

Grace United Methodist Church

Monthly Newsletter

October 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
Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.
Pastor Stephanie at ICD Training on Thurs.,
Oct. 1st.
SPRC Meeting on Wed., Oct. 6th at 10:00 AM.
Missions Meeting on Thurs., Oct. 8th at 11:00
AM.
Membership Meeting on Tues., Oct. 13th at
10:00 AM.
Celestial Bells Rehearsals on Weds., Oct. 14th
and 21st at 11:00 AM.
Pastor Stephanie at Heartland House on Thurs.,
Oct. 15th at 10:00 AM.
Many Hands, One Mission Camp Lucerne Work
Weekend on Sat., & Sun., Oct. 17th & 18th.
Sunday Morning Worship Service on Sun.,
Oct. 18th at 10:00 AM at Camp Lucerne Chapel.
Seniors on the Move Tour of the Food Pantry
on Thurs., Oct. 22. Meet at the Pantry at 10:00 AM.
SPUDS Sunday (SOS) on Sun., Oct. 25th.
Pastor Stephanie & Beth Buettner at ICD
Training Mon., & Tues., Oct. 26th & 27th.

Visit our church website at
Graceumcwautoma.com

Facebook page at
facebook.com/GraceUMCWautoma/

NERVOUS-CITED

Jason Mahnke

One of my favorite words ever coined wasn't found in a dictionary – it came from my daughter Macy when she was little.

As summer ended and school was about to begin, we'd ask how she was feeling. Her answer was often, "I'm nervous-cited." She couldn't decide whether she was nervous or excited because, truthfully, she was both.

A new teacher. new classmates. Maybe reconnecting with old friends. Wondering where she'd sit at lunch. Wondering if she'd like her classes. Looking forward to seeing familiar faces while also stepping into the unknown.

I suspect we've all experienced that feeling. Whether it's starting a new job, moving to a new community, welcoming a new pastor, or beginning a new ministry, anticipation often carries both excitement and uncertainty. We wonder what lies ahead while hoping it will be something good.

As Christians, I wonder if we've lost a little of that "nervous-cited" feeling when it comes to the church. What if we came into worship each week wondering, What is God going to do today? What if we looked around the sanctuary asking, Who might be here for the first time? Who could use a conversation? Who might become a lifelong friend? What if we approached a new ministry opportunity with curiosity instead of caution?

The early church lived with that kind of expectation. They never knew where the Holy Spirit might lead next, whose life might be transformed, or what new opportunity for ministry might appear around the corner. They expected God to be at work.

When we believe God is still writing new stories, we naturally want to be part of them. We volunteer because we want to see what God will do next. We invite others because we believe their lives can be changed. We give generously because we're investing in something bigger than ourselves.

Perhaps this fall, as backpacks are filled and classrooms come alive again, we can reclaim a little of that childlike anticipation.

Maybe it's okay – even healthy – to become a little "nervous-cited" about what God has in store for our churches.

After all, the best chapters of God's story are never behind us. They're always the next ones God invites us to write together

Missions

SUMMERTIME MISSION STAYED BUSY!!

You donated 100 pounds of shoes to Africa, fed the Treehouse teens, contributed to Back to School Bash, and donated 20 Raise Right GCs, water and Gatorade to the Menasha tornado survivors.

By the time you read this, you will have also packed rice at Wild Rose for the Midwest Missions. Grace has donated \$1,375.00 towards this area-wide mission project—more than any other participating church.

Way to go!!!



SPUD SUNDAY

Fall will bring our annual SPUD SUNDAY on October 25th right after the service. Delicious baked potatoes with tons of toppings for you to eat here or take home. Monies donated will be used to continue our Mission work.



TREEHOUSE OF WISCONSIN

Dear Methodist Church, Judie Batterman,

I want to thank you for being here in this world. You are a really great team to make us food in your own time.

Thank you for being you.

Jade (TreeHouse)

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

On behalf of the nearly 500 Waushara County youth who received filled backpacks this fall through the Back to School Bash Program, thank you for your very generous donation to the program. All donations go directly towards the purchase of school supplies and backpacks.

Your continued support of our programs is truly appreciated.

Mary LeBlanc, Waushara Cty DHS

WAUSHARA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY, INC.

Dear Congregants,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$230.00 to support our efforts fighting hunger and food insecurity! Your gift helps us provide healthy food for low and moderate-income individuals and families here in Waushara County.

We know that hardships happen and our neighbors have times when they need support. We believe households who seek food assistance deserve a variety of nutritious food, and we work hard to provide foods that support a balanced diet.

