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-3pm

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

Sue Jansen, Office: sue@paynesvillegrace.org

Note from our Poston

Greetings Grace Church Family,

I am writing this as we close in on the two-month mark – two months being your pastor & pastor couple. Reflecting on this brought an early 1970's David Bowie song to mind (sorry if that was before your time, but you still might have heard it):

Ch-ch-ch-changes ...

Ch-ch-changes, don't want to ...

Ch-ch-ch-changes ...

Ch-ch-changes, just gonna have to be a different ...

It seems to be human nature that most of us tend to be uncomfortable with change, especially when it comes to something we cherish, and which is near and dear to our heart.

From an evolutionary perspective being averse to change makes sense – it kept our ancestors safe. Even a simple thing as trying a new food (or what you thought might be food) could be life threatening. This is still the case, but for most of us we have access to emergency medical care and most individuals with food allergies do not die due to that allergy.

From the story is Exodus we can infer that change and making changes has always been an issue. Exodus 12 gives us the account of the 'Israelites' being freed from their exile in Egypt. Verse 38 (depending on which version you refer to) tells us a diverse crowd, mixed crowd, mixed multitude, or a rabble of non-Israelites. This mixed group of Israelites and non-Israelites together left Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, and headed for the Promised Land. So far so good!

Once they, the mixed multitude, arrived to the Promised Land, they paused and instead of trusting God decided to send some spies into the land to report back if it was safe. Change can be hard.

Do you remember the rest of that Bible story?

Ch-ch-change may feel risky, but most of that risk is only perceived risk, not actual risk.

God wants us to spread our wings and be curious. That is how each of us individually grows and as a faith community grow.

Grace Church is like that mixed multitude, which fled Egypt together, in some ways. Grace Church is made up of many different people, all who love God:

- of many ages, not just all young or all older
- of many upbringings
- of life-long Methodists (EUB+MEC->UMC) and newer to Methodism
- of cultural outlook: conservative centrist progressive
- of preference for different worship styles

In the United Methodist Church change occurs typically every 5-10'ish years. The days of having a pastor serve for 20+ years are almost nonexistent currently. The typical pastoral appointment currently is 5-10 years, with an additional year or two if the pastor is approaching retirement.

Just as Grace Church is a mixed multitude so are UMC clergy – we all love God and have been called by God to be clergy, but each of us is a unique individual.

So ch-ch-change occurs. I invite each of you to journey with me and embrace a bit of change. My goal is to find the right mix of elements to feed each soul when we come together to worship. You may not like the contemporary song in the service, but hopefully you will connect with one of the hymns – a very traditional hymn or the peppier hymns found in The Faith We Sing. I am sure we all can embrace the special music our wonderful musicians bring to us, be it the choir, a small vocal group, or instrumental. Grace Church is blessed with wonderful musicians who willingly give of themselves.

I will be experimenting with a variety of elements to find just the right mix for Grace Church. I am striving for a blended style of service – not all traditional and not all contemporary. But a service which will include something to reach each person coming to worship in the community.

I ask for grace while we work together to find that right mix and that you participate in this process by letting me know what you liked and what did not work for you. There will be comment cards on the table with the bulletins as you enter the sanctuary. If something in worship really helped you connect with the Divine or fed your soul, write it on a comment card. If on the other hand there is something you really did not prefer, write it on a comment card as well. Please put the service date and your name on the comment card – I may have a few questions and want to hear more about your experience. Drop your comment card in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.

Let's grow in Christ together! Blessings, Pastor Cyndy



Grace Youth News

Greetings!

It's hard to believe another summer has come and gone. We were able to do some fun things this summer with our young people including our "Connect with Kari" times, kayaking day, VBS, Camp Grace and our much anticipated Mission Trip to Belize.

As we move into Fall, I am excited to get back into our routine and getting to see our beautiful young people weekly. We have so many fun things planned this year, and we hope you'll join us. We will again be holding a "Meet & Greet" Open House on Wednesday, September 17th from 5:00-6:30 pm. Please come with your kids anytime during this time to fill out forms, receive information on classes, and take a tour of the church bus if needed. We need updated forms each year for your kids so please be sure to get them filled out so that we can transport your child/children. At 6:30 pm on September 17th we will also hold a meeting for those going into 7th grade & their parents to discuss Confirmation and what that looks like.

