
LUKE 1:78-79

*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break
upon us, to give light to those who
sit in darkness and in the shadow
of death, to guide our feet into the
way of peace.*

(continued on page 3)

Passing the Torch

Welcome to the Grace UMC Staff!



EVELYN (EVIE) RINGER
MEDIA TECHNICIAN

Hi! My name is Evie Ringer. I've been going to this church my entire life and I am very active within it. I am a Junior at Riley High School this year. I enjoy playing sports and gardening.



ANTHONY SCHMOK
SOUND TECHNICIAN

My name is Anthony Schmok. I am sixteen years old and have recently taken over the Sound Technician duty from my brother, Adam Schmok. I am a firm believer in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and I also love the Grace community.

LEAD PASTOR:
Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring
revstacey@gracemethodist.org

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY & CONGREGATIONAL CARE:
Melodie Ringer
children@gracemethodist.org

DIRECTOR & TEACHER OF RAGGEDY ANN PRESCHOOL:
Kim Holder
raggedyann@gracemethodist.org

OFFICE & FACILITIES MANAGER:
Connie Harmon
finance@gracemethodist.org

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:
Jennifer Robinett
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FINANCE MANAGER
Mark Walter
payables@gracemethodist.org

WEDDING CORDINATOR:
Chris Rowe
ckrowe@mchsi.com

CHOIR DIRECTOR & ORGANIST:
Dallin Baldwin
dbaldwi2@nd.edu

SOUND TECHNICIAN:
Anthony Schmok

MEDIA OPERATOR:
Evie Ringer

CUSTODIANS:
David Neibar
Angel Soto

Welcome to the Raggedy Ann Preschool Team!



ROBIN PITTS

My name is Robin Pitts and I am thrilled to join the Raggedy Ann Preschool Team! I met my husband at Pensacola Christian College where I graduated in 2005 and we have two wonderful children. After my son graduated from Raggedy Ann last year, I knew it was something I had to be part of. I am looking forward to helping these little learners achieve their goals and reach for the stars.

(continued from front page)

I have had many partners on my spiritual journey. There are those with whom I have held hands, drank coffee, shed tears, and laughed heartily. Then, there are those who were friends "on the page" - theologians, pastors, and authors whose words were a balm, a guide, and an inspiration. One such friend was Frederick Buechner. I read his words daily. I quote him regularly. I seek his counsel when I do not have the right words. I open his books when I need comfort.

My partner for the journey, Frederick Buechner, died on August 15, 2022. I realize I shared him with thousands, if not millions of others around the world, and frankly, he had no idea I existed. There is still a small lonely space within me knowing this stranger will no longer be writing, will no longer be speaking truth into the world. His

light remains, though. His words continue to serve as a guide. My feet, therefore, will continue moving ahead, because "where [my] feet take [me], that is who [I] am."

"The way I understood it," my grandmother says, "you were supposed to devote these talks to religious matters. Incarnation and Grace and Salvation were some of the noble words you used."

I say that feet are very religious too. She says that's what you think. I say that if you want to know who you are, if you are more than academically interested in that particular mystery, you could do a lot worse than look to your feet for an answer. Introspection in the long run doesn't get you very far because every time you draw back to look at yourself, you are seeing

everything except for the part that drew back, and when you draw back to look at the part that drew back to look at yourself, you see again everything except for what you are really looking for. And so on. Since the possibilities for drawing back seem to be infinite, you are, in your quest to see yourself whole, doomed always to see infinitely less than what there will always remain to see. Thus, when you wake up in the morning, called by God to be a self again, if you want to know who you are, watch your feet. Because where your feet take you, that is who you are.

-excerpt from Frederick Buechner's book "The Alphabet of Grace"

Your Pastor for the journey,
Rev. Stacey



NEW MEMBER CLASS

SEPTEMBER 18
12PM-3PM

NEW MEMBER CLASS

SEPTEMBER 18
12PM - 3PM
GRACE UMC PARLOR

If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace United Methodist Church OR you want to learn more about the United Methodist Church denomination and Grace UMC specifically, please come to the New Member Class taught by Rev. Stacey on Sunday, September 18 from 12PM - 3PM. Lunch and childcare will be provided.



