greatly appreciated. For training, please contact Sandy Silger.

New Member Class

Sunday, 2 June, between worship services at 10a, we will have our next new member class ... Are you are interested in the possibility of joining with Grace United Church of Christ? Our membership class shares information about our national church, our conference, and Grace United Church of Christ. We learn about our responsibilities as individuals and how we work together as Christ's body. Our class is about a half hour long, you will be paired with a new member shepherd, fill out an informational contact sheet, and we will try to answer any questions you may have. Are you wondering what the purpose of the informational sheet? We want to share the newsletter via email with you or mail it if you need. Perhaps you have some special needs you want to share with your Grace Family. In addition, you'll be asked a few questions that can be used to help folks to know you a little better. Then on Sunday, 30 June, all new members join during this special worship at 10a. When new members come into the Grace Family it is always a wonderful day! So ... should you have any questions please call Pastor Polly. If you cannot reach her, please call her cell phone and leave a message—she will get back in touch with you if she cannot answer! We are looking forward to celebrating with you!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Strengthen The Church

The special Mission Offering for June is Strengthen the Church. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the merging needs of local communities. Last year, your support increased church vitality by awarding 12 grants totaling \$350,000 through the New and renewing Spiritual Communities program.

It insured excellence in ministry through the completion of the Habakkuk group and the Manual on Ministry. It worked to alleviate poverty through the Adese Fellowship program for spiritual entrepreneurship. It strengthened your local church through the services provided by the UCC conference. As called for by the General Synod, 50 percent of your offering stays in our local conference, and 50 percent is sent to the national work of strengthening the church universal. Thank you for your continued support of our local conference, the national setting and the body of Christ.

The Mission/Outreach Team.

TIME AND TALENTS

Volunteering, offering a donation of time or a talent that may assist in an event OR using your place of business as a resource are just some ways to give without having to use your personal funds. In case you were not aware, many companies have a charitable program in the form of either matching funds for donations or volunteer hours. Please check with your personnel department or check out http://nedv.org/downloads/Other/Matching_gifts_companies.pdf for a complete list.

Spring Rummage & Bake Sale

The April Rummage & Bake Sale was another successful mission of Grace. We hold it as a mission to help our community and to help ourselves, by donating “treasures.” In this way we don’t price most “treasures” and they don’t go to the landfill. The tentative amount raised was \$2,495.26. The Monday morning helpers often numbered 12 and the sale wouldn’t have happened without them. Thank You! I especially asked for helpers at 1 p to pack up and clean up, and 19 helpers from the Boy Scout families and Grace folks came. What a blessing they were to us tired workers. In total that day I counted 32 people helping. Blessings to each of you.

Betty Warren, Luke 11:9-10

Prayer List

Brandon Albers, Lou Arbutti, Gail Bales, Jen Boetcher, Bob & Gene Bowman, Michelle Brewer, Lizz Brooks, Claire, Liz Clemensen, Dear Family & Friends, Sally Doyle, Ellie, Mariann Fabiano, Nick Green, Mike H., Sharon Husmann, Sheila Nirk, Alyca O’Neal, Sharon Riess, Gregg & Janice Saling, Scott, Janna Stevenson, Mary Stief & Baby Jordan, Debbie Teson, Carlee Tiemem, Emily & Molly, Nicole Whitely, Prom Youth, Synagogue in California, Those suffering from mental illness, & their families, The residents at Garden View Care Center, The victims & their families involved in the shooting in St. Louis, Our Military Men, Women & Families, Kids who are bullied, Government Leaders & all Americans, Those who have no prayers offered for them.

In Care

Betty Bauer, Liz Birchen, Leslie Bissett, Rev. Harley Kriger, Tommie Leist,
Jan Sutton, Jerry & Bernice Watson



Thank you Roger Miyasaka for the new carpet and painted walls in the Sunday School classroom!

VBS

Join us for VBS (Vacation Bible School) on June 24 - 27 in the evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The theme is Shipwrecked: Rescued By Jesus. We will have activities for children ages three through fifth grade. Six graders through the teenaged years (and many adults) are needed to help with the program. Contact Mary Ann Sutton to volunteer.

