

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

MESSENGER

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00a-3:00p
Closed Fridays, Holidays and Fort Zumwalt No School Days

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

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O’FALLON, Missouri 63376

Phone: 636-240-7621

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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 Grace Faithful! I'm praying that you are all ready to faithfully move into this fall. Sunday, 6 October 2019 we celebrate World Communion and Neighbors in Need Sunday. We will also have new members joining our Grace Family that day followed by going to the CROP Walk – it is going to be a fantastic day! You'll be able to choose to worship at 8:45a or 11:15a with Sunday School in between. Please be sure to come help us celebrate!

Then on Sunday, 13 October 2019, again at 8:45a or 11:15a we will kick off our stewardship campaign. I will start us off that day introducing our theme which is "The Way." Then I will be taking two weeks of my sabbatical and one week of vacation before returning to regular worship on Sunday, 10 November 2019. Later I will outline the preaching schedule for you. I DO encourage you to come even though I will be worshipping elsewhere and I will say more about this later.

As the faithful on "The Way" we are "**Caretakers of the Way.**" Here is an article written by our national office to help us understand.

"Humans leave traces of connection. The British naturalist Robert MacFarlane has written: *"that once you begin to notice them, you see that the landscape is still webbed with paths and footpaths Pilgrim paths, green roads, drove roads, corpse roads, trods, leys, dykes, drongs, sarns, snickets – say the names of paths out loud and at speed and they become a poem or rite – holloways, bostles, shutes, driftways, lichways, ridings, halterpaths, cartways, carneys, causeways, herepaths."* Robert MacFarlane, *The Old Ways*, p. 13

Faith too is a path of connection but unless the way is practiced it disappears. Stewardship is the practice that generates and regenerates the path of faith. Stewardship is less about sharpening our pencils and more about sharpening our tools for trail maintenance, equipping ourselves to be caretakers of the path connecting us to our Creator and guiding our steps.

Robert MacFarlane reports that in the 19th century small sickles were hung on stiles or posts where paths connecting communities began. Walkers would pick up the sickle or hook to lop off branches as they walked. They would then leave the 'hook' on the stile or post at the end of the path so a walker going in the opposite direction could do the same. This shared caretaking of the path benefited each individual walker but also the larger community.

The early Christian movement was known internally as well as to its persecutors as the way (Acts 9). The life of faith is a way of being human, a way of interpreting, a way of practicing, a way of living. As we journey towards the reign of God, we are following in the tracks of others, ways walked by Jesus himself, paths as ancient as Abraham and Sarah. Today we are not just signposts pointing the way but the caretakers, the stewards of that way. Come and join in the way."

Perhaps you feel like I do? I feel like MacFarlane was saying it was everyone's responsibility to help take care of the footpaths between the connecting communities. And, it just makes sense, doesn't it? In another way it is like that old African Proverb 'it takes a village to raise a child.' So now on to why it is important for you to be in worship while I am gone 20, 27 October and 3 November. Your Grace Family will miss you and the guest preachers need you to give them feedback. I can tell you it is really hard to preach to fifteen or twenty people scattered all over the sanctuary. So PLEASE, be in worship and know I will be in worship too. Schedule

20 October—Mark Miller, Roger Miyasaka, and Bob Penn

27 October—Jon Garrett

3 November—Student Pastor Annie Girresch

I will be back on 10 November when Member-in-Discernment Sara Andler preaches. I will be praying for you and your guest preachers to sense the Holy Spirit's movement. Please pray for me too as we serve our Lord Jesus Christ together!

As always, Love, Pastor Polly

ATTENDANCE AND FUNDRAISING

JANUARY: 236

JULY: 305

FEBRUARY: 246

AUGUST: 306

MARCH: 349

SEPTEMBER: 266 as of 9/15

(not including Wednesday Lenten Services)

APRIL: 406

OCTOBER: 288

MAY: 300

NOVEMBER: 361

JUNE: 450

DECEMBER: 622

Scrip Announcements!

In August \$12 was donated to Evangelism and \$12 was donated to the Capital Campaign. A profit of \$92.50 was made in August. Don't forget to pick up your gift cards! Shop with scrip - www.shopwithscrip.com

Amazon Smiles 😊

You can designate Grace as your charity to receive a percentage of the amount you purchase at Amazon. Copy this link into the browser <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-098919>

Culver's Fundraising Nights

The next Culver's fundraiser will be on Tuesday, October 1 from 5p-9p.

