

Grace Notes

September 2025

During our summer worship series on Moses, we noted the importance of Moses and the Israelites having a compelling and clear goal of experience a life of liberty in the promised land. Today, we would call this a vision statement. A vision statement focuses on what the result is meant to be. In the case of Moses and the Israelites, the vision (compelling and clear goal) is to experience freedom and liberty in the promised land.

Once the vision is understood every decision and action should work toward fully experiencing and realizing the vision. In the case of Moses and the Israelites, there are the things that shape a rag-tag band of ex-slaves who have never known freedom into a people that can truly embrace the freedom and liberty of the promised land. For example, receiving the 10 Commandments and 603 additional commandments over a three-month period at Mt. Sinai is a practical step toward realizing the vision of the promised land.

During one of the services, I reverenced that I could not find a mission or vision statement for Grace. Later, the following statement was found in a 2019 newsletter, "Grace United Methodist Church is growing into an open, welcoming, and accepting Christ-centered community, committed to sharing the transforming love of Christ, and loving all people all the time!" That is a compelling and clear goal (vision statement) for Grace.

The challenge before us is in determining the practical, God-led decisions and actions that move us toward fully experiencing and realizing this vision. In other words, what is our mission statement? What are the practical and measurable steps that focus out church's efforts toward experiencing the vision before us.

Let me give you a couple examples of what I mean. Jesus had a compelling and clear goal to seek and save those who were lost. In today's language, that is his vision statement.

Jesus' practical and measurable steps (mission statement) can be found throughout the gospels. We will use Luke 7:22, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor." The things Jesus tells John's disciples to report are practical (at least for Jesus) and measurable actions that work toward the fulfillment of Jesus' compelling and clear vision to seek and save the lost.

The Apostle Paul had a compelling and clear goal (vision statement) that all people, Jew and Gentile, would know Christ as their Lord and Savior. Paul's practical and measurable steps (mission statement) was to go throughout the Roman Empire preaching the saving grace of Christ in synagogues and on street corners.

During the month of September, we will consider possible practical and measurable steps that focus our church on fulfilling the compelling and clear vision to "build disciples for Christ by making God's love real to others." I want to encourage you to me in this journey, to share any thoughts and ideas that you have prayerfully discerned concerning practical and measurable steps we might take, and to be in continual prayer for the church as we seek God's direction.

Think about it. Pray about it. I hope you will join me for worship in September.
Pastor Kevin

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Office Hours: Tues. 11-4, Thurs. 11-3, Fri. 11-4

Sunday School: 9:30am

Worship: 10:45am

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Announcements

Grace Women Meeting

Tuesday, September 2nd @ 5:00pm
Ted Ensley Garden, Lake Shawnee

Grace Women in Faith will meet on Tue, Sept. 2 at 5:00 pm (note time change) at Ted Ensley Garden, Lake Shawnee. It's best to travel east on 37th to West Edge Road, turn left & into parking lot. The shelter house is next to the parking lot & walkway covered bridge. Everyone is to bring a salad to share and their own table service.

Most of you know that we had some A/C problems this summer. I'm happy to report that is working great now. Even better, we did not have to pay any extra for the work. It was included in our maintenance agreement with Samco. I also invite you to take a look at the floor in Fellowship Hall. Rachel & Alex have worked very hard to strip and re wax the floor, and it looks great.

We do have more building expenses to come. The A/C in the parlor is not working. This room is used by some of the groups that use our building, as well as small groups within the church. We will also need to be renewing our Samco A/C maintenance agreement for another year. We will be having a meal, provided by Claire & David Roth, on Sept 7, with donations going toward these and additional building expenses.

I want to thank everyone for your regular offerings to support our church. I also want to thank you for being generous when giving extra toward additional expenses, Mission Shares, Disaster Relief/UMCOR, Doorstep, etc. Those on Church Council know that our church struggles financially at times, and we need to try to be more transparent about this with the rest of the congregation. If anyone ever has any questions or concerns about anything, I encourage you to ask me or any other council member.

