

Grace United Methodist Church

Monthly Newsletter

September 2026



Sunday Worship Service
is at 10:00 AM

*Communion is offered on the
1st Sunday of the month.*



“BYOD” Meeting on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM
UWF Meeting on Thurs., Sept. 10th at 10:00 AM.
Celestial Bells Rehearsals on Weds., Sept. 9th & 16th at 10:30 AM.
UWF Meeting on Thurs., Sept. 10th at 10:00 AM.
Missions Meeting on Thurs., Sept 10th at 11:00 AM.
Pastor Stephanie at Heartland House on Thurs., Sept. 17th at 10:00 AM.
Finance & Church Council Meeting on Tues., Sept. 22nd at 11:00 AM.
Trustees Meeting on Tues., Sept. 22nd at 12:30 PM.
Discipleship Follow-up Meeting on Wed., Sept. 23rd at 9:30 AM.
Seniors on the Move evening concert on Thurs., Sept. 24th at 7:00 PM at the church.
Midwest Mission Rice Packing Day at Wild Rose on Sat., Sept. 26th from 8:30 AM.-11:30 AM
Pastor Stephanie & Beth Buettner at ICD Training Tues.-Thurs., Sept. 29th-Oct. 1st.



GRANDPARENT’S DAY IS SEPT. 13TH.

“A GRANDPARENT’S FAITH POEM”

You thought your hands were full before—but nothing prepared your heart for this.

Because this love...it doesn’t start at the beginning. It carries history with it.

You hold this baby and feel echoes of your own child—the one you once rocked, the one who once fit right here.

And suddenly time folds in on itself. Little fingers again. Soft breaths again.

But you are different now. Softer. Slower. Certain of what matters. You don’t rush these moments. You know they don’t last. And somewhere deep in your chest there is a quiet prayer that never really stops—

Lord, watch over this child long after I’m gone.
 Because you understand something now you didn’t before—You were never the keeper of their life. Only the witness. The one who got to love them in the middle of it all.

And God...He has been there through every generation. He held you when no one else saw. He carried your child when you didn’t know how. And now—He is holding this little one too.

The same faith that carried you through sleepless nights, through worry, through years you didn’t think you’d make it—it didn’t stop with you. It’s still moving. Still reaching. Still covering.

Because His promises were never just for one lifetime. They stretch—from your hands to theirs to the ones still to come.

So you hold this baby a little longer. You whisper their name in prayer. You thank God for letting you see this love twice.

And maybe this time...you understand it better.

**This isn’t just family.
This is legacy.**



Stewardship Message

In the past few months, Pastor Stephanie and I have been talking about taking our faith beyond the walls of Grace UMC. We have a beautiful church, and we feel comfortable within its walls. But as Pastor Stephanie has reminded us, God expects us to meet people beyond the walls of our church and help them “get acquainted” with Jesus Christ. For many of us this is an uncomfortable feeling. As I pray about this, questions I have asked myself include:

- *What does it mean to meet them where they are?
- *What will I do?
- *Where should I go?
- *How do I start the conversation--what would I say?
- *I can't quote scripture or preach the gospel so how could I make a difference?

The fourth practice of a fruitful congregation is “RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE.” Going beyond our walls to meet people and share our faith feels very risky, doesn't it? But maybe we are making this much bigger in our minds than it needs to be.

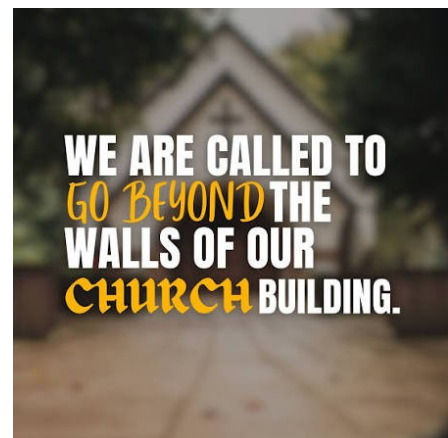
So here is an idea that would be simple to start, provides a benefit to those of us that choose to try it, and is a “senior service” already in place. If you are 60 or older, you are eligible for a free meal at any of the Waushara County dining locations. There are locations throughout the county; in fact, there is a dining location a short walk from the church in the Senior Center. Meals are available Monday-Friday, and at times they will include entertainment or a guest speaker. You can reserve a spot (or spots) with a phone call, and the cost of the meal is a suggested donation. Food and fellowship are a great way to develop relationships with people we don't know. Can you attend at least one meal a month to begin developing relationships outside of Grace UMC?

I am not suggesting this as an avenue for preaching or quoting scripture! We are not in the business of “hard-sell” Christianity. Relationships that generate comfortable conversation take time. It will take more than one meal to get to know folks and for them to get to know you. I predict that eventually the conversation will turn toward church, whether you ask the question or not. And if the opportunity presents itself, you can extend an invitation to visit Grace UMC. You might also discover a need that we can help someone with. Often people will not share the hard times until they feel comfortable with the other person or other people.

