

November 2021



WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

ADOPT-A-SOLDIER & GIVING TREE!

We have a couple of opportunities this month to bless the lives of some special people! Please see the articles from Bonnie & Jamie about these two programs!

"CHAT" SURVEY THRU NOVEMBER!

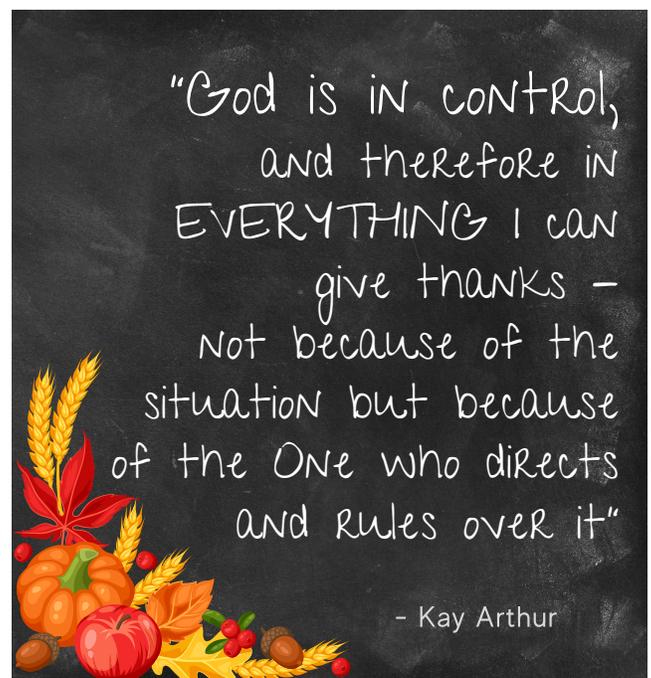
We are looking for your input! In order to get a more complete view from our Grace Church family, we will be using the "Church Health Assessment Tool". See page 2.

WOMEN OF GRACE REFLECTION -PG. 4!

Mary Senn sat down for a chat with Sue Voll recently, and shares her conversation with Sue in this month's *Women of Grace Reflection*.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS...

- Nov 7 Worship with Communion
 Veterans Recognition Day, "Adopt-a-Soldier" begins
- Nov 8 Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
- Nov 11 Missions Team Meeting, 6:30pm
- Nov 14 Giving Tree goes up!
 Congregational Meeting follows service
- Nov 15 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Eve service, 6:30pm
- Nov 25/26 Church office closed
- Nov 27 Men's "No Regrets" meets at Rolling Meadows Rest.
- Nov 28 Advent begins. No Kids classes, AWANA or YOUTH



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Elders will have wisdom as they seek God's face and God's direction for us to join in His mission as the Grace Family, and as they look for God's guidance in shepherding His people.
- Pray for the Deacons to have wisdom as they come along side hurting people, and steward the resources with which we have been blessed.
- Pray for the Ministry Leaders to experience God's presence and power as they lead their ministries.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- **8:45am** Sunday Mornings at Grace Church
- **6:30pm** Tuesday Evenings Corporate Prayer at Grace Church
- **6:30am** Wednesdays Men's Prayer - Prayer Room
- **8:00am** Thursday Mornings Men's Coffee Fellowship & Prayer at Grace

PRAYER & ENCOURAGEMENT CONNECTIONS

- Mondays at noon
- Wednesdays at noon
- Fridays at 7:30am

The easiest way to access these Zoom gatherings is to go to the homepage of the website, hover your cursor over the "Contact Us" tab and click on the "Prayer & Encouragement" tab. Use the password **ConnectwGRACE** to access the links for each time!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

Dear Grace Family,



I have enjoyed every conversation I've had with members of the Grace Church family. I have learned what you love about the church and your concerns and hopes for the ministry. Unfortunately, I know it simply won't be possible for everyone to visit with me in person about the church and therefore, I suggested to the Transition Team the use of this survey as a way to get feedback from a greater number of people.

