

## Grace Church September 3-9 2023

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Sunday we invest in the lives of the children who call Epworth home through our generous financial gifts. God has entrusted these children to us during their time at Epworth, and it is our call and responsibility to ensure they receive all the tools and care necessary to live lives of self-respect, responsibility, and productivity.

Epworth is breaking the destructive cycle of abuse, neglect and shame and replacing it with an opportunity for each child to live a life of self-respect, responsibility, and productivity. This is the kind of ministry we are providing by giving to Epworth. I ask you to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to share with the children of Epworth next Sunday.

I invite you to consider the investment made each year into the lives of God's children. I challenge our church to exceed the average of \$6.00 per member giving goal set by Epworth. Special offerings like this one are the number one way Epworth receives support. Let us all give generously today and provide for these children and their futures. Let the children at Epworth know that there are people all over our state who care for them! For more information about Epworth Children's Home, please visit [www.epworthchildrenshome.org](http://www.epworthchildrenshome.org). ~Pastor Rett

### **SUNDAY SCRIPTURE AND SERMON TITLE**

Matthew 18:15-20 - "Church Business"

### **WORSHIP INFORMATION AND LINKS**

Worship will be online and in person on Sunday at 10:00am. The online worship options we have are [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), ROKU – search for the Grace United Methodist Church Columbia channel (Add the channel to your Roku device by visiting: <https://my.roku.com/account/add>), Amazon FireTV (from your FireTV (any variety) search for Grace United Methodist Church and add our channel), and our [website](#). You can find the bulletin [here](#), and the announcements [here](#). Our online giving page can be found [here](#). You can still mail your offering to the church at 410 Harbison Blvd. Columbia, SC 29212 or you can bring it by and drop it in the mailbox outside of the church office.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you have prayer requests you would like shared with the church, please [email](#), call, or text me.

### **Invocation**

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and

bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, 233.

### **Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

If you have prayer concerns you would like to share with the church in worship or through the prayer concerns list in the bulletin, please email Pastor Rett at [pastor@gracecolumbia.org](mailto:pastor@gracecolumbia.org). On Thursday each week there is a prayer email sent to all on the church email list. If you would like to be added to this list you can email Pastor Rett.

Gracious God,

Though we live in a culture that is reluctant to admit guilt, assume responsibility, or ask for forgiveness, we are so bold as to pray the words of the psalmist who said:

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalms 139:23-24 NRSV).

Search us, O God, and reveal anything in our lives that stands between us and your love.

Search us, O God, show us our sins so that we might confess them,

Search us, O God, show us places where we have neglected Christian responsibility and then teach us how to live on this earth with each other,

Search us, O God, show us the faces of those we have wronged so that we might seek their forgiveness.

- For the family and friends of Martha Burns. Especially Michaelle and Tracy Hollingsworth. Martha is Michaelle's grandmother.
- For Jackie Daniels as she has moved from the hospital to inpatient rehab
- For Phillip and Carolyn Guinn
- For Joyce and Darrell Sweeney
- For George Fox, and for Helena
- For Alice Jones as she recovers from surgery
- For Charlie Simpson
- For Felicia Pressley
- For Carolyn Toole
- For Kathy Jennings
- For Curt Van Gelder
- For the Goodrich family
- For Robert Reiger

- For Joby Hammond
- For Faye Hollingsworth
- For Stephen and Shirley Merritt.
- For Karen Furr
- For Joan Smith
- For Erin York, a friend of [Julie Rotholz](#)
- For Ariana Ramseur, a friend of Mary Mason
- For all the members of Grace and their families
- For all those on our prayer concerns list
- For those prayer concerns that go unspoken on our hearts

We have not been called to this hour of worship to wallow in sin and self-pity. God has promised to forgive our sins when we confess them and to cleanse us from all manner of unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Rise from your knees as children of God, forgiven from sin and empowered to lead holy lives. Amen.

Written by Safiyah Fosua, *The Africana Worship Book, Year A* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 151-152.

