

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

MESSENGER

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00a-3:00p
Summer Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9a-12p

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 Jesus' name through the power of the Holy Spirit He infused for us as "The Church." After returning from Conference Annual Gathering (CAG) I wanted to share some of what we learned there. Reverend Darrell Goodwin said something that really caught my attention in the opening message. "When the church celebrates who I am (opposed to accept who I am) I really feel like I am wanted, that's why I wanted to become United Church of Christ." This got me thinking about all the times folks say they felt so welcomed here at Grace. But then Darrell asked us to think about another question, "What would church be like IF folks left differently than when they came to us?" When we broke up into smaller groups to discuss it occurred to me that we, right here at Grace, need to quit being so quiet.

Here's what I mean. I know you hear me reminding you quite often to invite your friends, families, co-workers, or anyone who does not have a church home. You and I have a mandate from our Lord to share the good news with everyone, teaching them everything Jesus has taught us, and baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Are we doing this? I hope we all are doing this. I really don't know about you but I try inviting folks all the time.

Which brings me to the other question we were supposed to discuss in our small groups. "Why are people continuing to show up to church?" So why are you continuing to show up to church? I can't wait to hear your story about how you got here and why you stay.

I love being a part of Grace. I came here, yes, because we felt a mutual call to be in ministry together. And we are doing great ministry together. This ministry includes, providing a safe space with Scouts, giving NAMI a place to meet, helping our Birchen guys to get their needs met, visiting and sending cards to those that cannot get around very easily. When I come into the Grace church building and meet any of you, I feel comfortable, like I am coming home. What about you? I hope to hear your story soon – so please call me and let's sit together and share our stories!

**In Christ's Ministry with You and Always with Love,
Pastor Polly**

Worship News

On Pentecost on Sunday, 9 June we began our new order of worship which has taken place after prayerful deliberation between Jon, our Music Minister, Missy, our Office Manager, our Worship Design Team, and me, as your pastor. After announcements, Contemporary Worship will begin with singing. On the combined Sundays we will blend hymns and songs so that everyone's worship style is shared. BUT on normal two worship Sundays our singing will be contemporary.

Last month you read that in the near future, singers and musicians will audition in an effort to have a more diverse sound. This audition process will only be for those in Risen. Our Grace Choir will not have auditions because a choir has a completely different, more blended sound. Soon, an audition team will be recruited to help with the audition process. Please join us in holding this matter in prayer. Thank you!

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: 300

NOVEMBER: 361

JUNE: 271 as of 16 June

DECEMBER: 622

Scrip Announcements!

In May, \$11.50 was donated to Evangelism and \$11.50 was donated to the Capital Campaign. A profit of \$92.45 was made in May. 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

Grace UCC Youth want to thank everyone who went to Culver's in June. We raised \$365 towards our Mission Trip to Milwaukee. Our next scheduled fundraiser night is 6 August from 5p-9p, see you there!

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

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.

Pet Food Pantry

Youth will be going to the Bi-State Pet Food Pantry on Saturday, August 3rd. We will leave at Grace 8:30am as we are scheduled from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. We will be bagging dog food, sorting canned food, and anything else they need done! Afterwards we will stop for lunch on the way home and plan out some activities for this upcoming year. Please RSVP to Susan Shumway at uccsss@yahoo.com by 21 July if you wish to attend.

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 July: Canned peas, Stove Top Dressing, Peanut Butter, Jello/Pudding. THANK YOU!

Every Child's Hope

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

Re-Group

Re-Group will be meeting at Blumenhof Winery on 14 July at 2p. 13699 South, MO-94, Dutzow, MO 63342. Please RSVP by using the signup sheet or by contacting Ana Kniesel by 10 July.

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. 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.

Community Outreach

We have made a yearlong commitment to the city of O'Fallon to keep the mile of Mexico Road in front of Grace free of trash. Our next street cleanup will be Saturday July 13 at 10 am. We will meet at the church parking lot. We will have safety vests, gloves and trash bags. Be sure to bring sunglasses, a hat, sunscreen and water bottles if you need. It should only take an hour or so, depending on how many helpers we have. Please sign up on the activity board if you are planning to help out. All ages are welcome. If you can't help out in July, you can join us in September. Contact Cindy Rose for more information.

