

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOSHUA 1:9

**Have I not
 commanded you? Be
 strong and
 courageous.
 Do not be afraid;
 do not be
 discouraged,
 for the Lord
 your God will be
 with you.**



REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 Hebrews 10:25 Group

11:00 a.m. Comcast Cable Channel 6
 Comcast Cable HD Channel 914

Anytime or any day, watch the service on our YouTube channel, Grace Methodist Church of Decatur Online.

Our webpage is www.decaturchurch.com where you will also find a link to the worship service on YouTube.

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Grace Notes

Grace Methodist Church • 901 N. Main St. • Decatur, IL 62521 • 217-429-5374
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Upcoming Sermons

September 24 –
 Mark 8:4-15
 The Parable of the Sower,
 Consider How You Listen

October 1 –
 Jonah 1
 Running Away From God

October 8 -
 Jonah 2
 Running to God

October 15 -
 Jonah 3
 Running For God

October 22 -
 Guest Sermon - Given by
 Dr. Pete Paulson

October 29 -
 Jonah 4
 A Call to Run with God

Dear Church Family,
 Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It's Fall Y'all! We are officially in the fall season now. Have you started noticing some changes around you? Maybe in a week or two, the fall season will become more real, so enjoy some more warm days of this year!

In my last note, I was writing about the preparation for the "September 17 Ministry Day Sunday." And now I am looking back and reflecting on this amazing event that we had on September 17. We enjoyed a great potluck lunch and fellowship; we had amazing presentations of all the wonderful ministries that are going on at Grace, and many of our congregation members are using their spiritual gifts and talents for the kingdom of God. There are some ministries at our church in desperate need of some more volunteers on the team. Please consider offering your gifts and talents or services to those ministries.

We also witnessed the birth of a new dream and vision to give our church a fresh look, working towards connecting with people in creative ways to see our church becoming a house of prayer, worship, and connections for a multigenerational and multicultural congregation expanding the mission locally and globally.

I am very excited about what God is doing and going to do in and through Grace as we keep dreaming and envisioning the kingdom of Christ and offering ourselves to fulfill that dream and vision. So, let me ask you if you have not responded to the questions I sent via email to the church, or if you did not respond to the green sheet with the questions on September 24, then please take time to pray and respond to these questions:

- 1) "Do You Have a Dream for the Kingdom of God?"
- 2) "What is Your Dream for the Kingdom of God?"
- 3) "How Are You Planning/Working on Fulfilling Your Dream for the Kingdom of God?"

These questions are directly relevant to our growth in Christian Discipleship. Being a follower of Jesus, let's think about how we are expanding and Strengthening Christ's mission. I look forward to hearing from you.

The "Anchored Kids" ministry started on September 20, and it is going on very well. Please keep all the kids and their families, volunteers, teachers, and leaders in your prayers. This is an amazing opportunity to raise the next generation for the kingdom of Christ.

Now, I invite you to pray with me for God's peace and comfort for those who have recently lost their loved ones and those who are recovering from surgeries and dealing with health concerns and other challenges in life. I am grateful to God for you all, you are a wonderful congregation!

With love, prayers, and blessings,

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace"
 (Numbers 6:24-26).*

Pastor AP

DISCIPLESHIP

SOAPY Personal Daily Reading Schedule

We use our SOAPY daily readings for preparation for worship. You'll find the daily readings corresponding to the coming Sunday's message. As you read and study the texts, you will be preparing your hearts for worship and plowing up the ground for receiving the seed of God's Word. In case you have not yet engaged the SOAPY readings, you may wonder what is SOAPY?



SOAPY stands for: **S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pplication, **P**rayer and **Y**ielding.

Here's how to put the SOAPY principles to work: You might want to keep a SOAPY journal for notes. If you are able to find a place of solitude for your time of reading, read aloud the Scripture passage for the day. Hearing the Word is a powerful spiritual discipline. Make some Observations in your SOAPY journal by asking these questions:

- 1) What is the **Scripture** about?
- 2) **Observe:** What does this passage mean?
- 3) What truth or teaching can I **Apply** to my life?
- 4) Then write and offer a **Prayer** that helps you
- 5) **Yield** more of your life to Jesus so that your study is not for information only, but for transformation as you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ and into His likeness.

