

September 2026 Newsletter

Grace United Methodist Church

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Web site: www.gracepiedmont.com

Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

And just like that, school has begun!! Programming will begin the week of September 13th for children, youth, and adults. There is a lot of information in the Newsletter – find a place *or two* for you or your students to grow deeper in Christ!!

In worship we will continue with our “Lessons in Leadership” series through mid-September. We will conclude this series with “Conflict” on the 6th and “Grace” on the 13th. Beginning on September 20th we will begin a new series called “Pressing On.” Working in Philippians, we will be encouraged to keep pressing on as we hear weekly reminders of the joy and fellowship that is part and parcel of being the church. Or, as Paul reminds us, we are to press on to the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Please join us each Sunday in September as we seek to grow in faith!



Blessings to you and your family!! – *Pastor John*

August 2026 Finance Update (*Through three Sundays*)

August Giving: \$ 10,071

Year-to-Date Giving: \$ 119,890

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$ 112,313

Overall: \$ 7,577

SEPTEMBER READING SCHEDULE

Lessons in Leadership

Conflict

August 31 – Exodus 12:1-10

September 1 – Exodus 12:11-14

September 2 – Psalm 149

September 3 – Romans 13:8-10

September 4 – Rom. 13:11-14

September 5 – Matt. 18:15-17

September 6 – Matt. 18:18-20

Grace

September 7 – Exodus 14:19-21

September 8 – Exodus 14:22-31

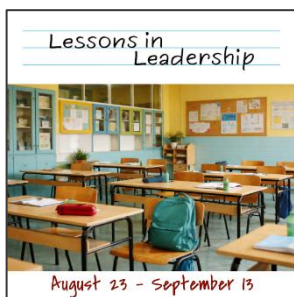
September 9 – Psalm 114:1-4

September 10 – Psalm 114:5-8

September 11 – Romans 14:1-6

Sept. 12 – Romans 14:7-12

Sept. 13 – Matthew 18:21-35



Pressing On

Striving Side by Side

September 14 – Exodus 16:2-5

September 15 – Exodus 16:6-12

Striving Side by Side (continued)

Sept. 16 – Exodus 16:13-15

Sept. 17 – Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Sept. 18 – Philippians 1:21-30

Sept. 19 – Matthew 20:1-7

Sept. 20 – Matthew 20:8-16

In Full Accord

September 21 – Exodus 17:1-7

September 22 – Psalm 78:1-4

September 23 – Psalm 78:12-16

Sept. 24 – Philippians 2:1-4

Sept. 25 – Philippians 2:5-13

Sept. 26 – Matthew 21:23-27

Sept. 27 – Matthew 21:28-32

The Heavenly Call

September 28 – Exodus 20:1-4

September 29 – Exodus 20:7-9

Sept. 30 – Exodus 20:12-20

October 1 – Psalm 19:1-6

October 2 – Psalm 19:7-14

October 3 – Philippians 3:4b-14

October 4 – Matthew 21:33-46



Attention PARENTS!! Attention PARENTS!! Attention PARENTS!!

Fall is **QUICKLY** approaching!!! It will be here before we know it!
PLEASE take a few minutes to sign up your children and/or youth for our programs. You can do so at the following web site:
gracepiedmont.com/events



*Here is
what it
looks like!*

Offerings for Youth and Children

- Sundays – *Starts September 13th!!*
 - Children's Church – Age 4 through 4th grade – Students will exit worship after the Kids' Message to learn in age-appropriate activities, games, and song. On the first Sunday of the month, students will return to be a part of Holy Communion.
 - Grade 5 and 6 Sunday School – Students will also exit after the Kids' Message to learn and grow in their faith in fun and creative ways. On the first Sunday of the month, students will return to partake in communion.
 - Confirmation – Grades 7-12 – Students will learn about the sacraments, about living a life of faith, and about being United Methodist. This class will meet about twice a month after church. (As this will be a little different this year, there is more information later in the Newsletter.)
- Mondays – *Starts September 14th!!*
 - Grace Kids – Grades K-4 – Students will ride the bus from PVE to the church after school. We'll play, have a snack, and then engage in VBS-style faith growth.
- Tuesdays – *Starts September 15th!!*
 - Art with Heart – Grades 5-6 – Students will be picked up in the church van from Stagebarn MS. We will have a snack followed by a devotional, then engage in a wide variety of "art" projects.

(Continued)

- Wednesdays – *Starts September 16th!!*
 - o Youth Group – Grades 7-12 – We will begin with dinner at 5:30 followed by fun and engaging worship, games, and lessons – all to grow deeper in our faith!

Important CONFIRMATION Class Information:



Starting this FALL, *on September 20th*, we will again be offering Confirmation. This initial meeting is for PARENTS and Students. This program is open to students in grades 7-12. (Pastor John is willing

to consider other students based on family need and/or age arrangement and maturity level of potential candidates.)