The team has endorsed using this method to solicit everyone's assessment of the health of Grace Church, so we will be using the online tool - C.H.A.T. It stands for "Church Health Assessment Tool."

C.H.A.T. will be available from November 1-November 30 to everyone over the age of 15 who is associated with Grace Church. It takes about 20-25 minutes to answer multiple-choice questions that will help in the process of determining the next steps for the leadership and evaluating the priorities of Grace Church as we move forward.

Watch your email on November 1st for the link to access the survey. Hopefully, accessing this online will be an easy process, but we will also have paper copies of the survey available through the church office, in case you do not have computer access, or have difficulty accessing it online. Login information will also be available at the Information board in the narthex.

Coming November 1 - let's C.H.A.T.!

Pastor Mark, Interim Pastor Ministries

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Join us after the worship service on Sunday, November 14th for an important congregational meeting.



NEWS & NOTES



Updates from the Interim

I am grateful to all those of the church family who have taken time to meet with me and talk about the blessing that Grace Church has been to them, as well, as sharing their hopes and dreams moving forward in this time of leadership transition. The talks are helpful in my role of working with the Transition Team (the Elders) and the process of evaluation and planning for the leadership needs of the ministry.

As we all see greater needs in our community and the culture in general, rest assured that God is at work in all those faithfully and sacrificially giving themselves to Him for Kingdom service. The challenges are great, but God is greater!

There is still time for us to get together! Simply email me at voll@gracechurchfdl.org, call the church office, or call my cell phone at 479-372-8853 and we'll set something up.

"The future is as bright as the promises of God!"

Mark Voll, Intentional Interim Pastor



Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Wednesday, November 24th | 6:30pm | here at Grace

THE GIVING TREE



HELP GIVE CHRIST'S LOVE THIS SEASON!

Through this ministry, we provide prayer, gifts, and a reminder of the TRUE meaning of Christmas to families in need, and to share the joy of Jesus' love with them by caring for and showing God's love in a personal way. This year we are adopting teen moms and their babies through Youth For Christ's Parent Life Program.

To get involved, choose a tag (or several!) from the tree, pray for that person, and purchase the gift(s) requested. We will also be putting together food boxes to give to these families. There will be various food items listed on tags as well as gifts.

Please drop off the wrapped gifts and any food donations to church by Sunday, December 12th. Keep the tag with the gift, to assure that it will get to the correct recipient. Monetary gifts or gift cards may also be donated by dropping them at the Giving Tree, or the Information Center.

Help is needed on Monday, December 13th to pack and sort gifts in the narthex.

There may be a need for some Secret Shoppers to fulfill some of the requests. If you would like to participate in this way, please watch for more information, or speak to Jamie Trewin.

Please consider getting involved with this wonderful ministry opportunity, offered by the Global Missions and Local Outreach Team.

Many blessings from your Giving Tree Coordinator
Jamie Trewin.

Help us collect stamps for the Alliance Stamp Ministry!



You may be wondering, **do used stamps have any worth?** Actually, yes. A stamp, once it has been cancelled by the Post Office, cannot be used again. Used stamps can be resold to stamp distributors, who then sell them to collectors. The Alliance Stamp Ministry receives thousands of used stamps from all parts of the United States and Canada as well as from many foreign countries. Volunteers sort stamps into categories. United States stamps are divided into these categories: common, commemorative, love, Christmas, nonprofit, high value, airmail, off paper, and computer-generated stamps. Canadian and all foreign stamps are also welcomed. These stamps are then sold to wholesalers. We greatly appreciate collections and albums of stamps. **What happens to the funds that are generated?** Since 1971, the purpose of this ministry has been to support the work of missions, specifically the publishing and distribution of Spanish language Sunday School curriculum. **It is very helpful** if you are able to send the stamps already trimmed. This lightens the load of the team that faithfully works in this ministry at Shell Point Village in Florida. Stamps should be cut from the envelope and trimmed, leaving a 1/4 to 1/3 inch margin around the stamp. We can use any type of postage including torn or wrinkled stamps. **DO NOT** soak them off the envelope. Drop your stamps in the basket above the coat rack in the narthex. Thank you to Justeen Bond for facilitating this project here at Grace!