### **Offertory Prayer**

God of power and might: We, like Peter, struggle with the image of a savior sent to suffer and die. We may seem to be doing great in following Christ, but we too stumble at this point. Perhaps we stumble because we know that what follows is Christ's call to us to deny ourselves and pick up a cross of our own in order to follow. As we bring gifts for the work of building your kingdom, help us to learn to deny, carry, and follow. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen. (Matt 16:21-28)

### **ANNIVERSARY LIST**

Sam and Susan Floyd (Sept. 9th), Jim and Connie Graham ( 21st)

### **BIRTHDAY LIST**

Ann Robinson Shelton (Sept. 5th), Betsy Smoak (8th), Sherry Hiers (9th), Bill Walker (9th), Kevin Marsh (10th), Brian Strickland (11th), David Copley (17th), Mark Merritt (18th), Thomas Haselden (19th), Ryan McPhail (23rd), Peter McDermott (24th), Joyce Sweeney (25th), Madison Bumgarner (28th)

### **GIVING UPDATE**

We are currently tracking giving from Thursday to Wednesday each week.

### **CELEBRATING OUR FAITHFULNESS**

### **TO MINISTRY AND MISSION**

INCOME NEEDED WEEKLY	\$7,116
Operating Income Last Week	\$11,385
Income at 7/31/23	\$171,369
Expenses 7/31/23	\$190,387
Expenses exceed Income as of 7/31/23	\$19,018
Mortgage Reserve Received in 2023	\$3,017
Balance in Mortgage Reserve Fund	\$55,396
Building Maint. Received 2023	\$1,899
Building Maint. Expended 2023	\$484
Building Maint. Balance	\$12,901

## **iGive**

With AmazonSmile gone, it's more important than ever to know there's a great replacement. [iGive.com](https://www.iGive.com) makes it super simple to earn Donations while you do your normal shopping at over [2,000 stores](#). You can shop the [iGive.com](https://www.iGive.com) website, use the iGive App for [iOS](#) and [Android](#), and give 'automagically' with [the Button](#) on your laptop or desktop.

Turn your online shopping into ministry dollars for Grace using iGive. Help Grace every time you shop online. There are 2326 socially responsible stores helping to make donations happen. Since the members of Grace have used this site, we have just received \$30.41 of which \$25.82 was received in 2022. To date for 2023 we have received \$66.69. This is for the effort of 13 people at Grace, let's see if we can double that number for the next check. If you need help with signing up, please contact the office and we can help you. I hope you'll give it a try. To learn more or sign up now, use this link: <https://www.iGive.com/PMGykSR>

## **THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND & PARSONAGE MAINTENANCE FUND**

We have yet to cover the full cost of the parsonage bathroom repair from earlier this year. We still have an outstanding balance of **\$3,551** to cover the full cost of the repair. For those who don't remember, the shower floor in the Master Bathroom began to crack and was in danger of causing water damage. The repair includes replacing the shower and garden tub with a larger more accessible shower and a new closet.

Please consider giving to the building maintenance fund and parsonage maintenance fund to help us prepare for anticipated and unanticipated building maintenance costs. Don't wait to give to the building maintenance fund until something else breaks! Help us get ahead of the needs of our church building by giving now.

## **HOW TO GIVE**

To give you can go on the website at [www.gracecolumbia.org](http://www.gracecolumbia.org) where you can make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift. You can also continue to mail your offerings to the church at 410 Harbison Blvd. Columbia, SC 29212.

## **VANCO MOBILE APP**

Download the new **Vanco Mobile** app on your phone! When you do you will have to assign the correct church to receive your money just search for gracecolumbia and the correct Grace UMC will come up. If you have not previously used your phone to donate to Grace, you can use this new app. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office. I will be happy to help you set it up. Thank you.

## **IF YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH THE CHURCH, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE**

## **SUNDAY SMALL GROUP**

Join us for a Sunday Small Group before worship at 9:00am or for our after worship small group sermon discussion.

