



# Grace Abounds

July 2024

Grace Lutheran Church

A Center of Mission and Ministry—Celebrating and Sharing God's

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As always, I need to be reminded that my newsletter article is due on the 20th of each month! And so, faithfully, Valerie sent me that reminder. I made a note to myself to get that done! And then my day began to unfold! And it was one of those days – a day like I had not had in a long time. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong. I won't bore you with the details but a major water issue in our yard for which no one wanted to take responsibility, one technician saying he couldn't help because the office was closed for the Juneteenth holiday, a note saying we could not add items to an inspection when that's exactly what I had been told to do, multiple calls to multiple places but never reaching a real person – and on and on. How can I write a newsletter article in this frame of mind, I wondered? But, guessing that most of us, if not all of us, have days like this, I decided to tackle both my frustration and this article. And here's how I did that! My Wednesday morning book group has recently discovered a gifted American poet named Mary Oliver. Having spent some time with her poetry, none of us is sure why we had not heard of her before, but we hadn't. A couple weeks ago I had run across this poem by her and shared it with the group. It seems to fit today.

## I WORRIED!

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers flow in the right direction,  
will the earth turn as it was taught, and if not, should I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven, can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows can do it and I am, well, hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,  
am I going to get rheumatism, lockjaw, dementia?

Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing

And gave it up. And took my old body

And went out into the morning, and sang.

*"I worried" by Mary Oliver, from Swan: Poems and Prose Poems. @ Beacon Press, 2010.*

And so, needing to travel up to Grace for VBS, I took my old body out into the late afternoon, got in my car, pulled up Setting Eight on my phone and sang – all the way to Prosperity!

God's peace, *Pastor Jane*





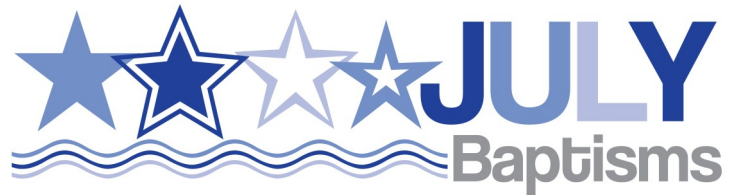
**JULY**  
Birthdays

- 4 Sue Mitchell
- 5 Bryce Medlock
- 6 Timothea Sharpe
- 7 Brande Fanara
- 9 Clyna Quattlebaum, Brad Waters
- 14 Jessica Shealy, Matthew Shealy
- 15 Jay Vaughn
- 16 Evelyn Harmon, Dale Shealy
- 17 Riley Chandler, Riley Eldridge, Haileigh Mercer
- 18 Robert Peters
- 20 Luke Chandler
- 21 Scott Epting, Steven Hill
- 22 Marci Bouknight
- 23 Jeremy Medlock, Dakota Senn
- 24 Jessie Mercer
- 26 Judy Bedenbaugh, Ashley Metts, Mary Grace Whitlock
- 27 Christina Henricks, Zoila Lipscomb
- 30 Buck Black, Johnny Merck



**JULY**  
Anniversaries

- 1 James & Christina Henricks (7th)
- 9 Glenda & Everett Crafts (64th)
- 15 Al Potter & Timothea Sharpe (23rd)
- 17 Russell & Ronda Mewbourn (20th)
- 18 Billy & Kay George (59th)
- 27 Robert & Sheila Martin (55th)



**JULY**  
Baptisms

- 10 Sally Dominick
- 13 Joanna Kiker
- 17 Margaret Kluttz, Paula Pridgen
- 21 Jaylan Burnore, Caroline Whitlock
- 23 Faye Hartman
- 30 Davis Till

**Let the Church Office Know When. . .**

- A family member is admitted to or discharged from the hospital
- A new baby arrives or a death occurs in the congregation
- Your team or group schedules a meeting date and time or changes its meeting date and time
- You are moving
- Your telephone number, e-mail address, or physical address changes

You may call the church office at 803-364-3331 (*answering machine is on 24/7*) or email the office at [gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com). In an emergency, you may reach Pastor Jane at 803-530-2045. You may also contact her by email at [pjmitcham@gmail.com](mailto:pjmitcham@gmail.com).