The Church Office will be closed on
November 25th & 26th.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!



Advent is just around the corner! We will be looking for families to help light the Advent wreath during the worship services. Contact the Office to volunteer.



NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

- Nov. 7 - Red White and Blue Night
- Nov. 14 - Adopt A Soldier Night
(bring item's for soldiers with a letter)
- Nov. 21 - Inside Out Night
- Nov. 28 - **HAPPY THANKSGIVING (NO AWANA)**



Monthly Reflection

A SIT DOWN WITH SUE



Submitted by Mary Senn

Someone once said, "Bettering the lives of others is the role of a person with a servant's heart." It is that type of heart I found when I sat down with Sue Voll to write this short story about her. I found myself noting again and again how she has faithfully served those around her.

As the third of eight children and the oldest girl, Sue embraced the role of a servant at a very early age. To this day, she continues to have a close relationship with her siblings. In fact, when Mark & Sue accepted this call to Grace Church it reunited them all once again in Wisconsin. Sue's father passed away a couple of years ago so this opportunity to be in Fond du Lac will also allow her to spend more time with her mother.

Sue attended Lakeshore Technical Institute, presently Lakeshore Technical College, following graduation from Port Washington High School. It was while there she met a handsome young man named Mark Voll, also attending Lakeland College. A short courtship *en "Sue"d* and the following January of 1977 they were married.

Was the path of the young newlyweds clearly defined in 1977? As is true for so many of us at that time in our lives, unexpected twists and turns occurred when the Lord's plan was about to be revealed.

Mark worked in administration at Lakeland for a time and then began selling Home Fire Alarm Systems. (This brought a smile from Sue.) Apparently, they didn't share this job change initially with their families. Sue's father was not in favor of Mark's business plan at that point and arranged instead for Mark to interview for a sales position with a man he knew at Northwestern Mutual Life. When Mark told his father what Sue's father had in mind, Mark's father advised, as only a pastor can, "Would you reconsider being an agent of *life assurance*?" And that's what they did. Mark started seminary in the Twin Cities, while Sue took a job as a medical assistant in a doctor's office. She said she was getting her PHT (Putting Hubby Through) Degree. Her life of servanthood was beginning to be shaped by God on a new and different level.

God's plan for their lives has directed them to serve in various churches in Wisconsin. For the past 13 years, they have served in a church in Arkansas. They have faithfully followed the Lord's leading to each church calling and also to even leave the denomination in which they were raised. A servant is defined as one who is "free to act within the bounds of God's will". As I spoke with Sue, I never felt that this life of servanthood was one that came with obligations but rather a freedom to follow God's leading.

Today, along with serving our congregation, Sue and Mark enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking and kayaking. They also enjoy music, as we have witnessed, cooking together and especially enjoy playing various table games.

I'm sure that if you have had a chance to speak with Sue you have found an open and caring soul who would love to get to know you too. I encourage you to have your own "Sit Down with Sue". You'll come away blessed!

Missions Highlight: LOCAL

ADOPT-A-SOLDIER & THE GIVING TREE

(SEE PAGE 2 FOR INFORMATION
ABOUT THE GIVING TREE)

Adopt-A-Soldier

Beginning Nov. 1st there will be a tree set up in the narthex for our men and women in the service. We are collecting items again this year to bring a little holiday spirit to them as they are away from their families, and need to feel the love of Jesus and family back home.

Be sure to keep your items small (travel sizes) as they are easier to pack. Also, be sure to include a letter with your gifts. If you want to write a letter to a specific soldier we will be sure it gets in their packages. We are asking each Discipleship class if they would be interested in having their kids write a letter or draw a picture. It's also a great opportunity for small groups to work together to create their own care package for a certain soldier.