Here are the expectations for the Confirmation program:

- 1) Worship each Sunday during the course of the program. Complete a “Message Musings” sheet each Sunday when in worship.
- 2) Attend small group gathering after worship (10:30-11:30) roughly every other Sunday, beginning on September 20th. We will again use *Sparkhouse’s* 15-lesson UMC-focused curriculum.
- 3) Attend the Confirmation Retreat (at Storm Mountain Center on April 23-24)
- 4) Participate on Confirmation Sunday (to be held May 16.)

To register or find the schedule, go to: **gracepiedmونت.com/events**
If you have any questions, *please* contact Pastor John. Thanks!

Again, PLEASE take a few minutes to sign up your children and/or youth for our programs. You can do so at the following web site:
gracepiedmونت.com/events

**Grace UMC
Children/Youth
Registration Form**

Please click on the link below to register your children and/or youth for all things - Children's Church, After School Programs, Youth Group, Confirmation, VBS...

Please click [HERE](#) for our registration form!

*Here is
what it
looks like!*

Adults Offerings at Grace UMC

- Sundays – *Starts September 13th!!*
 - o Adult Sunday School – 8 AM – Join the class to learn and grow in your faith, often connecting to the Sunday message and its themes.
- Mondays – *Starts September 14th!!*
 - o Message/Lectionary Study Group – 9:30 AM – Join us to study the four lectionary readings for the week, to review the last Sunday's message, and to offer ideas and thoughts for the upcoming message and theme.
- Wednesdays – *Starts September 16th!!*
 - o Young Women's Group – 7:45 AM – Join us for an engaging and relevant, Biblically-based small group study. Topics determined by the group!
 - o Grief Support Group – 3 PM – Join us for support and encouragement and hope on your journey with and through grief and loss.
- Thursdays - *ongoing*
 - o Men's Group – 5:30 PM – Join us for a meal at 5:30, followed by Bible study. Each week we will look at the passage(s) pertinent to the next Sunday's message.
- Fridays - *ongoing*
 - o Ladies' Group – 6:30 AM – Join us to study and grow together in faith. Most weeks we will look at the passage(s) pertinent to the next Sunday's message, but some weeks we'll study the Upper Room monthly small group offering.

If you have any questions... please contact Pastor John or the Church Office! Thanks!

Grace Kids News

Grace Kids begins on Monday, September 14th! This year we will be using "Simply Loved" as our curriculum. We'll begin with play time and a snack, followed by an opening activity that relates to the day's lesson. Next, we'll sing some songs, watch a short video, and learn our theme verse. We'll break out into stations and regather at the end to sing and work on our memory verse for that week. We're excited to start a new Grace Kids year!



Art with Heart News



Psalm 51:10 says, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."*

Art With Heart is all about growing closer to God through creativity. We invite all 5th and 6th graders to get arty with us

Tuesdays from 3-5 at Grace UMC, beginning September 15. We pick up students at Stagebarn Middle School in the church van and enjoy a snack before getting into some God stories and art. If your child is not a student at Stagebarn, they are welcome but will need to get dropped off at Grace at 3 p.m. Parents/guardians collect their kids at the church at 5.

Registration is open now at gracepiedmont.com/ministries/

- Kristin, Sue, and Pastor John

Youth Group News

Calling all Youth, it is almost time to head back to youth group!

I hope you had a great summer and were able to enjoy the sunshine and the heat (as we had a lot of it!). I can't wait to hear all the stories of how the season went and what you are looking forward to now that you are another year closer to your graduation date!



We will be kicking off youth group on September 16th at 5:30 pm. We will start off this year with a BBQ and some kick ball. We would like all parents to attend the first meeting so we can get to know you and your kiddos and of course get some much-needed paperwork done so we have contact information!



We look forward to seeing everyone back this year.

Blessings - Kristal



Significant Dates for Children and Youth Parents:

- October 4 - 3rd/4th... Grade Bible Presentations
 - o Let Pastor John know if your 3rd/4th... grade student has not yet received a Bible from the church!
- December 13 - Children's Christmas Program (*during church*)
 - o "Snow Date": December 20
- January 29-30 - Winter Connection (Youth Event in Rapid City)

Weekly Spiritual Grow Opportunities:

- Sun. – 8 AM – Adult Sunday School *Starts Sept. 13*)
- Sun. – 9 AM — Sunday Worship (in person or online)
- Mon. – 9:30 AM – Message/Lectionary Study (*Starts Sept. 14*)
- Mon. – 3 PM – Grace Kids (*Starts Sept. 14*)
- Tues. – 3 PM – Art with Heart (*Starts Sept. 15*)
- Wed. – 7:30 AM – Young Ladies Bible Study (*Starts Sept. 16*)
- Wed. – 3:30 PM – Grief Support Group (*Starts Sept. 16*)
- Wed. – 5:30 PM – Youth Group (*Starts Sept. 16*)
- Wed. – 6 PM – Church Garden Volunteering
- Thur. – 5:30 PM — Men’s Bible Study — Fell. Hall
- Fri. – 6:30 AM — Ladies’ Bible Study — SS Room
- Sat. – 9 AM – Church Garden Volunteering