Camp MoVal

Have you been to this UCC owned camp in Union, Missouri? Would you like a tour of the campus? Many of our youth have attended and LOVED the experiences of growing closer to God and nature, as well as making new friends. Contact Mary Ann Sutton for a tour or more information.

NURSERY

There is a trained teen at second service each Sunday to care for the children in the nursery. All the Nursery Attendant workers were confirmed at Grace and each has been qualified in the Safe Church Boundary Training. The Nursery Staff includes Karissa Hagl, Mollie Garrett, Alexandria Fuehrer & Melissa Megathlin. Look for their picture and biographies hanging on the Nursery door each Sunday. In accordance with Grace UCC's Safe Child Church Policy, we are requiring that **ONLY ADULTS** pick up children from the Nursery. Children/Parents are assigned a number that is used in the pick-up procedure.

SAVE THE DATE

June Scripture and Themes

2 June – John 14:15-31 “Follow Your Mentors”

9 June – Pentecost Sunday (Children’s Time Matthew 3:13-17) & Acts 2:1-13 “Plus One”

16 June – Father’s Day Mark 4:35-41 “On Dark and Stormy Nights”

23 June – Galatians 1:11-24 “The Wondrous Possibilities”

30 June – Mark 9:38-41 “Different Views” by Sara Andler, Member in Discernment

PLEASE SAVE THE DAY Sunday, 30 June 2019 at 10a. After our last attempt to celebrate had to be cancelled due to inclement weather this is the HISTORIC day scheduled to Worship and Celebrate our “official status” as being an Open and Affirming! Our Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel will be our Guest Preacher. Our United Church of Christ General Minister and President Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer will be sending us personal greetings (by video) to help kick off this awesome celebration. Rev. Bryan Allen Demeritte, a former member and son of Grace will also be with us. Bryan heard his call to ministry during his time here. So, you see, God has and is doing wonderful things here at Grace. During worship our younger folks will be preparing a piece of art that will be hung in our lobby after Rev. Ginny blesses it. You will want your child to be a part of this special time and you will have a chance to put your thumbprint on it too. So be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come out and celebrate with us!

CONFIRMATION

JUNE SCHEDULE

Friday-Saturday, 31 MAY-1 JUNE – OVERNIGHT arrive Friday 6:30p – leave Saturday 10:30-11a Finish loose ends & Presentation Sunday Rehearsal

Sunday, 2 JUNE – PRESENTATION SUNDAY CONFIRMANDS must be present at both worship services. Arrive at 8:15a – not leaving until about 12:15p (food will be provided for you).

Wednesday, 5 June – Confirmation Celebration Rehearsal (4-5p). PP really would like you to go to General Synod with her & the others going!!!

6-8 June - Conference Annual Gathering in Columbia

PENTECOST SUNDAY, 9 June – Confirmation Celebration at ONE WORSHIP 10a (arrive at church 9a).

21-25 June General Synod



Crisis Nursery Mission

Hello,

We are Alexandria and Mariah. We are in Confirmation class and last month we took donations for the Crisis Nursery. We wanted to take this time to say thank you for all the donations! We made so many children and families happy with all the items we collected. We appreciate the money that was donated too. There are some very fortunate children out there who will be glad to get the items we collected: 16 packages of 100 count diapers, 24 packages of wipes, 13 pairs of underwear, 56 pairs of socks, 18 children's books, 29 coloring books, 3 boxes of 48 count crayons, 1 box of 16 count crayons, 70 colored pencils. A total of 160 items that will help 160 families over a course of a month. Thank you for your support!

This experience helped us grow and opened our eyes for our community. Helping families in need showed us the way to live by example. Our faith is strengthened as we both live as close to Christ as possible. Thank you for your part in this experience.

Love,

Alexandria & Mariah
Your 2019 Confirmands

2018-2019 Confirmands and their Mentors: Alexandria Fuehrer & Sara Andler, Mariah Mattox & Mark Miller. Please actively pray for these individuals as they journey through this life changing experience. Thank you!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Risen and Choir

JUNE

- 1 – Music Rehearsal @ 9:30-10:30a
- 8 – Music Rehearsal @ 9:30a-10:30a
- 16 – Music Rehearsal between services
- 23 – Music Rehearsal between services
- 30 – Music Rehearsal TBD

NOTICE –practices will take place on Sunday mornings between worship services through July 2019. Watch your email for specific details each week. A new schedule for Thursday evenings will be set up in August. Thank you.

