

Grace Notes

News from Grace United Methodist Church
 Carbondale, Illinois 618-457-8785
 Web site: www.carbondalegrace.org
 E-mail: carbondalegraceinfo@gmail.com

Church Office Hours : M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Pastor's Office Hours: M-W 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sept. 2

“Words and Actions: Whose Rules vs. Who Rules”
 Speaker: Roberta DePuy, Lay Servant
 James 1:25
 Communion Sunday

“Unshakable” Series

Sept. 9

“Unshakable Faith”
 Scripture: Matthew 28: 1-7

Sept. 16

“Unshakable Faith: Facing Failures”
 Scripture: John 21: 15-19

Sept. 23

“Unshakable Faith: Building Strong Family”
 Scripture: Joshua 24:15

Sept. 30

“Unshakable Faith: Building Strong Marriage”
 Scripture: Ephesians 5:21



september





A few years ago someone had asked me, “what’s the most difficult task in ministry so far?” Without hesitation, I said, "Lawn mowing." As with all other practices, including yard care, if you haven't made it a regular habit, it probably will not work out well. Time and equipment could be an excuse, but much busier people take care of their yard with less equipment than what I have. Wait until winter comes.... snow plowing! That's another weakness of mine. Add leaf raking in the fall, and Daylight

Savings in the spring... which, it turns out, are also my weaknesses. Thank God for having fewer trees at our new parsonage! I've heard we don't have as much snow as the upper mid-west, so we'll see what happens this winter.

In his book, *The Power of Habits*, Charles Duhigg says that a small habit can have a snowball effect that runs through other parts of life, and one small habit can change your whole life or an entire organization. Some may notice that habitually making the bed in the morning will make you feel good, which, in turn, motivates you to be organized throughout the day and get other things done. Duhigg says those who make their beds are more productive and higher achievers than those who don't. Cleaning an entire room takes much time, but making one's bed takes but a few minutes. Mowing the entire lawn takes much time but pulling a weed or picking up a fallen branch every now and then doesn't. I can do that in no time.

Relating to our own spiritual discipline, fasting for 40 days, or going on overseas missions for years may seem impossible, but having a single moment of bedside prayer isn't. Reading the entire Bible may be a big challenge, but reading a verse or two during your lunch break isn't. In reality, those small things may motivate you to live in relationship with God throughout the day, which then may encourage you to share your “God-moments” with others, or even invite neighbors to build relationship with Christ, eventually leading them to be connected to a great church... Grace. By that time, you've already become a missionary!

In the fall, we'll be talking about putting small faithful habits to build an unshakable faith in our lives. I'll be lifting up our God-moments through a sermon series titled "Unshakable," inspired by the identically titled book by Rev. Nelson Searcy. Everyone faces challenges in their lives be it family problems, illness, lack of

purpose, financial stress, death of loved ones or what have you. In those moments, I pray that God builds in us a powerful unshakable faith that will endure trials, and help us become like Christ.

Also, I'd like to put that into a habit-forming easy to do Prayer Walk in October. Hope you can either join us in our prayer team or do it at your pace. And we'll share in more details as the dates approach.

For the last, I'll have to share about the elephant in the room. Next year on Feb. 23rd, 2019, our denomination has set a date for a Special Session of the General Conference, to act upon a report from the Commission on a Way Forward team. 864 delegates from around the world will gather at St. Louis, MO, and vote on the direction the denomination takes on homosexuality. It will take a book full of reports to share all the plans on the table, so we'll print a short informational article for you to grab near the entrance in upcoming months. If you need to learn more, here's the website to grab more information: <http://www.umcnews.org>, or you can also visit our conference's webpage at <http://www.igrc.org>. And always, remember to choose prayer over plans.

Let's keep praying!
Your servant, *Jungil*

Meet the Pastor

Pastor Rhee would love to meet you closely every 2nd Wednesdays of the month. We'll have some tables set up and coffee will be brewed. Bring your favorite pies or cookies to pass, or just stop by. We'd like to share stories of how you came to faith in Jesus Christ, what your hopes are for Grace church, and how we can minister to each other; or just chat about anything! The next meeting will be on **September 12, 10am in rooms 19/20.**

Mark your interest in the connection card during Sunday service, or send your interest via email at "carbondalegraceinfo@gmail.com," or just stop by!