## **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The kids of Grace meet for Sunday School at 9:00am before worship. All ages are welcomed to join in the fun as we learn about Jesus. If any adults want to assist with the class, please let Lollie Haselden know. [Lphaselden@gmail.com](mailto:Lphaselden@gmail.com) or 843-230-3922.

## **NEW GRACE WEBSITE**

The new Grace website is up and running. Please take time to navigate to it at [www.gracecolumbia.org](http://www.gracecolumbia.org) and take a look around. If you find things missing, out of place, or hard to find please let us know as we continue to polish and perfect it.

## **MOVIE NIGHT**

Grace will host a movie night this Friday, September 8th, 6:00 pm come for dinner and stay for the movie.

## **NEW GRACE WEBSITE**

Go check out the new Grace website! We have an all new design and we want you to test it out and let us know what you find (or can't find). You can help us make our website as inviting and useful as possible. Head to [www.gracecolumbia.org](http://www.gracecolumbia.org) and take look!

## **FAITH AND BLUE – CHILI COOK OFF AND CARSHOW**

On October 7th, from 10am-2pm, Faith and Blue 2023 will once again take place. Grace is partnering with the Columbia Police Department and several other sister churches in offering this event to our community. This year the event will take place at the Busby Street Community Center off of Farrow Road. There will be a Chili Cookoff, Car Show, Kids Zone, hot dogs, ice cream, give aways, and exhibitor area. T-shirts are being developed for the event, and you can order one using the order sheet in the narthex. Please mark your calendars and make a plan to join our community in the fun celebration!

## **GRACE FARMER'S MARKET**

All are invited to come and shop on Thursdays from 4:00-6:00pm at the picnic shelter. Payment can be made using senior vouchers, cash, debit, or CashApp. This is a great way to buy fresh farm foods while shopping close to home. You may even find produce that's not available in grocery stores. Please invite your neighbors, coworkers and friends to come and shop!

## **GRACE NEWSLETTER**

The July edition is out! Be sure to check your inbox or swing by the church to pick up a printed copy. The Newsletter is an opportunity to tell of all the recent church events, activities and ministries. We are encouraging all church groups to contribute photos and articles about what they have been doing. Our church members are involved in many ministries like feeding the hungry, writing cards to the homebound, Sunday School and so much more. This will be a place to share and celebrate Grace UMC ministries. **Don't wait for the next issue!** Send your submissions to Sandra McCravy today at 803-476-2214 or [sandramccravy@yahoo.com](mailto:sandramccravy@yahoo.com)

## **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The kids of Grace meet for Sunday School at 9:00am before worship. All ages are welcomed to join in the fun as we learn about Jesus. If any adults want to assist with the class, please let Lollie Haselden know. [Lphaselden@gmail.com](mailto:Lphaselden@gmail.com) or 843-230-3922.

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH -- CLOTHES PIN MINISTRY!**

Stop by the UWF room soon and look for the new clothes pin ministry print. Every month, the name/address of a homebound church member (or someone in need of

prayer) will be clipped to a clothes pin. You are encouraged to jot down that person's name & address (paper/pen provided!) or take a photo with your phone and send them a card or note. Our hopes are that the mailboxes of these special people will be flooded with love and good wishes. And, if you know of someone who would benefit from this new ministry, give their name and address to any UWF member.

## **BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY**

The Ernestine Brown Bag Bible study group is meeting on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of each month. Now is the perfect time to come to "Brown Bag" and join this wonderful group of ladies!

## **ZOOM FELLOWSHIP**

Join us on Zoom [Wednesday](#) at 6:30pm. This is an opportunity for us to see and hear one another mid-week. We fellowship, ask questions, and lift one another in prayer. All are invited to join us! The link above will take you to the Zoom mtng at the time listed.

