



GRACE NEWS & NOTES

May 2025

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

A Note from Pastor Leanne

Okay. I'll admit it. I'm a **"But First..."** kind of person.

As in: I will absolutely make my bed...**BUT FIRST**...I need to take my dogs out or scroll through my phone or...

I've found this attribute present in both my niece and nephew as well.

[Claire and Brooks in swimming pool]: "Please guys, get out of the water."

"Okay okay...**but first** we gotta do a triple-sideways-double-backflip-headstand-kick-headstand. Watch us, watch us!"

"But First" is all about questioning what comes next and then stalling.

So how many of us are stalling when it comes to fully pursuing a Christ-like existence?

Has Jesus come up to you saying, "Follow me," only to have you respond with "Definitely...**BUT FIRST**...."?

In this season of newness, life, and Springtime, what better opportunity is there for us to jump into a life fully committed to Jesus Christ?

And when it comes to fully living out a Christ-like existence = What *are* we waiting for?

Getting our children's lives in perfect order?

Retirement?

Perfect health?

Having that mole removed?

Finding the exact pastor we like?

Waiting to forgive and forget?

But first
Jesus

Let's see what Jesus has to say about us "But First" people:

⁵⁹ Jesus said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Jesus wants your heart before anything else. Truly.

Now following Jesus and giving him your whole heart does not guarantee a cushy and stable life, always. In fact, a life with Jesus might just make you a bit uncomfortable from time to time as Jesus stretches your understanding of all that you're capable of!

My friends, there is no perfect time to become a fully invested Christian.

There's no perfect time to become a BETTER Christian.

Jesus wants you...now...just as you are.

Let's spend the upcoming month looking at our faith lives...our spiritual disciplines and becoming people of faith who don't have a "BUT FIRST"...

Let's instead be people of faith who strive to say, "But why NOT *now*?"

Faithfully,

Pastor Leanne

Eagle Sky



Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime at Eagle Sky Camp, happening July 21–26, 2025 in Piedmont, MO! Campers (students graduating 6th grade through high school) will be placed on teams to compete in epic, week-long challenges—all leading to the crowning of a session champion! But it's not just about the games—Eagle Sky is all about growing closer to God through daily devotions led by counselors and powerful nightly chapel services filled with inspiring messages and worship. From archery, basketball, and dodgeball to cave exploration, kayaking, and a wild mud run, the activities are non-stop and unforgettable. And yes—there's even human foosball and a water ninja course! The cost is only **\$25**, but spots are limited—so don't wait! Visit eaglesky.com for more info, and contact **Kourtney Hake** at hake.kourtney@gmail.com or **618-322-5602** to reserve your spot. Let us know ASAP—we can't wait to hit the trail with you!

Kids Club

Hey kids—get ready for an awesome night at **Kids Club**! Join us on **Sunday, May 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM** for a super fun evening packed with yummy dinner, games that'll make you laugh, and cool stories about God. It's the perfect mix of food, fun, and faith—and it's all just for **YOU**! Bring your friends and your best smile—we can't wait to see you there!

Parents' Meeting



Calling all parents of junior and senior high students! We're planning a **Parents Meeting on Sunday, May 18 at 5:00 PM** to discuss and plan exciting activities for our students this summer. This is a great opportunity to get involved, share ideas, and help make this summer full of fun and meaningful experiences for our youth.

Can't make it but still want to be part of the planning? No problem! Just reach out to **Kourtney Hake** at hake.kourtney@gmail.com or **618-322-5602**—we'd love to have you on board!



BIRTHDAYS

May **06 Jay Summers**
 10 Phil May
 17 Ruth Fischer
 17 Bridget Styninger
 19 John Hallock
 20 Gary Clark
 24 Nancy Barger
 26 Mike Reynolds
 27 Stote Reeder
 29 Debra Gibbs
 30 Bruce Brown

ANNIVERSARIES

May **04 Jeff & Rose Ceglinski**
 10 Mike & Wynnne Reynolds
 26 Dave & Ruth Fischer

April Report

Date		Offering
04-06		\$ 7,645.00
04-06	<i>Online (Vanco)</i>	\$ 100.00
04-13		\$ 2,058.00
04-13	<i>Online (Vanco)</i>	\$ 398.88
04-20		\$ 3,593.27
04-27		\$ 761.00
04-27	<i>Online (Vanco)</i>	\$ 219.18

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.

christian music

UPLIFTING CHRISTIAN RADIO STATIONS

TO CHECK OUT!

K-LOVE www.klove.com Contemporary Christian

WBGL 91.7 FM (Illinois) - www.wbgl.org —

They offer Podcasts, Music, Prayer, and events.



"The right song at the right time."

Their Mission is to share hope in Jesus, one song, one conversation, one heart at a time!

Exploring...



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you interested in joining Grace United Methodist Church or simply want to learn more about who we are, what we believe and how we serve?

Join us for our upcoming New Members Class— a relaxed and informative time to connect, ask questions, and explore what it means to be part of our church family.

Everyone is welcome!

Join us: Every Sunday in May at 6:00 pm

Write God's Word in Your Heart!



"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalms 119:11

Life can throw unexpected trials our way—moments of fear, grief, temptation, or confusion. In those times, we often don't have a Bible in hand or the right words to pray. But when Scripture is stored in our hearts, we can call on God's truth instantly.