Sept. 9 - Back to School Celebration. Bring your backpacks to the 9:00 A.M. worship service for blessing!

Sept. 16- MaTT Club meets 4-6 P.M.

Sept. 23 - Music and Craft Day during Sunday school class time, 10:10-11:00 A.M.

Sept. 30 - Nursing home visit during Sunday school class time.

BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION

Kids, young and old! Bring your backpacks (or whatever carriers in which you transport your books and schoolwork) to worship on September 9th. We will have a Blessing of the Backpacks to start the school year with prayer, dedication, and a small token of blessing.



Family Fellowship



Family Fellowship will not meet in September but our next Family Fellowship will be Sunday, October 14th with a bonfire and marshmallow roast to kick off fall.

MaTT Club is a place for kids and adults to gather with friends, old and new, at the table with Jesus.



It gets pretty hot and humid in August in southern Illinois but 20 MaTT Club children and their family members and friends (for a total of 45) cooled off by *Making a Splash for Jesus* on Sunday, August 26 to kick-off MaTT Club here at Grace. When not dancing on the splash pad the kids cooled off by sliding down the slip and slide into a puddle of water. When they tired of playing in the water they played with water by throwing wet toilet paper (sponges) into the commode and tossing dripping pool balls through a series of hoops. For those tired of blowing small bubbles, we had a wading pool of solution to make bubbles large enough to stand inside. The children could also pick a rubber ducky out of another pool for a prize or toss pool noodle rings over a post. After all of these activities we gathered as a group to play 'Pass the Water' and 'Beach Ball Race'. We finished our outdoor activities with a piñata that could only be broken with water. Ask the children to tell you about it.

After coming inside everyone enjoyed a meal hosted by Danielle Schultz. The evening ended with prayer.

Thank you to the many volunteers who assured the success of the party: Jaci Arthur, Danie Dawson, Debbie Ditch, Kristen Dunlap-Berg, Kay Eckiss, Jennifer Langin, Kierra Langin, Laura & Ryan Morthland, Danielle Schultz, Lisa Upton, and Roberta Williams.

A special thank you to the clean up crew who unbeknownst to me tore down and cleaned up everything outside while I was inside getting the rest of the people started through the supper line. Thank you Ryan and Laura, Pastor Rhee and Luke Lee. If there was someone else, I'm not aware of, thank you to them too.

MaTT Club is a club for children in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade. Our focus this year will be ***Fruit of the Spirit-Living Healthy***. Our meeting dates will be the first and third Sundays. Our first club meeting will be September 16 from 4-6 P.M. in the children's area.

We always welcome volunteers to provide supper, no cooking required, or lead crafts or games. If you want to know more about MaTT Club or ways to help, talk to me on Sunday morning or contact me 618-528-1301 or flangin57@yahoo.com.

Happy birthday, in August, to Alina, Ms Jennifer, and Kaden. We're looking forward to a great MaTT Club year!



Grace Prayer Team is hosting a Prayer Walk during the month of October. We will be walking and praying every Tuesday, 10 am, at different locations in Carbondale during October, and praying for the church, residents, community, and the city. Locations will be announced in the October newsletter. Stay tuned for more details! A sign-up sheet will be available closer to the event at the entrance lobby.

Dear Grace family,

Greetings! I would like to express my gratitude to you for your generosity and kindness.

You have sent me beautiful cards and have written loving words on my memory book. Several of you donated money, the total of \$1500, to the Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund in honor of me and in celebration of my retirement. I'm overwhelmed by your love and support. I'm so honored and loved by your gifts. Thank you!

Bong-Choul also wants to express his gratitude for your prayers, cards and memorial fund in memory of his father who passed away last month. Your love has brought so much comfort and encouragement to Bong-Choul and me during this time of grief. We plan to visit his gravesite in Seoul, Korea this fall.

I'm still learning about this new journey of retirement. I'm struggling to be a clergy without the title of pastor which has been my identity for the past 30 years. However I enjoy spending more time with my family, especially my four grandchildren. For the first time, I participated with Violet and Preston in a church camp, "My Shepherd and Me" which was held in UM Little Grassy Camp. We had a great time together with church camp songs, Bible stories, games, peddle-boating, swimming and sleeping in bunkbeds. We even enjoyed campfire and roasting S'mores in 90 degree. It was a very special experience to Violet, Preston and me. God is awesome!