Ink Jet Cartridge Recycling helps Camp MoVal Scholarship fund!

Any inkjet cartridge with a print head can be recycled, regardless of brand or type. 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.

Grace's Backpack Program

Please consider donating individual serving sized boxes of cereal, individual cups of fruit, individual cups of vegetables, goober peanut butter & jelly in plastic jars, and basically anything that would fit in a backpack without breaking or getting smashed. If you prefer we did the shopping for you, we will happily take your money donation to do just that. Thank you so much for supporting these children. In this country no child should ever go to bed hungry!

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Our Fall Rummage & Bake Sale is on October 26 from 8a-1p! Are you free Monday mornings from 9a-11a starting September 30 for 4 weeks? I need your help sorting all the "treasures" that get donated. Don't bring those clean and gently used treasures until after September 9, Rally Day. Thank you, Betty Warren.

SCUMY

6 October – CROP WALK

18 October – Festival of Sharing Lock-in

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

Needed for October: Canned Corn, Rice A Roni, Tuna Helper, Canned Pears. The Pantry is desperately low on food, please consider a donation to help serve those in need. THANK YOU!

NOTE: Rev. Susan Shumway is a notary and is offering free notary services to church

Grace Opportunities

Every Child's Hope

The ECH Christmas Store is expanding! Introducing, hope Chest. Gifts will now be available all year long for our young peoples' giving needs-Mother's Day, Father's Day, Birthdays, Graduations...and

Christmas too! Please see the flyer on the community board just outside the sanctuary for more information or contact Sarah Dewesse, Volunteer & Community Relations manager, 314-427-3755 x299 or sdewesse@echmail.org. Mark items "Store/Sarah" or "Hope Chest/Sarah." (Pick up is also available).

Re-Group

Re-Group will be meeting at Bemos, 5373 State Highway N. Cottleville, MO 63304, 11 October at 6:30p. Please RSVP by using the signup sheet or by contacting Ana Kniesel by 8 October.

National Alliance on Mental Illness

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

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. It takes about 2 ½ hours each to mow and weed eat. There is a sign-up sheet on *Ministry Opportunities* board. Your help would be greatly appreciated. For training, please contact Sandy Silger.

Every Child's Hope Ladies Aid

ECH Ladies Aid Fall Luncheon is on Wednesday October 16 at 11:30a in the Dining Hall. Also, in October we need: Halloween Candy (Individually Wrapped), and brand new socks/underwear for foster care youth. For more information please call 314-427-3755.

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. 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

Our Fall adult Sunday School started on September 15 to study the Book of Romans. We had a great turn out and more are always welcome! This is a discussion-based class and all are welcome to drop in when you can or join us every Sunday. You may sign up on the Ministries Opportunities board or just show up. We meet in the church office at 10a.

Cleaning Up O'Fallon

Nine Grace members show up on September 14 and cleaned up the one mile stretch of Mexico Road in front of our church. It was a beautiful day and we cleared the streets of plastic bags, beverage cans and other assorted trash. Thanks to Tom, Kelly, Alexa, Conner and Colby Deptula, Mark & Carol Miller, Mary Ann Sutton and Cindy Rose for your helping hands. Your next chance to help clean up O'Fallon will be Saturday November 9 at 10a.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Neighbor's in Need

Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need! The Neighbors in Need Offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and cation alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousand of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

MUSIC MINISTRY

MUSIC PRACTICE

Thursday evening rehearsals begin on 3 October with Choir meeting from 6p-7p and Risen from 7p-8p.

*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. *

Council Corner

Your church council met on Aug. 20. Peter Kniesel, our vice president, ran the meeting in our president, Dana Buchanan's absence. Our Preschool director, Patti Bergner provided us with her annual fall report. There are currently 57 students enrolled with a few more expected. If you know of anyone who would be interested in this quality preschool program, contact Patti as there are still openings available. Our front doors will be locked during the hours that preschool is in session for the added safety of our children. Patti is also working with her staff on planning and training for fire, tornado and other safety drills. The council approved the repair of another one of our furnaces. Council also approved funds for needed toilet repairs. The council is considering digital options for donations, anyone with expertise interested in helping us figure out a plan, please contact Dana Buchanan or Pastor Polly. Many thanks to all for the work that goes into the running of Grace by our church Council!