Sept. 24 Numbers 1	Oct. 15 Deuteronomy 1-2
Sept. 25 Numbers 2-3	Oct. 16 Deuteronomy 3-4
Sept. 26 Numbers 4	Oct. 17 Deuteronomy 5-6
Sept. 27 Numbers 5-6	Oct. 18 Deuteronomy 7-8
Sept. 28 Numbers 7	Oct. 19 Deuteronomy 9-10
Sept. 29 Numbers 8-9	Oct. 20 Deuteronomy 11-12
Sept. 30 Numbers 10	Oct. 21 Deuteronomy 13-14

Oct. 1 Numbers 11-12	Oct. 22 Deuteronomy 15-16
Oct. 2 Numbers 13-14	Oct. 23 Deuteronomy 17-18
Oct. 3 Numbers 15-16	Oct. 24 Deuteronomy 19-20
Oct. 4 Numbers 17-18	Oct. 25 Deuteronomy 21-22
Oct. 5 Numbers 19-20	Oct. 26 Deuteronomy 23-24
Oct. 6 Numbers 21-22	Oct. 27 Deuteronomy 25-26
Oct. 7 Numbers 23-24	Oct. 28 Deuteronomy 27-28

Oct. 8 Numbers 25-26	Oct. 29 Deuteronomy 29-30
Oct. 9 Numbers 27-28	Oct. 30 Deuteronomy 31-32
Oct. 10 Numbers 29-30	Oct. 31 Deuteronomy 33-34
Oct. 11 Numbers 31	Nov. 1 Joshua 1-3
Oct. 12 Numbers 32	Nov. 2 Joshua 4-6
Oct. 13 Numbers 33-34	Nov. 3 Joshua 7-8
Oct. 14 Numbers 35-36	Nov. 4 Joshua 9-10

OUTREACH

Deliver Us From Evil

By Carol Perry and Rev. Terry Teykl

Be alert and have a sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. – 1 Peter 5:8

If you attended the Ministry Sunday event, you would remember that Cindy Grgurich had us pray the Lord's Prayer at noon. We both attended the meeting for the GM Church Great Lakes Region Prayer Leaders meeting in August. At the meeting Rev. Dr. Terry Teykl challenged us to pray the Lord's Prayer at noon daily. Both of us have set our phones with an alarm to ring daily at noon. You may remember I mentioned this practice last month in Grace Notes.

As you may remember, I mentioned Rev. Teykl has a 14 page devotional that he wrote and published in a book in 2015 called "Pray the Lord's Prayer at Noon." The following is Day 11 called "Deliver Us From Evil." I hope you will find it helpful in Understanding our role in praying against the enemy of our soul.

It's not hard to see the work of evil in our world: drunk drivers, domestic violence, mass shooting, acts of terror. It seems as though evil deeds have become more and more frequent in our lifetime. Yet the atrocities that we see every day in the news are not new; mankind has been inflicting horrendous acts of violence against itself – one to one and nation to nation – from the beginning of history. Since Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, and Cain murdered his brother Able, Satan has been determined to destroy the only creation that God made in his own image.

We are fashioned in the likeness of God and designed with spirits capable of communion with him. Our highest calling in life is to worship our creator and bring pleasures and glory to him. And Satan hates it all. That's why every believer is a target. The enemy despises the Godlikeness in us and wants nothing more than to rob us of any joy, peace or blessing this life might bring.

The good news is that God is not just our Creator, but he is also our mighty protector. And he has given us full authority over Satan and all of his evil's schemes. Look at what the Bible says: But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and

October 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 -Worship Service 10:45 - Adult SS Hebrews 10:25 Group	2 6:00 pm -OES	3 6:30am -Men's bible study 4:30pm-Prayer	4 10:00am Sisters in Christ 4:30 pm - Anchored Kids 5:30 pm -Men's Bible Study 6:00pm - Bells 7:00pm -Choir	5	6	7
8 9:30 -Worship Service 10:45 - Adult SS Hebrews 10:25 Group	9 6:00 pm -OES	10 6:30am -Men's bible study 4:30pm-Prayer Gathering	11 10:00am Sisters in Christ 4:30 pm -Anchored Kids 5:30 pm -Men's Bible Study 6:00pm - Bells 7:00pm -Choir	12	13	14
15 9:30 -Worship Service 10:45 -Adult SS Hebrews 10:25 Group	16 6:00 pm -OES	17 6:30am -Men's bible study 4:30pm-Prayer Gathering	18 10:00am Sisters in Christ 4:30 pm - Anchored Kids 5:30 pm -Men's Bible Study 6:00pm - Bells 7:00pm -Choir	19	20	21
22 9:30 -Worship Service 10:45 -Adult SS Hebrews 10:25 Group	23 6:00 pm -OES	24 6:30am -Men's bible study 4:30pm-Prayer Gathering	25 10:00am Sisters in Christ 4:30 pm - Anchored Kids 5:30 pm -Men's Bible Study 6:00pm - Bells 7:00pm -Choir	26	27 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF GLOBAL METHODIST WASHINGTON, IL	28
29 9:30 -Worship Service 10:45 -Adult SS Hebrews 10:25 Group	30 6:00 pm -OES	31 6:30am -Men's bible study 4:30pm-Prayer Gathering				