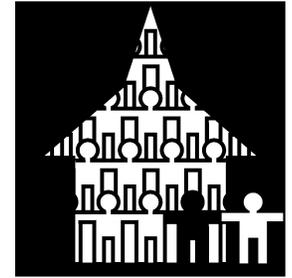
I hope your summer may be also filled with special activities with your family and friends. You are in my heart and prayers!

Love, *Pastor In-Sook*

Thank You!

MEET YOUR MEMBERS IN CHRIST

Meet Lisa Upton! Lisa and her husband Tom have attended Grace UM Church for more than fifteen years. They have two daughters, Brianna, 17, and Annabella, 13. Lisa and Tom have lived in Carbondale for 18 years. They came to southern Illinois when Tom accepted a job teaching at SIU.



Lisa attended college with an interest in sociology/criminology and has worked as a juvenile probation officer, but she feels strongly that her true calling in life is not necessarily in a career but to fulfill a passion to help others, wherever that passion leads her. She has been a full time mother and wife, but has also been a Sunday school teacher, school book fair coordinator, Meals on Wheels volunteer, homeless shelter and mission meals volunteer, and school classroom helper, just to mention a few of her endeavors!

The Upton family enjoys traveling together and visits new places, especially zoos and museums. They go to movies together and like to eat at different places as a family. Lisa likes to read, make crafts, and do scrapbooking.

At Grace Church Lisa has participated in many vital works. She has been a children's Sunday school teacher for 16 years, led and helped with Vacation Bible School several years, and helped with Gracefest events. Tom has also been a Sunday school teacher and helper in many VBS events. In the future, Lisa hopes to be able to help with mission meals and be a substitute teacher for children's Sunday classes.

Lisa feels that it is important that people know that God is love, full of faithfulness, trust, and goodness. She says, "God is my rock. Jesus is the light, our Savior. I want to be a good example for Jesus." She sees her passion to help others, no matter what is their age, gender, or ethnicity, as part of her personal ministry.

At Grace UM Church, Lisa and her family note that going to worship service is enriching and helps in their faith walk. The uplifting fellowship has brought many people into their lives who are like family and strengthened them. Prayer has been an important part of Lisa's church and home life and has helped immensely when dealing with health issues.

Greet the Upton family with a smile and expressions of Christian love when you meet them at church!



Dear Grace Family,
Thank you for all of the prayers, notes, visits and food following my recent surgery. I have been overwhelmed by your love and care.
With love and appreciation,
Rhonda Black

Hi Pastor Rhee!

Thank you for visiting me in the hospital and for the stuffed cat. I also want to thank you and the rest of the church for all the prayers. I'm feeling much better and am grateful for my Grace UMC family.

God bless,
Kristen Dunlap-Berg

Mission Meal September 16

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the Mission Meal for the Good Samaritan House, Sunday, September 16, 1:00 p.m. If you are able help please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the church lobby or on the connection card.



Please have **articles for the October 2018 Grace Notes** to the church office by **September 21**.



Grace UMC Mission Statement

"Love God, love people, make disciples of Jesus Christ."

September Birthdays

(by date)

- 4- Jutaek Oh
- 5 - Donna Biggs
- 5 - David Hake
- 7 - Brenda Davis
- 9 - Courtney Smith
- 10 - James Hillard
- 10 - Rev. Bruce Owens
- 11 - Cadence Cobb
- 12 - Rhonda Black
- 14 - Cindy Hall
- 15 - Sandy Monahan
- 16 - Suzanne Sanders
- 17 - Anne Forby
- 18 - Betty Hand
- 21 - Betty Smith
- 21 - Nelle Spires
- 23 - Sharon Crain
- 25 - Cyndy Criswell
- 25 - Soo-Jin Lee
- 26 - Hayden Schubert
- 29 - Cleta Shirley
- 30 - Danielle Schultz



Early October Birthdays

- 10/1 Sonya Aus
- 10/1 Dorothy Unruh
- 10/2 Bill Crain
- 10/3 Virgie Parrish
- 10/4 Joann Holcomb
- 10/5 Julia Long
- 10/7 Karen Downey

September Anniversaries

No known September anniversaries.

Grace United Methodist Church

- 9:00 a.m. Praise and Worship Service
- 10:10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship Service