

Grace Church October 2-28 2023

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

For these four years of my time at Grace UMC, and for nine years before, Bill Walker has been the constant, consistent weekday ministry presence at Grace. He is in the church office each and every weekday, answering questions, coordinating projects and vendors, and dealing with the unexpected twists and turns that church ministry always offers up. All while also faithfully attending to the financial and clerical needs that are required week in and week out.

Bill's passion for the ministry of Grace is evident each and every week as he worked to ensure that we had what we needed to know Jesus and make him known to others. I will miss Bill, but I am overjoyed for him that he has come to a place of readiness for retirement. And I will be praying for him, and for Linda, as they enter this season of life together.

Please join us on Sunday as we celebrate Bill's work among us and his retirement. He and Linda will be in worship with us and we will celebrate them with cupcake reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. ~Pastor Rett

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE AND SERMON TITLE

Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing

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 Pastor Rett.

PRAYER LIST – for the bulletin prayer list click [here](#)

Invocation

Loving, living God, be among us now.

Show us your ways.

Guide our steps.

Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving.

Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours.

Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you,

gifts to be shared in service and love.

Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy

and live your message with love. Amen.

Written by Mary Scifres, on the Ministry Matters website, <http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/blog/entry/1779/worship-elements-october-16-2011>.

Reposted on the re:Worship blog, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/call-to-worship-prayer-proper-24a.html>.

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. 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.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not given you the things that are yours. We quibble over technicalities and argue over questions that do not lead us to love you, ourselves, or our neighbors well. We ignore your goodness that is all around us, and we do not allow ourselves to be filled with the Spirit who empowers us to live as people who glorify you. We do not recognize your holy touch in the world around us, and we neglect our responsibility to treat all things and all people as sacred.

- For Susan Greer and her family, a family member of the Smoaks, who passed away Sunday morning
- For George Fox, and for Helena
- For Wade Thompson
- For Jackie Daniels
- For Judith Dolce, as she will have surgery on October 19th.
- Praise for Linda Stover
- For Phillip and Carolyn Guinn
- For Joyce and Darrell Sweeney
- For the Goodrich family

- For Jane Quinn
- For Robert Reiger
- For Anthony, Bernard Pressley's brother, as he begins lung cancer treatment.
- For Gail Simpson, Mike's sister-in-law
- For Leah Zikri, Mike's cousin who lives in Israel
- For Chad Cook, Darlene Simpson's nephew
- For Martin Hammond, Terry McPhail's father, as he fell and broke his hip on Thursday
- For Joby Hammond
- For Faye Hollingsworth
- For Karen Furr
- For Joan Smith, as she had fall last week and starts PT this week
- For Shelly's mom and dad as they recover from illness, Shelly is a friend of the Smoaks.
- For all the members of Grace and their families
- For all those on our prayer concerns list
- For a return to love, equality, acceptance and social justice
- For those prayer concerns that go unspoken on our hearts

Forgive us, we pray, and free us to live in love and peace with you, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, source of every good gift: the tithes and offerings we bring to you are simply a token of our desire to walk more closely beside you. We give, knowing that "rendering unto you what is yours" would mean leaving everything at your altar – all we have and all we are. We are not there yet, but with your help, we are on the road to getting there. Bless what we give; may it speak words of compassion, mercy, and love as it empowers your mission and ministry. We pray this in the powerful name of Jesus, whose light we seek to follow. Amen.

ANNIVERSARY LIST

Amanda and Alex Smith (October 6th), Tracy and Michaelle Hollingsworth (27th)

BIRTHDAY LIST

Tricia Simpson (11 th), Joan Lee (13 th), Mark Jordan (15 th), Chuck Sovick (17 th), Haley Chiles (18 th), Mike D'Andrea (18 th), Doris Bailey (20 th), Karen Bryant (20 th), Betty Ann Walters (21 st), Joshua Jackson (22 nd), Garrett Creasman (25 th), Darlene Simpson (25 th), Carol Cranford (28 th), Kitty Fasching (31 st), Alex Lott (31 st)

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
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Operating Income Last Week	\$5,565
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Income at 9/30/23	\$220,924
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Expenses 9/30/23	\$243,215
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Expenses exceed Income as of 9/30/23	\$22,292
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Mortgage Reserve Received in 2023 \$3,017

Mortgage Reserve Transferred in 2023 \$4,000

Balance in Mortgage Reserve Fund	\$51,396
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Building Maint. Received 2023 \$2,301

Building Maint. Expended 2023 \$484

Building Maint. Balance	\$13,303
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Church Directory App Update

Download the latest version of the Instant Church Directory App to unlock the latest features! If you don't have a login for the app but would like to, please contact Bill in the church office for instructions.

Do you ever receive a text message or get included in a group text message but don't know who sent it? Now members can search families using phone numbers to find out the sender! This is also a great way to validate any potential spam messages asking for money or gift cards.

What's Also New:

- Members can delete their app account from the app.
- Members can update their password in-app.
- We've made bug fixes and added performance boosts.

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 **\$1,370** 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 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, CALL 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.

There will be no after worship sermon discussion group this week, October 29th or next week, November 5th, as we will have Congregational fellowship opportunities each of those Sundays.

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 or 843-230-3922.

BILL WALKER

Bill Walker, the Office Manager, will be retiring on October 31st after working at Grace for 13 years. Please make sure that you attend church this Sunday, October 29th to wish him a fond farewell. Bill and Linda will be in attendance on that Sunday, there will be a reception right after the service to wish him a fond farewell, please make every attempt to be in church that day.

EPWORTH MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Columbia district friends of Epworth, We need some assistance with childcare for our Foster Parent Training on 4 Saturdays in October and November. Here are the details.

