

Grace Presbyterian Gazette



PASTOR'S CORNER

September, 2022

BY PASTOR TERRY SIMM

It is hard to believe that we have been here in Arkansas for 10 months already. One thing I have observed about this part of the country is that once the trees begin to bloom in the Spring the landscape is blessed with other trees blooming throughout the summer as well. While in Northwest Iowa the trees bloomed once in the spring and were done until next year, there is beauty here that can be seen throughout most of the year. We were told August could sometimes be very uncomfortable, but this year the heat and humidity came early in June and July. It appears that we will get to enjoy another mild winter down here in the South as session has approved of extending our contract as a Certified Transitional Pastor (CTP) for another six months. According to ECO's guidelines the CTP contracts for one year at first, then in six month increments after that.

We look forward to finishing the Vision Frame Process as we have roughly four months to go as we finished session four last week. Session four was about what Grace Presbyterian Church values, what is it we want people to feel when they come to church here. It was a good session as I think the team is beginning to see the whole vision plan take shape. I also felt having the three potlucks over the

summer months helped the rest of the congregation give some input and at the very least confirming some the work they have already done.

I see many positives as we head into the fall with attendance picking back up, more involvement in Adult Sunday School (now two classes), a children's church time during worship, and Wednesday night study groups that involve at least 80% of our membership. I believe that Grace Presbyterian is about to blossom just like the trees around us.

For the next two months I will be doing a preaching series on the Seven Signs of John's Gospel. The Gospel of John limits the "signs" (or miracles of Jesus) to seven that stand out. The purpose of them is found in John 20: 31- *"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these (the seven signs of John) are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* These verses are universally recognized as the purpose of the gospel in its present form. John's Gospel is clearly written in a different manor than Matthew, Mark, and Luke and are calling us to an active faith and belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. ■

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We have exciting news! Registration for the Community Appreciation Banquet is now open, and we hope that you will sign up to come!

** Community Appreciation Banquet

** TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH - 6:00-8:00 pm

** We have exciting news! Registration for the Community Appreciation Banquet is now open, and we hope that you will sign up to come!

** This is an annual event for our volunteers, donors, supporters, and anyone else who would be interested in being a part of what is happening at the Conway Ministry Center. This is our opportunity to say “thank you” to those who have made what we do possible. We have so much to share, celebrate, and dream about together! We want to share about all of the amazing services that are currently provided through the programs you support. We want to celebrate challenges overcome and victories won. And we are THRILLED to share our hope and dream for the future of the CMC. We will explain our family shelter program model, take a sneak peek at the shelter floor plans, and provide a glimpse of the future. You won't want to miss this!

** Please mark your calendars for the evening of October 4th. If there are friends or community members that you feel should join this celebration, please invite them. We love sharing the story of God's goodness in our community! Click the button below to register now!

Register Now (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-appreciation-banquet-tickets-408182012387>)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Grace Gardens will hold its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 6th at 9:30 a.m. at the church. They are in chapter 10 of The Purple Book.
- The Worship Committee will meet immediately after church.
- A new adult Sunday School class—The Wired Word – which relates Scripture to current events – will begin at 9:30 a.m. September 11 in the children’s Sunday School room. An article in the Grace Gazette offers information on the class.
- Don Bingham will begin a study Matthew on Sunday, September 11, that will last through January. Contact Don if you wish to enroll in this class at donaldjbingham@gmail.com
- Jim Hays’ Community Group will meet on Wednesday, September 7, via Zoom at 6 pm. They will be studying Ruth and Esther. This class will last until January.
- 3N1 Class will meet on Wednesday night, September 14, starting at 5:30 pm with dinner.
- If you would like to help with church cleanup (which can be done weekly) please sign up on the sheet on the hallway bulletin board.
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FINANCE COMMITTEE

The following Memorials donations were made during July and August:

Rodney and Pat Rice	Building Fund	Vivian Sackhoff
Rodney and Pat Rice	Building Fund	Lauren Williamson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown		Vivian Sackhoff
Joe and Sue Dablock		Vivian Sackhoff
John and Nancy Davis		Vivian Sackhoff
Herman and Betty Ellis		Vivian Sackhoff
Herman and Betty Ellis	Building Fund	Lauren Williamson
Bill and Rosanne Johnson	Building Fund	Damon Warbritton

The following Honorarium donations were made during July:

Keith and Peggy Woosley	Jim Hays
Keith and Peggy Woosley	Joe Pruett

"THE DEACON'S POST"

Deacon Post, Sept. 2022

Greetings to all of you from your Deacons. Whew, what a summer of heat we all have endured. Prayerfully, let's all hope that the worst has past and more pleasant fall weather is on its way to us.

Your Deacon stands ready to assist you in any way needed, so please don't hesitate to reach out to them. Hopefully, you are enjoying periodic contact from your Deacon keeping as we strive to stay in touch with you.

