

AMAZING GRACE

NEWSLETTER

A man with short brown hair, a goatee, and glasses is smiling and playing a piano. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a green and black striped tie. The background shows a church interior with a large window and a piano console.

WELCOME, NICO!

PAGE 3

OCTOBER 2023

SENIOR PASTOR:

Rev. Jim Clark
James.Clark@inumc.org

DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY &
CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

Melodie Ringer
children@gracemethodist.org
gracecares@gracemethodist.org

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Jovan Hill
youth@gracemethodist.org

DIRECTOR & LEAD TEACHER
OF RAGGEDY ANN
PRESCHOOL:

Kim Holder
raggedyann@gracemethodist.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR & ORGANIST:

Nico Tjoelker
musicsbgraceumc@gmail.com

OFFICE & FACILITIES MANAGER:

Connie Harmon
finance@gracemethodist.org

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:

Jennifer Robinett
communications@gracemethodist.org

SOUND TECHNICIAN:

Anthony Schmok

MEDIA OPERATOR:

Evie Ringer

CUSTODIANS:

Robert Russell
Angel Soto

NO SMALL THING

Grace member Mary Garlathy came into the office and shared an idea with me. Mary is active with her United Methodist Women's (UMW) circle and felt God leading her to introduce a service project to the whole circle. The project is to put together 50 UMCOR Hygiene kits to be donated and eventually delivered, by UMCOR, to people who have experienced a disaster. Fifty hygiene kits might sound like drop in the bucket, but not if you ask one of the 50 people who will get one in what may be their time of greatest need. This project is no small thing! I am grateful to Mary for listening to God's still small voice, and going where he leads her.

UMCOR is one of my favorite things about being a United Methodist Christian. UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR is oftentimes the first group in and the last group out following a natural or human-made disaster. But it's so important to know that UMCOR is us! UMCOR is United Methodist Christians willing to serve by praying, being on a disaster response team, donating items for flood clean-up buckets and hygiene

kits, and putting those things together.

UMCOR is us! When Mary Garlathy's UMW circle comes together to donate and assemble hygiene kits next month, they are UMCOR. I hope that is as exciting to you as it is to me.

I hope you will pray for Mary's UMW circle as they embark on this service project! I also hope you will pray for the men, women, boys and girls who will receive one of the kits in their time of need. And I hope you will pray for our Missions Committee and me as we take this great idea from Mary Garlathy, and introduce it to our whole church! Grace UMC has a history of supporting UMCOR in many ways, including donating hygiene kits. My hope is that we can revive that great work and get EVERYONE excited to be involved here again! This is a great and tangible opportunity for us to love our neighbors, and it is no small thing!

Peace,
Pastor Jim

WELCOME, NICO!

The history of this church takes us from an organ as an unwanted item to an essential part of our worship and an outstanding music program. It has become more difficult to find someone to serve as the organist of this church.

In the last few years, we have been the recipients of a grant from Eli Lilly which was administered by the University of Notre Dame. This grant is no longer funded, and organists are generally not available. We have been in prayer for several months, asking God to give us direction and send us the person that we need. God has heard our pleas, and we are thankful that Nico Tjoelker will be our new Organist and Choir Director.

Nico is studying a Doctor of Musical Arts in organ at University of Notre Dame with Professor Kola Owolabi. He recently completed a Master of Music in organ at Yale University with Professor James O'Donnell, former organist and choirmaster of Westminster Abbey, London. At Yale, Nico served as Director of Music at Berkeley Divinity School. He was also the

senior organ scholar at Trinity Episcopal Church on the Green in New Haven, Connecticut, where he served under Director of Music Walden Moore and assisted in the direction of the church's adult and children's choirs.

Prior to Yale, Nico lived in Australia. In 2020, he completed a Bachelor of Music in organ at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he studied under Professor Philip Swanton. He graduated with First Class Honors, receiving high distinction on his thesis on the topic of early twentieth-century recordings of organ music on paper rolls. Nico previously served as organ scholar at two Sydney churches: St. Mark's Anglican Church (2020 - 2021) and St. Stephen's Uniting Church (2017 - 2021).

