

Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

Prelude and Choral Introit

Welcome and Announcements (Birthdays and Anniversaries)

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Come and worship the God whose goodness reaches us before we know to ask.

People: We come with grateful hearts, trusting the love we could never earn.

Leader: Whether we've followed Christ for many years or are just beginning to answer His call, His grace welcomes us.

People: We come to receive His mercy and make room for one another.

Leader: Lay down the comparisons that steal your joy and the scorekeeping that burdens your heart.

People: Teach us to celebrate Your generosity, Lord, wherever it is found.

All: Let us worship the God who calls us, the Savior who redeems us, and the Spirit who forms us in love.

***Gathering Hymn** *Great is Thy Faithfulness* No. 140

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, whose love reaches toward every person. Before we knew Him, He knew us. Before we turned toward Him, His grace was already at work, awakening us to His presence and inviting us into life with Him.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who became human, lived among us, suffered, and died for our sins. He rose from the dead, breaking the power of sin and death. Through faith in Him, we receive forgiveness and new life as gifts we could never earn.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who enables our response to God's grace and continues forming us in holy love. The Spirit confronts our pride, heals our resentment, and teaches us to rejoice in the goodness God shows to others.

We believe the Church belongs to Jesus Christ and is called to welcome, serve, and make disciples. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting. Until that day, we will trust God's promises, love our neighbors, and bear witness to His generous grace. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (All)

Generous God, we confess that we sometimes treat Your love as something we've earned. We count our sacrifices, remember our service, and expect our faithfulness to give us a greater claim on Your goodness. We welcome mercy for ourselves while questioning whether someone else deserves it.

Forgive us for the comparisons that turn gratitude into resentment. Forgive us for judging people before hearing their stories, for overlooking those still waiting for an invitation, and for making newcomers feel less valued than those who arrived before them. We've received Your welcome, yet we haven't always welcomed others with the same love.

Through Jesus Christ, forgive our sins and renew our hearts. Help us receive grace with humility, serve with gratitude, and celebrate another person's new beginning. Free us from keeping score, and teach us to love as people who have been generously loved. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Allow time for silent confession.

Words of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Our hope rests in His mercy. To all who repent and trust in Jesus Christ, God offers forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***The Gloria Patri** No. 70

Prayer Concerns, Praises & Pastoral Prayer

Hymn of Preparation *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* No. 452

Children's Sermon

Sharing the Word **Grace is Not Fair** Matt. 20:1-16

***Sending Hymn** *To God Be the Glory* No. 98

*Benediction

Depart to Serve

Announcements

Thank you, Grace family, for feeding the TCHS Volleyball Team this past week! We are grateful to everyone who volunteered their time, served, or supported the event through prayer. The girls were so appreciative of the love and hospitality shown to them!

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

If you have a prayer concern that you want listed in the bulletin, please text Amy Dotson at 662-660-4437. If you have information about someone on our prayer list or if someone should be removed, please let Amy know that as well.

The September 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 Tammy Corbett, Billy Harbin, Knox Essaury, Bob Woods, Janet Fulton, Christy Credille, Leah Houston, Oralee McManus, Barbara Anglin, Marcell Bethany, 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

Bible Study—meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

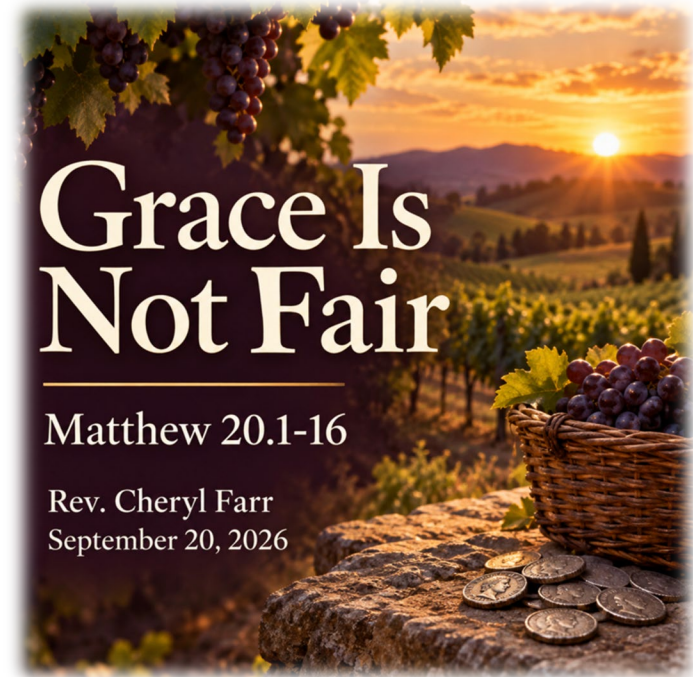
Youth Group—meets on Sundays at 6:00 pm

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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



205 E Eastport Street
P.O. Box 446
Iuka, Mississippi
Sunday, September 20, 2026
The Reverend Cheryl Farr, Pastor

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