

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
500 BUSINESS 23 W
PAYNESVILLE, MN 56362



Church Website: www.paynesvillegrace.org

Regular Sunday Worship Service Time: 9:30 AM

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am-3pm

Church Doors Open:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Friday 8am-3pm,

Wednesday, 8am-8pm

Sat 8-Noon, Sun 7:30am-Noon

Grace Church Office: graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org

Phone: 320-243-3601

Pastor Jill Meents: jill@paynesvillegrace.org

Cell: 612-867-1979

Kari Schaefer, Youth Ministry: kari@paynesvillegrace.org

Cell: 701-866-7365

Jane Hartman, Office: jane@paynesvillegrace.org

MEET 2024

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Note from our Pastor

For Springtime

Loving, Creator God,

Spring reminds me it's never too late to start over.
That there's been quiet growth over these long months of winter
when I saw nothing.
When I was called to believe there was growth happening
beneath hard, cold soil.

And now? Glory!

I celebrate the loveliness of all you've made.
The newness, Lord, the freshness – it inspires my soul!

Tulips in the front yard, buds on the trees, the voices of birds,
the cleansing of rain, the comfort of sunshine...
Each gift renews me, speaking of the promise within all those
months of dormancy and preparation.

As spring awakens my physical sense, I ask, God, for you to
awaken my inner senses.

May my mind open and blossom to the longings you've placed
within me...
to the steps and path that will satisfy the desires of my heart...
to the hopes and passions you've planted in every one of your
children...

May I seek what will truly fulfill them.
May I journey toward their Source.
May I be guided by your gentle and wise Spirit.



It is never too late to be what you call me to be.
Even as it takes greatest courage and deepest humility.

With your help, I will open myself to what I never expected before,
never experienced before,
and never thought possible.

Amen.

*by Arianne Braithwaite Lehn
in "Ash & Starlight"*



PENTECOST FLOWERS

This year Pentecost is on May 19th. The Liturgical color is RED and we would like to invite you to bring **potted red geraniums** to the church in Honor or Memory of someone special in your life. The flowers will stay in the worship space for both Pentecost

Sunday, May 19th and Memorial Day Sunday, May 26th. You may take your flowers home with you after the service on the 26th.

~ Gretchen O'Fallon

Please return this form to the church office by **Tuesday, May 14th** so that we can list your loved one's name in the bulletin (please be sure to write legibly. If you prefer, you can email the church office at graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org with the information).

**Please bring or have your flowers delivered to church by
2:30 pm on Friday, May 17th**

IN MEMORY OF _____
(someone deceased)

IN HONOR OF _____
(someone living)

GIVEN BY _____



Grace Youth News

Greetings!

April was another busy month with our youth. We have finished up our lessons for the year & had a lot of fun along the way.

As we move into May, it's hard to believe that we are entering the final month of the school year, but we still have almost a full month with our young people before we break for the summer. Grace Kids will have their review night which is always a fun night to see what they remember from the year. They always amaze me with what they retain. They will spend some time cleaning up the prayer garden for the summer. They always do a great job & it is fun to watch all the kids, even the littles help clean up. Grace Youth will hold one more service project for the year where we will again be going to the Paynesville Community Service Center to help with whatever they need. Confirmation Sunday is on the horizon and this year we have six Confirmands who are ready to take this next step in their faith journey. Please join us on May 12th to help us celebrate this important step.

On Wednesday, May 15th, we will hold our last night for this school year. We will have a celebration at the Paynesville Inn & Suites with swimming, food & fun!

Finally, on Sunday, May 19th we will honor our youth leaders & helpers as well as share our favorite moments from this year. That day will also be Senior Sunday, and we will honor five seniors from Grace Church. Coffee & cake will be served during coffee hour to honor our volunteers & seniors.

We look forward to all that God has in store for the coming month!

Much Love, Kari Schaefer

MAY YOUTH EVENTS

Wednesday, May 1st

Grace Kids: Review Night

Grace Youth: Service Project @ Community Service Center

Wednesday, May 8th

Grace Kids: Prayer Garden clean-up

NO Youth Group

Confirmands will do a walk-thru of Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 12th

Confirmation during Worship

Confirmands: Mason Hansen, Chloe Hemmesch, Eli Karpinske,
Meka Karpinske, Destiney Parrow, & Morgan Stafford