We will supply boxes and will be taking care of shipping. We are again looking for people interested in baking cookies to go with packages. 1 Corinthians 9:7 says: "For God loves a cheerful giver."

If you feel like you are unable to shop but still would like to get involved, we can have someone shop for you or you can give a monetary donation to help with shipping if you prefer. Write a check out to church and mark as: Adopt a Soldier Project and we will take care of the rest. The cost to ship one box is \$19.00 APO, In Country \$21.90.

Please pick a tag off the tree in narthex (no need to register) and purchase items and return them (with the tag) to church by Dec. 5th.

If you choose to bake cookies they need to be returned to church by Dec. 5th. Please place your items in the trunk or under the tree in the narthex.

If you have a loved one serving, please call the church office with their name and address or contact Bonnie Springborn (coordinator) via email bonnbonn1@charter.net or the church office at (920) 922-7211 or office@gracechurchfdl.org



"THE VETERAN"

Today I was reminded of
What time could not erase
As I walked through the halls I felt
A sadness in this place
A building filled with history
Our books will never see
Their stories are the pages locked
Inside their memory
It's one of many you will find
That's scattered everywhere
These people come here hoping to
Receive the proper care
I saw a few in wheel chairs and
So many used a cane
Some walked just fine but in their
Eyes

Was where I saw the *pain*
These Heroes have been marked for
Life

All here surrounding me
They've shed their blood
While others died
To keep this country free
I still remember stories of
A war my Dad went through
Each one was told with Army Pride
He called it "*World War II*"
And later "*The Korean War*"
Forced troops to say good-bye
Because Korea's North and South
Could not see eye to eye
Then "*Viet Nam*" decided to
Raise up it's ugly head
Like all the wars, the damage left
So many people dead

When troops came home they had to
face

Another kind of war
A "War of Words" that added wounds
As if they needed more
The latest war was televised
For all the world to see
Called "*Operation Desert Storm*"
Performed so perfectly
This war had ended quickly
But our troops cannot forget
They're constantly reminded

That the "Storm's not over yet
These wars do not discriminate
Religion, sex, or race
The bombs, grenades and poison gas
Takes lives we cannot replace
And weapons don't have boundaries
They claim what's in their way
What will it take to stop these wars
Right here right now, today
Our troops are thought so highly of
When they are called to war
But when it's over they are not
Remembered anymore
And what about the ones still lost
Are they forgotten too?
Is anyone still searching for
The ones who fought for you
These men and women suffer more
Then you will ever know
When war is over they still fight
A war that doesn't show
Each one deserves the very best
For what they have been through
Your proof is V.A. Hospitals
I am sure there's one near you
We all want Peace and Harmony
But something's always wrong
These buildings might become extinct

If we could get along
My husband fought the last two wars
Which stole the heart he had
He wears that look of war abuse
Just like my precious Dad
I don't have all the answers but
I know one thing for sure
The anger has to leave before
A healing can occur
**America is free because
Of Veterans today**
And more of them still yet to come
Will also have to pay
So when you exercise your rights
Remember why you can
You see, I can't forget because
I am "*The Veteran*"

BY: Freda H. Babinski
GOD BLESS YOU



The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures ... we might have HOPE.”

Romans 15:4

The Bible is a message to us from God Himself. The Bible is Truth. More importantly, the Bible is our greatest source of hope! Through God's word, His wonderful plan for us is made possible, and by reading His word we are continually being drawn closer until to that day He calls us home. There isn't any situation in life to which God's word can't be applied.