Nico enjoys studying and performing internationally. From 2018 - 2019, he completed a semester exchange at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany. He has twice attended the Haarlem International Organ Festival in the Netherlands (2018

and 2022), and was selected to be one of five participants in the Lucerne Organ Masterclass (Switzerland) in August 2018 under the direction of Wolfgang Sieber. Nico played for the Australia and New Zealand College of Organists Academy recital in Napier, New Zealand in 2018. In July 2017, he toured the historical organs of Europe with the Sydney Conservatorium organ department. In July 2016, Nico completed the Organ Scholar Experience course at Cambridge University, UK, and performed five recitals in an international organ recital tour in the UK and the Netherlands. In 2015 he was the guest organist for the New South Wales Youth Orchestra's inaugural concert. He was awarded first prize in the 2013 Sydney Organ Competition - Intermediate Section, and first prize in the 2016 Sydney Organ Competition - Open Section.

Nico lives in South Bend with his wife Alice, who studies Liturgical Studies at Notre Dame.

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT



What a wonderful Sunday we had on September 10, as the third graders received their Bibles! They also learned the responsibilities of being an acolyte! Please continue to hold them in prayer as they start the next stage of their faith journey.

Join us in the parking lot on Sunday, October 29 from 2PM - 4PM for Trunk or Treat. Decorate yourself and your trunk, fill it with candy, and enjoy the smiling faces of all the community kids! The best trunk will win a spooky prize! If you can't

- make it and would still like to help, please consider donating individually wrapped candy to be handed out during Trunk or Treat. Look for the collection boxes in the Welcome Center and by the Great Hall.
- The Children's Sunday School Department is inviting you to join them in praying for the world this year. Each week they will pick a country to be lifted in prayer. Please look for our Facebook posts on Sunday afternoons for the country of the week. For more information, please visit operationworld.org.
- Can you spare one hour every couple of months to help in the Children's Sunday School classroom? We could really use an extra set of hands. Let Melodie (children@gracemethodist.org) know if you would like to volunteer!

A promotional poster for a 'Trunk or Treat' event. The background is dark blue. At the top, the text 'SUNDAY OCTOBER 29 @ 2PM' is written in large, orange, outlined letters. In the center is a cartoon illustration of a blue GMC truck's trunk, decorated with orange and green lights. The words 'TRUNK or TREAT' are written in large, orange, outlined letters across the trunk. Inside the trunk are baskets of candy and pumpkins. The GMC logo is visible on the front of the trunk. On the left side, the text 'THE BEST THEMED TRUNK WILL WIN A SPOOKY PRIZE!' is written in orange, outlined letters, slanted upwards. On the right side, the text 'PARK YOUR CAR, DECORATE YOUR TRUNK AND HAND OUT SOME CANDY!' is written in orange, outlined letters, slanted upwards.

WHAT IS UMCOR?

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief - UMCOR - assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters - famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development. Want to know more? Go to <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>.

UMCOR HYGIENE KITS

The United Methodist Women are working on a project for UMCOR to assemble 50 hygiene kits to be distributed worldwide to people who have lost their homes due to fires, floods, and war.

A hygiene kit includes these materials:

- ONE HAND TOWEL (15 x 25-17 x 27 inches)
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- ONE WASHCLOTH
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- ONE COMB
Must be sturdy with at least 4-7 inches of teeth
No pocket combs or picks
Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 4-7 inches of teeth
- ONE TOENAIL OR FINGERNAIL CLIPPER
No emery boards or metal files
- BATH-SIZED SOAP (3 oz. bar or larger)
No Ivory or Jergen's bar soap
Do not remove from packaging
- ONE ADULT TOOTHBRUSH
Do not remove from packaging
Personal advertising not acceptable
- 10 ADHESIVE BANDAGES (3/4 by 3 inches)
Common household bandages acceptable
- ONE ONE-GALLON SIZE RE-SEALABLE BAG

*Please do not add toothpaste when assembling kits. We are collecting the items needed during September and October and will assemble the kits at our November 2 UMW meeting as part of our World Thank Offering program. Check out the UMW bulletin board in the Welcome Center if you would like to help with this project by donating specific items of \$\$ to cover other costs.

Thank you to all who contributed desserts, fruit and/or condiments for the cookout that missions held at Motels4Now (a program that houses the chronically homeless and is helping many move into long-term housing arrangements).