In 2025, we provided food to a total of 3,120 unduplicated individuals in 1,227 unduplicated households. We recorded 6,968 household encounters and distributed more than 500,000 pounds of food! We have a great volunteer workforce which continues to grow in numbers and commitment, providing more than 7,000 hours of service each year.

On behalf of myself, our volunteers, the families we serve, and the Board of Directors, I thank you for your gift and look forward to your continued support. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information about our pantry and services. I would be happy to offer you a tour and tell you more about our efforts.

Tyler Weston, Executive Director

**Enjoy Gods beautiful fall colors and take part in helping others
through our church and our community.**

YOU can make a difference .

Before the Leaves Are Gone

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

—Psalm 118:24

October has a way of getting our attention. The trees that stood quietly in the background all summer suddenly come alive with brilliant shades of red, orange, and gold. Roads we travel every day seem different. Ordinary hillsides become beautiful. Even a single tree can stop us in our tracks.

But the beauty does not last long. A few strong winds, a cold rain, and soon the branches will be bare. If we are too busy, we may miss it.

Perhaps that is one of October's gifts: it reminds us to pay attention.

Life moves quickly. We hurry from one appointment to another, finish one task and immediately begin the next, or become so concerned about tomorrow that we fail to notice the blessings God has placed before us today.

We tell ourselves that there will be time later.

Later, we will visit that person.

Later, we will make the telephone call.

Later, we will say, "Thank you."

Later, we will tell someone how much they mean to us.

Later, we will sit quietly with God.

But October reminds us that seasons change. Opportunities do not remain forever. The leaves are beautiful today, but they will not always be on the trees.

When the psalmist declares, "This is the day that the Lord has made," he is not merely talking about a date on the calendar. He is reminding us that today is a gift from God. This particular day—with its opportunities, interruptions, people, joys, and challenges—will never come again in exactly the same way.

We can spend our days waiting for life to become easier, calmer, or more convenient. **We can also choose to receive the day God has given us and look for His presence within it.**

Perhaps God is present in the friend who needs someone to listen.

Perhaps God is present in the child who has one more story to tell.

Perhaps God is present in the neighbor who waves from across the street.

Perhaps God is present in the quiet beauty of an October afternoon.

Perhaps God is even present in an unexpected interruption that gives us an opportunity to show kindness.

From the Pastor's Desk

This month, I invite you to practice the holy habit of noticing.

Look carefully at the beauty around you.

Listen closely when someone speaks.

Thank God for an ordinary blessing.

Offer encouragement while you have the opportunity.

Tell people that they are loved and appreciated.

Do not wait for the “perfect time” to do the good God has placed upon your heart.

This is also important for us as a congregation. **Grace United Methodist Church is made up of people whose lives matter deeply to God.** Every conversation, welcome, prayer, visit, card, and act of kindness can become a way of sharing Christ's love. Sometimes the most meaningful ministry happens in moments that seem small at the time.

Autumn will soon give way to winter. The colorful leaves will fall, the days will grow colder, and another season will begin. But before the leaves are gone, let us slow down long enough to see them.

Let us notice God's goodness.

Let us notice one another.

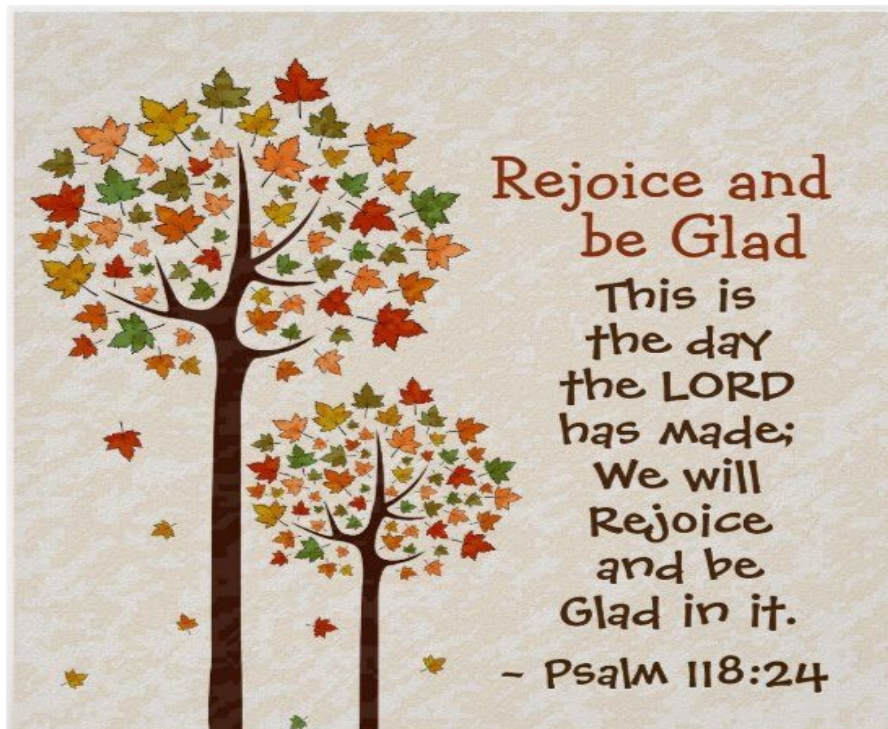
Let us receive each day with gratitude.