SEPTEMBER Worship Themes

Sunday Services at 9AM & 10:30AM

SEPTEMBER 4 (Labor Day Weekend)

*9AM - Last Lawn Service; 10:30AM - Sanctuary & Livestream

SCRIPTURE | Acts 8:26-39

THEME | "Faces of Faith: The Ethiopian Eunuch"

SEPTEMBER 11

*Begin 9AM - Sanctuary & Livestream; 10:30AM - Sanctuary

BIBLE SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE | Luke 15:1-10

(The Parable of the Lost Sheep)

THEME | "Taking Umbrage with Jesus: 1 over 99"

SEPTEMBER 18

SCRIPTURE | Luke 16: 1-13

(The Parable of the Shrewd Manager)

THEME | "Taking Umbrage with Jesus: God over Money"

SEPTEMBER 25

SCRIPTURE | Luke 16:19-31

(The Rich Man and Lazarus)

THEME | Taking Umbrage with Jesus: Life over Death"

News From THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

Sunday School starts back in full swing on Sunday, September 11. During the 9AM service we will have a "One Room" class for all children. At 10:30AM we will have two separate classes; PreK - 2nd Grade and 3rd-5th Grade.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Third Graders will receive their Bibles on Sunday, September 11 during the 10:30AM worship service. What an exciting day this is, as the whole congregation comes together in support of their next step in their faith journey.

ATTENDANCE (JULY 2022)

JULY 3

9AM = 65

10:30AM = 66

FACEBOOK = 109

YOUTUBE = 28

JULY 10

9AM = 91

10:30 = 49

FACEBOOK = 107

YOUTUBE = 10

JULY 17

9AM = 63

10AM = 42

FACEBOOK = 94

YOUTUBE = 17

JULY 24

9AM = 57

10:30AM = 50

FACEBOOK = 104

YOUTUBE = 22

JULY 31

9AM = 65

10:30AM = 52

FACEBOOK = 109

YOUTUBE = 29

FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

OPERATING INCOME (January through July) = \$252,321

OPERATING EXPENSES (January through July) = \$277,442

MISSION GIVING (July 2022) = \$1835.53

GRACE UMC IS HIRING!

We have the following
positions open:

1 | Organist

2 | Finance Manager

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

THANK YOU...

...for another very generous gift from your community to ours! Thank you. We really are humbled by your faithful tithing to our good work. On behalf of all of the women and children here, thank you. Our doors are always open to you should you want to stop by.

With warmest thanks for your generosity to us,

KATIE | St. Margaret's House

...your continued generosity has a profound effect on our work and service to women and children. We are full of gratitude for you all!

SARAH | St. Margaret's House

We wish to thank you for your very generous donation.

Peace and blessings,

CANDYCE | Broadway Christian Parish

Thank you! The dear people you helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be - Thank you!

Grace and Peace,

ROLAND | UMCOR

SCAM & FRAUD AWARENESS

SEPTEMBER 20 | 5:30PM
GRACE UMC PARLOR

Detective Jason Koski from the St. Joseph County Police Department will hold an informational seminar on scams and frauds. Let us know if you would like to attend by calling 574-288-4789 or email communications@gracemethodist.org.



CROP WALK FOR HUNGER

SEPTEMBER 25 | 2PM
HOWARD PARK

The walk, sponsored by Church World Service, raises funds for and awareness of food insecurity in our community and throughout the world. This is a great way to show our solidarity with those who go hungry on a regular basis.

Please register to walk or donate at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/grace-united-methodist-church>.



J.O.Y. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The J.O.Y. Class will begin an eight-week study of Jonah on September 11 at 10:20AM in Room 104. You may be wondering how anyone could come up with eight lessons on Jonah. Join us on September 11 and find out.

SERENDIPITY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Serendipity Class will resume their classes on September 11 at 10:15AM. The study this quarter will be "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White" by Adam Hamilton. This a video-based study that explores the role of faith in public life. All are welcome.



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. 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. 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAYS

9AM | In-Person & Virtual
Worship Service

10:30AM | In-Person Worship Service

10:30AM | Sunday School for All Ages

MONDAYS

1PM | Pilgrimage Healing Appointments

7PM | A.A.

WEDNESDAYS

7:30AM | Bible Study

6PM | Positive Outlook Basketball

THURSDAYS

5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities

7PM | Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAYS

5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities

7:30PM | A.A.