Let your actions speak for you and your love of Jesus Christ by getting help for someone in need. The members of Grace UMC are ready to help. The old saying of “actions speak louder than words” is never truer than when being studied by an unchurched person.

There will be other ideas that will help us take our faith beyond the walls of Grace UMC. Please pray about how you can use your gifts to meet the unchurched people where they are rather than sitting and waiting for them to walk through our doors. Sitting and waiting was not how Jesus Christ or his disciples grew the church.

Beth Buettner
Stewardship Chair



From the Pastor's Desk

Becoming the Church God Is Calling Us to Be Part 2: More Than Attending—Are We Growing as Disciples?

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always.”

Matthew 28:19–20

Dear Friends,

Last month, I asked an important question:

What kind of church is God calling Grace United Methodist Church to become?

We talked about church culture—the atmosphere we create through the way we welcome, worship, pray, forgive, encourage, and care for one another.

This month, I want to make the question more personal:

What kind of disciple is God calling each of us to become?

It is possible to attend church without growing spiritually. We can sit in the same pew, sing familiar hymns, listen to sermons, participate in programs, and still remain in the same place in our relationship with Jesus.

Church attendance is important, but Jesus never simply said, “Attend church.” **Jesus said, “Follow me.”**

A disciple is more than a church member. A disciple is someone who is learning from Jesus, becoming more like Jesus, and living the way Jesus taught us to live.

Discipleship is not a one-time decision. It is a lifelong journey. **No matter how long we have attended church, how much Scripture we know, or how many positions we have held, none of us graduates from following Jesus.**

Every disciple has a next step.

- For one person, that step may be returning to worship after being away.
- For another, it may be beginning to pray each morning.
- Someone else may need to join a Bible study, forgive another person, serve in a new ministry, invite a friend to church, or share the story of what Jesus has done in their life.

The question is not whether we can do everything.

The question is: What is the next faithful step Jesus is asking me to take?

As we pray about the future of Grace UM Church, we are beginning to think about discipleship as a pathway:

- Come** — Come and discover Jesus and the community of faith.
- Connect** — Build genuine relationships and find a place to belong.
- Grow** — Deepen your faith through worship, prayer, Scripture, and fellowship.
- Serve** — Use the gifts God has given you to bless others.
- Share** — Tell and demonstrate the good news of Jesus.
- Multiply** — Help someone else begin and continue the journey of following Christ.

This pathway is not a ladder we climb to prove that we are better Christians. It is not a checklist or a competition. People grow at different rates and in different ways.

The pathway simply helps us recognize that **God loves us too much to leave us exactly as He found us.**

Grace meets us where we are, but grace also leads us forward.

From the Pastor's Desk

When we look at the church in Acts 2, we see people who were continually taking their next steps. They learned from the apostles. They prayed together. They shared meals. They cared for people in need. They worshiped with joy. They spoke about Jesus, and the Lord added new people to their fellowship.

Their faith was not limited to Sunday worship. It became a way of life. That is what I pray for Grace Church.

The church God is calling us to become is not a congregation of spectators. It is a community of growing disciples.

This means every ministry should help people take a step closer to Christ. Worship, fellowship meals, Bible studies, mission projects, visits, small groups, and community outreach are not simply activities to keep us busy. They are opportunities for spiritual transformation.

We should continually ask:

- How is this helping people know Jesus?
- How is this helping people grow in faith?
- How is this preparing people to serve?
- How is this reaching people beyond our walls?
- How is this helping us make disciples?

Jesus did not give the Great Commission only to pastors, missionaries, or church leaders. He entrusted it to His whole Church. Every follower of Jesus has a part in helping someone else experience His love.

- You can begin by **listening to someone** who is hurting.
 - You can **pray with someone** who is afraid.
 - You can **invite someone** who is lonely.
 - You can **serve someone** who needs help.
 - You can **tell someone**, in your own words, how Jesus has helped you.
- You can **walk beside** another person as both of you learn to follow Christ.

We cannot make disciples unless we are willing to keep becoming disciples ourselves.

So, I invite each of us to prayerfully consider:

- Where am I on the journey of discipleship?
- What is Jesus teaching me right now? What is my next faithful step?
- Who might God be asking me to encourage or help along the way?

Imagine what could happen if every person at Grace Church took one faithful step closer to Jesus—and then helped one other person do the same.

- Our faith would deepen.
- Our relationships would become stronger.
- Our ministries would become more purposeful.
- Our community would experience the love of Christ.
- And Grace Church would continue becoming the church God is calling us to be.

May we be people who come to Christ, connect in love, grow in faith, serve with joy, share His hope, and help others follow Him.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Stephanie

Rev. Stephanie J. Taylor





Midwest Mission Blessing Bags Rice Pack September 26th

We have a wonderful opportunity to put our faith into action through the **Midwest Mission Blessing Bags Rice Pack**.

