



GRACE NEWS & NOTES



July 2025



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday 9am-12 pm and 1pm-3pm
Friday by appointment Phone: 618-327-8407**

Note from Pastor Leanne

I had the privilege of growing up in a beautiful Victorian-era home (built in 1880s) in my hometown of Lebanon, IL. While most every room in the house was utilized daily by my older sister and me, there was one area of the home us kids really had no use for: the dining room. Featuring a striking dining table, carefully displayed family keepsakes and tasteful blue wallpaper, it was largely considered a special occasions room to be admired rather than a location for regular foot-traffic. So my sister and I would pass it daily...but would rarely enter.

I bring up my beloved childhood home because it closely resembles how people of faith often approach the Bible. Sure, we have our popular go-to passages found in the Psalms or in the book of Romans or basically anywhere in the Gospel writings. But then...there's Hezekiah. Or sweet little Nahum. Books such as these are like the "dining rooms" of scripture. We know they're there. We appreciate they're there. But we don't commonly utilize these books or spend much time just sitting with them and their messages.

A few months back, I asked around to investigate what kinds of sermons or sermon series you would be most interested focusing on in the future. Fantastic feedback came my way including a sermon series on books or people of the Bible who are often overlooked and worth examining.

I loved this idea.

Ergo, for the next few weeks this summer, we'll be diving into parts of our beloved Bible that are either unfamiliar or understudied by many of us.

Starting with the book of Joel, heading over to the book of Habakkuk, and then researching a few more topics and books within our Bible, I pray we all gain a clearer, more accurate understanding of God as we explore some of the most stirring and powerful images of God's character.

Without reading God's story in its entirety, people of faith miss out on an even greater picture of God's love and grace. By reading about the "little guys" in scripture, we're also affirming to ourselves and to our children that ALL of the Bible is approachable, timely, and plain ol' important.

This July, it is my hope and prayer that you'll bring your family and friends to worship as we explore biblical nooks and crannies we may have previously overlooked. God is always on the move and God is always talking...even when it comes to the "less popular" crowd in scripture. I can't wait to share even more about who God is with you this summer!

Thankful for your faithfulness,

Pastor Leanne

as he died to make
men holy, let us
die to make men free,
while God is marching on.

A Note From Our Worship Leader

As we enter into July and prepare to celebrate the birthday of our nation, I like to look at some of the more patriotic hymns in our hymnal. The song we are going to study this month is the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”. There was an old folk song that troops back during the Civil War used to sing as they went off to war. It was called “John Brown’s Body”. This was a song about a man who had been hanged in his efforts to free the slaves. There was a young woman named Julia Ward Howe who heard these soldiers singing this many times. She really liked the catchy tune but felt the words were terrible. In an effort to express her feelings of the dreadful events of the time, she started writing new verses to the old tune, almost without looking at the paper. This “new” song became a national hymn and first appeared in the Atlantic Monthly Magazine in 1862. It was a battle song for the Republic. Before long, the entire nation became inspired by her words and united in singing this hymn. It has been acclaimed through the years as one of the finest patriotic songs. Once it was sung as a solo at a large rally attended by President Abraham Lincoln. After the audience responded with a loud applause, the President, with tears in his eyes, cried out, “SING IT AGAIN!” And they did. Over 150 years later, Americans still join in singing “Glory, Glory Hallelujah, His truth is marching on!” In the midst of a terrible Civil War, Ms. Howe proclaimed her confidence in God’s triumphant power in this inspiring text. Happy Birthday to our Country that has been fought so hard for. I pray that the division in our Country today would diminish.

***Becky Styninger,
Director of Music and Worship***

***May you all have a
wonderful
Independence Day!***



Lost? Need Directions?

These days, online map services can tell you how to get to just about any destination. Yet even these sites make no guarantees. Disclaimers absolve them of responsibility if the directions run awry. *“These directions are for planning purposes only,”* one site warns. “You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly.”

Fortunately, the Bible has no such disclaimers. God’s Word always gets us where we need to go.

In fact, when the unexpected happens, that’s when

Scripture is at its best!