On Wednesday, September 24th we will hold our first night of classes & the schedule is the same as last year which is:

3:00 pm Bus to pick up Elementary kids at school

3:15-5:30 pm "Grace Kids" (K-6th grade)

5:30-6:30 pm Meal

6:30-7:30 pm Confirmation (7th-9th grade)

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. We are looking forward to another wonderful school year & I am excited to see where God takes us.

Much Love, Kari Schaefer



SEPTEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

Wednesday, September 17th:

Open House "Meet & Greet" Time: 5:00-6:30 pm This is for parents & kids K-12

Come anytime during this time to fill out paperwork, receive information on classes & get a tour of the church bus if needed.

6:30 pm: Confirmation Meeting for those in 7th Grade & Parents to discuss the Confirmation program

Wednesday, September 24th

Grace Kids: Simply Loved, Unit 3, Week 1
Confirmation (7th Grade): "Is the New Testament more important than the Old Testament?"
Confirmation (8th-9th Grade): "What is Discipleship?"





RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Devotions will be led by Paula Lingl. Cindy Holmberg will be hosting.



Attention Grace Church Family,

Are you looking for a way to get involved in our Wednesday Programs this fall? We have many areas for you to serve & work with our kids & we'd love to have you join us.

We need volunteers to make, serve & clean up our Wednesday evening meal. You can volunteer once or multiple times. Don't want to do it alone, we can find someone to work with you. We are flexible!

Want to volunteer & work directly with our kids? We have multiple times & opportunities for that too.

If interested in helping on Wednesday's, please see Kari for more information or come check us out starting September 24th. We'd love for you to be a part of this growing ministry!

Sincerely, Kari Schaefer





THE COFFEE HOUR sign-up sheet for September is posted in the Gathering Space. Host Group #1 is assigned to serve and bring treats during September. If you belong to Host Group #1, please sign up to help out with this church ministry or contact the group chair, Karen Odberg. It's such a wonderful opportunity for fellowship!



A BIG thank you to Jim & Betty Freilinger, Deb Thomsen, Steph Hemmesch & some of our middle school youth for volunteering their time during "Camp Grace" on Tuesday, July 15th. We had the privilege of having 16 elementary age kids through our doors for the day. It was such an amazing day! We were able to show the kids that "God is always with us!" We are truly blessed with wonderful volunteers & I am so thankful for such a great day! Much Love, Kari Schaefer

Thank you to everyone who donated UMCOR in June. With your help we were able to collect \$300 toward that mission. ~Grace Missions Team

A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated items & money to the school supply drive in July. With your help we collected \$520 and a big tote full of supplies which was brought to the Community Service Center & will be used to help kids in our community. ~Grace Missions Team

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Community Vacation Bible School program happen again this year! We couldn't have put it on without the help of volunteers. We had 120+ kids join us for the week & "Point toward Jesus".

The Belize Mission Team would like to thank everyone who helped make our wonderful Mission Trip possible! Thank you for supporting our kids in helping them be a part of such a memorable trip. We appreciate your monetary donations, donations to our fundraisers & for your prayers. We couldn't have gone without your help & we were so blessed with your generosity. Thank you! ~Belize Mission 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.

Total: \$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

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



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

MN Adult & Teen Challenge Choir

We will be blessed with music & testimonies from the MN Adult & Teen Challenge Choir on **Sunday**, **September 28**th during our worship service.



We will be providing the Choir members

with a meal after the service on that day. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space for donating food for this meal. We are also looking for some people to serve the meal. Thank you for your help in donating & serving!

Note: This meal is NOT for the congregation, just the Adult & Teen Challenge Choir members.

We will also be collecting a special offering for the MN Adult & Teen Challenge program on Sunday, September 28th. If you'd like to give a monetary donation, please put "Adult & Teen Challenge" on the memo line of your check.



You're Invited

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

When: Sunday, September 14th

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



OPEN HOUSE INVITATION FOR THE 70TH 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 3rd (String O' Pearls will be practicing on Thursday the 4th) and Thursday, September 11th. String 'O Pearls will be singing on Sunday, September 7th. Our choir will be singing on September 14th and October 5th.



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). 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!

