



GRACE GAZETTE

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IUKA, MISSISSIPPI

WELCOMING AND SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Jesus was once asked, "Who is my neighbor?" It was a reasonable question, but Jesus answered it in a way that moved the responsibility back to the person asking. Through the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus showed that our neighbor isn't limited to someone who lives nearby, looks like us, worships with us, or shares our opinions. A neighbor is anyone God places within the reach of our compassion.

Welcoming our neighbors begins with noticing them. It means paying attention to the people who might otherwise remain invisible: the person sitting alone, the family facing a difficult month, the newcomer who doesn't know where to go, the grieving widow, the tired caregiver, or the child who needs to know that someone believes in them. We may not always know what someone is carrying, but we can make sure they don't have to carry it without kindness.

Christian hospitality is about more than being friendly at the church door. It is the practice of making room for people in our lives. Paul wrote, "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13). Hospitality is something we practice because it doesn't always come naturally. It requires us to move beyond our familiar circles, interrupt our routines, and sometimes become a little uncomfortable so that someone else can experience welcome.

Serving our neighbors is one of the clearest ways we show the love of Jesus. A meal, a phone call, a ride to an appointment, a visit, a bag of groceries, or a few minutes spent listening may seem small to us. In God's hands, however, these simple acts can become signs of grace. They remind people that they are seen, valued, and loved.

We should also remember that service is not something the church does only to bring people into the building. We serve because Christ first served us. We love because God first loved us. Every person has worth before they ever attend a service, join a Bible study, or agree with us about anything. God's love is freely given, and our care for others should reflect that same grace.

September often feels like the beginning of a new season. Summer routines give way to school schedules, community activities, and fuller calendars. In the middle of that busyness, we have an opportunity to ask a simple question: Who has God placed near me? Perhaps there is someone new in the neighborhood who needs an introduction. Maybe a coworker needs encouragement, an elderly neighbor could use help with a task, or a family is struggling quietly. We don't have to solve every problem. We only need to remain open to the ways God may use what we have and who we are.

Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). When we welcome someone who feels left out, feed someone who is hungry, sit with someone who is lonely, or help someone who is overwhelmed, we are serving Christ Himself.

This month, let's ask God to open our eyes to the people around us. Let's be a church known not only for saying that everyone is welcome, but also for living in a way that helps people believe it. May our words, our tables, our ministries, and our daily lives make room for others. As we welcome and serve our neighbors, may they catch a glimpse of the generous love and amazing grace of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Cheryl

OTHER STORIES
THIS MONTH:

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**OUR NEWEST
MEMBER! DELILAH
PEACH HORNSBY
BORN 8/27/26 TO
LUKE AND MEGANN
HORNSBY. MAMA
AND BABY ARE
DOING GREAT!**



*"The best of all is, God is with us."
– John Wesley*

SERVICE: A MEANS OF GRACE

When we hear the phrase "means of grace," we may first think of prayer, Scripture, Holy Communion, fasting, and worship. These are practices God uses to draw us closer to Him and shape us into the people He created us to be. In the Wesleyan tradition, acts of mercy and service are also means of grace. When we feed the hungry, visit the lonely, care for the sick, welcome the stranger, and help those in need, God is at work through those acts.

We don't serve others to earn God's love. Grace can't be earned because it is God's free and generous gift. We serve because God already loves us. His grace changes our hearts, turns our attention toward our neighbors, and teaches us to love as Christ loves. Service is one way we respond to grace, but it is also one of the ways God continues to give grace and transform us.

Jesus made service central to the life of discipleship. He washed His disciples' feet and told them, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15). He also taught that when we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, care for the sick, and visit those who are imprisoned, we are serving Him (Matthew 25:35-40). Jesus identifies Himself with people who are hurting, forgotten, and in need. When we draw near to them, we draw near to Him.

