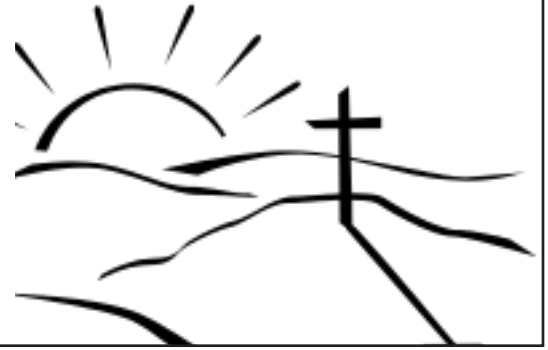


Grace United Methodist Church --
*Built of the Rock;
in the Rock and
on the Rock.*



Going Forward with Christ

I would like to give you a heads up on some of ‘coming attractions’ for the fall. For I believe God has some exciting new plans for us and he leads us into this next school year.

There’s something about back-to-school that can give us a sense of a fresh start. For students there is a new classroom with possibilities of making new friends and getting a clean slate on their grades. Back-to-school can ignite these feelings in adults as well. Teachers make plans for their new classes. Parents think about how they’ll be more involved in school, and perhaps church. Adult learners start new semesters and move a little closer to that degree or goal that they’ve long dreamed of.

The Back-to school season can also be a time of renewal for the church. Sunday school classes, small groups and church programs begin to gear up again. With many back from vacation, it is a good time to really refocus our energies as a church.

In fact, this year’s overall focus for Grace church will begin with the school year. This year’s focus is ‘Going with Christ’. Having previously focused on being ‘Grounded to Christ’ and ‘Growing in Christ’; God is now leading us out into the community and world to make a difference in His name. And in light of the new school year often bringing new assignments to learn and accomplish, well we might view this as our new assignment from God. God is leading our church to courageously go forward with Christ.

And in thinking of a new assignment from God, one person in the Bible who comes to mind is Nehemiah. Nehemiah faced all the uncertainty and fears in order to provide a fresh start not only for himself but also for the struggling community he was sent to help restore. Nehemiah was a strong leader and man of God who was willing to go where God sent him. He faced strong opposition and challenges. Yet he was able to accomplish what God had sent him to do. He had been given an assignment by God and was faithful to fulfill it. That assignment was to go leave the palace and go rebuild wall of Jerusalem which would also rebuild the community of God. He was called to go with God.

So during this fall our worship services will be taking a closer look at the book of Nehemiah. As we look at his willingness to go into a new adventure, may it inspire us to step out in faith and God with Christ to where God is leading us.

For instance here is a foretaste of a couple new things to look for coming this fall ...

- Our Stewardship Drive for 2012 will be earlier than usual and take place in the fall.
 - Pledge Sunday will be in end of October this year.
- New Bible studies
 - [Financial Peace University](#) (follow link to website)
 - Disciple Bible Study
 - Women’s Bible Study
 - Study on the book of Revelation

For more information go to our website at houghtongraceumc.org. We look forward to where God is leading us. Let us respond faithfully to go with Christ.

In Christ’s service,
Pastor David

Grace News You Can Use

GRACE FINANCIAL NEWS

Well summer is winding down. The students are back and in school. Winter is right around the corner (burr!!!) Below you will see the most recent information for our church finances through July 2011.

Giving	\$116,719.25	50.4% of budget
Expenses	\$117,720.16	50.8% of budget
Apportionments	\$ 5,500.00	27.1% (this is part of the expense total above)
Mortgage Balance	\$351,616.83	

The summer months were not as tough on us this year as in past years. We are now 58% through the year and are doing well to keep up with our budget needs. However, there are some needs that can be addressed that do have an impact, mainly for the church office and maintenance. The committee has added some of these needs to our wish list which can be found at

http://www.houghtongraceumc.org/content/resources/church_wish_list..