## **YOGA ONLINE –MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS**

Our Grace yoga classes are being offered online through ZOOM on [Mondays](#) and Thursdays at 5:30pm. The password for this meeting is 424156. If you need some physical activity and fellowship plan to join in. Donations for the instructor are appreciated in lieu of a set class fee. Contact Kimberly at [kjhdll@icloud.com](mailto:kjhdll@icloud.com) if you have questions.

## **CAMPUS MINISTRY INVITATION**

Hello friends in the Columbia District,  
The new academic year at USC and other local institutions of higher education has begun. We are engaged with this new generation of students with your help and blessings. Please receive our newsletter for United Methodist Campus Ministry based at USC. We are always open to your support and prayers. If you would like to donate money for an evening meal, we serve the students each Sunday night after dinner (\$180), we would be happy to receive a donation. Or if you would like to prepare a meal for a group of 40-50 students, that would also be great. Additionally, the students regularly fix and serve food at the Columbia Rapid Shelter (transitional housing for the formerly homeless). The cost for a meal is \$160. I am also happy to come and talk with your church or Sunday School Classes about campus/young adult ministry. Please let me know if you have any questions. ~Tom Wall United Methodist Campus Minister Columbia Wesley Foundation [WallBrodie@gmail.com](mailto:WallBrodie@gmail.com)

## **MAUI AID**

We continue to lift the people of Maui in prayer as they recover from the devastating wildfires there last week. We put our prayers into action by sending our aid through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

UMCOR is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, please join UMCOR in prayer for those affected. Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>
- By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.
- View and download resources for giving [here](#).

## **FAITH AND BLUE – CHILI COOK OFF AND CARSHOW**

On October 7th, from 10am-2pm, Faith and Blue 2023 will once again take place. Grace is partnering with the Columbia Police Department and several other sister churches in offering this event to our community. This year the event will take place at the Busby Street Community Center off of Farrow Road. We need volunteers, chili cooks, and car show entries. If you would like to serve in any way on the day of the event you can contact Pastor Rett or signup using the volunteer sign up for in the lobby. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Sister Care to aid in their mission to support women who have been victims of domestic violence and abuse.

## **FARMERS MARKET HOSTS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE SEASON**

Our market on Thursdays is a popular place to be, and we are thrilled that the market will be open through September. The Hosting duties include making sure the sign is put out and taken back when Mr. Martin is done, take the fans out and bring them back in, answer questions about Grace, assist Mr. Martin with anything he needs. Please consider helping with this wonderful ministry. If you are interested and available to host the market on any of the dates below, please contact Lollie Haselden at [lphaselden@gmail.com](mailto:lphaselden@gmail.com) or 843-230-3922. Thanks so much to all who have made the market possible this season!

## **BRICK PRAYER GARDEN**

With the winter holidays quickly approaching, the plan is to place a Brick order by the end of September. This should hopefully allow Bricks R Us enough time to produce the bricks and ship them for placement in the Garden by the beginning of November. If you have interest in purchasing a Brick, forms are in the Narthex. Bricks are still \$50 for a 4x8 and \$100 for an 8x8. You can also contact Marlin McPhail about placing an order. Marlin’s contact information is in the church directory.



## **FEED THE HUNGRY**

Reminder you are invited as Grace unites with Trinity Episcopal on Sumter Street in feeding Columbia's hungry Sunday at 6:30am on September 3rd. Jobs include pouring coffee in cups, scooping different breakfast items into ToGo boxes and handing out much needed supplies (sometimes outside). Many thanks were received from guests for the many items you all donated.

## **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

Sharing God's Love has been recognized by the South Carolina Secretary of State with an Angel award for the excellent stewardship they do with the donations entrusted to their ministry. Help us continue to support this wonderful ministry partner that is doing so much to support our community!

Sharing God's Love is open to accept donations Monday – Saturday 9 – noon. Our Needs: oatmeal, pasta, peanut butter and jelly, mac & cheese, Ramen noodles, pancakes, syrup, canned vegetables, bottled water, dried beans, powdered milk, king & queen sheets and kids coats.