Pride St. Charles

Thanks to all our volunteers who came out and helped at Pride St Charles on June 15th: Allison Summers, Sarah Miles, Alicia Miles, Gina Tackett, Casey Rissell, Mark Miller, Alexandria Fuehrer, Mariah Mattox, Cindy Rose, Susan Shumway, Polly McWilliams, Sara Andler, Bill Dahlmeier, Julia Rose, John & John Gettimeier, and Pat Vogel.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Christmas In July (Second Mile Giving)

Do you know what Second-Mile Giving is all about? Grace supports many worthy missions throughout the church year. The funds to this special mission go straight to Grace and – AND only to Grace. Again, the Second-Mile Giving offering helps to reach our budgeted goals by reducing short falls that occur during the summer months when normal bills exceed income. Second-Mile Giving helps to ensure that Grace continues to be a viable church in years to come. As a member of our Beloved Grace – that is something we all want. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help. Thank you!

~In Christ, Fred Brunner

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://nnedv.org/downloads/Other/Matching_gifts_companies.pdf for a complete list.

Adult Sunday School

We will have a casual "drop in" Adult Sunday School starting on July 7 at 10 am. We will meet in the library space down stairs. We will be guided by the book ""Jim & Casper Go to Church by Jim Henderson and Matt Casper. This is available on Amazon (kindle, used and paperback). "You will never read a more interesting book about how outsiders view the church." We will meet for 8 weeks starting July 7 through August 25. Join us for one week or all 8. Contact Cindy Rose for more information.

Starting on September 8 we will be studying the Book of Romans at the 10:00 am Sunday School hour. This will not be an instructor giving a lecture. Instead we will work through this book together with a study guide and conversation. Mark your calendars to join us in the fall.

Prayer List

Dixie Allen, Ruth Allen, Dan Birchen, Lizz Brooks, Bill Buchanan, Melanie Buchanan, Liz Clemensen, Marvin Cox, Sheila Dunn, Cindy George, Harlan Gerdes, Herbert Family, Sharon Husmann, Jacob, Jeanne Johnston, Judy, Lindsay & Sam Kendall, Horst & Hedy Kniesel, Kostos Family, Family of Rev. Harley Kriger, Angie Mense, Bob Penn, Gregg & Janice Saling, Scott, Diane Schmucker, Pat Schultz, Norm Summers, Dale & Ruth Tiller, Family of Jerry Watson, Flood Victims, Boy Scouts, The Victims and families involved in the Virginia Beach Shooting, 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, Tommie Leist,
Jan Sutton, Bernice Watson

Kid Stuff

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.



Drake's Baptism 6/16/19

July Scripture and Themes

- 7 July – Luke 7:36-8:3 “Extravagant Love”**
- 14 July – Galatians 3:23-29 “Thicker Than Blood”**
- 21 July – Galatian 5:1, 13-25 “Church Potluck?”**
- 28 July – Colossians 1:1-14 “Heart of Hearts”**

CONFIRMATION

PENTECOST SUNDAY, 9 JUNE

CONFIRMED!



Confirmand: Alexandria Faith Fuehrer

Parents: Adam & Holly Fuehrer

Mentor: Sara Andler

Confirmation Verse: John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don’t be troubled or afraid.”

Confirmand: Mariah Rose Mattox

Parents: Richard & Kimberly Mattox

Mentor: Mark Miller with Carol Miller

Confirmation Verse: Mathew 28:20

“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MUSIC MINISTRY

Risen and Choir

JULY

7 – Band Rehearsal @ 10:45a
14 – Band Rehearsal @ 10:45a
21 – Band Rehearsal @ 10:45a
28 – Band Rehearsal @ 10:45a
30 – Band Rehearsal @ 10:45a

NOTICE –rehearsals 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. *

Gentle Reminder

In June we gave this reminder knowing the summer season was upon us. Here is a bit more of the article as we continue considering “What if Churches Were Run Like Businesses?” by Taylor Billings Russell.

“The church is not a business. The church is a business. Anyone who has participated in a congregational meeting has probably [recognized this] ... every functioning church has income, expenses, employees and offers services to people. ... Although we may think of our congregations with sentiment and emotion, church leaders must also understand that the local church is a mission-focused enterprise that requires planning, investment, management, and administration...

Generating profits for its owners is not the purpose of a church. A congregation is a nonprofit organization that serves a religious purpose. Every type of organization, however, requires excellent management, strong revenue streams, and the capacity to generate a surplus after expenses.” (More of this article will be shared next month.)

