

Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

Prelude and Choral Introit

Welcome and Announcements (Birthdays and Anniversaries)

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Come, people of God, and listen for the word of the Lord.

People: We come with open hearts, asking God to speak.

Leader: The Sower is generous, and the seed is good.

People: God's grace is scattered in mercy and love.

Leader: Some places in us are hard. Some are shallow. Some are crowded with worry.

People: Still, God keeps sowing the word of life.

Leader: Let us worship the One who softens, deepens, clears, and renews.

People: May our hearts become good soil for God's word. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* No. 57
(vs. 1, 2, 7)

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the generous Sower, who speaks life into creation and continues to scatter grace across the world.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the living Word, who came near to sinners, seekers, doubters, and disciples. He teaches us the way of the kingdom, calls us to repentance, and invites us into fruitful life.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who softens hardened hearts, deepens shallow faith, clears what crowds the soul, and helps the word of God take root within us.

We believe the Church is called to receive the word, live the word, and share the word with love, patience, courage, and mercy. By God's grace, we seek to become good soil, bearing fruit for the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (All)

Merciful God,
we confess that our hearts are not always ready to receive Your word. Some places in us have grown hard through disappointment, fear, pride, or pain. Some places are shallow, quick to respond but slow to endure. Some places are crowded with worry, busyness, resentment, and the desire to control what belongs to You.

Forgive us for the times we have heard Your word but kept it at the surface. Forgive us for letting other voices grow louder than Yours. Forgive us for allowing thorns to take root where grace was meant to grow.

Lord, tend the soil of our hearts. Break up what is hard. Deepen what is shallow. Clear what is crowded. Make room in us for Your truth, Your mercy, and Your transforming love. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pardon (Leader)

Hear the good news: The Sower has not stopped sowing. God's grace is still being scattered over our lives. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to begin again.

(All) In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***The Gloria Patri** No. 70

Prayer Concerns, Praises & Pastoral Prayer

Hymn of Preparation *I Can Hear My Savior Calling* No. 338
(vs 1,4)

Children's Sermon

Anthem

Sharing the Word Good Soil for the Word Matt.13: 1-9; 18-23

***Sending Hymn** *Blessed Assurance* No. 369

*Benediction

Depart to Serve
**Stand in Body or in Spirit*

Announcements

Today, and next week on July 19th, donations placed on the Money Tree will go toward sponsoring rehabilitation for one of the young women at the jail. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Our choir will be on a well-deserved summer break during July. We thank them for their commitment and look forward to their return in August.

Volunteers and food donations are needed for the Hospitality Table for upcoming weeks. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

Volunteers are needed to provide meals for our youth on Sunday evenings. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

The July 2026 newsletter is available at
<https://graceumciuka.org/events/newsletters>

The Helpful Samaritan Food Pantry items are Peanut Butter and Jelly.

Prayer Concerns

The Family of Sandra Singleton, Cherrell Norton, Ricky Brown and Sons, Dale Tapp, Erin Hathcock, Sandra Skinner, Donnie Butler, Denny McGuff and his family, James Nabors, Mary Ray, J.P. Wilemon, and Gus Martin

Assisted Living: Judy Hawkins

Choir Rehearsal—none during summer months

Bible Study—meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

Youth Group—meets on Sundays at 6:00 pm

AA groups meet here on Monday and Friday nights at 7:00 pm.

Pastor, Cheryl Farr, may be contacted by text at
(662) 252-0910 or email at cherylfarrgbg@gmail.com

Grace United Methodist Church

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



205 E Eastport Street
P.O. Box 446
Iuka, Mississippi
Sunday, July 12, 2026
The Reverend Cheryl Farr, Pastor

The Mission of Grace United Methodist Church is to
Magnify God through
Love, Acceptance,
Discipleship and Service