Just a thought

By - Arlis DeJaynes

“Be strong and courageous....for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

“Can God use me—even me—in His work for the Kingdom?” We have all asked this at times when we consider how little it seems we have to offer. We can’t all be preachers or prophets. But we all have something to give. Last week, the Handbell Choir played, “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” for worship service, and it gave me occasion to reread the book of Joshua, one that I haven’t read often. But Chapters 1 and 2 of Joshua answer the question of just who is valuable to God and His plan for us.

In Joshua, Chapter 1, Joshua is given commands from God after Moses dies and Joshua takes over the leadership of Israel. God tells Joshua that the land that the Israelites tread upon will be theirs, and God also gives instructions about how to make this happen. Notice here that God doesn’t just open His hands and give the land to His chosen people; they must take action in order to accomplish the plan: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous; be not frightened or dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Chapter 1, verse 9)

This is not the typical reassurance of “Do not be afraid” that is so often found in scripture; this goes one step further: “Be strong and COURAGEOUS...” Everything that happens in the entire book of Joshua after Chapter 1 is a wonderful example of how courage can allow us to do seemingly impossible tasks when we work for the Lord.

First, Joshua sends a spy mission into this new land to see what they were up against. Chapter 2 tells us that they lodge at the home of Rahab, a known prostitute. Why would God use a publicly known sinner to help in His plan? To the people of the village, certainly, it would be a good cover story that two strange men went into the house of a harlot and let the villagers draw their own conclusions. But the danger increases when the king discovers this fact and sends a threatening message to Rahab to produce the visitors. Rahab lies to the king’s messenger that the men are already gone (another sin, certainly, but one that is not judged in this book). She hides the spies on her roof for the night and tells them that all

the people are in fear of the Israelites because know God has already given them this land. This fear is what the spies needed to know about, so Rahab’s revelation is crucial to Joshua’s plan.

Rahab, fueled by the fear of what is coming when the Israelites take over, asks the spies to promise one thing: that she and her family will be safe when the invasion happens. Because of her help, they promise her that if she can get her family into that one house and keep a scarlet rope in the window, they will not harm her or her family. We all know what comes next: the invasion does happen, but only after great subterfuge and bold fakery. The walls of the city “come tumblin’ down” only after it seems that Joshua’s army is seven times its real size, and the power of God is added to the mix.

We also have walls to break down, but only if we have the same power and inclinations of Joshua and his army:

1. We must seek the Lord’s help in any endeavor and trust He is with us if our cause is good and right. We must pray and listen and then follow the Lord’s plan, not our own.
2. We must prepare and work for whatever we want to accomplish. God may take care of the birds of the air, but He doesn’t drop the food into their nests. Like all of God’s creations, we are assigned tasks, and our effort is the foremost factor in their success.
3. Everyone has a place and a role to play. Even a publicly reviled sinner like Rahab was key to the success of God’s plan. Without the news Joshua received from the spies, the rest of the plan to invade would have been thwarted.
4. Boldness and courage are vital to our mission. God tells this to Joshua, and in turn, Joshua tells his army the same. Sometimes our boldness may even need to be faked occasionally. But if our mission is for the Lord, His strength goes before us and surrounds us. How can we be frightened or meek with God’s power and protection?

The Book of Joshua is a good read—and that’s coming from a former literature teacher! You may find yourself somewhere in Joshua’s story. A woman of faith and courage, Rahab, a pariah in her society, protected the men Joshua sent. A man of faith and courage, Joshua gave Israel its beginnings as a nation, not just a people. Who knows what any one of us can do if we are strong and courageous, as they were?

protect you from evil (2 Thessalonians 3:3). God replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy, nothing will harm you.” (Luke 10:18-19).