Wednesday, May 15th

End of Year Party @ Paynesville Inn & Suites

Grace Kids: 3:15-5:30 pm

Supper from 5:30-6:30 pm

Grace Youth: 6:30-7:30 pm

Please watch your email for more information

Sunday, May 19th

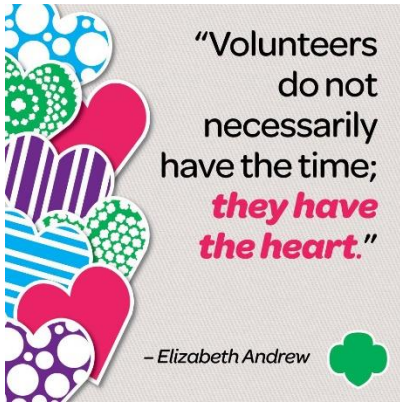
Youth & Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Gumpets to perform

Senior Sunday

Grace Church's Seniors: Dalton Bukowski, Meka Karpinske,
Hayley Kluver, Katelynn Mehlhop & Alexis Stafford
Baccalaureate @ 4:00 pm at Crystal Hills Church

A BIG THANK YOU to Stan Herzberg and crew for putting out all the Easter eggs on Easter morning. I know it makes for an early day for you and we do appreciate all you do! Thank you again!



Youth Leader Appreciation Day

Sunday, May 19th

All youth leaders/helpers will be recognized during the worship service.

We look forward to honoring all of our youth leader volunteers this year!



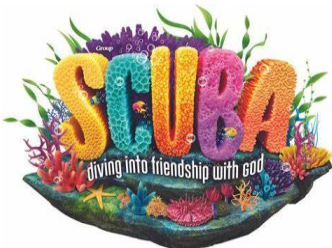
On Sunday, May 19th we will celebrate our Children & Youth Ministry during the worship service. Our young people will share stories and favorite moments from this year, and we will recognize our amazing volunteers.

Come and see all that we have learned this year!
We look forward to this special day!

SUMMER VBS

Paynesville Community VBS is scheduled for August 5th - 9th from 9-11:30 am each day at the Paynesville Elementary School.

Mark your calendars!



Grace Kids & Grace Youth You are Invited!



When: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Where: Paynesville Inn & Suites

Time:

Grace Kids – 3:15 to 5:30 pm

Meal from 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Grace Youth – 6:30 – 7:30 pm

* Please bring your swimsuit, towel, & life jacket if needed.

Note: All activities will be at the hotel. The bus will pick up from school for our last day & bring the Elementary kids to the hotel.

Please pick up your child at the hotel.

*Any questions, please see Kari Schaefer



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, MAY 12th

Congratulations to the Confirmation
class of 2024!

May God bless these young people & their families as they take
this next step in their faith journey.

Mason Hansen, son of Matt & April Hansen and Brad & Bre Terres

Chloe Hemmesch, daughter of Mike & Stephanie Hemmesch

Eli Karpinske, son of Nathan Loso & Jessica Karpinske

Meka Karpinske, daughter of Nathan Loso & Jessica Karpinske

Destiney Parrow, daughter of Nathan Loso & Jessica Karpinske

Morgan Stafford, daughter of Leta Stafford

COMMUNION SCHEDULE CHANGE

In the month of May, Communion will not be served on the first
Sunday as it normally is but will be on May 12th along with the
Confirmation service.

BACCALAUREATE

The Baccalaureate Service for Paynesville High
School will be held at Crystal Hills Church on
Sunday, May 19th at 4:00 pm. All graduates,
friends and families are invited to attend.





Congratulations to the graduating class of 2024.

We will honor this year's graduating seniors from Grace Church on Sunday, May 19th during the worship service with cake & coffee served in their honor after the service.

Dalton Bukowski, son of Cory & Kim Bukowski

Meka Karpinske, daughter of Nathan Loso & Jessica Karpinske

Hayley Kløver, daughter of Greta Bergstrom

Katelynn Mehlhop, daughter of Brad & Kristen Mehlhop

Alexis Stafford, daughter of Leta Stafford

May God bless them in their life & in their future endeavors.



THANK YOU FROM STEARNS COUNTY WIC PROGRAM -

Stearns County would like to thank Grace Church for welcoming us and being a host site for our monthly Neighborhood WIC Clinic. We are always greeted with such kindness and are very excited to have an opportunity to bring WIC services to Paynesville and surrounding communities! We began coming to Paynesville in February and have received such positive feedback and appreciation from our clients! WIC Clinic is held the 4th Tuesday of every month from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. For more information about WIC, brochures (Spanish/English) are available at the Welcome table. If you have questions about WIC or other County Services feel free to stop in during clinic hours!

