

# Why Church?

It's a question I ask myself often.  
Why church?

As an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church who has been in full time ministry for over 20 years, I have seen the decline in church attendance, church income, and church engagement over the years - most dramatically in the last 10 years.

To many, the church itself is not worthy of their time and attention. To many, God is not talked about, learned about or honored. To many, Christ is merely a swear word. To many, church was merely a social club and now that club no longer meets their needs. To many, faith is foreign, just and holy living is de-valued, and love is dis-figured.

So, why church?  
Why do you still choose church?  
(This is, of course, assuming that you do still, in fact, choose the church.)

I asked a pastor in South Bend a similar question, "Why does the church matter?" After a brief pause he said:

"Because the church is the only place that has the audacity to say the Jesus way is the only way. The church is the only place that has the audacity to say that love is for all, and all were created in love, by love and for love. The church is the only place that has the audacity to say that caring for the least and serving the lost is what we do. The church is the only place that has the audacity to say that with Jesus you are free - free to live, free to love, and free to serve."

Dear God, let this church have the audacity to be such a place. Amen.

Your Pastor for the journey,  
Rev. Stacey



LEAD PASTOR:

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## AUGUST Worship Themes

Sunday Services at 9AM (Outdoor Service)  
and 10:30AM (Virtual & Sanctuary)

### AUGUST 7, 2022

#### HOLY COMMUNION

"A Face of Faith" Speaker | Robert Russell

THEME | "Faces of Faith: Anna"

SCRIPTURE FOCUS | Luke 2:22-38

### AUGUST 14, 2022

"A Face of Faith" Speaker | Roy Roelke

THEME | "Faces of Faith: Judas"

SCRIPTURE FOCUS | Luke 22:1-6

### AUGUST 21, 2022

#### BACKPACK BLESSING

THEME | "Faces of Faith: Lydia"

SCRIPTURE FOCUS | Acts 16:11-15

### AUGUST 28, 2022

MISSION FOCUS | CROP Walk

THEME | "Faces of Faith: Eutychus"

SCRIPTURE FOCUS | Acts 20: 7-12

### SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

#### LABOR DAY WEEKEND

THEME | "Faces of Faith: The Ethiopian Eunuch"

SCRIPTURE FOCUS | Acts 8:26-40

## Grace Cares

Would you like to be a part of a team that reaches out to those who need some extra love? Please join us for our first Grace Cares meeting on Tuesday, August 23 in the Parlor at 7PM. If you have any questions, please contact Melodie Ringer.



## Study of "Kingdom Divided"

starts in September | Bible Study Fellowship

Bible Study Fellowship is an in-depth Bible study that meets mid-September - early May. This fall, BSF groups around the world will begin a new study of 1 & 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, and several major and minor prophets. Classes meet weekly and follow a four-part method for each week's lesson: personal study at home, small-group discussion and an all-class lecture at a local church, with commentary notes to read at home. There are 30 lessons in each 8-month study.

Locally, there are both men's groups and women's groups, and some include children's programs. (Daytime groups include a program for infants through pre-school; evening groups include a K-12 program.) BSF offers in-person and virtual options.

If you would like more information on the local groups, feel free to contact Heidi Deethardt at [deethardt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deethardt@sbcglobal.net). Grace Church has several people participating in both daytime and evening groups, and any one of us would be happy to connect you to our class!



**Bible Study  
Fellowship**

## News From The Children's Department



### BACKPACK BLESSING

The Backpack Blessing will be on Sunday, August 21 during both worship services. Students, teachers and all educators are invited to join us. Be sure to bring all of your supplies, so that we can pray over them for an amazing year.

### THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Bibles will be presented to the third graders on September 11 during the 10:30AM worship service. This is such an exciting day for all our children and their families. Let's start praying for them now; for them to have a yearning to get to know the Word of God.

## RAGGEDY ANN PRESCHOOL

Raggedy Ann Preschool is taking registrations for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have any questions, or would like a registration form, please call the church office at 574-288-4789 or email [raggedyann@gracemethodist.org](mailto:raggedyann@gracemethodist.org).