As long as we are living on this earth, we have not guaranteed immunity from trouble. But we do have the powerful name of Jesus and the assurance that God is always with us. When we pray, “deliver us from evil,” he dispatches guardian angels to fight the battle for us.

Daily Focus

While Adonai is our shield and protector (Genesis 15”1-5), he gives us a part to play in fighting the enemy: “Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21), and “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 5:7). Overcome evil with good. Submit to God. Resist the devil. What do these instructions tell us about our role in the battle? We cannot control other people or circumstances around us, but we can choose to say no to temptation and sin. We can choose righteousness.

Dr. Teykl includes the King James Version of The Lord’s Prayer here and then adds, “I believe prayer is the most important thing we can do for our lives, family, church, community, state, nation and world. We cannot know or do the will of God if we are not praying and listening to Him. The Global Methodist Church leadership feel the same way.”

The GM Church Prayer Steering Committee lists three focal points of prayer on the GM Church website.

1. Leaders need to be people of prayer.
2. Churches need to be houses of prayer.
3. Intercessory Prayer Teams bridge the gap between God and people.

I ask that you pray about joining me on a prayer team and lead others so that Grace would become a house of prayer.

As Dr. Paul asked in his message on September 17, what do you dream for the kingdom of God? I dream that Grace would become a house of prayer. Contact me if you are dreaming, too. “Let us then, with confidence, draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”– Hebrews 4:16

MISSIONS

Happy 49th Anniversary



Economy Shop!

Fall is in the air at the Economy Shop. We invite you to stop by and shop our selection of autumn sweaters, slacks, skirts, blouses, knit tops, blazers, and dresses in beautiful fall shades. Shoes, purses, and elegant jewelry can accessorize your new outfit. Fall decorating can be effortless with our colorful selections of wreaths, pumpkins, scarecrows, Halloween decorations and costumes.

This October we are celebrating the 49th Anniversary of the opening of the Economy Shop. The shop was started in October of 1974 at 919 N. Water Street as an opportunity for the congregation of Grace Methodist to extend a helping hand to our neighbors. The shop moved in 1993 to 965 N. Water and moved again in 2014 to its present location at 155 W. King.

The Economy Shop is currently open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The shop today continues to support our community as an outreach mission of Grace Methodist Church. Profits from the shop are used toward monthly monetary contributions to the television ministry of Grace Methodist, the Good Samaritan Inn, Oasis, Dove’s Financial Assistance Program, and Northeast Community Fund.

We thank the congregation for their continued support with donations of clean, gently-used clothing and interesting household items. Donations may be dropped off any day during open shop hours.

We especially thank our dedicated volunteers for their faithful service to the Economy Shop. We invite you to join our volunteer force. If you are interested in volunteering for a half day, a full day, or substituting when needed, please contact Judy Madding at 864-4522 or Marj Cline at 855-5060.

Come join us at the shop!

MISSIONS

Operation Enduring Support Requested Donations 2023 Christmas Care Packages for our Troops

APO/FPO Addresses of Individual Soldiers

Letters from School aged Children
Candy Canes & individually wrapped Christmas Candy
Beanie Babies
2024 Calendars
Puzzle Game books, Playing Cards
Gorilla Tape/ Duct Tape
Protein Bars / Granola Bars
Nutritional snacks, Pop Corn
Slim Jims & Beef Jerky (they really like these)
Nonperishable snacks with crackers (peanut butter or cheese)
Nonperishable chicken salad and Tuna/spreadable snacks with crackers - **no Pork items**
Individually wrapped snacks (No chips- too easily crushed)
Individually wrapped Hard candy/Gum
Hand warmers
Individual powdered drink mix (such as Crystal Lite) & Hot Chocolate
Individual packets of Instant Coffee
Hanging Deodorizers (air Fresheners)
Solid Deodorant/Gold Bond Powder 1 oz
Unscented Body Lotion; Body Wash/Shampoo combo; Bath Sponges – **No Bar Soap**
Hotel size Shampoo, conditioner, lotion
Eye drops / Chap Stick
Funky Character Socks
Q-tips (travel size), Chap Sticks, Band-Aids
Alcohol Free Wet Wipes, eyeglass wipes
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Black Ballpoint pens/ 4 x 6 note pads
Fine Point Permanent Markers
5 Blade Razors
Small American Flags
Greeting Cards
Monetary Donations (POSTAGE FOR THIS MAILING IS \$21.20 PER BOX) (12x12x5 ½)

These items need to be delivered to Grace Methodist Church, 901 N Main St. Monday thru Thursday. We prefer deliveries between 9:00 to 4:00 pm. Our Christmas donation cutoff date is Thursday, November 16th. Packing day is Tuesday, December 5th.