*Grace Choir wants YOU! If you are interested in joining the Choir, please contact our business office at graceuccoffice@gmail.com or talk to Jon Garrett after Sunday Worship Services. *

*Bass guitar player wanted. Auditioning sessions may be scheduled by contacting Jon Garrett at graceuccoffice@gmail.com or in person after Sunday Worship Services. *



St Charles Community College Choir Concert May 11. Their beautiful sounds reverberate in our sanctuary! Be sure to attend another one of their concerts at Christmas!

Gentle Reminder

“The church is not a business ... every functioning church has income, expenses, employees and offers services to people. Jesus had a treasurer (although he was corrupt). The Apostle Paul taught that “administration” is a gift of the Holy Spirit. To think that church planning, financial management and administration is not an essential part of ministry contradicts biblical theology and undermines the vitality of a congregation. ... Generating profits for its owners is not the purpose of a church. A congregation is a nonprofit organization that serves a religious purpose.” This is what Taylor Billings Russell writes in his article What if Churches Were Run Like Businesses? More of his article will be shared at a later time.

In the summer months often we struggle to meet our obligations. We still have bills to pay so that we can do effective ministry when you’re away. Also our Finance Team works really hard to stretch each dollar as far as it can go. Please remember your Grace Family as you’re making vacation plans. Thank you ahead of time!

WORSHIP NEEDS ...

Worship Design has special plans for Pentecost worship. We are asking you to represent your family by bringing in a wind chime. The wind chime may be used or new. Also, you may have it back at the end of summer or even sooner if you wish.

PROJECTED CALENDAR FOR JUNE

JUNE – Mission of the Month – Strengthen the Church

1: Men's Group 8a, 9:30-10:30a – Music Practice, Confirmands depart for home 11a

SUNDAY 2: Confirmation Presentation, Recognize Graduates, & Bless the Smith's at 8:45a & 11:15a

3: Grace Life 7p

4: Culvers Fundraiser 5-9p

5: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p

6: Crafty Corner 9a, PP leaves for Conference Annual Gathering, Pack 576 Wolf den meeting 6:30p

6-8: CAG 2019

7: Crafty Corner 9a, Pack 576 Wolf den mtg. 6:30p

8: 9:30a-10:30a – Music Practice, PP home from CAG noon, Confirmation Celebration Rehearsal
12:30p, Pentecost Decorating 1:30p

9: Pentecost: Confirmation Class Celebration 9a, One Worship at 10a, Mission / Outreach 11:30a

10: Pack 576 Den mtg. 6p, Worship Design 7p

11: SCUM 12:30P

12: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p

13: Crafty Corner 9a, Pack 576 Bear den mtg. 6:30p

14: Flag Day

15: St. Charles Pride Fest 10a-8p

Sunday 16: Father's Day - Root Beer Floats, Messenger Deadline, Music Practice between services

17:

18: Council 7p, NAMI 7p

19: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p

20: Crafty Corner 9a, PP Leave for General Synod (20-26 General Synod)

21:

22:

SUNDAY 23: Decorate for VBS, PULPIT SUPPLY, Music Practice between services

24: VBS – Shipwrecked 6:30p-8:30p

25: VBS – Shipwrecked 6:30p-8:30p

26: No Staffing, POP 4:15p, VBS – Shipwrecked 6:30p-8:30p

27: Crafty Corner 9a, VBS – Shipwrecked 6:30p-8:30p, VBS – Pet Blessing/Ice Cream Social 7:30p

28:

29:

30: Music Practice – TBD, ONA Celebration with One Worship Service at 10a, New Members Join,