CROP Walk

CROP Hunger Walk will occur on Sunday, October 6 at 3p. Team Grace will meet at the Grace UCC at 2p to travel to the walk. We have donations of \$25 out of our \$1,500 goal thus far. To donate go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/stcharlesmo/Team/View/117246/Team-Grace>.

Thank you for your support!

Kid Stuff

Camp MoVal

Calling all middle school students! Join us at Camp MoVal on November 23-24. That's the Conference Middle School event. Your counselors from Grace will be Mary Ann Sutton and Carla Boster. Fun and faith development guaranteed!

Christmas Program

Save the date for the Children's Christmas program which is Dec. 22 at second service. Jesus is the reason for that season and we would love to see your child in Sunday School at ten o'clock that month for rehearsals.

Safe Church Child Protection Policy

Recently two sessions were held to train the volunteers who work with the youth and children of our church. Grace has a document, updated and approved by the Church Council, which details the procedures in place to keep everyone safe. Just a reminder that during the ten o'clock hour on Sundays, only trained volunteers, students, and their parents should be in the youth area on the east side of the lower level.

Nursery Attendant

Lexi has been attending Grace all her life and was confirmed at our church. She is a freshman attending Fort Zumwalt East High School. She loves sports and plays on FZE softball and basketball teams. She also plays year-round select softball. Lexi recently participated in our Safe Church Boundary Training. We are happy to have Lexi working in Grace's Nursery!

The other Nursery Attendants are: Mollie Garrett, Melissa Megathlin, and Lexi Hagl.

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 Lexi Hagl, Mollie Garrett, Alexandria Fuehrer, Mariah Mattox & 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.

Fall Family Festival

Hey Grace Family! Come on out and join us for our fall Festival on Sunday, October 13 from 4p-6p. There will be fun activities for all, including: Outdoor Games, Music, Popcorn, S'mores, and Apple cider. See y'all there! The S'more the merrier!

Annual Year End Reports

This is a reminder for ministry team and committee leaders to start preparing your annual year end reports. Thank you!

Festival of Sharing

Saturday October 19 at 9:30a. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to a lock-in on Friday October 18. You will meet at Grace UCC at 6p and travel to the lock-in. Please eat dinner before you join us. We will return back to Grace at 2:30p on October 19.

Save the Date

Festival of Sharing!

Ferguson Sharefest is October 19, 2019

Activities begin at 9:30a

221 Church Street, Ferguson, MO 63135

Visit festivalofsharing.org for detailed info about any of our Sharefests around Missouri.

SCUMY Bonfire at Moscow Mills, 8 November

Holly Berry Fair Saturday, November 2 9a-3p, 945 Wolfrum Rd. At Hwy 94 South in Weldon Spring; One mile south of Mid Rivers Mall Dr. on Hwy 94 (See Flyer on community board)

SCUMY CMSE (6-8), November 22-24

November 9, 2019 at 6p

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County

19th Annual CELEBRATION OF TREES

Ameristar Casino Resort

R.S.V.P HFGALA.ORG

Habitat for Humanity Builds homes, communities, & Hope

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S

- 04 - JACOB SCHNARRE
- 04 - GINA UEBINGER
- 05 - BROOKE TESON
- 09 - MICHELLE MOLITOR
- 11 - DYLAN DEPTULA
- 14 - MARK MILLER
- 15 - CORY SMITH
- 17 - GREG JOHNSEN
- 17 - SAM KENDALL
- 18 - ASHLEY PATTERSON
- 23 - ROBERT PENN
- 27 - KIM MEGATHLIN
- 27 - ALLYSON ROSE
- 28 - ALLISON SUMMERS

MEMORIALS

Tommie Leist Memorial

- Mary Ann Sutton
- Cynthia & Garry Rose
- Art & Dot Johnston
- Cathy Blake
- Paul Leist
- Cathie Sanzoterra
- Sandy & Michael Silger
- Betty Warren
- Thank you

Lesley Bissett Memorial

- Martin & Sharon Eis
- Mary Ann Sutton
- Betty Warren
- Judy Harris
- Sandy Silger
- Anna Strelo
- Jerry & Mary Ann Eikenberry
- Ana Payne
- Wendy Whiteley
- Jane King
- Thank you

PROJECTED CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

OCTOBER

1:

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

3: Crafty Corner 9a, Band 6p-7p, Risen 7p-8p, Pack 576 meeting 6:30p

4: Mandy & Kris Wedding Rehearsal 4:30-6:30p

5: Men's Group 8a, Mandy & Kris Wedding 3-4p

Sunday 6: Birthdays, Neighbors in Need Offering, World Communion Sunday, St. Charles

Crop Walk 4?