Go ahead and mark those calendars now. It will be here before we know it!

**Chrismon Tree Decorating Day**



Thursday, December 5  
9:30 a.m.



**June Honorariums & Memorials**

**Gifts to the Current Budget Fund**

In loving memory of David Riley by

- Chop and Teresa Cooper
- Johnny & Beverly Merck
- Thomas B. Jacobs
- Kelly Shealy
- Edna Riley for VBS
- Walt & Clyna Quattlebaum

In loving memory of James Rossett by

- Edwina Wicker
- Emmett Wicker

**Gifts to the Maintenance Fund**

In loving memory of David Riley by

- Ronnie & Paul Pridgen

In loving memory of Dorothy Nell Mould by

- Judy Bedenbaugh

**Gifts to the Youth Ministry**

In honor of Grace Youth by Deborah Ruff

**Grace Prayer List**

**Grace Family:** Cissie & Bob Dibble; Jayden Mitchell; Marysue Rivers; David Eldridge; Evelyn Harmon; Pastor Al Potter; Glenda & Everett Crafts; Heather & Bob Harris; Lois Amick.

**Residential Care:** Sadie Epting (*Springfield Place, Rm.11*); Allene Dawkins (*Springfield Place, Unit 4 #207*); Wendy and Michael Riley (*J.F. Hawkins, Rm. 221*).

**College Students:** Hayden Hall (*Piedmont*); Bryce Medlock (*Bluefield University*); Lexi Medlock (*Midlands Tech*); Payton Metts (*Piedmont*); Taylor Metz (*MUSC*); Bailey Stewart (*USC-Union*).

**Extended Family:** Chase Wessinger; Michael Torrence (*Jeanna Hall's brother*); Libby & Billy Bedenbaugh; Grey Westbury (*Sue Mitchell's great-niece*); Broko Boland (*Melodie Waters' cousin*).

**Military:** Staff SGT. Anderson Dibble (*Marines/ Stone Bay, NC- The Dibble's granddaughter*); Everett Crafts V (*Air Force/Guam- Glenda/Everett Craft's grandson*); Walker Eldridge (*USCG/Seattle, WA*).

**Community:** Joe White; Steve Culbertson; Landon Soper; Amy Frick Wicker

**God's World:** Victims of gun violence; Haiti, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and neighboring countries; those affected by wildfires, flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters; military families; homeless; jobless/underemployed; refugees; those suffering due to unrest and fighting throughout the world; our enemies.

**To add or remove a name from the Prayer List, please contact the office at 803-364-3331, leave us a note, or email us at: [gracelutherenprosperity@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutherenprosperity@gmail.com).**

**IN THE MAIL . . .**

Dear Pastor Jane, Friends, & Grace Church Family,  
Words can not express how much your prayers have meant to our family. We can honestly say that we felt the prayers, saw the many blessings, and witnessed God's hand at work! The outpouring of love has been overwhelming! Your gracious gift will help Michael and his family tremendously during the next several months as the chemo and radiation treatments have begun at Newberry Oncology. Please continue to pray for him and his family as he takes life one day at a time on this new journey.

May God bless you all!

Glenda, James, Michael, Kimberly & Josiah Torrence  
Jeanna, Brian, Hayden & Hunter Hall

**Serving in July**

**Assisting Ministers**

- 7** Judy Bedenbaugh
- 14** Candace Frick
- 21** Lillie Waters
- 28** Jessica Shealy

**Altar Greenery/Flowers**

- 7** Donna Jacobs
- 14** Linda Cromer
- 21** —
- 28** Beverly Merck

**Livestream Operators**

- 7** Johnny Merck
- 14** Brad Waters
- 21** David Luther
- 28** George Dawkins

**Acolyte**

Helena Mewbourn

**Communion Assistant**

Allie Waters

**Communion Preparation**

Wayne & Sue Mitchell

**Communion Clean up**

Teresa Cooper, Deborah Ruff

**Ushers**

Mike Whitlock, Chop Cooper, Andy Metz,  
Brad Waters, Lynn Wessinger

**Greeters**

Andrea Lewis, Robert Martin

**Offering Tabulators**

Chop & Teresa Cooper  
David Luther

**Altar Guild** Judy Bedenbaugh  
Nancy Derrick

**Pew Helper** Nancy Derrick

**Front Sign** Phil & Deborah Ruff

**Sanctuary Lamp Sponsor**



During the month of July the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in loving memory of David Harmon and in honor of Evelyn Harmon's 88th birthday this month. Given by Cindy Amick & Evelyn Harmon.