Upcoming Monthly Events and Meetings:

- Sept. 19 – 9 AM – Service Saturday – Church garden
- Sept. 20 – 10:30 AM – Confirmation Meeting (*Parents too!!*)



Birthdays for September:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Sept. 3 – Paisley Sagaser | - Sept. 23 – Pat Stock |
| - Sept. 5 – Don Hilton | - Sept. 29 – Carrie Masters |
| - Sept. 6 – Josh Brown | - Sept. 30 – Ted Pukas |
| - Sept. 7 – Owen James | - Sept. 30 – Delaney James |
| - Sept. 9 – Dennis Levin | |
| - Sept. 10 – Larry Hofmeister | |
| - Sept. 12 – Anthony Pfister | |
| - Sept. 12 – Kevin Stock | |
| - Sept. 12 – Isaiah Brown | |
| - Sept. 16 – Michelle Kroger | |
| - Sept. 16 – Scott Kopplin | |
| - Sept. 23 – Bob Britt | |



Present: Pastor John, Tanya Taylor (Recording Secretary), Prairey Walking (Chair), Kelly Kruger (Finance & Stewardship), Tom Stevens (Kitchen Committee), Matt Pfister (SPP), Jeff Kottwitz (Trustees), and Mike Marsland. Not present Lavincia Pfister.

Meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Prairey W.

Pastor John shared reflection time and led us in prayer.

The June 16, 2026, minutes were read and discussed. Mike made a motion to approve the minutes and Jeff 2nd them. They were unanimously approved.

Ministry Reports as follows:

*Finance & Stewardship – Kelly K.

- Giving is even.
- Garden Fund is -\$286.00. Motion made by Mike requesting to take money from General Fund to make Garden Fund even. Jeff 2nd motion, all were in favor of motion.

*Kitchen Committee – Tom S.

- Thank you everyone who helped with VBS. It was a “group effort”, and ALL help was greatly appreciated!
- Sunday Aug. 30th – Fall Kick- Off. Worship time Changed to 10 AM. Followed by BBQ/Potluck/Games at 11:30 AM. Jeff made motion to approve, Mike 2nd it. Everyone approved.

*Staff Pastor Parish – Matt P.

- CE & VBS – good plan in place to help Jennifer for the 1st couple months.
 - + Prep meetings and Sunday follow-up

*Trustees – Jeff K.

- Service Saturday, Oil Stain the carport/overhang
- Looking at September to lay carpet tiles in offices and SS room. Volunteers will empty the furniture in offices and remove baseboards. and old carpet. Upon completion, they will replace baseboards and furniture. Flooring Solutions will lay carpet tiles.
 - + Fund is light \$200.00, Mike made motion to transfer money from General Fund to cover cost. Jeff 2nd and all were in favor.

*Old Business –

- Carpet on Chancel – bid for carpet squares at \$6,633.59 – we have the funds.
 - + We have materials/estimate for in offices and Adult SS room.
 - = Labor bid at \$1,301.56

*New/Continuing Business –

- Development of 3rd lot – need septic requirements
- 2 A/C units are being looked at – (Offices/Game Room is waiting on parts and right side of Sanctuary is now working).
- Kick-Off Sunday:
 - + August 30, 10 AM worship with extra music, blessing of student prayer cards/backpacks.
 - + 11:30 AM BBQ provided by Kitchen Committee with sides and desserts potluck, and games.

Jeff made motion to adjourn meeting at 7:45 PM and Kelly 2nd that motion. This was approved by everyone.

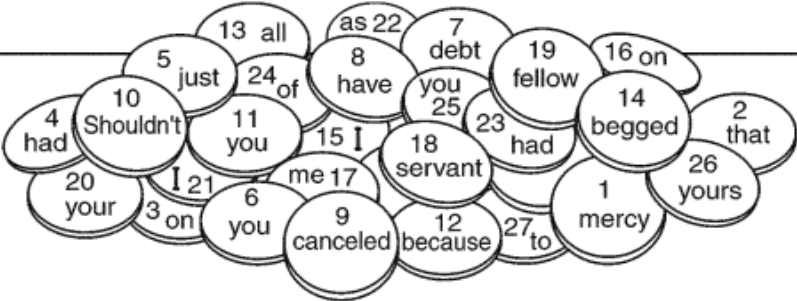
Next meeting October 20 - Teams at 6:15 and Leadership at 7 PM.

Minutes by Tanya T.

First read Matthew 18:21-35 then complete this activity! This is one of the scriptures for Sunday, September 13.

But the servant was not so kind to one of his debtors.
The master called the servant in again.
What did he say?

Use the numbers on the coins to find the correct words to write on the lines below.



“ _____
21 9 13 2 7

24 26 12 11 14

17 27 10 6 8

4 1 16 20 19

18 5 22 15 23

3 25 ?”



Grace United Methodist Church

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