Coffee Hour

LOOKING FOR YOUR INPUT

We have been so lucky here at Grace Church to have our Coffee Hour fellowship ministry every Sunday. This doesn't just magically happen, though. We have three Host Committees that church members have been assigned to be on.

Basically, the only assigned activity for these groups is the Coffee Hour fellowship ministry. There are chairs assigned to each group, many who would like to have someone else step up to take their spots. Please look at the groups on the next three pages and see which group you are in. If you don't find your name on the list, please let Sue in the office know.

Is this something we want to continue? If we do, we need some new leadership and new people willing to serve and donate treats. Please let us know your thoughts by filling out the form below. Thank you!

My Host Group # is	·			
If you are a group o	chair, woul	ld you like t	o retire from th	is position?
	Yes	No		
Chair person's nan	ne:			

Do you participate in the Sunday Coffee Hours? Yes No

If we continue Coffee Hour, should we try to have it

- Every Sunday
- First Sunday of the month only all year
- Every Sunday during the months of September May and first Sunday of the months for June, July, August
- Every Sunday during the months of September-May and not have it during the months of June, July, August
- Other ideas:

HOST COMMITTEE #1

Chair: Karen Odberg

Bob & Sue Arend
Harlan & Mary Beek
Tony & Deb Bengtson
Tim & Joan Bruntmyer
Susan Drager
Don & Vicky Frank
Dean & Dawn Heitke
Dean & Heidi Herzberg
Stan & Marsha Herzberg
Katy Hubred
Dennis & Connie Keller
Paul & Sara Larsen
John & Laurel Liestman

These scheduled events will be Host Group #1's responsibilities during the coming year:

SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER, MARCH, & JUNE: Sunday morning coffee - serve and donate



HOST COMMITTEE #2

Chairs: Byron & Deanna Fuchs, Gary & Marilyn Herzberg

Jeanette Bast
Sandy Bengtson
Roxann Bergstrom
Sharon Bryce
Joel & Delane Burr
Jim & Deb Butkofski
Duane & Kandace Damhof
Bill & Sandi Danielson
Eric & Brittany Frank
Byron & Deanna Fuchs
Cullan & Jodee Gray
Mike & Steph Hemmesch
Gary & Marilyn Herzberg
Cindy Holmberg

These scheduled events will be Host Group #2's responsibilities during the coming year:

OCTOBER, JANUARY, APRIL, & JULY: Sunday morning coffee—serve and donate



HOST COMMITTEE #3

Chairs: Ramona Frank, Gloria Bruntlett, Jim & Betty Freilinger

Barb Block
Randy & Linda Brink
Kevin & Gloria Bruntlett
Tom & Nancy Deadrick
Jim & Lois Elseth
Ryan & Haylie Frank
Ramona Frank
Jim & Betty Freilinger
Tom & Marcia Gray
Doug & Julie Hedeen
David Herzberg
Neil & Patty Herzberg
Susan Jansen

These scheduled events will be Host Group #3's responsibilities during the coming year:

NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY, MAY, & AUGUST: Sunday morning coffee—serve and donate.





Memories of Grace

If you have been worshiping at Grace Church for a number of years, you may have some special memories. The following was taken from the September Grace Notes in the year 1983. Here are some of the notes from the kids who went to Camp Koronis over the summer months.

Jennifer Nagel – This was my first year at camp and I really had a good time. I met new friends at camp too. I also went canoeing, swimming, and did crafts.

Anita Johnson – This was my first year at camp. I had a lot of fun. I met some new friends. I had fun canoeing, swimming, playing and learning. P.S. I hope I can go to camp next year!

Angie Deadrick – I liked going swimming and playing with new friends. I liked all of the counselors and campers that were there. I am glad I went. I am glad I can go next year. I want to thank the church for giving me a camp scholarship.

Molly Bergstrom – I enjoyed my time at camp. Thank you for the scholarship.

Jamie Tougas – It was a lot of fun! On the last night we were there we played capture the flag. I made some new friends too.

Amanda Carson – I went to Decision Hills Camp. I had a nice time learning about Bible people, how they lived, how they worked, and what they ate. Thank you for the scholarship.

Mindy Johnson – It was a great experience. I had a lot of fun. I hope there is another Junior Camp at Koronis the same week. I went July 31 – August 6.