Altar Flowers

**There are 10 Sundays still available.**

Please sign up on the chart on the narthex bulletin board or contact the church office to reserve a date to sponsor the flowers.

**Stewardship Program**

This Fall we will be participating in a stewardship program, *Building a Culture of Generosity*, led by Michael Ward, in partnership with the SC Synod. If you have knowledge or desire to participate in a virtual training session this August, please contact George Dawkins or any council member as soon as possible. We hope to have five members from the congregation to participate in the training. Each will receive adaptable materials, guidance, and clear tactics for sharing information about Grace's ministry. We need you!

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
6/02	63	14	77
6/09	45	18	63
6/16	53	10	63
6/23	51	12	63



6/02	33
6/09	22
6/16	27
6/23	18

**Our Offerings for June**

*Through June 23*

*(Does not include May EFTs)*

**MINISTRY BUDGET** *Our Monthly Need: \$13,634*

Given during month.....	11,393.20
Given year-to-date.....	55,544.75
Goal through June 23.....	78,660.00

**MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP FUND**

Given during month .....	1,239.00
Given year-to-date.....	16,476.88

**PARSONAGE FUND**

Given during month.....	0.00
Given year-to-date .....	0.00
Fund Balance, June 23 .....	4,640.38

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Given during month .....	73.50
Given year-to-date .....	652.50

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Given during month .....	25.00
Given year-to-date .....	75.00

**CAMPERSHIP FUND**

Given during month .....	25.00
Given year-to-date .....	150.69

**COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

Community Assistance.....	25.00
Given year-to-date .....	125.00
Bookbag Food Ministry .....	455.30
Given year-to-date .....	665.40
Thanksgiving Meal .....	0.00
Given year-to-date .....	0.00
Total year-to-date .....	790.40

**SPECIAL 2024 OFFERINGS YTD**

Scholarship Fund Match 2023	386.38
Lenten Offering	698.12
Youth	105.69
Disaster Response	0.00
Souper Bowl (Feed Thy Neighbor)	326.51
Easter Lilies	231.00
Love Offering (Henricks Family)	960.00
Bereavement Meal Fund	10.10
Christian Schools	0.00
Love Offering (Torrence Family)	1,817.00
VBS Love Offering	20.00
VBS	444.00

**BUDGET Update**

**MINISTRY BUDGET**

Needed Thru June 23:	\$ 78,660.00
Given thru June 23:	\$ 55,544.75
<b>Amount Behind Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 23,115.25</b>



**Congregational Meetings**

Mark your calendars and plan to be here for these important meetings.

- ◆ June 30 after worship
- ◆ July 7 during Sunday School

These will be congregational information-ONLY meetings. Our Council and Call Committee will entertain questions from the congregation on the pastoral financial package ONLY!

◆ July 10, 6-8pm

A drop-in with our primary pastoral candidate on this Wednesday in the Ministry Center.

◆ July 14 after worship

A congregational meeting right after church on Sunday to vote on pastor and package. We would really like for everyone to be present if possible.



Summer Stewardship Reminder

Please don't forget your offerings if you are on vacation this summer. You can donate online at [graceluth.org](http://graceluth.org); mail in your offerings; or use the drop box by the front entrance.

**Manna House Item Needed for**

**July:** Packs of Dry Pasta

**August:** Canned Pasta Sauce



July 16 is the deadline for the August 2024 Newsletter.

**Council Meeting Minutes–Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

Council had Called meeting at 6:30 and permission was given to Call Committee to continue with call process.

**Council Meeting Minutes–Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

Opened meeting with devotions by Mrs. Deborah Ruff.