SEPTEMBER 10

10AM | Paper Pantry

SEPTEMBER 11

8:30AM-12PM | Mum Pick-Up

SEPTEMBER 12

6:30PM | Blue Star Mothers

SEPTEMBER 18

12PM | New Member Class

SEPTEMBER 20

5:30PM | Scam & Fraud Awareness

7PM | Staff Parish Relations

Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER 25

2PM | CROP Walk

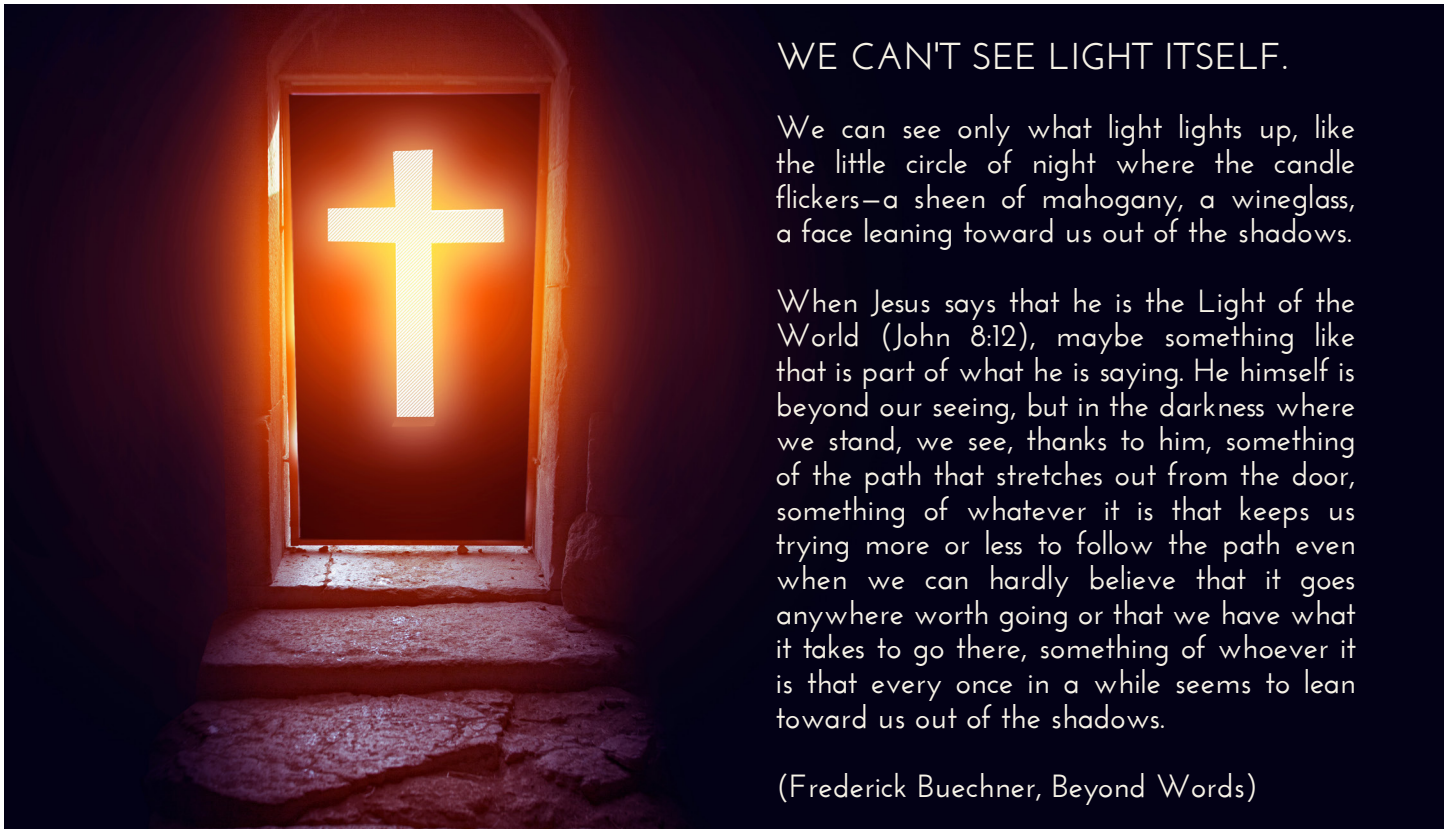
AMAZING GRACE NEWSLETTER



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WE CAN'T SEE LIGHT ITSELF.

We can see only what light lights up, like the little circle of night where the candle flickers—a sheen of mahogany, a wineglass, a face leaning toward us out of the shadows.

When Jesus says that he is the Light of the World (John 8:12), maybe something like that is part of what he is saying. He himself is beyond our seeing, but in the darkness where we stand, we see, thanks to him, something of the path that stretches out from the door, something of whatever it is that keeps us trying more or less to follow the path even when we can hardly believe that it goes anywhere worth going or that we have what it takes to go there, something of whoever it is that every once in a while seems to lean toward us out of the shadows.

(Frederick Buechner, *Beyond Words*)