Contact Ann Irwin at (217) 428-5936
Or ann4dar@att.net

GRACE FAMILY

We surround these families with Love & Sympathy:
Bill and Jackie Schiminski

In Loving Memory:
Jean Schiminski

Contributions to Grace Methodist Church

Jean Schiminski:

Estate of Jean Schiminski
George & Wanda Kastl
John & Cindy Sellers
Tabernacle Baptist Women's Bible Study
Jonathan & Jan Milani
Dick & Judy Engdale
Steve & Jackie Grubbs
Dan & Jeanie Smith
Carol Reed
Pete & Julie Paulson
Steve Smith
Cathleen Burgess
Robert & Elizabeth Conley
Bob & Karen Conley
Andrew & Sarah Minor
Claudell & Karen White
Dolores Holderness
Darryl & Kay Stock
Jerry & Judy Madding
Carol Barnhart
Anonymous Donor
Economy Shop

The family of Jean Schiminski would like to express their appreciation and thanks for the many kind thoughts and words that were sent and said regarding her passing. We would especially like to thank Wanda's Kitchen Crew for their excellent meal at the church. We would also like to thank those that contributed memorials to the church in her name. We will not forget your kindness.

Bill, Jackie and Lynne Schiminski Carver

Join us for the Convening Session of the Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference!

a **NEW** thing

October 27-28, 2023

**CROSSROADS GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH**
1420 N Main St #1387
Washington, IL 61571
Register Online

FINANCIALS

Financials through 8-31-23

YTD Income* \$493,541.64
YTD Expenses \$392,631.81
*Includes sale of parsonage

Grace Methodist Church Foundation

Your tax-deductible gift to the Grace Methodist Church Foundation is truly a gift that keeps on giving.
Conservatively invested, the Foundation's principal is never disturbed. Instead, it continues to generate a Reliable stream of income to support a number of worthwhile ministries within Grace. Please consider adding your donation to those made by many of your friends over the years.
The Foundation gratefully acknowledges recent gifts from Marilynn Logan in support of the Lupton Scholarship Fund, and from Mike and Alice Boliek in memory of Mel Stern.

EDUCATION

From your Christian Education Team.....

Anchored Kids is off to a great start! We were so excited to see our kiddos again! And we are blessed to have many new children join us this year as well!

We are starting this semester with the creation story, and have learned a fun song to help us memorize Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
Next up is the story of Noah.

We could use more helpers. Please call Judy at 217- 864 - 4522 if you feel led to help in this important ministry.

Please come pray with us at Hope Academy. We pray each Monday morning at 7:45. (If Monday is a school holiday, we meet on Tuesday.) If you are not able to join us in person, please continue to pray on your own for all the teachers, staff and the students at Hope, and throughout our community and our nation.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL!

As summer draws to a close and the leaves turn to their beautiful yellows and oranges, I praise God for his wonderful gift of nature to us. I know that the leaves will soon be gone as winter comes, but let us enjoy them while they are here. I pray all of you had a great summer with family and friends.

Even in October, it is time, to start thinking about Christmas. If you would like to go caroling with us in December, please contact me at the church (429-5374). We go on the church bus and have a good time.



PRAYER WALK

Those faithful prayer warriors are still gathering at Hope Academy every Monday @ 7:45 a. m. to pray for the teachers and students. They would love to have you join them. Sometimes the teachers and some students pray with them. It is another way to serve the Lord and a very fulfilling experience.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

These greetings are for all that are home-bound or in care facilities
Oct. 28, Bob Corey.



If you do not know where to send a card feel free to call either Karyn or me at 429-5374.

THE LITTLE RED WAGON!

I cannot begin to tell you how grateful the people that go to the Oasis are. The gentlemen lounging outside, open the doors for me and always thank me for bringing the items to them. I am also grateful for the generous Christians of our congregation. You make my job so easy. I know God is smiling down on Grace Methodist Church of Decatur.



God be with you and I'll see you next month.

Living under God's love and protection,
Mary Grace