The big item is a computer and other hardware for the office. If you can help with these please contact Pastor David or myself for exact needs as some items have been donated already. Please continue to pray about the financial needs of our church and how we can best serve God through our financial gifts. As always, the finance team welcomes thoughtful ideas to reduce our fixed expenses while meeting the needs of our people, property, and community.

Gods Peace, *Tim Jenkins*

A word of praise and thanks to Grace Church from the Gideon ministry

On July 10th Grace church had a special collection for the Gideon Ministry, \$451 was collected. All of the \$451 goes directly to the purchase of Bibles. The overhead of the Gideon's ministry is funded by the Gideon members themselves. They wanted to assure us that "Every penny of these funds will be used to provide Scriptures in the traffic lanes of life." That means 347 scriptures will be purchased through this offering. Thank you to everyone for their generous support as we help spread God's Word.



DEADLINES

The October Finance Team meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12th. The October Vision Team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th.

The deadline for the October Newsletter will Be Wednesday, Septmeber the 24th in the morning. The deadline for Sunday's order of worship and to insert an announcement in the bulletin is each Wednesday morning.

Grace News You Can Use

~ September 2011 Prayer Calendar ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Louisa Willis	2 Lorraine Konosky	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Helen Spence	10
11 Carol Little	12 Alexandra Larsen	13	14 Judy Leil	15	16	17 Jim Olson
18 Florence Burich	19	20	21 Rudy Bianchi	22 Jackie Manchester Kempke	23	24 Julie Crowl
25 Laura Moore	26 Kathy Duncan	27 Lynn Manchester	28	29 Marge Olson	30 Dee Little	Notes:

Grace United Methodist Church

RUTH CIRCLE

The first meeting of Ruth Circle will be on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 9:30, child care will be provided for those in need. Our guest speaker will be Norma Nominelli, sharing with us the book her mother wrote entitled "Wilheimina". Her life and faith in the Lord. I am sure we will all enjoy her presentation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sign up for Sunday School for all ages was Sunday, September 11th. Complete with fellowship and great treats the event was a success. If you were unable to join us you can still sign up for one of the many classes available. Check with the church office.

YOUTH GROUP

Grace UMC youth group kicked off their 2011-12 year with a pizza party. Now the group will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Grace. Middle school and high school students are welcome. The group will be studying "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan.

GRACE UMC STAFF

PASTOR.....David Goudie
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....Carol Little
 TREASURER.....Deb Bradford
 BUILDING SUPERVISOR.....Gerald Smith
 SECRETARY.....Anna Walls

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Scott MacInnes
 Jennifer Wuthrich
 5 Jerry Smith
 6 Bradley Niemi
 8 Chuck Cadwell
 9 Matthew Buss
 Jason Ackerman
 10 Dianne Hansen
 12 Shirley Bradford
 Meghan Trehwella
 17 Michelle Laux
 Jazmin Ravotas
 18 Ryan Aper
 Brenda Cadwell
 19 Michael Lubinski
 20 Diana Hocking
 Christopher Nottke
 Randy Nottke
 21 Tom Martens
 22 Tim Klooster
 23 David Chard
 24 Avis Trathen
 Emma Binkley
 26 Lauren Richards
 Lynn Watson
 James Fricke
 28 Michael Moore
 29 Kreg Kelley
 Audrey Hunter
 30.....Justin Plichta

(Don't see your birthday listed? Contact the office @ 482-2780 and let us know when you celebrate your special day.)