## ATTENDANCE (JUNE 2022)

JUNE 5

9AM = 58

10:30AM = 63

FACEBOOK = 105

YOUTUBE = 19

JUNE 12

9AM = 76

10:30 = 65

FACEBOOK = 92

YOUTUBE = 18

JUNE 19

(VBS & Father's Day)

10AM = 157

FACEBOOK = 154

YOUTUBE = 20

JUNE 26

9AM = 66

10:30AM = 38

FACEBOOK = 97

YOUTUBE = 18

## FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

OPERATING INCOME (January through June) = \$199,988.38

OPERATING EXPENSES (January through June) = \$234,228.41

MISSION GIVING (June 2022) = \$1653.57

## GRACE UMC IS HIRING!

We have the following positions open:

1 | Organist

2 | Youth Director

3 | AV Operator

4 | Sound Board Operator

Interested parties should send their resume and cover letter to Rev. Stacey (revstacey@gracemethodist.org or 3012 S. Twyckenham Dr. South Bend, IN 46614).

## OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY | 9AM-4PM

FRIDAY | CLOSED

SATURDAY | CLOSED

SUNDAY | 9AM-12PM

## WHAT'S THAT SMELL???

Oh, it's moldy food left in the kitchen. Please clean up the kitchen after using it. The noses of the staff thank you!

## Thank you for your gifts of...

... \$2,050.00 to UMCOR  
... \$205.00 to BROADWAY CHRISTIAN PARISH

Thank you for your latest, very generous gift. I am humbled how steadfastly and generously you all have supported our women over the years. Thank you for being such good friends to us. This work is beautiful, but hard, and your prayers and monetary contributions mean a lot to us. Please stop by anytime for a visit! With all good thoughts and prayers for your community this summer.

God bless,  
~Katie  
St. Margaret's House

Thank you! We are so incredibly grateful for your congregation and the kindness, generosity and prayers you share with us. Please let us know if you'd ever like to stop by and see what's new.

~Sarah  
St. Margaret's House

## Our Sympathy...

...is extended to the friends and family of Fred Rowe.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAYS

9AM | Outdoor Worship Service  
10:30AM | In-Person & Virtual  
Worship Service

### MONDAYS

1PM | Pilgrimage Healing Appointments  
7PM | A.A.

### WEDNESDAYS

7:30AM | Bible Study

### THURSDAYS

5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities

### FRIDAYS

5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities  
7:30PM | A.A.

### AUGUST 6

8AM | Men's Breakfast

### AUGUST 8

6:30PM | Blue Star Mothers

### AUGUST 12

8:30AM-11:30AM | Rummage Sale

### AUGUST 13

8:30AM-12:30PM | Rummage Sale  
10AM | Paper Pantry

### AUGUST 15

6PM | Board of Trustees Meeting

### AUGUST 16

7PM Staff Parish Meeting

### AUGUST 21

10AM-1PM | Blood Drive

### AUGUST 22

7PM | Finance Committee

### AUGUST 24

11:30AM | UMW Board Meeting

### AUGUST 31

Mum Order Form Submission Deadline

We are collecting items to sell at the Rummage Sale. If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them to the Great Hall on...

- ...Sunday, August 7  
from 3pm-5pm
- ...Monday, August 8  
from 9am-3pm
- ..Tuesday, August 9  
from 9am-3pm  
or 5pm-7:30pm
- ..Wednesday, August 10  
from 9am-3pm

If you need assistance, please call Chris Rowe or Holly Easterbrook.

We take all clean items which includes furniture and appliances. We will have a bake sale this year and anyone can donate baked goods; you don't have to be a member of the UMW.



## UMW MUM SALE

8" pots ~ \$7.50 each

- # \_\_\_\_\_ BRONZE / ORANGE
- # \_\_\_\_\_ LAVENDER / PINK
- # \_\_\_\_\_ WHITE
- # \_\_\_\_\_ YELLOW / GOLD
- # \_\_\_\_\_ RED / BURDUNDY
- # \_\_\_\_\_ DARK PURPLE

PICK UP  
SEPTEMBER 11  
8:30 am-12:00 pm  
Grace Church Garage

PREORDER BY  
AUGUST 31.

# \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ORDERED  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED

*(Please make checks  
out to UMW.  
Money due with order.)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_



# AMAZING GRACE NEWSLETTER

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3012 South Twyckenham Drive  
South Bend, Indiana 46614  
574.288.4789  
[www.gracemethodist.org](http://www.gracemethodist.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

South Bend, Indiana  
PERMIT No. 109

## BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Creating God, we give You thanks  
because You created us in your image.  
We pray for knowledge and understanding  
for teachers, students and parents.  
We pray that students will have tenacity  
as they seek for understanding  
and new revelations in their studies.  
We pray that teachers persevere  
through the trying and complex issues of each day.  
We also pray for parents,  
that they will support their students  
through building a working relationship with  
teachers and staff.  
We pray in the name of Jesus,  
the Great Teacher. Amen.