Introducing Our Newly Hired Office Coordinator



Greetings to my fellow members of Grace Church! My name is Sue Jansen, and I am so excited to be taking on a new role here. I have resigned from SPRC, so that I can serve the church in the role of Office Coordinator. I have been a teacher for 37 years, and it's been a very rewarding

career, but I have recently recognized that it is time for a change. I have the utmost confidence that I will serve Grace Church well in this new capacity.

A quick introduction: I have been married for 33 years to Donald George Jansen (some of you know him as Donnie and some as George). We live about a mile North of Hwy 55 between Paynesville and Eden Valley. My husband worked for Norman Liestman for many years as a carpenter/construction worker. (Fun fact: He is also Deb Thomsen's uncle.)

I have a 27-year-old daughter, Jordan. She lives at home with us because she is unable to take care of herself due to a neurological condition called Aicardi Syndrome. Many of you have met Jordan at Church. She has been an incredible blessing in our lives!

I graduated from Paynesville High School, having moved here when I was a Junior. My parents were George and Joyce Ginther. Some of you may have known them. Both are now deceased.

I joined Grace United Methodist Church in February of 2020. I've been proud to be a member of this Church family and am now very proud to be serving you as Office Coordinator. God Bless.

SIGN UP FOR



It's time to make your summer camping plans at Camp Minnesota! Online registration is open. Pick up a brochure at the Welcome table (between the church office and Kari's office) or visit www.campminnesota.org to check out what's happening this summer at your Minnesota United Methodist Camps!

DONATE TO CAMPERSHIPS

Each year, Grace Church generously offers camperships of up to \$200 to children and families who attend our church. Those who may not otherwise be able to go to camp can take part in this exciting opportunity to experience the wonders of God's natural world and grow in their faith because of this scholarship.

Our funds are running low this year. Can you help? Please consider making a donation to our camp scholarships. If you'd like to write a check, simply write 'Camping' on the memo line of your check and drop it in the offering basket or bring it to the church office.

If you prefer to give electronically, scan the QR code on the right, or go to:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8QC/home>
and choose "Campership Donations," then click "Donate Now."



Thank you for your contribution!

The logo features a central white circle with six arrows pointing outwards in various directions (up, down, left, right, top-left, top-right) in colors including orange, green, blue, and yellow. To the right of this graphic, the words "Mission Opportunities" are written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font.

Mission Opportunities

Missions Offering - For our Missions Offering in May, we are contributing to the Minnesota Annual Conference Love Offering. Our Love Offering this year will help our neighbors – in Minnesota and around the world – heal from trauma and find safety.

- 30% will go to a new trauma care center in Ukraine
- 30% will go to immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network in Minneapolis
- 30% will go to Emma Norton Services – a non-profit in St. Paul that provides transformational housing and growth for women and families. Our Love Offering will help support special programming aimed at reducing trauma at the new Restoring Waters apartments
- 10% will go to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants

Thank you in advance for your generosity! ~ Grace Church Missions Team

Missions Opportunity – The week of May 13th is National HealthCare Week at CentraCare. Some members of the Mission Team and Ruth Circle at Grace Church will be participating in this event to show our appreciation to all the staff. We will be baking cookies, individually bagging them, and then distributing them with thank you notes to CentraCare staff on Thursday, May 16th. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cindy Holmberg at 612-618-3783.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRY COURSE

Would you be interested in lay servant ministry? Consider going through this basic ministry course, created by Jody Thone, Director of Leadership Development for the Minnesota UMC Annual Conference.

This course consists of eleven short videos and is entirely online so you can view them at your leisure. The courses will help you discover your spiritual gifts, your passion, and your call. See what lay servant ministry can look like for you!

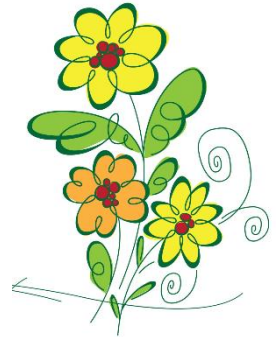
For more information or to register, visit www.MNSource.org and search ConneXion Retreat. Click on ConneXion Retreat – online lay leader training. If you have questions about the video series, please contact Jody Thone at jody.thone@minnesotaumc.org



On Monday, May 27th, the church will be closed in honor of Memorial Day. May God bless those who have served and are now serving our country!

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

We would like to invite you to share your garden flowers with us to beautify the altar area a few Sundays during the summer. If anyone has any to share, just send me a text or give me a call at (320) 249-8175. We will take care of the rest. ~ Gretchen O'Fallon



RUTH CIRCLE for May will be held on Tuesday, May 14th in the Fireside Room at 9:30 a.m. Betty Keller will be leading devotions. Mary Beek and Roxann Bergstrom will be hosting.