All reports were adopted with amended Pastor’s report.

David Luther updated council on Call Committee.

New members joining church.

Council to get in touch with Sunday School Officers for next year.

Approved Wightman’s request to borrow green stoles.

LSC Sunday approved for September 22.

Mrs. Lynn Wessinger to bring up preschool’s handicap plan at next board meeting.

Ministry Teams gave update:

Care and Fellowship Team will be chaired by Edwina.

Homecoming/Golden Age Sunday with be 10/20 with Pastor Eric invited.

Advent Fellowship gathering Dec. 1st.

Finance Team to meet about budget.

Old Business Discussed.

Arrangements made for Valerie’s upcoming vacation.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Frick, Council Secretary



**May Financial Reports**

	<u>Balance 5/1</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Balance, 5/31</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
Current/Budget Fund	\$ 51,591.48	\$ 10,706.06	\$ 9,291.20	\$ 53,006.34	\$ 11,218.68 CD
Maintenance Fund	\$ 51,231.30	\$ 2,267.95	\$ 320.00	\$ 53,179.25	n/a
Sunday School Account	\$ 3,315.59	\$ 145.00	\$ 188.87	\$ 3,271.72	n/a
Christian Schools Acct.	\$ 20,931.41	\$ 6,522.37	\$ 12,390.55	\$ 15,123.23	n/a
CS Educational Fund	\$ 5,809.43	\$ 657.00	\$ 824.37	\$ 5,642.06	n/a

Current Fund Balance does not include designated monies for the LED Bulb Fund (\$534.37); Bereavement Meal Fund (\$1,470.55); Choir Fund (\$325) or Sydney Shealy Memorial Gift (\$307.74) contained within the Current Fund Checking Account. \*\*Maintenance Fund balance does not include Parsonage Fund (\$4,640.38) contained within the Maintenance Fund Checking Account. It does include \$31,582.64 given for Roof Repair only.

# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	 Church office closed	5	6
<b>7</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School (Congregational Meeting during Sunday School) 10:30 Worship	8	9  6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 6-8pm Drop-In to meet Pastor candidate	11	12	13
<b>14</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Congregational Meeting after worship	15	<b>16</b>  Newsletter Articles Due	17	18	19	<b>20</b> Ministry Center Reserved 
<b>21</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	22	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> 9:30 am Newsletter Team	25	26	27
<b>28</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	29	<b>30</b> Church office closed this week.	<b>31</b>  7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal resumes			 Don't Take a Vacation from Church

# YOUTH GROUP News

## Youth at VBS!

Thank you to our youth who served as group assistant counselors and station helpers during Vacation Bible School and to those who participated as students too! Your presence at VBS was needed and appreciated!!

## Youth Volunteer at Manna House

Grace Youth enjoyed volunteering at Manna House on Tuesday, June 18 (with the help of some behind-the-scenes Grace adults too!) We were able to serve 9 families, which included 16 individuals! What a great opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus!



**June & July**  
Summer break for GYM Time

**Sunday, August 25**  
GYM Time 12-1:30pm  
*Faith, fellowship fun & food!*



## Youth , your input is wanted!

Do you have something you would like us to do as part of our monthly GYM Time? Maybe a game you'd like us to play or something to talk or learn about? There is now a suggestion box in the Youth Room! It will be there through the summer so we can try to implement some of your ideas in the fall. All suggestions are welcome!

We had a great time at Lutheridge and are ready for next year! Jaxon really enjoyed the hiking trails and Raelynn liked Vespers where she says she saw an angel one night!



Thank you to all who gave to the Campership Fund and we hope more of our Grace friends will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn more about Jesus, our world, ourselves, and others. Making new friends is awesome!