Jesus was teaching about God's word in Luke 8, when, in a parable, He compared it to the seeds being planted by a farmer. He confused His disciples and they asked Him to explain. He said many people will hear the word, but few will accept it and live by it. Some hear God's word and like a seed falling on a road, the devil comes and snatches it away. Some accept God's word and believe it for a while, but when trouble comes, they abandon it, they give up. Some seed falls amongst the thorny weeds, and people hear it, yet they are more interested in the things this world offers and rebuke it. Yet some seeds will fall on fertile ground and it's heard and practiced with honest and open hearts and produces good fruit.

God's word serves as a lamp for those who believe and it will show us the way through any problem or difficulty. So, if you're looking for answers today, and the problems you might be facing seem insurmountable, confusing, and uncertain ... take time to study God's word. Pray for answers and He will direct your path and allow you to face whatever difficulty you may be going through fully prepared. *Did you know that the phrase, “Do not be afraid” is written in the Bible 365 times?* Maybe God is trying to tell us something, for it is His daily reminder that we can live today, and every day, fully confident that He is directing our paths. One more verse to share. It's from Psalm 18:30 ... *“As for God, His way is perfect ... the Word of the Lord is flawless ... He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him.”*

Lord, open our eyes this morning to the daily message of encouragement we find in Your Holy Word. Open our minds and hearts to being receptive to what You have to teach us today. Fill us with Your grace and truth.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Corinthians 12: 9

What is grace? Throughout the Bible, we hear it mentioned many times. The worldly meaning of grace is ... “a simple elegance of movement, poise, gracefulness, agility.”

To a Christian, the word grace means ... “the free and unmerited favor of God.” Grace is not recognizable by our senses. Our eyes can't see it, nor can we touch it or smell it. Grace isn't something we can obtain or purchase in a store or online, and even the richest man on earth can't afford it. To the outside world, a Christian has a difficult time explaining exactly what grace is.

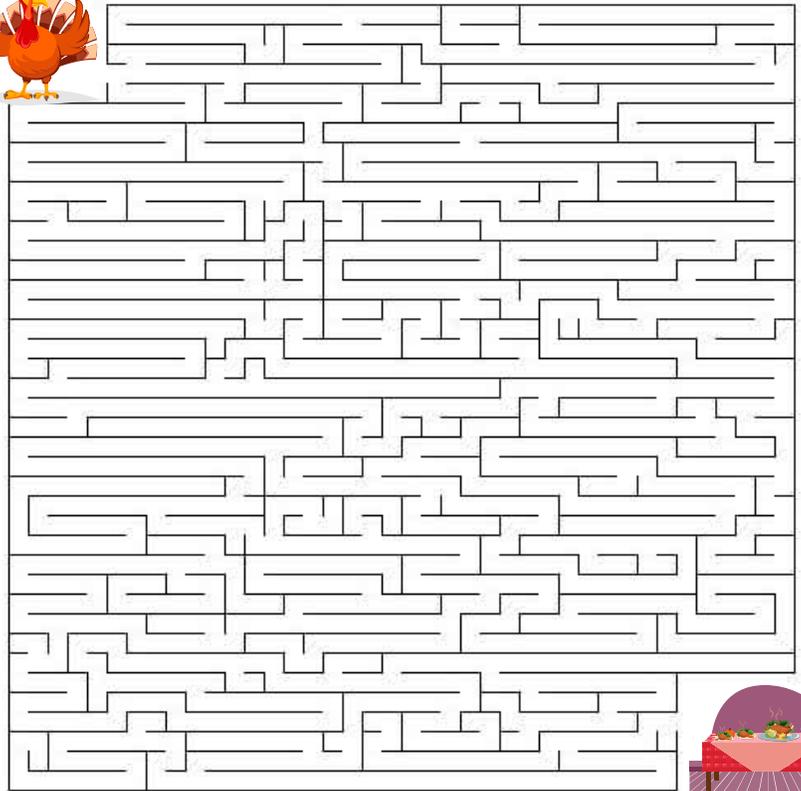
Now I am not an authority on God's grace. In fact, none of us who experience it truly are aware of its mystery. So let me explain what grace is to me. There isn't a second that will go by today that I will not have God's grace present in whatever I am doing. I think grace is that gift that allows someone to forgive someone who has done them wrong. I think grace is doing something for the elderly person down the street, without seeking an award. I think grace is recognizing the hurt that someone is experiencing and lending them your attention as they tell you what they're going through. I think the gift of grace comes whenever we put someone first, above ourselves. I think grace is when our conscience tells us when we are doing wrong, and grace is what allows us to seek forgiveness. I think grace is what gives us the courage to stand up for what is right, even when we are belittled or made fun of. *As a Christian, I believe God's grace is ever-present in everything I do.* If grace is something you're missing in your life, I am here to tell you it is free for the asking. But it doesn't come into your life until You invite Christ to live in your heart and confess that you're a sinner. Then God, through His Holy Spirit, brings grace into your life in overflowing measure, and your life will never be the same.

