

Grace United Methodist Church

Notes from Grace

September/October 2025

World Communion Sunday: A Global Celebration of Unity and Faith

On the first Sunday of October, Christians around the world come together to celebrate World Communion Sunday, a day dedicated to the unity of believers in Christ, regardless of nationality, race, or denomination. It's a powerful reminder that, despite our many differences, we are all part of one body in Christ.

The symbolism of the shared meal—the breaking of bread and the drinking of wine—reminds us of the body and blood of Christ, and the profound grace offered to all. This sacred act of communion serves as a tangible expression of God's love for every person on Earth.

A Call to Action

World Communion Sunday is more than just a spiritual observance; it is also an opportunity to reflect on our shared responsibility as Christians. The celebration encourages us to look beyond our own congregations and communities, understanding that our faith calls us to work for peace, justice, and equality around the world.

Many churches use this Sunday to support global missions and ministries, often through special offerings dedicated to organizations working to address issues like hunger, poverty, and education. It's a reminder that our faith is not only for us—it is meant to be shared and lived out in service to others.

A Global Family

As you partake in the elements of communion this Sunday, consider the vastness of the body of Christ. Think about the millions of Christians from every corner of the world who will also gather around their communion tables. Whether in a remote village or a bustling city, whether in a house church or a cathedral, Christians are united in worship, proclaiming the same truth: that Jesus Christ is Lord.

To make this year's World Communion connect in different ways, Pastor Bill would like to find individuals who speak a different language to read scriptures for that day. Also, we would like to have a variety of breads from different parts of the world to decorate our chancel and to eat with butter and other things after worship. If you are willing to do either or both things, please let Pastor Bill know.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Notes from Grace

SEPTEMBER THRIFT SHOP



Wednesday, September 3
Saturday, September 6

9AM - Noon
Clothing Only!!

Quality clothing, accessories, purses, shoes, hats, evening wear, etc. all priced to move. Name brands include the following: Talbots, Ann Taylor, Eddie Bauer, Chicos, Fresh Produce, Liz Claiborne, Alfred Dunner, and Coldwater Creek. Sizes from XS to 3X. Large selection of plus sizes! Clothing for women, men and kids!!

October Thrift Shop



Wednesday, October 2
Saturday, October 5
Wednesday, October 9
Saturday, October 12

9AM—1PM

Home Decor, Glassware, Books, Toys,
Housewares and Furniture

Notes from Grace

Hatching Faith

The Virginia Conference of the UMC Hatching Faith Cohorts Initiative seeks to more fully engage children in worship and prayer in local congregations and communities. One of our leaders in this project recent wrote this.

“I thought about the Hatching Faith Cohorts project I have been working on with the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church ([I've written about it here before](#)). How we are working with congregations to conduct a series of experiments in their corporate worship offerings to more meaningfully engage children in worship.

I thought about what our resident academic, Dr. Dave Csinos, said about children having a relationship with God wholly unmitigated by their parents and their pastors, how we don't have to teach faith or pass down God, because God is already at work at them. In those conversations I talked about getting out of the way for God to reach God's kids.

Now I know what we're talking about is removing the dams. Kids don't need to be introduced to God, reintroduced to God, or spoon-fed; they just need to be allowed to encounter the sacred. We simply need to remove the dams, and they will find their way straight upstream.

They know in their bodies where they need to go, and it doesn't matter how many generations may not have been able to swim the river, or swim it without significant stress; if we remove the barriers, they will find their way home. “ By Kat Biar – Ministry Incubators

This process of removing barriers so children can grow into their own relationship with Christ is what Grace Church is all about. For this to be successful, we need our congregation to embrace a few practices. First and foremost, pray for children and families. Pray that they will come to a deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ, defined on their own terms. Second, pray that our congregation will be innovative in the way that helps children find their ministry in Christ. Third, pray that more children will come to know Christ through the intentional work of the people of Grace to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in this congregation.



Notes from Grace

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Fall Kickoff Worship – Back to School Sunday

As summer winds down and a new school year begins, we invite you to join us for a special Fall Kickoff Worship Service on Sunday, September 7, 10:00 am at Parksley Town Park, next to Grace United Methodist.

This service is a time to celebrate fresh beginnings, pray for our students, teachers, and families, and dedicate the new season of ministry ahead. Together, we will:

- 📖 Bless the Backpacks – Children and youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks as we pray over them and their school year.
- 🙏 Prayers for Educators – We will recognize and bless teachers, staff, and all who serve in education.
- 🎵 Joyful Worship – Music and message focused on God's guidance in new seasons.
- 🌭 Hotdog Lunch – Stay after worship for a light lunch of hot dogs, chips, and drinks. In addition to the park's beautifully restored playground equipment, we will also have a bounce house. Bring your pickleball gear and play a few games with church friends.

Fall is a season of new beginnings—not only in the classroom but also in our faith journey. We hope you'll join us as we seek God's wisdom and blessing for this exciting new chapter!



JOIN US FOR OUR TRUNK OR TREAT!



Come out to the Parksley town parking lot on Halloween night, Friday October 31, for Trunk or Treat from 5PM–7PM! Everyone is welcome to participate. Candy for everyone WITH costumes! Adults are encouraged to wear costumes and join in on the fun.

We are asking for donations of bags of candy as there are hundreds of children that come out for the Parksley Trunk or Treat.

You can bring the candy to the church Monday through Thursday 10AM–1PM or on Sunday morning.