This is a gentle reminder that during the summer months we must continue to meet our obligations. The bills roll in because we still do effective ministry when you’re away on vacation. Please remember also that the men on our Finance Team voluntarily work 4-6 hours each week to stretch our dollars. Please pray for and continue to support your Grace Family as you’re making vacation plans. Thank you ahead of time for sharing in Christ’s ministry!

PROJECTED CALENDAR FOR JULY

JULY – Mission of the Month – Christmas in July (Second Mile Giving)

- 1: Grace Life 7p
- 2:
- 3: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p
- 4: OFFICE CLOSED – Independence Day
- 5: OFFICE CLOSED
- 6: Men’s Group 8a

SUNDAY 7: Birthdays

- 8: Pack 576 den meeting 6:30p, Worship Design 7p
- 9: SCUM 12:30p
- 10: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p
- 11: Crafty Corner 9a, Pack 576 Bear Den Meeting
- 12:
- 13:
- 14: Re-Group @ Blumenhof Winery 2p
- 15:
- 16: Council 7p, NAMI 7p, PP Ordination Anniversary
- 17: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p
- 18: Crafty Corner 9a
- 19:
- 20:

SUNDAY 21: MESSENGER DEADLINE, PP & YOUTH leave on Mission Trip with Columbia

- 22:
- 23:
- 24: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p
- 25: Crafty Corner 9a
- 26:
- 27:
- 28:
- 29:
- 30:
- 31: Staffing 10:30a, POP 4:15p

MINISTRY NEEDS

There is a ministry opportunity board in the lobby next to the office. You will see many opportunities for you to share in Christ's ministry. Your Grace Council is asking that various groups volunteer to host fellowship time after each worship service one Sunday a month.

Please also note there are plenty of other 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) Sharing your time and talents in various ways is a wonderful way to give joyfully! Please take some time to prayerfully consider volunteering for one or more of these important ministries!

Conference Annual Gathering (CAG) 2019 Reflections

What a fun and informative CAG for 2019! CAG is like an eye opener to most people who have never gone. That's because you definitely learn how hard we work in our conference. For the youth, I like that we learn what we all should do – but it still lets us have fun. CAG this year had some topics that especially concerned the youth with Tambo and discussion about it being sold. THANKFULLY we didn't sell Tambo, but at the same time, we must learn why it hasn't been used because we I know that discussion will be coming back. I can't wait for next year's CAG and I would strongly encourage any youth to come with our church.

Thursday started with an extremely motivational speaker, Reverend Darrell Goodwin, conference minister from the Minneapolis area. He charged us to consider 3 questions: Who Are We, Why does the conference exist, and Who is God calling the Missouri Mid-South Conference to be. After lunch, we had worship with the sermon being given by Conference minister Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel. Thought she'd have a tough act to follow, but she delivered a most inspiring sermon. Our conference minister led a visionary discussion about those very questions that Darrell Goodwin asked us. She posed the questions and when we answered them, she used an awesome computer application that allowed us to see everyone's answers on the big screen. The most frequent answers coming out larger and bolder print than the others on the screen. We ended the night with our very own Grace UCC and another church getting recognition for becoming an Open and Affirming Church.

Friday was just as inspirational. Reverend Goodwin spoke again and one of the Members in Discernment gave the sermon for morning meditation. They are both very energetic and charismatic speakers. We moved into our business meeting, including another visioning sessions and an informational report about shared ministries.

Then our conference minister gave a talk on the problem our denomination, and our own conference, is having with Steeplejackers. It is a real phenomenon that we are facing. Then we broke for dinner and ended the night with speeches from our conference staff. It's so encouraging to know that I worship and serve a denomination / conference / church that cares so deeply for others! I came home with a renewed sense of purpose and compassion for my fellow believer. I'm most grateful that I went. ~By Ian Sheridan and Cheryl Howard

THANK YOU

Thank you, Sarah & Alicia Miles for donating the beautiful stainless-steel countertops to our church. This will be used in our lower level kitchen – which we hope to get done in the future!

Thank you, Risen & Choir for providing such beautiful music for Confirmation Sunday on Pentecost. Our new Contemporary Worship flow is off to a brilliant start. Thank you, Jen Norman, for singing the confirmands song “You Say” written by Lauren Daigle!

Thank you, to Betty Warren & Connie Smith for organizing the confirmands beautiful present from our Grace Family.

Thank you to Worship Design for all the Pentecost decorating you did to make our sanctuary so beautiful!

Thank you, Rev. Susan Shumway for organizing our fundraising efforts for our youth to go on our mission and General Synod trip. Thank you to every church member that helped by your generous support. We will give a report this fall.