Father, thank You for Your free gift of grace. None deserve it, yet You give it to us freely. Help those who are seeking peace and answers to their problems, let them come to know You and Your Holy Spirit through Your Son, Jesus.

Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!

ENJOY SOME
THANKSGIVING
FUN!

Happy
THANKSGIVING



Help Tom the
Turkey avoid
Thanksgiving
dinner!

Give Thanks

WORD LIST

- BIBLE
- JESUS
- CHOCOLATE
- LIFE
- CRANBERRY
- LORD
- FOOD
- MERCY
- FRIENDS
- PETS
- GIFTS
- PRAYER
- GOD
- PUMPKIN
- GRATEFUL
- REDEMPTION
- HEALTH
- SPIRIT
- HEAVEN

R	E	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	S	O	E
S	P	I	R	I	T	Y	M	P	L	T	H	S	G
J	P	T	S	T	E	P	E	R	T	P	G	Y	O
I	T	F	O	O	D	N	R	A	Y	B	N	F	D
I	D	D	S	E	L	A	C	Y	H	N	I	R	E
J	E	J	E	S	U	S	Y	E	E	I	V	I	Y
L	U	F	E	T	A	R	G	R	A	K	I	E	S
R	P	O	I	E	I	E	T	U	L	P	G	N	T
Y	F	M	O	L	D	R	O	L	T	M	S	D	F
L	I	B	N	R	G	H	N	A	H	U	K	S	I
N	O	I	T	P	M	E	D	E	R	P	N	C	G
B	B	I	B	L	E	S	N	A	A	Y	A	T	D
B	E	T	H	E	A	V	E	N	L	E	H	I	D
S	R	Y	R	R	E	B	N	A	R	C	T	E	A



163 18th Street
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935
 office@gracechurchfdl.org
 www.gracechurchfdl.org

CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:
 Sunday mornings at 8:45am
 Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
 Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.

*All meet at
 Grace Church
 building*

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Pastor Grant Baumgart - *Worship & Admin*
 cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.org

Pastor Brad Rutherford - *Youth & Family*
 cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.org

Pastor Mark Voll - *Interim*
 cell: (479) 372-8853 email: voll@gracechurchfdl.org

Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*
 phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.org

Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel*
 email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.org

Custodian - *Mark Jopling*
 phone: 922-7211 cell: (920)979-3944

Custodial Assistant - *Jen Koenigs*

Elder on Call: Friday, Saturday & Sunday
 (920) 948-9262

Offering & Attendance

9/05/2021	\$7,483	170
9/12/2021	\$8,347	170
9/19/2021	\$9,554	175
9/26/2021	\$9,470	170

September Weekly Ave: \$8,713.50 171
 (September shortfall **-\$13,284**)

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
 \$10,142**

Year to Date Givings	\$112,393
Year to Date Expenses	\$127,769
Year to Date Shortfall	-\$15,376

Totals reflect September month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
December Words of Grace
 to the church office by **November 15th**.
 You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or
 office@gracechurchfdl.org

Office Hours are:
 Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm
 Friday 8:00am-11:30am