Gone for the Summer?

Not Gone from Our Hearts!

Remember!

Rest, Refresh, and Remember:

Summer is a wonderful time to step away from the routine, reconnect with loved ones, and enjoy a change of pace.

Whether you're heading out of town or enjoying local adventures, time away can bring renewal to your body, mind, and spirit.

While You're Away... We Miss You!

Your church family feels your absence when you're gone.

No one else can fill your unique role in our community.

Your presence brings encouragement, warmth, and strength to the body of Christ.

Ways to Stay Connected While You Travel:

Worship in a new place—be blessed and inspired!

Pray for your church family while you're away

Give before you leave or set up online giving if it's helpful.

No matter where summer takes you. . .

go with God's peace and return with joy!

Need fast relief? Slow down!

For fast-acting relief
try slowing down.

Lily Tomlin

Actor Lily Tomlin reportedly said, “For fast-acting relief, try slowing down.” Summer doesn’t seem to be the “slow season” it once was — if indeed it ever truly was. But perhaps we can use it as incentive to take some “downtime” around the plethora of activities, travel and always-busy work schedules.

Pause and accept Jesus' invitation:

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mark 6:31, NIV).

It may be a refreshing spot at a lake, a hike in the woods, an early-morning fishing trip. Maybe, around your work schedule, you can reserve time for a few days of church camp, a picnic at the city park, a nap on a blanket in the backyard sun.



Help the kids in your life discover what it's like to *not* be on the go and to take a screen-time sabbath — even to experience boredom and see what creativity blossoms.

Do art projects together, ride bikes, paint with water or chalk on the sidewalk, pick berries, bake cookies, solve puzzles, sing songs!



Try slowing down, as Lily Tomlin — and even Jesus — advised.

*In summer, and any time,
it's good for the soul!*

MY SOUL FINDS
rest
IN GOD ALONE
PSALM 62:1

BIBLE READING PLAN:

Choose YOUR OWN Journey



Head out on a month-long exploration through God's Word.

Each day's quest comes with some options. Choose from a prayer, a parable, a gospel reading or an epistle reading. If you have more time or use this Bible Reading Plan more than once a day, read the rest of the passages too.

1. GRATITUDE

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 17:11-19
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

2. TRUST

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 28:6-9
- ☐ Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

3. PRAISE

- ☐ Prayer: Exodus 15:1-18
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

4. LOVE

- ☐ Prayer: Philippians 1:9-11
- ☐ Gospel: Mark 12:28-33
- ☐ Epistle: 1 John 4:7-21

5. PRAYER

- ☐ Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13
- ☐ Parable: Luke 18:10-14
- ☐ Epistle: Ephesians 6:17-20

6. OBEDIENCE

- ☐ Parable: Matthew 21:28-32
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

7. PATIENCE

- ☐ Parable: James 5:7-11
- ☐ Epistle: Romans 8:22-25

8. WISDOM

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Kings 3:3-9
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 7:24-27
- ☐ Epistle: James 3:13-18

9. CALLING

- ☐ Prayer: Isaiah 6:1-8
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Peter 2:9-10

10. FORGIVENESS

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Kings 8:46-53
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 18:21-35
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 23:32-34

11. JOY

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 16
- ☐ Parable: Luke 15:1-10
- ☐ Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

12. RESTORATION

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 51:10-19
- ☐ Gospel: John 2:19-22

13. STEWARDSHIP

- ☐ Parable: Luke 12:16-21
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 21:1-4
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

14. HUMILITY

- ☐ Parable: Luke 14:7-14
- ☐ Epistle: Philippians 2:1-11

15. REFUGE

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 121
- ☐ Gospel: John 17:11-19

16. MIRACLES

- ☐ Prayer: Matthew 14:13-21
- ☐ Gospel: Mark 9:14-24

17. FRUITFULNESS

- ☐ Parable: Matthew 25:14-30
- ☐ Gospel: John 15:1-8
- ☐ Epistle: James 2:14-24

18. UNITY

- ☐ Prayer: John 17:20-23
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

19. PROVISION

- ☐ Prayer: Deuteronomy 28:1-14
- ☐ Parable: John 10:1-18
- ☐ Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34