September 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Noon Women's 4 th Day at Bradford's 6:30 Prayer at Bluffs	2	3 8:00 Women's 4 th Day at Perkins
4 Salvation Army Day 9:15 Connections Café 9:30 Praise Singing 10:00 Worship	5 Noon Men's 4 th Day at Franklin Sq. Inn	6 Trustees 6:00	7 6:00 Worship Team Bulletin Deadline	8 6:30 Prayer at Bluffs	9	10 8:00 Women's 4 th Day at Perkins
11 9:15 Connections Café 9:30 Praise Singing 10:00 Worship 11:15 College Sunday school begins & Sunday School registration 6:00 Youth Group @ Crowl's	12 9:30 Ruth circle Noon Men's 4 th Day at Franklin Sq. Inn 5:30 Finance Team @ Grace 6:00 choir	13 6:00 Financial Peace University preview @ Grace	14 6:00 Vision Team Bulletin Deadline	15 Noon Women's 4 th Day at Bradford's 6:30 Prayer at Bluffs	16	17 8:00 Women's 4 th Day at Perkins
18 9:15 Connections Café 9:30 Praise Singing 10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday school begins 6:00 Youth Group @ Grace	19 Noon Men's 4 th Day at Franklin Sq. Inn 6:00 Choir 6-8 p.m. Psalms Bible Study with soup and bread dinner @ Grace	20	21 6:00 Worship Team Bulletin & Newsletter Deadline	22 Noon Women's 4 th Day at Bradford's	23	24 8:00 Women's 4 th Day at Perkins
25 9:15 Connections Café 9:30 Praise Singing 10:00 Worship Potluck follows worship 6:00 Youth Group @ Grace	26 Noon Men's 4 th Day at Franklin Sq. Inn 6:00 Choir 6-8 p.m. Psalms Bible Study with soup and bread @ Grace	6-8 p.m. Financial Peace University Bible Study @ Grace	27 9:30 a.m. Basement Ladies and a guy 6:00 Worship Team Bulletin Deadline			

2011 Mission Season Success!



Mike Moore supervising.



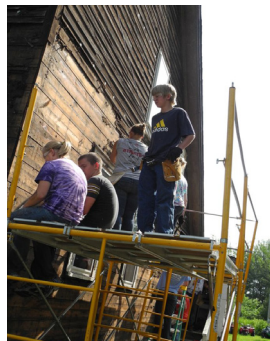
First wall of the Copper City Project goes up. Bath - Gunnisonville Team hard at work. Great team and great friends. Returning to work next year!



Dan Crowl and Dylan Whittaker at work measuring wood to trim for the Copper City Addition. Dylan and other members of GUMC youth joined in local mission this summer.



Ton Dutcher from GUMC works moving scaffolding at the Nelson Roofing Project during Covenant Lutheran Mission week.



Covenant Lutheran Team working on Baltic Project.



Team from Covenant Lutheran works to cover Baltic Project in R-board during their mission week in Keweenaw.



Birmingham Team and AGMK members who worked at staining Gary and Dianne Hansen's home.



Victory! Two members of the Gladstone team dig out stumps and roots at the Baltic Project.



Katelyn Kelley steps out of mission assistant role to that of worker at the Baltic Project.

Thank you to all who supported our Amazing Grace Team and visiting mission teams this past summer. Lots of work was completed. The team and visiting teams from Bath-Gunnisonville UMCs from lower Michigan, Covenant Lutheran Church from Stoughton, WI, Gladstone Memorial Church from Gladstone, and Youth from the Birmingham First UMC completed much work. These mission weeks would not be possible without your presence, prayers, donations and action. Thanks to our mission assistants: Katelyn Kelley, Dylan Whittaker and Ross Michaels who helped feed, photograph and see to our visitors' needs throughout their mission time with us.

Message Themes for September

Date	Scriptures	Theme/title
Sept 4	Romans 13:8-14	Indebted to Love
Sept 11	Nehemiah 1:1-10 & (Philippians 4:6-7)	“Prayer-raising”
Sept 18	Nehemiah 2:1-20	From Royalty to Rubble
Sept 25	Nehemiah 4:1-23	Blocks to Building Blocks

Grace United Methodist Church September 2011 Newsletter



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:15 Cafe Open
- 9:30 Praise Music in Sanctuary
- 10:00 Call to Worship
- 11:00 Fellowship
- 11:15 Sunday School