We fed about 50 - 75 people that evening; leftovers were donated for future use at the facility. It was gratifying to help in this way and it wouldn't have been possible without the donated items.

Special thanks to those who helped onsite with the cooking, service and clean-up. We are blessed to have such a generous congregation!

Thanks,
Karen Messersmith



THANK YOU FROM THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Rummage Sale! All of your donations and daily help was much appreciated. It always amazes us how many items we receive. A special thank you to Joan Ross for her donations from her shop. We appreciate your generosity! And thank you to the Paper Pantry for rearranging their pick-up line for us. This sale helps so many people in our community. To date, we have taken in \$3,375.00 (including the bake sale). Next year's sale is only 11 months away. As you clean, remember the UMW Rummage Sale August 9 and 10 in 2024!

Bless you all,
Chris and Holly

Thank you to everyone who has supported our UMW fund-raising projects. We've raised \$4470 for our various conference & local mission projects. This includes Easter lilies (\$60), Geraniums (\$490), Rummage/Bake Sale (\$3375) and Mums (\$545). Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." (Matthew 5:4)

How can we, as the children of God, comfort other members of the church?

One way is to provide a meal for the grieving family at the time of the funeral, Celebration of Life, or other ceremony.

If you are willing to either help or provide food, please contact Kathee Stark at 574-703-3758 (Home) or katheestark@gmail.com.

RAGGEDY ANN PRESCHOOL

TEACHER AIDE NEEDED

Raggedy Ann Preschool is in need of a teacher's aide any day Monday through Thursday from 8:45AM–11:30AM (with the option to work until 1:30PM). The position pays \$10 / hour and duties would be to read and play with the students. Please contact Kim Holder (kringler4@gmail.com) if interested.

RAGGEDY ANN READERS WANTED

Raggedy Ann Preschool is excited to extend an invitation to the congregation to come into the classroom and read to the students. A sign up sheet is in the church office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAYS

9AM Outdoor Worship Service
10:30AM Virtual & In-Person Worship Services
10:30AM K - 12 Sunday School
6PM Youth Group

MONDAYS

1PM Pilgrimage Healing (by appt.)
7PM A.A.

TUESDAYS

5:30PM Get Better Basketball

WEDNESDAYS

7:30AM Bible Study
5:30PM Sky Dig Soldiers 2026 Basketball

FRIDAYS

7:30PM A.A.

SEPTEMBER 27

11:30AM UMW Executive Meeting

OCTOBER 4

6PM Trustees Meeting

OCTOBER 5

10:30AM UMW General Meeting

OCTOBER 7

8AM Men's Breakfast

OCTOBER 9

6:30AM Blue Star Mothers

OCTOBER 11

6:30PM Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting

OCTOBER 12

1:30PM Merry Missions UMW Circle

OCTOBER 14

10AM-12PM Paper Pantry

OCTOBER 25

11:30AM UMW Executive Meeting

OCTOBER 29

2PM Trunk or Treat

AMAZING GRACE NEWSLETTER



3012 South Twyckenham Drive
South Bend, Indiana 46614
574.288.4789
www.gracemethodist.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADDRESS | 3012 South Twyckenham Drive South Bend, IN 46614
PHONE | 574-288-4789 WEBSITE | gracemethodist.org
FACEBOOK | [sbgraceumc](https://www.facebook.com/sbgraceumc) YOUTUBE | [SBGraceUMC](https://www.youtube.com/SBGraceUMC)

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES | 9AM & 10:30AM (Livestream & In-Person)

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION CALENDAR

If you would like to celebrate or memorialize a loved one or event by dedicating flowers for the altar, please sign up at signupgenius.com/go/70a084eadae2aa4f94-altar. Please sign up by 10AM on the Tuesday before desired date.

THE MORE WE KNOW, THE BETTER WE CAN CARE!

If you or anyone in your life needs care, love, prayer and support, please contact Melodie at 574-288-4789 or email the Grace Cares confidential email address at gracecares@gracemethodist.org. Grace Cares about you!



MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO GRACE UMC

If you would like to contribute, please scan the QR Code or text 574-444-3044 and follow the prompts. Please remember Grace United Methodist Church when doing your estate planning.

NEXT AMAZING GRACE SUBMISSION DEADLINE | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10