On **Saturday, September 26th**, we will gather at **Wild Rose Lions Club, 1100 S. Main Street**, to pack 2,400 rice meals for people facing hunger and hardship. **We will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 AM, watch a short instructional video at 9:00, & expect to finish by 11:30.**

The total cost of the meals and delivery is \$5,500. **Grace UMC has set a goal of raising \$1,000 toward that cost, and we also want to send plenty of volunteers (10-15) to help pack the meals.**

Some can give financially. Some can pack meals. Others can help with breakfast, setup, registration, cleanup, or encouragement. Everyone can pray.

No one person has to give the entire \$1,000 or do all the work. But if each of us does what we can, our gifts and service will come together to make a tremendous difference.

Please do not think, "Someone else will take care of it." Ask instead, "What can I do?" Give what you can, serve where you can, and help us turn ordinary rice into meals, hope, and the love of Christ.

SENIORS ON THE MOVE WELCOME TRISTAN & BELLA TO GRACE UMC!

Seniors on the Move have an exciting event planned for Thursday evening, Sept. 24th.

Grace UMC will be hosting Tristan & Bella Weglarz for a concert beginning at 7:00 PM. They are affiliated with the Clauson family, and they will be performing a variety of our favorite songs.

The concert is free and open to the public; however, we will be collecting free-will donations that will be divided between two important missions: the rice packing mission and TreeHouse Central Wisconsin located in Wautoma. Refreshments will be served.

Please invite your friends and family for a fun evening "out on the town."



I would like to Thank everyone for the cards, flowers, visits, and phone calls. Sincere Thank You to Pastor Stephanie for her visits and phone calls.

You have all made the sun shine for me on some rather cloudy days. I am thanking the Lord for having such a warm and thoughtful Church Family!

Ruth Wilcox



Lake Lucerne Work Weekend



NE05 CIRCUIT INVITATION

Many Hands, One Mission

Camp Lucerne Work Weekend

Saturday, October 17 & Sunday, October 18, 2026

Dear Pastors, Church Leaders, and Friends of Camp Lucerne,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

I am writing to invite the churches of our circuit (NE05), along with other United Methodist circuits, churches, and friends in our area, to join us for **Many Hands, One Mission: Camp Lucerne Work Weekend**, scheduled for **Saturday, October 17, and Sunday, October 18, 2026**.

Camp Lucerne is more than beautiful land and buildings. It is a sacred place where children, youth, families, and adults encounter God, deepen their faith, build lasting friendships, and experience Christian community. This weekend will give us an opportunity to work together to care for this special place and prepare it for another season of life-changing ministry.

Our projects will include:

- Cutting trees and clearing brush/Feeding branches through a woodchipper
- Mowing lawns and using weed trimmers
- Raking and cleaning up the grounds
- Preparing and serving food/Providing water and support for the workers

There is a place for everyone. If you cannot operate equipment or do heavy physical work, you can still carry smaller branches, rake, help with cleanup, prepare or serve food, bring water to the workers, donate supplies, provide financial support, or pray for the project and everyone involved.

Every tree cut, branch hauled, meal served, prayer offered, and dollar given will help make Camp Lucerne safer, more welcoming, and ready to receive the next guest who comes searching for rest, friendship, hope, or a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Individuals and church groups are welcome to participate for one day or for the entire weekend. Please share this invitation with your congregation, mission team, trustees, United Methodist Men and Women, youth and family ministries, and anyone else who may be interested.

Please let me know whether your church will participate, approximately how many volunteers you expect to send, which day or days they will attend, and whether anyone has experience with chainsaws, woodchippers, mowing equipment, landscaping, or other outdoor work.

Bring your work gloves, your willing heart, and whatever skills or support you can offer. Together, many hands can accomplish one important mission: preparing Camp Lucerne as a place where faith grows and lives are changed.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you and your congregation can participate. I look forward to seeing what God will accomplish as we work side by side.

***No one person or congregation has to do everything—
but every person and every church can do something.***

The link to register is:

<https://wisconsin-reg.brtapp.com/LucerneCleanupWeekend2026>

In Christ's service,

Rev. Stephanie J. Taylor, Circuit Leader NE05
Pastor, Grace United Methodist Church, Wautoma



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD"	2	3	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 10:00 AM Worship Communion	7 	8 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD"	9 10:30 AM Bells Rehearsal	10 10:00 AM UWF Mtg. 11:00 AM Missions Mtg.	11  PATRIOT DAY 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal & Dinner	12 2:00 PM Wedding & Reception (all day)
13 10:00 AM Worship 	14	15 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD"	16 10:30 AM Bells Rehearsal	17 10:00 AM Pastor Stephanie at Heartland House	18 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	19
20 10:00 AM Worship Celestial Bells	21	22 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD" 11:00 AM Finance & Ad Council Mtg. 12:30 PM Trustees Mtg.	23 9:30 AM Disciple- ship Follow-up Mtg.	24 7:00 PM Seniors on the Move Concert at GUMC	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26 8:30 AM Midwest Mission Rice Packing Day at Wild Rose Lions Club Building
27 10:00 AM Worship	28	29 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD" Pastor Stephanie at ICD Training	30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Oct. 3