This month we are adding a new addition to our newsletter, a reminder of church members' birthdays and anniversaries.

Birthdays:

Rosemary Hubbard	Sept. 3
Karen Griffin	Sept. 12
Lavon Dunn	Sept. 25
Zack Deem	Sept. 26

Anniversaries:

Jim and Beth Hays	Sept. 17
Jim and Barbara Watkins	Sept. 20

Please continue to pray for all of the names on our prayer concern list and for Grace Presbyterian Church. Continue to keep in your thoughts and prayers the vision framing team as it continues its work for the church.

Consider joining us for Wednesday night bible study and also Sunday school. In fact, keep an eye out for a new class offering on Sunday mornings at church to give you another option of what to attend. What a wonderful way to grow together by studying and learning together.

In Christ,
Joe Pruet

Christian Education Committee

Beginning on September 11, the Christian Education Committee will offer a second adult Sunday School class based on material from The Wired Word, a website that relates Scripture to current events.

Each Thursday, class members will receive by e-mail the text of an event that has made the news in the recent past along with numerous Bible verses and commentary that relate to the subject and several questions for discussion. Class members will be asked to read the material offered and think about the questions before coming to class. The hope is that we will be able to have some "thought-provoking, stimulating discussions every week," to quote the website.

Each class will begin with a short video and Scripture readings to get the discussion started. The class leader will not so much teach a lesson as facilitate the discussion to keep it on track. This class is meant to be a discussion among equals. If the discussion is lively, one lesson may take two Sundays to complete to ensure covering the subject in dept.

Renée Hunter and Ken Hunter will facilitate the first few classes. Since much of the information needed to lead the class is provided, Wired Word promises that preparation to lead can take less than an hour a week. Thus, it is hoped that others will choose to take a turn at facilitating.

The class will meet at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in the children's Sunday School room. The committee already has a list of people who are interested in the class. If this approach to Bible study sounds interesting to you, and you have not already shown interest, please let Peggy Woosley know.

This should be an exciting class that can inform our daily lives in the world. I am looking forward to it.

Renée Hunter

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

A heartfelt thanks to all the prayers, calls, cards and snacks following my recent back surgery. They were greatly appreciated. Ken Hunter

Calendar Today < > September 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 9:30am Sunday School 10am Join Service with Grace United Method 10:30am Worship	29 8:30am Exercise Class	30	31 8:30am Exercise Class	Sep 1	2 8:30am Exercise Class	3
4 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	5 8:30am Exercise Class	6 9:30am Grace Gardens 9:30am Grace Gardens 4pm Diaconate Meeting	7 8:30am Exercise Class	8	9 8:30am Exercise Class	10 8:30am Men's Breakfast
11 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Mission and Evangelism Committee	12 8:30am Exercise Class 10am Women's Prayer Gathering	13 9:30am Grace Gardens	14 8:30am Exercise Class 6pm 3 N 1 meeting	15	16 8:30am Exercise Class	17
18 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Cong. Care Committee	19 8:30am Exercise Class 10am Women's Prayer Gathering	20 9:30am Grace Gardens	21 8:30am Exercise Class 6pm 3 N 1 meeting	22	23 8:30am Exercise Class	24
25 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	26 8:30am Exercise Class 10am Women's Prayer Gathering	27 9:30am Grace Gardens 4pm Session Meeting	28 8:30am Exercise Class 6pm 3 N 1 meeting	29	30 8:30am Exercise Class	Oct 1

BIRTHDAYS:

9/3 - Rosemary Hubbard, 9/12-Lavon Dunn, 9/12 - Karen Griffin, 9/26 - Zack Deem.

CURRENT PRAYER LIST AS OF (9/1/2022):

Chad Brown, son of Sharon Brown, prayers that medication will stabilize MS; Bill Conner, health concerns; Joe Dablock, cancer; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Jeff and Jenny Whitehead, friends of Joe and Sue Dablock.

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STAFF:

Admin. Assistant: Erin Tucker, ph. 501.504.6899
Transitional Pastor: Terry Simm, ph. 712.461.0918
Lay Pastor: Jim Hays, ph. 501.499.2885
Lay Pastor: Joe Pruet, ph. 501.733.1650
Organist: Lyle Rupert
Choir Director/Pianist: Eloise Stowe

ELDERS:

John Davis Ralph Scott
 Ray Crumbley Peggy Woosley
 Rosanne Johnson

OUR DENOMINATION:



OFFICE:

1010 Hogan Lane, Suite 2
 Conway, AR 72034
 501.504.6899
gracepres@conwaycorp.net

DEACONS:

Larry Dunn: 501.329.4348
 Jenny Harrison: 417.459.2550
 Karen Griffin: 501.269.2485
 Susan McNabb: 501.327.6674