Daily Living Challenge: Let Your Life Show God's Love

Simple Ways to Live Out Your Faith with Scripture

Each week, choose one of these actions and practice it intentionally. Reflect on the paired Scripture, and ask God to help you live it out joyfully. Let His light shine through you in the everyday moments.

1. Speak kindly, even when it's hard

"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt..." — Colossians 4:6

2. Forgive quickly

"...forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." — Ephesians 4:32

3. Help without being asked

"Do not withhold good... when it is in your power to act." — Proverbs 3:27

4. Listen with compassion

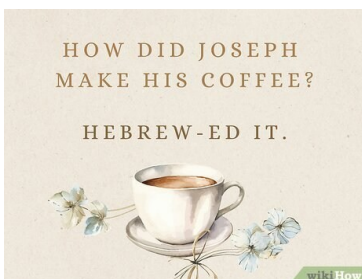
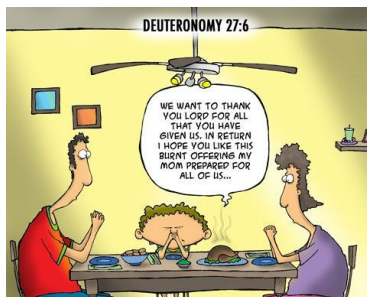
"Everyone should be quick to listen..." — James 1:19

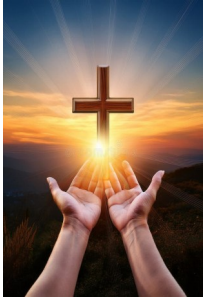
Church Funnies



"Honk if you love Jesus.

Text while driving, if you want to meet Him!"





Your Easter Offering

By showing Christ's love in action through your generous Easter donation. Your gifts are making a real difference in the lives of God's people. Because of you, hope was shared, needs were met, and grace was extended.

This year, the offering was directed toward East Side Heart & Home Family Center in East St. Louis. Supporting local families in need for almost 30 years. They seek to alleviate poverty and create social change by stressing togetherness and cooperation between people of all backgrounds. In their programs, volunteers and staff members of the Family Center work alongside East St. Louis residents to build and sustain healthy communities to cultivate positive changes for themselves, for their families.

Creating connections & offering opportunities to effect change in East St. Louis, IL

Graduating?



We will be honoring our graduates in May and we need the name(s) of your graduate(s).

If a member of your family will graduate from middle school/junior high, senior high, junior college, college or university, or graduate school, please call the **church office at 327-8407 no later than Thursday, May 9, 2025** and let us know. If there is no one in the office, please leave the following information on the church answering machine:

Name of Graduate

School they are graduating from

Degree if from a post-graduate school



BE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Got an Idea for Our Newsletter?



We want **your voice** to be heard! If you have ideas, suggestions, or even a new perspective on what you'd like to see in the newsletter, we'd love to hear from you.

Whether it's a special topic, a new section, or something we can improve, **we're all ears!** While we can't guarantee every idea will be included, your thoughts are always welcomed and appreciated.

Please send your suggestions to:

nashvillegraceumc@gmail.com and help us make this newsletter a true reflection of our church family!

Would you be willing to share your testimony in an upcoming newsletter ?

* Your Story Matters *

Do you have a story of God's grace, healing, or faithfulness to share—but prefer to remain anonymous? That's okay! We welcome anonymous testimonies. Whether it's a sentence or a full page, your experience can uplift someone else right where they are. If you'd like to share your testimony anonymously, just let me know when you submit it.

God gets the glory—no spotlight needed.

We believe that every story matters—*especially yours*. Whether it's how you came to faith, how God showed up in a difficult season, or a moment where your life was changed, your story can inspire and encourage others in ways you may not even imagine. We're looking for personal stories of God's grace, faithfulness, healing, transformation, or even everyday moments where He made Himself known.

We love for you to share yours, please reach out to me, Tanya Stewart, by sending me an email to: nashvillegraceumc@gmail.com

Please put TESTIMONY/SHARE or TESTIMONY/ANONYMOUS on the subject line so I am sure to respect how you prefer to share God's goodness.

May 2025



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Pastor's Sabbath Day	3
4 Small Groups 9:15 am Worship-10:30 am New Members Class 6:00 pm Kids Club 5:00—7:00	5	6 Women's Bible Study in the church library-11:30 am	7 5:45 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	8	9 Pastor's Sabbath Day	10
 11 Happy Days Small Groups 9:15 am Worship-10:30 am New Members Class 6:00 pm	12 Happy Days Board Meeting 6:00 pm	13 Grace's Food Pantry Distribution in Nashville-6:00 pm	14 5:45 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	15	16 Pastor's Sabbath Day	17
18 Small Groups 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am New Members Class 6:00 pm 5:00 pm Parent 	19	20 Women's Bible Study in the church library-11:30 am	21 Trustee's Board Meeting - Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.	22 Happy Days Preschool Graduation 6:00 pm 	23 Pastor's Sabbath Day	24
25 Small Groups 9:15 am Worship-10:30 am New Members Class 6:00 pm		27 Grace's Food Pantry Distribution in Nashville-6:00 pm	28	29	30 Pastor's Sabbath Day	31



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