Call the church office at 757-665-4783 if you would like to participate handing out candy or setting up!

Happy Halloween!

Notes from Grace

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP PLAN

Sundays	Scripture	Sermon	Reader	Ushers/ Greeters
September 7 School Kick-Off	Philemon 1-21, Hebrews 12:11	Common Ground	Robin Rinaca	
September 14 14 th Sunday After Pentecost		Jesse Burdett preaching		
September 21 15th Sunday After Pentecost	Ezra 3:8-13	"A New Era" Bishop Sue Hauptert Johnson		
September 28 16th Sunday After Pentecost	Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16; Luke 16:19-31	The Shadow Knows		



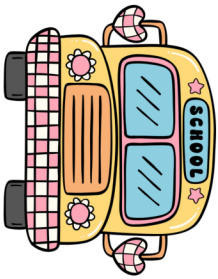
Dear Grace UMC,
Thank you so much for "adopting" me as a counselor this summer at Camp Occohannock! Working as a counselor this summer was such an incredible and rewarding experience. I had such a great time and your contributions throughout the summer helped make it that much better. Love you all!

Sincerely, Andrew McClung

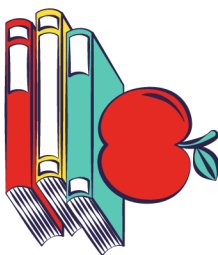
BIRTHDAY PARTY AT SHORE REHAB

We are looking for volunteers to help us celebrate September birthdays for residents at Shore Rehabilitation Center here in Parksley. This will take place on Friday, September 26 at 2PM. Every year we help them celebrate with cake/cupcakes and ice cream. Please contact the church office at 757-665-4783 if you are able to provide an item or can help serve the residents.

**BIRTHDAY
PARTY**



September




SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 ★ LABOR DAY ★	2	3 9AM - Noon Thrift Shop	4	5 10AM Foodbank packing	6 9AM - Noon Thrift Shop
7 10AM Worship in the Park 11:30AM FALL Kickoff in the Park	8 6PM Trustees 7PM Church Council	9	10	11 10AM Mission & Outreach Noon Lunch Bunch	12	13 8AM Mears United Methodist Pancake Breakfast
14 10AM Service	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 10AM Service	22	23	24	25	26 2PM Parksley Shore Rehab Birthday party	27 11AM Relay for Life
28 10AM Service	29	30				



OCTOBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9AM - 1PM Thrift Shop	2	3 10AM Foodbank packing	4 9AM - 1PM Thrift Shop
5 10AM Service	6 6PM Children's Ministry 7PM Craft Night	7	8 9AM - 1PM Thrift Shop	9 Noon Lunch Bunch	10	11 9AM - 1PM Thrift Shop
12 10AM Service	13  7PM Church Council	14	15 <u>Pastor on Vacation</u>	16	17	18
19 <u>10AM Service</u>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10AM Service	27	28	29 5:30PM Wed. Night Dinner	30	31	

Notes from Grace

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

- 6 Alice Lewis
- 7 Jacob Davis
- 8 Myree Tyler
- 9 Kassie Taylor & Dottie Baumbaugh
- 10 Carolyn Annis
- 11 Stephanie Parks
- 12 Upshur Warren Parks, Jr.
- 13 Betty Moot & Barbara Peery
- 14 Herbert Davis
- 15 Lisa Lewis & Ann Obenshain
- 16 Devon Hickman
- 17 Nancy Cheesman & Theresa Lewis
- 19 Andrew McClung
- 21 Martin Watkinson
- 22 Colton Williams
- 23 Gayle Patterson
- 24 Jane Kellam
- 26 Mary Ardolino
- 27 David Robinson, James Myers & Lorri Freitas
- 30 Kathryn Byrd

Anniversaries

- 8 Glen & Myree Tyler
- 15 Curt & Sarah Lewis
- 22 Don & Dana Penney
- 30 Brandon & Allison Miller

OCTOBER

Birthdays

- 1 Charlotte Tyler, Sallie Hickman & Wayne Core
- 3 Allison Hart
- 5 Stewart Kambarn & Ellie Harvie
- 7 Fritz Lauer, Dana Drummond & MacKenzie Burkhead
- 11 Virginia Tyler
- 13 Sarah Lewis & Caroline Krouse
- 17 Tanner Parks
- 18 Pat Parrish
- 19 Tom Anderson, Sr.
- 20 Michael Turner
- 21 Margie Byrd
- 25 Clay Reese
- 28 Tanya Fears & Danny Taylor
- 30 Lindsey Hart
- 31 Thomas Johnson

Anniversaries

- 4 Cecil & Marie Marshall
- 16 John & Anny Kellam

LET'S
CELEBRATE



Church Office Hours: Mon—Thurs 10AM-1PM
Pastor of Grace UMC: Rev. Bill McClung
Pastor's Office Hours: 9AM—Noon, Mon-Thurs
Friday by appointment.
Worship Service: Sundays 10AM
Church Staff:
Admin Assistant Johanna Hamilton
Organist
Custodian Robin Ford

Newsletter Editor: Johanna Hamilton
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Welcome
Autumn

Grace United Methodist Church
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Parksley, Virginia 23421-0156

Church Office: (757) 665-4783
Church email: graceesumc@gmail.com
Pastor's Cell: (757) 268-4384
Pastor's email: billmcclung@vaumc.org
*In case of an Emergency, please call the Pastor's cell.