20. PEACE

- ☐ Prayer: Isaiah 26:1-13
- ☐ Epistle: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

21. JUSTICE

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Kings 8:56-61
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 20:1-16

22. PERSISTENCE

- ☐ Prayer: James 5:13-18
- ☐ Parable: Luke 18:1-8

23. EVANGELISM

- ☐ Prayer: Acts 4:23-31
- ☐ Epistle: Romans 10:9-15

24. FAITHFULNESS

- ☐ Prayer: Nehemiah 8:1-13
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 21:18-22

25. SUFFERING

- ☐ Prayer: Job 19:21-27
- ☐ Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

26. GROWTH

- ☐ Prayer: Colossians 1:9-14
- ☐ Parable: Mark 4:26-29

27. MERCY

- ☐ Parable: Luke 10:30-37
- ☐ Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16

28. SALVATION

- ☐ Prayer: Acts 2:22-36
- ☐ Parable: Luke 16:19-31
- ☐ Gospel: John 3:16-17

29. READINESS

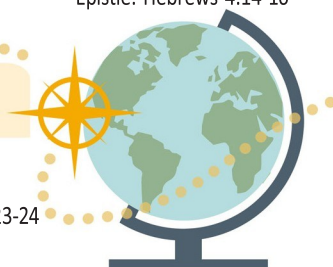
- ☐ Prayer: Luke 1:46-55
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 25:1-13

30. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- ☐ Parable: Matthew 13:31-33
- ☐ Gospel: John 14:1-4

31. BLESSING

- ☐ Prayer: Numbers 6:24-27
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- 1 GRACE STAFF MEETING 10:00 AM**
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY!
(Church Office Closed)**
- 6 KIDS CLUB 5-7**
- 8 FOOD PANTRY
SIX FLAGS Jr/Sr Students**
- 10 FINANCE COMMITTEE MTG
CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MTG**
- 15 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**
- 16 VACTAION BIBLE SCHOOL**
- 17 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**
- 22 FOOD PANTRY**
- 26 BACK TO SCHOOL CARNIVAL**
- 27 ALL GRACE POOL PARTY**

Vacation Bible School: A Time to Remember!

VBS is happening!
July 15th - 17th from
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

It'll be full of fun, faith, and adventure as kids
learn about God's love.

Be sure to register your child



.. and consider volunteering too!



JULY

BIRTHDAYS

- July 6 Bryson Frederking
- 7 Mike Curtis
- 8 Zach Davis
- 9 Marie Moore
- 10 Anthony Garlich
- 12 Ron Luessenhide
- 20 Nancy Meade
- Harper Roetemeyer
- 26 Crystal Paige Brown
- 27 Dave Gladney
- 28 Kerry Roetemeyer
- 31 Donna Buhmester
- Kaleb Reynolds

ANNIVERSARIES

- July 6 Mike & Irma Hawkins
- 9 Dave & Suzie Heimbuch
- 12 Dave & Julie Marshall
- 26 Tim & Rosy Staley

*Congratulations everyone on your milestones!
if your name was not included in our list, please inform the
office so that we can update our records.*

June Report

Date	Offering
06-01	\$ 3,271.00
06-08	\$ 2,820.09
Online (Vanco)	\$ 411.00
06-15	\$ 2946.00
06-15 Online (Vanco)	\$ 398.88
06-22	\$ 2,836.00
06-29	\$ 411.00
06-29	\$ 2,272.00

Online Giving is a total amount given for each week.

Total SPPR Budget for 2025 is \$226,399. Weekly
giving requires \$4,354 per week to meet the total
budgeted amount for 2025.



Grace United Methodist Church
250 North Mill Street
Nashville, IL 62263

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

We're on the Web
Nashvillegrace.net

Dated Material Do Not Delay



Grace United Methodist Church
250 North Mill Street
Nashville, IL 62263

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

We're on the Web
Nashvillegrace.net

Dated Material Do Not Delay