



**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SWEET CORN** - Our sweet corn fundraiser has been a success! Our pickers and sellers have been busy the last two weeks and at the time of printing, plan to continue selling through this Monday. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this fundraiser. Also, thank you for supporting by buying corn!

## OPEN HOUSE INVITATION FOR THE 70<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JEROME AND BEV JONES.

Please join us for an open house in honor of the happy couple on September 6, 2025, 2-4 pm, at their apartment building in Stearns Place (701 Stearns Avenue, Paynesville MN) in the community room.

(No gifts please)

**Congratulations, Jerome and Bev!**



**CHOIR NEWS** – The choir will be practicing on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> (String O' Pearls will be practicing on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup>) and Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. String 'O Pearls will be singing on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Our choir will be singing on September 14<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## AUGUST MISSIONS

As you know, our church is a busy place on Wednesday afternoons and evenings during the school year. We typically feed approximately 50 people (kids and their families) on Wednesday evenings.

During the month of August we will be collecting monetary donations to help offset the costs of this amazing ministry of feeding our young people.

We would greatly appreciate your support. You can give your donation directly to Kari, drop it off in the office or give it during worship. Please put "August Missions" in the memo line of your check.

Thank you for your generosity! ~Grace Missions Team



## SEPTEMBER MISSIONS

OIF Dream Center: "A Bridge to the Future"

St. Cloud, MN

In 1995, the Dream Center began with a simple yet profound mission: to provide a supportive Christian community for individuals overcoming life's challenges. The founders recognized that recovery and spiritual growth flourish best in an environment of understanding, acceptance, and shared faith.

The Dream Center is a "bridge" to the future for men that need services to help them overcome their current issues. The Dream Center is a Minnesota registered "Board & Lodging w/special services" program with 46 beds in a five-building campus, in St. Cloud, MN. They provide 3 meals a day, so approximately 150 meals total a day.

Today, the Dream Center is facing its biggest funding challenge in 30 years of serving the St. Cloud area. The Dream Center building that has been the flagship of hope, now needs help to preserve it for the next 30 years. The stucco needs to be completely replaced with new siding and insulation. The total cost is \$130,000, and while they're more than halfway to their goal, they still need partnerships to finish this project.

Completing this project will sustain the Dream Center building for decades to come, and they would deeply appreciate our help in this vital work.

If you would like to give to this mission, please put "September Missions" on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for your generosity!

~Grace Missions Team



Our Church  
Family Directory

**SAY CHEESE!** Do you have a family photo to share? Are you having trouble putting a name to a face here at church? Some of us are, so we've decided it's time to update our Grace United Methodist Church Photo Directory. Please find a family photo to share or plan to have one taken here at Grace. (not a scheduled professional photo). If you are able to send a picture electronically, please email it to the office ([office@paynesvillegrace.org](mailto:office@paynesvillegrace.org)). If not, drop one off at the office or bring it to church with you. If you need to have a picture taken, email the office and we'll set up a time with you for one of us to take your picture. We'll be using our membership management program to make this new directory. Thank you!



## YOU'RE INVITED

What: A Potluck & Welcome for Pastor Cyndy & Brad.

When: Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

Where: in the Fellowship Hall

Time: After the worship service (there will be NO coffee hour on that day)

Please sign-up in the Gathering Space to bring a dish to share as we welcome Pastor Cyndy & Brad to our church. Lemonade, Coffee & Water will be provided.

Hosted by: The SPRC/Leadership Team

### Grace Church Family,

In an effort to clear up any confusion, misinformation or rumors about Mission Trips, here is some accurate information.

#### Q: How often do you go on a Mission Trip?

A: Every other year.

#### Q: How do you decide where to go on a Mission Trip?

A: I take suggestions from youth on where to go. Then I research the details from companies that offer those locations, cost, available ministries, available dates etc. At our informational meeting, we go over the findings and then the youth vote on where they'd like to go. \*Kari does NOT vote.\*

#### Q: Why do you go on Mission Trips out of the Paynesville area & out of Minnesota. There are plenty of people who need our help here.

A: You are correct! There are people who need help everywhere. We absolutely do mission work here in Paynesville all the time. In fact, during the past school year we've had the pleasure of volunteering our time at the Community Service Center, making tie blankets for those in need, sending cards/pictures to various people/groups,



cleaning up the Paynesville Cemetery & headstones and we even had a couple call me this spring to ask that our youth help them move. So, on a Saturday morning, myself & a couple of youth spent our morning helping move furniture. You may not know all that we're doing but know we are being the hands & feet of Jesus in and around Paynesville all the time.

For perspective, these are the Mission Trips I've led....

2019: Homer, Alaska

2021: Grand Marais, Minnesota

2023: Corbin, Kentucky

2025: San Narciso, Belize

You'll notice that we've done a Mission Trip in Minnesota, 2 within different states and now one international trip. In Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit," There is nothing specific in the Bible about only blessing those from the United States. We will continue to mix up our trips by going on a bigger trip every 4 years and a smaller one every 2 years.

#### Q: Why is going on a Mission Trip important?

A: There are many reasons to go on a Mission Trip. First of all, we get to bless those we are serving during the trip. We get to learn new skills. We get to work together as a team. We grow together in our love for our Lord. We get to do daily devotions & learn from each other. We get to step outside our comfort zone and do hard things. We get to learn about different cultures & ways of life. We can appreciate all that we have! We also get to build bonds with our team members. We can learn about our team members & grow our friendships with each other. Our youth will connect with each other but also with the adults. They learn that they have someone else in their corner. The team has a bond for a lifetime & that is something you can't put a price tag on!

#### Q: How much do you fundraise?

A: We fundraise over the 2-year period. Specifically, for our Belize Mission Trip we were able to fundraise \$9,707.50.

Breakdown:

Christmas Bake Sale (2023) \$672.00

Valentine Bake Sale (2024) \$600.00

Silent Auction (2024) \$3,193.00

Christmas Bake Sale (2024) \$777.00

Calendars \$107.50

Valentine Bake Sale (2025) \$1,075.00

Silent Auction (2025) \$3,283.00

Total: \$9,707.50

#### Q: Who is eligible for the fundraising money?

A: In order to be eligible for the fundraising money you must participate in the fundraiser.

**Q: Do adults take the fundraising money?**

A: If an adult has participated in the fundraiser, they have the option to take the fundraiser money for themselves OR gift it to the youth. \*Note: Adults that have gone on the Mission Trips without a child going have almost always gifted their portion to the youth & paid 100% of their trip on their own.

**Q: Can someone who is not going on the mission trip gift money to a certain individual who is going?**

A: Absolutely!

**Q: Other than fundraising how do people pay for their trips?**

A: The individual pays for it. We are on a scheduled payment plan, so they don't pay it all at once.

**Q: Does any money come out of the church budget for Mission Trips?**

A: No! Zero dollars has come out of the church budget for any Mission Trips since I've been leading trips.

**Q: Does Kari's trip get paid by the church?**

A: Kari is paid staff so yes, her trip is paid but it gets paid out of the youth account and NOT from the church general fund.

**Q: Where does the youth account get their funds?**

A: The youth account does not get any money from the church budget. Our funds are raised yearly from the Chow Mein Supper.

Hopefully this information helps with any questions you may have about Mission Trips. If you have further questions, I ask that you come and speak to me directly. I'm happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Remember, we have a HUGE world that God has instructed us to spread his love to. So, while we will continue to be his hands and feet in Paynesville, we will also continue to do that around his world too!

Blessings! Kari Schaefer