GRACE CHURCH SERVICE TEAMS

God gives each of us gifts and talents and calls us to put them to use. Consider your interests and abilities. Got the gift of gab? Think about being an usher or greeter. Do you love numbers? How about being an offering counter? If you have a talent for making things look nice, we could use you on the Banner or Flower Committee. There's really something for everyone!



We'll be making up the new 2024-2025 Service Team Schedules soon. Below is a list of areas where we really could use your help. Please indicate what you would be interested in (**don't check if you're already a part of that team**) and place this page in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. Each committee requests a one-year commitment (June to May).

- Ushering
- Greeting
- Scripture Reading for Worship Service
- Preparing the Elements for Communion
- Counting the Offering
- Flowers (setting out the flowers for church services)
- Banners (place banners in the Worship Space for the various church seasons and special events)
- Funeral Committee (set up and prepare for funeral meals)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you! A team leader will contact you with more information.

SERVICE TEAM DESCRIPTIONS

Greeters – Grace Church is known to be a church filled with greetings and smiles. It begins with you, the greeter! Those who serve in this ministry are posted near the church office (side entrance) 30 minutes before the start of services and welcome attendees as they come in. Contact Nancy Deadrick, (320) 220-1259 or 1970nancylee@gmail.com

Ushers – Thank you for your interest in being an usher! Each set of ushers will serve for a month at a time. We ask that you arrive 30 minutes before the service. Contact Gene Schultz, (320) 293-1395 or Genos1@live.com

Duties include:

- warmly welcoming attendees, handing out bulletins, and offering a worship bag to young children
- lighting candles before service and extinguishing them afterwards
- passing and collecting the offering plates during service
- counting and recording attendance
- straightening up the worship space after the service

Scripture Readers – At the direction of the pastor, scripture readers will read bible passages before or during the message. Contact Leta Stafford, (320) 429-4412

Communion Stewards – Communion is generally served the first Sunday of each month, but dates may be changed or added by the pastor. The role of the communion stewards is to bring bread and grape juice to the church, prepare the elements before the worship service, and then put everything away after the service. Contact Linda Johnson, (320) 250-2949 or lindajoy@tds.net

Counters – Being an offering counter requires attention to detail and basic math skills. Each counting team consists of two people who will count the offering directly after the worship service each

Sunday, prepare a deposit slip, and drop the offering in the overnight drop box at Perennial Bank. Contact Jim Elseth, (320)282-9984 or Jelseth@lakedalelink.net

Worship Enhancement (Flowers) – Those on the Worship Enhancement team make our worship space welcoming and visually appealing, using liturgical colors in accordance with UMC traditions to help support the worship message. Contact Gretchen O’Fallon, (320) 249-8175 or jgofallon5859@gmail.com

Banners – Grace Church has a collection of banners that are used to bring attention to basic themes for our worship experience. Those on the Banner committee, with the guidance of the team leader, put out banners for each Sunday and are responsible for putting up a funeral banner in the event of a funeral in the month in which they are serving. Contact Sue Arend at (320) 241-2420

Funeral Committee - Members of the funeral committee are responsible to set up and prepare for funeral meals at the direction of the funeral committee chair. Contact Addie Holtz, (320) 333-3001



SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULES DUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Service Team leaders, if you haven't submitted your new 2024-2025 Service Team schedules to the office yet, please do so as soon as possible so that the schedules can be sent out to members before June 1st. Thank you!

Join Us For
Grace United Methodist Church

BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, MAY 10TH
9.00AM-1.00PM

GRACE CHURCH PARKING LOT

500 Business 23 W, Paynesville, MN

**COOKIES, BROWNIES, CAKES, PIES
DONUTS, BARS, AND MORE!**

FREE WILL DONATIONS

*All Proceeds will support
ministry at Grace Church!*

Open as long as items remain



 320.243.3601

 paynesvillegrace.org



**American
Red Cross**

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT
GRACE CHURCH
Thursday, May 23rd
12 noon to 6 pm**

Donate blood. Help save lives! Anyone giving blood or plasma in the month of May will receive an exclusive Tetris and Red Cross t-shirt. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Paynesville.

Four volunteers are needed on the day of the event – two from 12 – 3:00 p.m. and two from 3 – 6:00 p.m. to staff the registration table and monitor the recovery area. Please sign up in the Gathering Space or contact the church office if you can help. Thank you!

