

# August 2026 Newsletter

Grace United Methodist Church

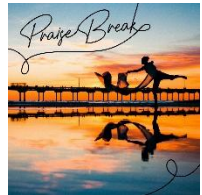
605-787-4858 — Email: [gumc@midconetwork.com](mailto:gumc@midconetwork.com)

Web site: [www.gracepiedmont.com](http://www.gracepiedmont.com)

Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

We are now two-thirds of the way through the summer. 😞  
While that may be hard to believe, the summer has been awesome. Personally, I was deeply blessed to help out with a high school camp – On Solid Ground – at Storm Mountain Center in mid-July. As a church, the rummage sale at the end of July was a blessing, both financially for the church and spiritually in the ways that many hands and hearts came together to make it all happen and then unhappen. Thanks to all who played a part!!!

For the first part of August, we will turn to a series that draws from the Psalms (and a little bit from Genesis.) It is called “Praise Break.” Join us each Sunday as we explore seeing the face of God in the world and in one another, as we think about singing our praises, and as we think about the unity we experience when we praise and worship together.



Thank you for your time! Blessings to you and your family!!

– Pastor John

## July 2026 Finance Update (Through three Sundays)

July Giving: \$ 12,175

Year-to-Date Giving: \$ 107,343

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$ 100,549

Overall: \$ 6,794

# AUGUST READING SCHEDULE

## Praise Break

### Behold the Face

*July 27 – Genesis 32:22-24*

*July 28 – Genesis 32:25-31*

*July 29 – Psalm 17:1-2*

*July 30 – Romans 9:1-5*

*July 31 – Psalm 17:3-7, 15*

*August 1 – Matthew 14:13-20*

**August 2 – Matthew 14:21**

### Singing Praises

*August 3 – Gen. 37:1-4, 12-20*

*August 4 – Genesis 37:1-4*

*August 5 – Psalm 105:1-6,  
16-22, and 45b*

*August 6 – Romans 10:5-9*

*August 7 – Romans 10:6-10*

*August 8 – Matthew 13:22-27*

**August 9 – Matthew 13:28-33**

### Unity of Praise

*August 10 – Genesis 45:1-8*

*August 11 – Genesis 45:9-15*

*August 12 – Psalm 133*

*August 13 – Romans 11:1-2*

*August 14 – Romans 11:29-32*

*August 15 – Matthew 15:10-20*

**August 16 – Matthew 15:21-28**

## Lessons in Leadership

### Power

*August 17 – Exodus 1:8-14*

*August 18 – Psalm 124:1-5*

*August 19 – Romans 12:1-2*

*August 20 – Exodus 1:15-2:10*

*August 21 – Matthew 16:13-20*

*August 22 – Romans 12:3-8*

**August 23 – Psalm 124:6-8**

### Acceptance

*August 24 – Exodus 3:1-3*

*August 25 – Exodus 3:4-15*

*August 26 – Psalm 105:1-6,  
23-26, 45b*

*August 27 – Romans 12:9-13*

*August 28 – Romans 12:14-21*

*August 29 – Matthew 16:21-23*

**August 30 – Matthew 16:24-28**

### Conflict

*August 31 – Exodus 12:1-10*

*September 1 – Exodus 12:11-14*

*September 2 – Psalm 149*

*September 3 – Romans 13:8-10*

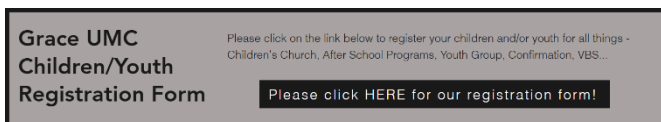
*September 4 – Rom. 13:11-14*

*September 5 – Matt. 18:15-17*

**September 6 – Matt. 18:18-20**

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](http://gracepiedmont.com/events)



*Here is  
what it  
looks like!*

### Offerings for Youth and Children (Starting this Fall!)

- Sundays
  - Children's Church – Age 4 through 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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
  - 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
  - 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
  - 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, we will again be offering Confirmation. 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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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: [gracepiedmont.com/events](http://gracepiedmont.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: [gracepiedmont.com/events](http://gracepiedmont.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 (\*\*Starting this Fall.)

- Sundays\*\*
  - 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\*\*
  - 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\*\*
  - 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
  - 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
  - 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!

Weekly Spiritual Grow Opportunities:

- Sun. – 9 AM — Worship (in person or online) - Sanctuary
- 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:

- August 2 – Hoses and Hallelujahs #3 – 5-7 PM – City Park
- August 9-11 – VBS – 5-7 PM – Church
- August 15 – Service Saturday – 9 AM – Stromberg's

Birthdays for August:

- August 2 – Jessie Levin
- August 2 – Tom Stevens
- August 7 – John Stockham
- August 19 – Judi Pepper
- August 24 – Max Kruger
- August 25 – Nolan Brennan
- August 26 – Jamie Brennan
- August 28 – Kelly Carter
- August 31 – Brenden Greiner

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

*And a little "funny" to share:*

*Sin burn is prevented by Son screen!*

God helped His people do well in Egypt, but the Egyptians began to mistreat them. God sent Moses and Aaron to perform His miraculous signs. What were some of the signs God did through Moses and Aaron?

Replace the missing words from the list into the correct spaces.

|      |       |       |       |        |          |           |
|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|----------|-----------|
| ate  | hail  | crops | gnats | vines  | waters   | darkness  |
| fig  | rain  | flies | green | filled | locusts  | firstborn |
| fish | blood | frogs | trees | struck | bedrooms | lightning |

God sent \_\_\_\_\_ over Egypt.



God turned their \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_, causing their \_\_\_\_\_ to die.

The land was \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, even in the \_\_\_\_\_ of their rulers.

There came swarms of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ throughout Egypt.



God turned their \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_, with \_\_\_\_\_.



God struck down their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ trees and shattered their \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ came and \_\_\_\_\_ up all their \_\_\_\_\_ and every \_\_\_\_\_ thing.

God \_\_\_\_\_ down all the \_\_\_\_\_ in their land.



**Grace United Methodist Church**

10060 Foothills Drive

PO Box 265

Piedmont, SD 57769