And let us not postpone the love we can share today.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Stephanie

Rev. Stephanie J. Taylor



FALL SERMON SERIES

Beginning Sun., Sept. 27th, I will be preaching a new sermon series titled **Strength for the Seasons: Finding God's Strength in Every Season of Life. Just as the world around us moves through changing seasons, our lives include seasons of difficulty, transition, exhaustion, doubt, waiting, spiritual dryness, grief, and blessing.**

Through messages drawn primarily from the Book of Psalms, we will discover how God meets us personally in each of these experiences and gives us the strength, grace, and hope we need. Whatever season you are living through right now, there is a word from God for you. The season may change, but God remains faithful—and God will be with us through them all.

I hope you will make worship a priority during this series and join us each Sunday as we walk through these seasons together. Come expecting God to speak a word of strength, hope, and encouragement for whatever season you may be facing.

BIBLE STUDY**Christianity 101 – What Christians Believe and Why It Matters**

Have you ever wished you had a better understanding of the basics of the Christian faith? Whether you are new to Christianity, have been part of the church for many years, or simply have questions you have never had the chance to ask, **Christianity 101** is for you.

During this six-week, discussion-based class, we will explore the foundations of our faith, including who God is, who Jesus is, what Christians believe about sin and grace, the meaning of the cross and resurrection, salvation, the Holy Spirit, and the purpose of the Church. No previous Bible or theology knowledge is needed, and there are no “wrong” questions. This will be a relaxed and welcoming place to learn, talk, ask questions, and grow together.

Come as you are, bring your questions, and discover more deeply what Christians believe and why it matters for everyday life.

There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are interested in attending this informative Bible Study. The Bible Study will start on Wed., Oct. 7th at 10:00 AM. Please bring your bibles.

STEWARDSHIP "SEASON"

This newsletter will arrive at your home early October. That means the congregation and friends of Grace UMC are entering our "official" stewardship season. But we all know that stewardship is not a season, it's a daily way of living.

We all encounter opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ in planned or unexpected 1-on-1 interactions. True disciples are not just "Sunday" Christians. We have many members and friends of Grace that we can point to as active, practicing Christians. But each one of us can step up in our faith journey. As Pastor Stephanie has told us, our discipleship journey doesn't end until we enter the gates of Heaven.

The Discipleship Pathway Team's goal is to understand what we are doing well at Grace UMC and what we can do better to help each individual—member, friend, or guest—make that next step in their relationship with God.

Praying for the leaders of Grace UMC as we work to extend our service and love beyond the walls of the building is one way you can take a next step in INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT. Making an "extra" financial gift toward the needs of the church is one way you can take a next step in EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY. Raising your hand to help with a mission, coffee hour, or the work weekend at Camp Lucerne is one way you can take a next step in RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE.

Taking the next step in your stewardship journey does not need to be a giant leap of faith, but it does need to be an intentional step based upon God's calling to you.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Pastor Stephanie at ICD Training	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 10:00 a.m. Worship World Communion Sunday	5	6 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD" 10:00 AM SPRC Mtg.	7 10:00 AM Christianity 101	8 11:00 AM Missions Mtg.	9 Church Office Closed	10
11 10:00 a.m. Worship	12	13 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD" 10:00 AM Membership Mtg.	14 10:00 AM Christianity 101 11:00 AM Bells Rehearsal	15 10:00 AM Pastor Stephanie at Heartland House	16 Church Office Closed	17 Work Weekend at Camp Lucerne
18 10:00 AM Worship at Camp Lucerne Chapel Work Weekend at Camp Lucerne	19	20 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD"	21 10:00 AM Christianity 101 11:00 AM Bells Rehearsal	22 SOTM Tour of the Food Pantry. (Meet at the Food Pantry at 10:00 AM.)	23 Church Office Closed	24
25 10:00 a.m. Worship  SPUD SUNDAY	26 Pastor Stephanie at ICD Training	27 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD"	28 10:00 AM Christianity 101	29	30 Church Office Closed	31 