Chris Liestman – Thank you for letting me go to camp. I really had a good time – especially when it flooded. We got to play games in the water. Every night we had a campfire. I met a lot of really nice people. Thank you for letting me go to camp another year.



FINANCE REPORT June

Foundation Report 2025

May Ending Balance: June Ending Balance: Gain:	\$ \$	1,103,980.82 1,111,855.89 7,873.07
Grace Budget Report 2025		
May Ending Balance:	\$	62,815.56
June Expenses:	\$	(27,739.83)
		35,075.73
June Income:	\$	26,142.69_
June Ending Balance:	\$	61,218.42
Less June Deferred Amount:	\$	(26,928.63)
June Spendable:	\$	34,289.79
May Spendable:	\$	(35,632.34)
Loss:	\$	(1,342.55)
Year to Date for 2025		
January	\$	(5,801.79)
February	\$	(1,243.52)
March	\$	(2,552.93)
April	\$	6,142.88
May	\$	(1,041.88)
June	\$	(1,342.55)

\$

(5,839.79)



FINANCE REPORT July

Foundation Report 2025

June Ending Balance: July Ending Balance: Loss:	\$ \$	1,111,855.89 1,085,576.02 (26,279.90)
Grace Budget Report 2025		
July Ending Balance:	\$	61,218.42
July Expenses:	\$	(47,318.91)
		13,899.51
July Income:	\$	32,022.16_
July Ending Balance:	\$ \$	45,921.67
Less July Deferred Amount:	\$	(13,325.90)
July Spendable:	\$	32,595.77
June Spendable:	\$	(34,289.79)
Loss:	\$	(1,694.02)
Year to Date for 2025		
January	\$	(5,801.79)
February	\$	(1,243.52)
March	\$	(2,552.93)
April	\$	6,142.88
May	\$	(1,041.88)
June	\$	(1,342.55)
July	\$	(1,694.02)

\$

(7,533.81)



September 2	Jerome & Bev Jones, Jim & Sara Whitcomb, Aliyah Poster
September 3	Jaren Winings
September 4	Emily Peterson, Deanna Fuchs
September 6	Kathleen Block, Everly Person, Myles Hansen
September 7	Lexi Theel
September 8	Ryan & Haylie Frank, Bob Lindbloom
September 9	Jim Whitcomb
September 11	Marvis Manz
September 12	Brittany Winings
September 14	Calvin & Tawny Press
September 15	Brad & Kristen Mehlhop
September 16	Adisen McCann
September 17	Barb Koehn, Stan & Marsha Herzberg
September 18	Larry & Julie Schultz
September 19	Abby Braun, Johann Loso, Scott & Kari Schaefer
September 20	Deb Bengtson, Linda & Pete Fisk,
	Jim & Gretchen O'Fallon, Ellie Karpinske
September 22	Bonnie Bailey
September 23	Gene Bast
September 24	Jim & Beth Schultz
September 26	Jaxson Smith
September 27	Marilyn Herzberg, Dennis Keller, Joel &
	Delane Burr, Dean Heitke, Ava Baker
September 28	Dean & Dawn Heitke, Landan Winings

Jane Burr, Ryan & Halie Peterson

September 29



READERS:

September 7 Steph Hemmesch September 14 Chloe Hemmesch September 21 Kari Schaefer September 28 Paul Larsen

GREETERS:

September 7 Mike & Steph Hemmesch

September 14 Beth Moerke, Roxann Bergstrom

September 21 Brad & Paula Lingl September 28 Scott & Kari Schaefer

COUNTERS:

September 7 Mary Beek, Jane Burr September 14 Jim Elseth, Betty Freilinger September 21 Carolyn Swyter, Sue Drager September 28 Mike Nehring, Sue Arend

<u>USHERS</u>: Head Usher - Gene Schultz 320-293-1395 Month of September: Tom & Nancy Deadrick

BANNER COMMITTEE: Sue Arend

WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT TEAM: Gretchen O'Fallon,

Betty Freilinger

COMMUNION STEWARDS:

September 7: Mary Beek, Ramona Frank

MEMBERS WHO PASSED DURING JULY AND AUGUST



Pearl Heitke (passed on 7/20/25) Marlene Vanderbeek (passed on 8/01/25) Bud Wendroth (passed on 8/22/25)