Valinda Hailey - Lay Leader & Council Chair

Combined Worship Team Meeting

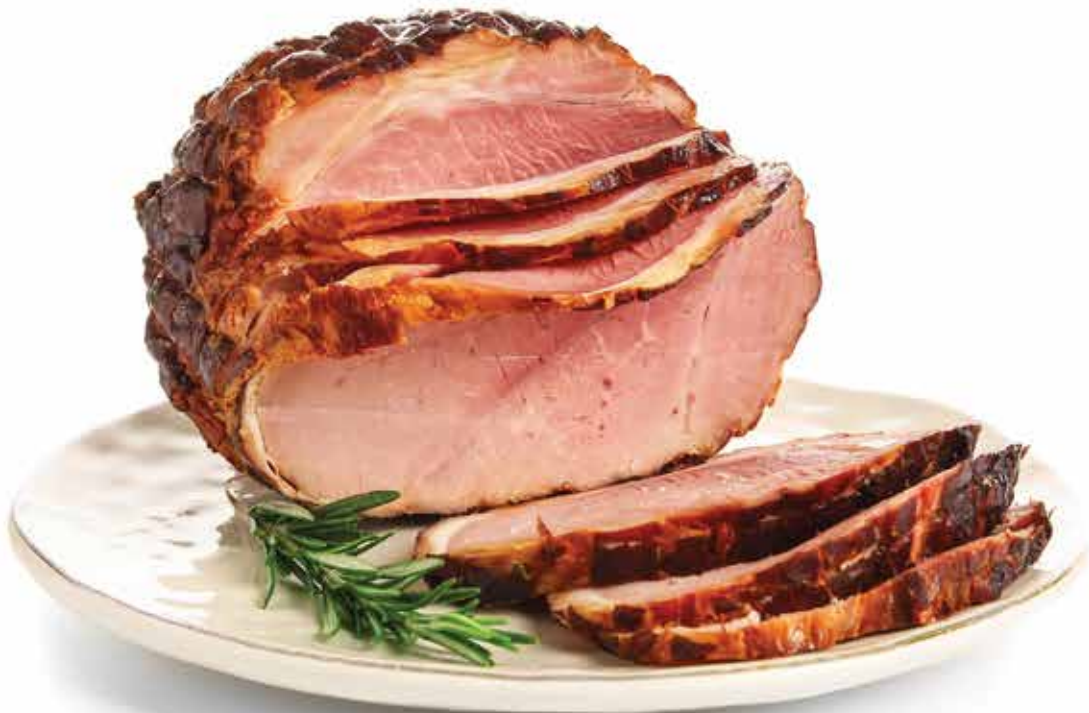
September 7th @ 1:15pm
Grace UMC

You're Invited

**Sunday September 7th
Noon-1pm @ Grace UMC**

Ham Dinner with Scalloped Potatoes, Fruit Salad, Homemade Bread, & Desserts

Everyone is invited to join our Grace church family, for a delicious fundraiser meal following our morning worship service!



Donation basket will be available and money will go toward church expenses.

Administrative Council Meeting

September 17th @ 6:00pm
Grace UMC

Current Doorstep Needs ~ August 2025

Clothing Room Needs: (Gently Used, Not New)

Men's Pajamas ~ All Sizes

Men's Shorts ~ All Sizes

Men's Jeans & Casual / Dress Pants ~ Sizes 32 & 34

Men's Shoes ~ All Sizes / Especially 10 ½ and up

Men's & Women's Tennis Shoes – ALL Sizes

Women's Pajamas ~ All Sizes

Women's Shorts, Sweatpants, Etc. ~ All Sizes

Women's Shoes ~ All Sizes / Especially sizes 9 and up

Boys Jeans & Shorts ~ All Sizes 4 - 18

Boys Shirts ~ Sizes 2 - 10

Boys Socks ~ Sizes L & XL

Boys & Girls Shoes ~ All Sizes / Especially for School Age

Girls & Teens Jeans, Shorts & Leggings ~ Sizes 5 - 14

Bed Sheets & Comforters ~ Twin & Queen

Toasters, Blenders & Coffee Makers

Feminine Hygiene products – Pads & Tampons

Diapers ~ Sizes 5 & 6

Hand Can Openers

Donations Accepted

Monday – Friday
9am – 2pm

1119 SW 10th Ave
(10th & Buchanan)
Use the South Door

Food Room Needs:

Pancake Mix & Syrup

Egg Noodles

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Canned Beans ~ (Pinto, Black, Chili)

Boxed Potatoes ~ Scalloped

Vegetable Soup

Spaghetti Sauce

Pork N Beans

Canned Fruit ~ Variety

Oatmeal

Baked Beans

Corn

Peas



Birthdays

Laura Flake 9/24
Emily Tucker 9/29

Anniversaries

Adam and Lauren Wolf 9/22

September Fellowship List

September 7th: Dave & Claire Roth -
Fundraiser meal

September 14th: Hibberts

September 21st: Rowene Helwick &
Gayle McCoy

September 28th: _____

Please sign up any time! The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board next to the office. Right now you can sign up for any open Sunday for the months of October, and November!

Scripture Readings

September 7

Jer 18:1-11
Ps 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)
Philem 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 14

Jer 4:11-12, 22-28
Ps 14 (UHM 746)
1 Tim 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 21

Jer 8:18-9:1
Ps 79:1-9 or Ps 4 (UMH 741)
1 Tim 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 28

Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15
Ps 91:1-6, 14-16 (UMH 810)
1 Tim 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

The deadline to submit information for the Grace Notes or calendar for October 2025 will be September 23rd. Anything submitted after that date won't be guaranteed a place. If there is an emergency addition please let the office know ASAP.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 12:00pm: AA - #3 7:30pm: NA - #3	2 8:00am: Master Gardeners - FH 5:00pm: Grace WIF - Lake Shawnee 5:30pm: AA - Parlor	3 5:30pm: AA - Parlor	4 5:45pm: Women AA - #3 6:00pm: TOPS - Parlor	5 6:30pm: NA - #3	6 12:00pm: Primary Purpose Anniversary - FH
7 12:00pm: Ham Dinner Fellowship - FH 1:15pm: Worship Teams Meeting - Parlor	8 12:00pm: AA - #3 7:30pm: NA - #3	9 5:30pm: AA - Parlor	10 5:30pm: AA - Parlor	11 9:30am: Coffee with the Pastor - Café Quetzal 5:45pm: Women AA - #3 6:00pm: TOPS - Parlor	12 6:30pm: NA - #3	13
14	15 12:00pm: AA - #3 7:30pm: NA - #3	16 5:30pm: AA - Parlor	17 5:30pm: AA - Parlor 6:00pm: Grace UMC Admin Council Meeting	18 9:00am: Senior Day Out 5:45pm: Women AA - #3 6:00pm: TOPS - Parlor	19 6:30pm: NA - #3	20
21	22 12:00pm: AA - #3 7:30pm: NA - #3	23 5:30pm: AA - Parlor	24 5:30pm: AA - Parlor	25 5:45pm: Women AA - #3 6:00pm: TOPS - Parlor	26 6:30pm: NA - #3	27
28	29 12:00pm: AA - #3 7:30pm: NA - #3	30 5:30pm: AA - Parlor				