1. The trainings are scheduled for November 4, November 11, and November 18 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Walker Building on our Trenholm Campus.
2. It is rare that everyone can attend every week, but if every foster family needing training were to show up, there would be 14 children about evenly divided between babies, toddlers/preschoolers and elementary aged. I believe that 4 adults per Saturday would be ideal, but having 3 adults and a couple of teenagers could also work.
3. The training is held in the same building as the childcare rooms, so volunteers need to know that the parents and staff leading the training will be close by.
4. Volunteers must be trained in the church's Safe Sanctuary policy.

The training is held in the Walker Building of Epworth's Trenholm Campus, directly behind Trenholm Road UMC. If you have church members who would support our foster families in this way, please let me know what Saturday they are available, their name and phone number, and your verification that they have been background checked and Safe Sanctuary trained at your church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A big thank you to everyone that have already donated items for the Shoebox Packing Party. The UMM would like to announce that the packing party will be on November 12th after church. A pizza lunch will be provided. We invite all to participate. We will have a signup sheet in the narthex to make sure we have enough the pizza. Since we have set a date, any additional donations should be dropped off at church by November 5th. Items needed, based on what has already been donated, include but are not limited to personal hygiene items and school supplies. This will allow the UMM to inventory items and prepare for the packing party.

Monetary donations are also welcomed to help with shipping costs and the purchasing of additional items if necessary. Thank you! Any questions, contact Marlin McPhail, Michael Jennings or Sam Jones

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 November 5th. 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.

TRUNK OR TREAT

We will be hosting Trunk Or Treat for our community on October 28th from 5-7pm. Plan to attend, decorate a trunk, volunteer at a games station, or help prepare a meal. We will also need donations of candy to hand out to the kids. Trunk or Treat is a great time with one another and meeting our neighbors!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY POTLUCK

On Sunday November 5th we will celebrate the saints in our church and in our lives in worship. We will remember all those who have witnessed to their faith and formed ours, and who have died and joined the church triumphant. In remembrance and celebration

of the saints of Grace we will have a potluck lunch after worship. This is a true potluck lunch, so what we bring is what we eat. Join us in this celebration of the saints on November 5th.

5TH SUNDAY HYMN SING – OCTOBER 29TH

Another 5th Sunday Hymn sing is just around the corner, be sure to submit your favorite hymns by email to Pastor Rett or Dr. Mark. Be sure to choose hymns from one of the three hymnals found in our pews!

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 and take look!

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

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 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 meeting room 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 if you have questions.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE & DEVOTIONALS

THURSDAY'S DEVOTION

[Deuteronomy 9: 25 – 10: 5](#) – If God can change God's mind, why can't we change ours? Once we have staked out an opinion we rarely remain open to having our mind changed about the issue. But the reality of human failing and the witness of history assures us that much of what we are certain of will turn out wrong. And yet we still won't change our minds. Often, as believers, we will point to scripture to justify ourselves in this intransigence, but in our passage today God changes God's mind at the urging of Moses. God was ready to be done with the Israelites in the wilderness after they made a golden calf idol for themselves. But Moses convinces God to change God's mind and give the people another chance. If God can, will, and does change God's mind about us, we do remain in a posture that is unwilling to do the same?

WEDNESDAY'S DEVOTION

[Daniel 6](#) – Our character gives us credibility. Daniel finds himself similarly threatened for his faith as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendego. He is faithful to God and will not abandon his convictions that God is the one true God and only God should be worshipped. But in this case the king tries to save Daniel ahead of time because of the credibility Daniel has by virtue of his character. Daniel lives his faith in such a way that the king was hoping God would save him from the lions and prove the king's own law and advisors unjust. This is precisely what happens. Daniel did not force a confrontation. He let his character and his God win the day.

TUESDAY'S DEVOTION

[Daniel 3: 19-30](#) – Faithfulness is our witness. In the face of such hostility as Shadrach, Meshach and Abendego faced how many of us could stand and hold true to our faith? They were willing to meet the full fury of the king in order to remain faithful to the God who held them. And in the midst of their trial God stepped in, literally with them in the flames of the furnace to comfort and protect. It is their faith and God's action that worked as a witness to the king to convince him of the error of his ways and the power of the one true God. In big and small ways we must find it within ourselves to let our faithfulness be our witness so that God's action can be shown through our lives.

MONDAY'S DEVOTION

[Daniel 3: 1-18](#) – Faith is a mystery. Not just to those who believe, but also to the world. King Nebuchadnezzar and his advisors cannot fathom why Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not simply switch their faith to the idol the King had created. They will not tolerate their faithfulness to the one true God that they know to be true because it is so easy to switch their allegiance to whatever new invention they have created as symbols of their own power and desire. But the three young men will not be swayed. They trust, because of their relationship with God, that God will deliver them, and they even if God doesn't deliver them, their faith in God is not misplaced.

FRIDAY'S (10/20/23) DEVOTION

[3 John 9-12](#) – Our welcome is meant to be our calling card as Christians. But too often we are known for who we do not welcome. We draw lines in our churches that prevent people from being fully accepted and included in the life of faith. In our passage today John reminds his congregation that this posture of unwelcome is unacceptable for those who claim the name of Jesus. There is one person, Diotrephes, who keeps running people off from the church, those who are trying to be a part of the congregation and those who are trying to welcome others into the church. But this example is lifted up as evil. Instead, when the testimony of others and of God bears witness to the faithfulness of someone they should be welcome.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE REFERENCE & ONLINE DEVOTIONALS

[Daniel 3: 1-18](#), [Daniel 3: 19-30](#), [Daniel 6](#), [Deuteronomy 9: 25 – 10: 5](#), [John 5: 39-47](#).

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