7: Rummage Sale Sorting 9a-11a, Grace Life 7p

8: SCUM 12:30-1:30p, Re-Group 6p

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

10: Crafty Corner 9a, Band 6p-7p, Risen 7p-8p, Pack 576 Bear Den mtg. 6:30p

11:

12:

Sunday 13: Bob Penn, Roger Miyasaka and Mark Miller Speak, Begin Stewardship

Campaign, Mission / Outreach 10a

14: Rummage Sale Sorting 9a-11a, Pack 576 Webs / Bear den meeting 6:30p, Worship

Design 7p

15: Council 7p, NAMI 7p

16: Staffing 10a, POP 4:15p

17: Crafty Corner 9a, Band 6p-7p, Risen 7p-8p

18:

19:

Sunday 20: Messenger Deadline (Stewardship Campaign 2)

21: Rummage Sale Sorting 9a-11a

22:

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

24: Crafty Corner 9a, Band 6p-7p, Risen 7p-8p

25:

26: Fall Rummage/Bake Sale 8a-1p, Grace Marketplace 8a-1p

Sunday 27: (Stewardship Campaign 3)

28:

29:

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

31: Happy Halloween!, Crafty Corner 9a, Band 6p-7p, Risen 7p-8p

THANK YOU

Thank you to our Student Pastor Annie Girresch for enlightening us with inspiration on 8 September. We look forward to learning and growing in Christ together with you!

Thank you to those that volunteered on 14 September to help keep our Mile of Mexico Road Clean!

Thank you Mary Ann, Gina, Betty and all involved in making Rally Day 2019 a success! We had a great turn out and oh the cupcakes!!

Thank you for your recent donation to Gateway ONA, which helps to further our shared mission of extending God's extravagant welcome to all. In appreciation, Barb Biedenstein

Thanks to everyone who helped collect school supplies! We Filled 126 book bags for our students. The Food Pantry

Thanks to Artist in Residence Michael McElfresh for Creating Noah's Ark!

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.” ~Matthew 6:25, 29

I don't know about you, but I tend to be a worrier. That's why I have been meditating on this text and Jesus' words of encouragement. As I get to know you before, during and after worship, I've been experiencing a deep sense of God's holding that reminds me of this Bible verse.

As a woman raised Catholic, I've faced a lot of “no”s and “you can't”s with regards to ministry. That kind of stuff can make you really worried about whether it's going to all work out. And yet I find that at each step, God has miraculously placed the right people in my life! Can you imagine that when I was a teen, Pastor Polly was the first woman I saw preach? And as I get to know all of you, I see so much divine connection in our stories. I'm so grateful that the Spirit has arranged for us to walk with each other. I trust it.

As I reflect, I wonder, what do you worry about? And I also wonder, how has the Spirit orchestrated miracles in your life? Who and what were the people, places, and experiences that God placed in your life to guide you on *your* path? I welcome you to share with me your own reflections, either in person or via email, at agirresch@eden.edu. I genuinely want to know! And don't worry if you can't think of anything right away. I invite you to just notice, with compassionate curiosity, what arises in you with these questions.

~Student Pastor Annie :)

Prayer List

Tamara Adams, Arlene Albers, Tammy Albers, Baby Lincoln & Neels Family, Jim Bertelmann & Family, Family of Lesley Bissett, Claudia Cates, Claire, Liz Clemensen, Sheila Dunn, Sheila Engelmeyer, Friend of Christy Stahlman, Alice Gray, Beth Hagedorn, Turkessa Hawkins, Headly Family, Ellie Hetrick, Sharon Husmann, Rob Irby, Diana O'Brien, Karen Penn, Rich, Gregg & Janice Saling, Scherbring Family, Scott, Bob Tipton, Nicole Whiteley, Wayne Williams Jr. & Sr., Kelsy Wong, People of Spain, Victims in the Texas Shooting, Those affected by the Hurricane in Florida, All victims of gun violence, Those homeless and in need, 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, Jan Sutton, Bernice Watson

