

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Mission statement: Grace United Methodist Church is a family of faith striving to share God's love with all people.

September 5, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Warm greetings in Christ! As we bid farewell to another summer, it's incredible how swiftly these sunny days have passed us by. For some, the end of summer marks the anticipation of another season – football season (Let's Go Jets)! But for us, the close of this summer brings not only a change of season but also a reflection on the remarkable progress we've made together as a church family.

This summer has been a season of diligent work and transformation for our church. We've tackled various building issues head-on, from stubborn leaks to window and ceiling repairs, and even the lights in our steeple. The walls have seen fresh coats of paint, and the cracks have been carefully mended. Our church building now stands as a testament to our collective effort and commitment.

While many of us enjoyed well-deserved vacations, our ministry remained steadfast. We continued to gather, with a steady attendance, and welcomed new members into our fold. Our Wednesday Bible study persevered, providing spiritual nourishment and growth throughout the summer months. Saturday Prayer meetings have been wonderful to begin our morning together in prayer.

As September dawns, bringing with it the return to schools and jobs, we recognize that it is also a time when hearts turn once more to the church for inspiration and fellowship. The success we've experienced is a testament to our shared dedication and unwavering faith in God's work through our church community.

This upcoming Sunday is a day of celebration, a true Homecoming Sunday. I wholeheartedly invite you to join us in person, but rest assured, our virtual presence will remain a vital part of our church's ministry. We eagerly anticipate the wonderful work that God is doing within and through our church family.

A popular phrase comes to mind: "The best is yet to come." In the name of Jesus, we claim this truth for our church. The future is bright, and together, with God's guidance, we will continue to flourish and make a positive impact on our community and beyond.

May God's blessings abound as we gather in fellowship and gratitude this Sunday. I look forward to celebrating with you, knowing that together, we are building a future filled with hope, love, and faith.

In Christ Service,
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker



♥Peggy Robinson, ♥Michael Kurz, ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥Carolyn O'Loughlin, ♥Debbielee Thomsen, ♥Suella Fredrick (friend of Lorna McKenzie), ♥Betty Mayorga (sister of Rosario Hooker), ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Garvin Phillip (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Marilyn Eller (sister of Elaine Treske), ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Jim Poch, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥People of Ukraine, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske). **Note:** Prayer List names will continue to be listed for two weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information. † - Death in family, ♦ - New entry

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS - 2023

MISSIONS – January/April/July/**October** 2023

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY – January 15, 2023

UMCOR SUNDAY – March 19, 2023

EASTER – April 09, 2023

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY – April 23, 2023

GOLDEN CROSS SUNDAY – May 7, 2023

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY – June 04, 2023

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 01, 2023

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY – November 26, 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE – December 24, 2023 (Sunday)

CHRISTMAS – December 25, 2023 (Monday)

COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

10 D. Nicosia

17 K. Pearce

24 E. Fitch

REMINDER. Please remember to put your **Envelope Number** on your checks, your donation envelope or include with your Venmo or Zelle. Thank you.

Happy News!! Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L Hooker and Johanny Dickson on the occasion of their engagement.

Church School begins on September 10th. My name is Janet Stone and I am writing to invite your child to join us for in-person Church School each Sunday. Church School is where students will learn about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and how to live a Christian life. We learn Bible stories and we learn how to use those stories to help us be better people. All PreK-8th Grade students are welcome. Children start out in Church at 10:00 with their families and are sent to Church School following the Children's Sermon. Please note that on the first Sunday of the month, children are directed to the Education Building first and then return to the church building in order to be with their family for communion. I am looking forward to a fun-filled Church School year! Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. ~Janet Stone~

HOLD THE DATE! The Fall Blood Drive is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 27.** Give Blood, Give Life. On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, from 3pm - 7:30pm we will be hosting our bi-annual blood drive benefiting Long Island Blood Services in the Ed Bldg Gym. We will accept donations from any and all volunteers willing to give of themselves for the benefit of others, to give life by giving of themselves. We all have an opportunity to share our blessings, not only by donating, but also by volunteering to assist in a successful drive by spreading the word and by calling a list of established donors. We are in need of five Call Captains to get the word out and to make a difference. Please call or contact Bob DiSalvo at 516-318-9106 to assist. We will be serving dinner to all donors and their families from 5pm - 7pm, and we are in need of some kitchen help to promote that dinner. Please help make a difference in the lives and health of our community by volunteering. Thank you and may God Bless us all in this mission. *Bob DiSalvo*

Coffee Hour. Please sign up by calling the Church Office (516/825-1182), speak with Bob DiSalvo or use the sign-up sheet in the BKR. We need volunteers for the month of October.

Sunday, September 10, 2023 – Educators Appreciation Sunday starting at 4PM. It is being held at St. John's UMC, Valley Stream. Please check out the attached flyer for more details. Registration is necessary. **Pastor Ball is looking to put together a combined choir.** If there are any takers at our church (GUMC) (singers to join in) please let him know. He can be reached at 516/285-6003.

CALENDAR

Meetings: Please check the calendar below to see which meetings are being held in-person and/or via Zoom. Thank you.

Weekly Meetings, Rehearsals and Gatherings:

- *Every Sunday** – Choir Rehearsal 8AM/Church
- *Every Sunday** – Church School 10AM/start in Church
(except 1st Sunday of the month start 10AM/Education Building)
- *Every Wednesday** – Bible Study 7:30PM-8:30 PM/Zoom
(Same Zoom Link every week)
- *Every Thursday** – Westminster Ringers 7PM/Church
- *Every Saturday** – Prayer Meeting 8AM/Zoom (Same Zoom Link every week)
- *Every Saturday** – Thrift Shop 10AM-2PM (Closed September 2, 2023)

Upcoming Meetings:

- *Sunday, September 10, 2023** – UWF after Church/UL
- *Tuesday, September 12, 2023** – Board of Trustees 7:45PM In-person/Zoom-BKR
- *Monday, September 18, 2023** – SPPR Meeting 7:30PM/Zoom

Upcoming Events:

- *Sunday, September 10, 2023** – Educators Appreciation Sunday 4PM at
St. John's UMC (Valley Stream/Elmont)
- *Wednesday, September 27, 2023** – **Fall Blood Drive**
- *Saturday, October 14, 2023** – International Potluck Dinner
- *Sunday, December 10, 2023** – Annual **Christmas Concert**
- *Saturday, January 27, 2024** – 9th Annual Evangelism Prayer Breakfast



Eileen