Service changes something in the person receiving it, but it also changes the person who serves. It interrupts our self-centered habits and helps us see people more clearly. It teaches patience, humility,

generosity, and compassion. It reminds us that every person bears the image of God and has sacred worth. Through service, God stretches our hearts and makes us more like Jesus.

Sometimes we imagine service must be large, organized, or public before it matters. Most acts of mercy, however, happen quietly. Service may look like preparing a meal for someone who is ill, calling a person who has been lonely, giving someone a ride, helping a neighbor with a difficult task, listening without rushing, or offering what we have to a family going through a hard season. A small act offered in love can become a channel of God's grace.

Service also helps us recognize how much we need one another. We may begin with the idea that we are taking Christ to someone else, only to discover that Christ was already present and waiting for us there. The person we intended to help may teach us about courage, faith, gratitude, or perseverance. Grace moves in both directions. The giver receives, and the receiver gives. God meets everyone involved.

John Wesley encouraged Christians to practice both works of piety and works of mercy. Prayer, worship, Scripture, fasting, and Communion help form our relationship with God. Feeding, visiting, welcoming, giving, and advocating for others help us live that relationship in the world. We need both. Faith that never reaches toward our neighbors can become inward-looking, while service separated from prayer can leave us spiritually exhausted. God uses both devotion and mercy to form a whole and faithful Christian life.

As we enter September, let's ask God to show us where love is needed. We may not be able to meet every need, but each of us can meet someone with kindness. We can notice the person others overlook. We can share what God has placed in our hands. We can serve without seeking attention or expecting anything in return.

When we serve, we become part of the way God's grace reaches the world. At the same time, God uses that service to continue His work within us. Our hands may carry the meal, make the phone call, open the door, or offer the help, but it is God's love flowing through ordinary acts of faithfulness.

May we become a people who not only speak about grace but also make it visible. As we serve our neighbors, may they experience the love of Christ, and may God graciously shape us more fully into His likeness.





*"The best of all is, God is with us."
— John Wesley*

BINGO AND TRIVIA NIGHT

Grace recently enjoyed a wonderful evening of laughter, friendly competition, and fellowship at our Bingo and Trivia Night. Everyone had fun testing their knowledge, marking their bingo cards, and cheering one another on as prizes were awarded throughout the evening. The church provided plenty of pizza, and the time spent around the tables gave us another opportunity to strengthen friendships and simply enjoy being together as a church family. These pictures capture some of the smiles and special moments from a truly enjoyable night at Grace.



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Worship Information

Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Fellowship/Hospitality: 10:30 AM
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00
Location: 213 E. Eastport St. Iuka, MS

Online Worship

Live: <https://www.youtube.com/@IukaGraceUMC/streams>

[Sermons](#)

[Daily Devotionals](#)

Missions & Outreach

Our Church will be feeding the TCHS Volleyball Teams
on September 17th. Please put this date on your calendars.

Grace United Methodist Church has an opportunity to help support the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast
Mississippi and the children they serve right here in our communities.

Over the past two years, the Boys & Girls Club has experienced significant reductions in government
grant funding. They currently serve approximately 350 children through clubs in Iuka, Corinth,
Booneville, and Baldwyn, providing a safe place after school along with homework help, mentorship,
activities, and opportunities for kids to learn and grow.

A one-time sponsorship of \$400 covers the after-school program costs for one child for an entire year.
Our hope is to sponsor as many children as we can, but donations of any amount are welcome and
greatly appreciated. Every gift can be combined to help provide another child with a full year of
support.

If you would like to give by check, please make it payable to Boys & Girls Club of NE MS and place it in
the offering box at Grace.

Thank you, Grace family, for continuing to find ways to love and serve the children in our community.

Jail Visits: Thursdays @ 2:00 PM

Sunday Soup will resume this Fall.

Stay Connected

[Facebook](#)

Website: graceumciuka.org

Contact: [Rev. Cheryl Farr](#)

You are always welcome at Grace UMC. Come as you are.