Worship Design to decorate for Christmas in July 12:30p

OUR PEEPS & FINANCE

STAFF

Rev. Polly McWilliams – Pastor

Jon Garrett – Music Minister

Melissa “Missy” Schnarre – Office Manager

Fred Bruner, Norman Clements, Bob Penn,

Roger Miyasaka – Finance Department

Marian Davis – Pianist

Carol Muench – Organist

Angie Hinzpeter – Custodian

2019 Council

Dana Buchanan (danabuchanan@sbcglobal.net)
President

Peter Kniesel (pkniesel@hotmail.com)
Vice President

Cheryl Howard (chdh4428@charter.net)
Secretary

Bob Penn (rkpenn1@charter.net)
Treasurer

Pastoral Relations Committee Contact List

Mark Miller (millermw@maritz.com)
636-398-6170

Becky Brocklesby (beckybrock5@hotmail.com)
636-294-5078

Dana Buchanan
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Fred Bruner (fdbruner1@aol.com)
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Pastor Polly McWilliams
(pastor@wearegraceucc.com)
314-972-9798

Betty Warren (blwarren@centurytel.net)
636-561-3038

Debbie Jones (mdlmjones@hotmail.com)
636-278-0563

FINANCIAL REPORT

(April)

Total Income: \$14,245.63

Expenses: \$15,390.96

MINISTRY NEEDS

There is a ministry opportunity board in the lobby next to the office. You will see that we have many opportunities for you to share in ministry. Your Grace Council is asking that various groups volunteer for different Sundays to serve fellowship – and they will host a Sunday, too. You also need to note that we have plenty of opportunities for Lay Readers, Ushers, Greeters, and more. “Each one should give what s/he has decided to give, not reluctantly or regretfully. For God loves a cheerful giver.”

(2 Corinthians 9:7) Giving includes sharing your time and talents in various ways! Please take some time to look at your busy schedules and then volunteer for one or more of these important ministries!

THANK YOU

Thank you, Cindy Rose, for organizing Grace sponsoring the adopt a street in front of our church. Saturday, 18 May a group got together and was done in no time flat! Thank you, Cindy, Mark Miller, Mariah Mattox, Sam Birchen, Dan Birchen, and Lizz Brooks for helping us to get this done so quickly!

Thank you, Mentors Mark & Carol Miller and Sara Andler. Thank you to the families of Mariah Mattox and Alexandria Fuehrer, too. Each of you have made the 2018-19 Confirmation class so wonderful. Between inclement cancellations it has been a challenge to catch up. These young ladies are so fantastic and this pastor has loved working with them!

Thank you, Worship Design Team, for your untiring efforts in making our worship space so beautiful!

Thank you, Finance Team, for your weekly dedication to the finances of our church. Fred Bruner, Norm Clements, Roger Miyasaka, and Bob Penn, may God give you an extra blessing for all you do for our Grace Family.

Thank you, Gina Uebinger, for the cheerful way you help to celebrate all our church milestones. You and the Grace Life Team certainly inspire our life together.

Thank you, Sarah & Alicia Miles for donating the nice refrigeration cooler to our church. This will be extremely helpful for Bible School and so many other events!

Thank you, Gina, and my Grace Family, for the wonderful gift celebrating my efforts as your Administrative Assistant. I feel appreciated and very blessed! ~Missy

The Mission Outreach Team would like to thank the many Grace disciples who participated in May taking Jesus to the Streets. A huge thank you goes out to Cindy Rose for organizing the Mexico Road clean up and to all those who braved the heat to make our mile beautiful! We would like to thank May Ann and many of the youngest Sunday School children who painted rocks with an inspiring message and then delivered those rocks to our shut-ins with their parents or another church member. Torrie, Katie, Holly, Damien, Tom, Kelly, Alexa, Conner, Colby, Pete, Ana, Ethan, Vicki, Levi, Lindsay and Hailey. If we forgot someone, please forgive us. We are so proud of these children and their parents for stepping out of their comfort zones to bring a little sunshine into some of our members and friend's lives. We can all learn from the youngsters at Grace on what it means to be a disciple.

To our Confirmation Class: Thank you for your generous gift of \$100! Your wonderful and caring heart is very appreciated, and we are only able to provide for the least of these with your incredibly generous support. Every day we open our doors to vulnerable children at risk of abuse and neglect. Your support means so much and helps us to provide a safe place for families. Your support and involvement in our mission is truly needed and deeply appreciated. DiAnne L. Mueller, MS, LPC, Chief Executive Officer at Saint Louis Crisis Nursery.