## **THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE & DEVOTIONALS**

### **THURSDAY'S DEVOTION**

[Revelation 3: 7-13](#) – It's not the size of the church that matters, it's the size of the ministry. Philadelphia is lifted up as a church of enduring faithfulness in our passage today. They are described as being small but mighty in the mission and ministry in their city. They have little power, and yet they are faithful with what they have and what they can do. It is this faithfulness that Christ says is their protection and will be their glory in the age to come. Often, we can be discouraged by how small we feel in comparison to the scope and size of the world and all that goes on around us. But if we will be faithful to our call and to the ministry we have been given we can trust that God will do an outsized work through us and with us.

### **WEDNESDAY'S DEVOTION**

[Revelation 3: 1-6](#) – There is always time. The message to the church in Sardis reiterates that no matter how bleak our situation seems, we always have the option to turn it around. Sardis looks good on the outside, but the reality is that it is dying as a church. And yet the prescription they receive is to wake up. To take a sober look at their situation and the reality of their lack of vitality and to strengthen their faith in response. Christ tells them that they don't have to lay down and die, they can rally. They can find those who are still faithful and strong in their midst and rely on them for revival and revitalization. When we feel downtrodden and tired in our faith and life together may we

also covenant to wake up and strengthen ourselves for work of ministry that God has for us.

## **TUESDAY'S DEVOTION**

[2 Samuel 11: 27 – 12:15](#) – Confession and repentance are required for forgiveness and restoration, no matter how painful. As David's story continues after killing Uriah and bringing Bathsheba into his home as his wife, David's life seems to go back to normal. Until Nathan the prophet shows up to remind David that no one is above the righteousness of God. Nathan tells David a story that he can't help but be incensed by. And once David's ire is roused against the lamb thief, Nathan reveals that David is the offender. Nathan's confrontation of David forces the king to reckon with his sin and see his actions in their true light so that he can enter the painful and humbling process of confessing and repenting. This process is necessary for all of us when confronted by our wrongdoing so that we can experience forgiveness and restoration. Without it we may ignore our sin, but we will never move past it and the separation it causes in our lives.

## **MONDAY'S DEVOTION**

[2 Samuel 11: 2-26](#) – In the life of faith it doesn't matter who we are, sin is sin. David succumbs to his own weakness and temptation and violates Bathsheba. He then tries to cover up his sin by tricking Uriah, and, when that doesn't work, he murders Uriah by arranging for him to be killed in battle. This story is a reminder that just because someone is highly regarded, in a position of authority, or has a track record of long service, that doesn't insulate them from succumbing to sin. Too often when someone has been a part of the church for a long time, served in various capacities, and is well loved we want to give them a pass or think them incapable of such sinfulness. But the reality is that we are all more than capable of sin, and it is only when we reckon with this reality in ourselves that we can hope to move forward in holiness.

## **FRIDAY'S (9/1/23) DEVOTION**

[2 Thessalonians 2: 7-12](#) – Loving the lie makes the truth harder to accept. We love the lies we tell ourselves and the lies others tell us that fit with our preconceived notions. These lies are out of step with God's truth-filled order in the New Creation of the Kingdom of God. The writer of 2 Thessalonians points out that these lies are bolstered by the power of the lawless one at work in the world. They insinuate themselves into us and into the world and the more we love them the harder it becomes to see and know the truth that God has for us. And when our love for the lies of lawlessness becomes so thorough we are engulfed in them and swallowed up in delusion. The solution is to love, seek, and believe the truth. But if the truth is everything you already believed, if you are never challenged to change your mind, if your understanding of the truth stays static you can be sure it isn't the truth and the lies of lawlessness have ensnared you.

## **THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE REFERENCE & ONLINE DEVOTIONALS**

[2 Samuel 11: 27 – 12:15](#), [Revelation 3: 1-6](#), [Revelation 3: 7-13](#), [Ezekiel 33: 1-6](#).

Be sure to read and reflect on it and then join Pastor Rett on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), or [here](#) at 3:00pm for his reflections.