Love, Raelynn & Jaxon Wessinger





### VBS: Camp Firelight Fun

VBS 2024 was an exciting time Monday, June 17-Friday, June 21 at Grace. This year's theme was Camp Firelight, featuring Bible stories, camp songs, camp decorations, and camp fun. Twenty-two children from Grace and surrounding communities participated in this year's VBS, learning how to trust God to go with us, to lead the way, to share wisdom, and to give us peace. On Friday night, we had a fun closing celebration with a grilled hot dog meal, the sharing of songs from the week, and outdoor fun including an inflatable waterslide and bounce house and a slip n slide. A big thank you to this year's co-directors Meghan and Kellsey Bryant; our class and station leaders and helpers; and our kitchen staff who served delicious meals all five nights. Thank you to all who donated food to help with the nightly meals and who gave monetary donations to help with VBS expenses.

More photos from this week of fun can be found on our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA. Be sure to like and share our posts and photos to help boost our social media presence!



**So much fun!**

## 2024 VBS Staff

**Co-Directors:** Meghan Bryant and Kellsey Bryant

**Glowworms Counselors (Pre-K-K):** Meggie Kendrick, Lillie Waters, Camryn Shealy

**Lightning Bugs Counselors (Grades 1-2):** Cindy Amick, Ronda Mewbourn, Bailey Stewart

**Fireflies Counselor (Grades 3-5):** Andrea Lewis

**Music and Bible Story:** Kevin Boozer, Allie Waters, Raine Long, Alanah Turner

**Crafts:** Sue Mitchell, Hayden Hall, Emily Mills

**Games:** Sally Dominick, Deborah Ruff, Nathan Shealy, Jonathan Shealy, Matthew Shealy, Meghan Bryant, Kellsey Bryant

**Adult Class:** Johnny Merck

**Security:** Barry Hartman

**Photographers:** Jessica Shealy, Matthew Shealy

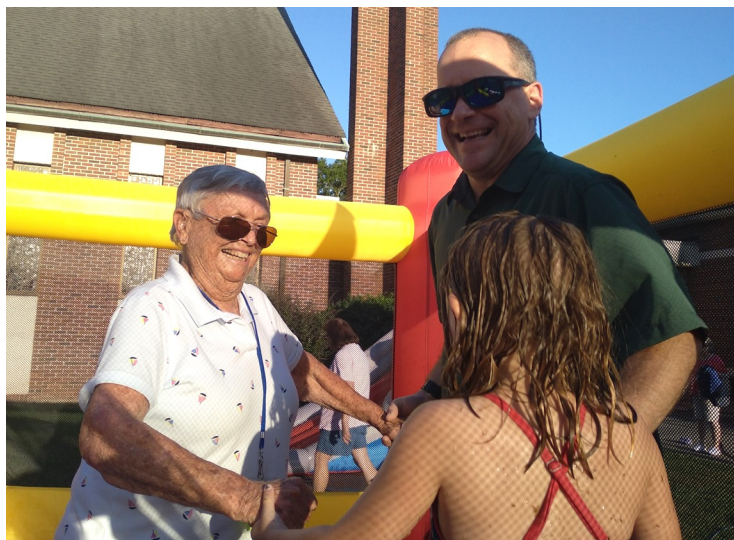
**Welcome Desk:** Jessica Shealy, Andrea Lewis, Nathan Shealy, Julie Shealy

**Scenery:** Emmett Wicker

**Online Publicity:** Jessica Shealy

**Meals:** Mike Shealy, Julie Shealy, coordinators; Judy Bedenbaugh, Kathy Brown, Nancy Derrick, Beverly Hawkins, Dale Shealy





**Fun for All!**





**Grace Lutheran Church**  
 210 Grace St.  
 P.O. Box 188 (Mailing Address)  
 Prosperity, SC 29127  
 Graceluth.org  
 803-364-3331

*Gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com*

*Ministers: The People of Grace*

*Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jane P. Mitcham*

*Online Giving*

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## Coming Up at Grace



### **Deadline is July 1st**

The Grace Scholarship Fund provides assistance for active Grace members enrolled in post-high school degree programs. Applications for the Grace Scholarship are available in one of the wall pockets outside the church office window.



**CONGREGATIONAL  
 MEETINGS**

### **Important Meetings**

**June 30** after worship

**July 7** during Sunday School

**July 10** 6-8pm Drop-in to meet the pastor candidate

**July 14** after worship to vote on pastor & package.

*More details on page 5 of this newsletter.*