MAY GREETINGS FROM YOUR TRUSTEES!

“April showers bring May flowers” ... and also weeds, and the need for trimming and lawn care on our church property. The trustees will be at church at 6 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from May to October. We would greatly appreciate the help of anyone who enjoys outdoor work!



On another note, we are looking for someone to “adopt” the planter in front of the church (the one on Hwy. 23 with the cross). You would be in charge of planting flowers and maintaining the planter for the summer. The cost of flowers would be reimbursed.

Many thanks! If you have any questions, please contact any one of us: Jim Freilinger (320) 293-0150, Byron Fuchs (320) 292-4368, Scott Schaefer (320) 293-2073, or Dean Heitke (320) 267-3056.

JOKES ONLY A MOTHER COULD LOVE

Why is a computer so smart? *It listens to its motherboard.*

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days? *Because their kids have to play inside!*

What did the mother rope say to her child? *"Don't be knotty."*

Finance Update

Foundation Report

February Ending Balance:	\$ 1,060,676.62
March Ending Balance:	\$ 1,082,149.35
	\$ 21,472.73

Grace Church

February Ending Balance:	\$ 32,096.45
March Expenses:	\$ (22,473.98)
Balance	\$ 9,622.47

March Income:	\$ 25,830.26
March End Balance:	\$ (35,452.73)

Less Deferred Amount: \$ (16,984.45)

March	\$ 18,468.28
February	\$ 15,910.02
Gain	\$ 2,558.26

Total Year to Date

January	\$ (2,691.16)
February	\$ (1,118.65)
	\$ (3,809.81) loss
March	\$ 2,558.26
	(\$1,251.55) loss YTD

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS



“We welcome this opportunity to introduce ourselves to our new church family. We are Robert (Bob) & Suzanne Lindbloom. Kimball United Methodist Church was our past church membership, but we decided it was time for a change and started attending Grace last January.

We have 2 adult sons, Jeff & Brian, 1 granddaughter, Abby, and 2 step-grandsons, Blake & Grant. Bob’s interests include almost anything outdoors: golf, deer hunting, biking, time on the lake, and just being in the woods. Suzanne enjoys time with family & friends, sewing, reading, and traveling. Our most recent trip was with family to Seattle for an early celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary coming up in August. The picture was taken at the top of the Space Needle. Thank you all for being such a welcoming church, and we look forward to meeting more of you.”

Bob and Suzanne welcome phone calls and texts. You can reach them at (320) 895-0702 (Bob) or (320)-249-7637 (Suzanne).

ADDRESS UPDATE

Kathleen Block
404 Luella St. #2018, Watkins, MN 55389
(320) 293-2487



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 1	Lilly Butzin
May 2	Eileen Werner
May 3	Terry Thomsen
May 4	Harlan & Mary Beek, Luke & Missy Recknor
May 7	Jon & Chelsea Person
May 9	Delane Burr
May 12	Jon Person
May 15	Chloe Hemmesch
May 16	Eric Frank, Dave Oeltjenbruns
May 17	Jordy Frank
May 19	Eli Karpinske, Tracy Sander
May 20	Phyllis Nielsen
May 21	John Swanson
May 22	Doug & Shirley Stade, Daphne Barg
May 23	Brittany Frank
May 24	Morgan Stafford
May 25	Tom Ramler, Pastor Jill Meents
May 26	Roger & Donna Lang, Hailey Baker, Landyn Arneson, Maelynn Warriner
May 27	Marcia Gray, Neil & Patty Herzberg
May 29	John & Laurel Liestman, Gannon Hemmesch
May 31	Brad Mehlhop, Austin Person



READERS:

May 5 Chloe Hemmesch
May 12 Nancy Deadrick
May 19 Deanna Fuchs
May 26 Paul Larsen

GREETERS:

May 5 Tom & Nancy Deadrick
May 12 Harlan & Mary Beek
May 19 Terry & Deb Thomsen
May 26 Jim & Faye Paster

COUNTERS:

May 5 Carolyn Swyter, Bonnie Schwartz
May 12 Mike Nehring, Jane Burr
May 19 Mary Beek, Sue Arend
May 26 Gary Smith, Betty Freilinger

USHERS: Head Usher - Gene Schultz 320-293-1395
Month of May – Terry & Deb Thomsen

BANNER COMMITTEE: Deanna Fuchs

WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT TEAM:

Gretchen O'Fallon, Betty Freilinger

COMMUNION STEWARDS:

Linda Johnson, Roxann Bergstrom