

Grace Notes

Monthly for the members and friends of Grace Church | Middletown, Virginia



June, July and August 2023

Senioritis People

Well, school is over and those last report cards have been sent. Hope all your grades were good! I've noticed something in the past few months that I had completely forgotten about when I was in my Senior year of high school. Senioritis! This is a problem that mostly seniors have. The symptoms: An "I don't care, I'll graduate anyway." attitude and slacking off in doing homework and studying for tests. The results are less than desirable grades for the last grading period in school.

With the summer months here, sometimes we Christians, can come down with our own version of Senioritis! We get the "I don't care if I'm not at worship today" attitude and we slack off in attendance and giving of our time and tithes. We begin to think that if we are loyal to the church all winter long, then we can take off for the summer like the children are off from school.

For all you Senioritis people, let me ask you a question...Does God take the summer off? NO! God is diligent and faithful to His people. Even if we give up on God, God never gives up on us. So let me give you some suggestions to combat this grave problem!

First, remember God's faithfulness to you. It's where we need to begin. After you know this with all your being, then you will be ready to respond to that faithfulness by being faithful to God. Do this as a way to thank God for His being there always!

Second, if you go on vacation and are away from your home church, find a church to attend on Sunday where you are vacationing. When I went to Myrtle Beach, I found a United Methodist Church just a couple of blocks from my hotel. I was welcomed and enjoyed a children's program that Sunday! What a treat for me and for my soul! Just remember to check out signs or grab the phone to call and find the times of service.

Third, whether you are away from church for vacations or for family reunions, or any other festivity, remember the work of your home church goes on. That means we should continue to be faithful in giving our gifts, tithes, and offerings to the church. Just bring it with your regular offering the next Sunday or send it with a friend to put in the offering plate for you.

Lastly, remember that wherever you go, have fun, be safe, and know that your church family will miss you. I pray you all have a fantastic summer and look forward to all the ministry God will direct us to do together this summer.

Blessings,

Pastor Mary

Thank you, Pastor Mary Lock, for all you have done for Grace UMC in this past year. We are looking forward to having your spiritual leadership and guidance in your second year with us!

Prayer Shawl Committee

The beautiful yarns that have been donated are being put to good use. Several shawls have been distributed recently, and quite a few are ready to be blessed so that they are ready to give. A date is being decided to have a blessing. Also, many hats are already made for distributing in the fall.

If you know of someone who would benefit from the comfort of a prayer shawl, please see Michelle Cissel or Pastor Mary.

Special Events

In honor of our mothers on Mother's Day, May 14th we asked members to bring a picture of their loved ones. What a lovely display of pictures for everyone to see!



In honor of our fathers on Father's Day, June 18th we asked members to bring pictures of the loved ones. Thank you to everyone who brought a picture for us to see.



On July 19, 2023, Grace UMC will be sponsoring a Blood Drive from 11 am to 4 pm. We need blood donors as our goal is 30 scheduled appointments. To schedule an appointment, click [here](#). If you need assistance in scheduling let Diane Wittreich know, and she will assist you.

CPR & FIRST AID CLASS

We will be holding CPR and First Aid class on Saturday, July 29 from 9 am to 1pm here at Grace. Paul Cissel, Michelle Cissel's husband, will be our instructor. The class is \$20 which includes a book needed for the class. There is a sign-up sheet on a table outside of the office for you to write your name and if you want only CPR or both CPR and First Aid.



Church Service and Picnic

On July 30, 2023, our church service will be held in Middletown Park at 10 am with a picnic afterwards. A sign-up sheet is on the table outside of the church office.

Bible Study

We started a Scripture Study on the Gospel of Luke using The 50-Day Bible Challenge: A Journey with Luke edited by Marek P. Zabriskie on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. We meet every Tuesday (except for July 4th) from 1 pm to 2 pm at Wayside Inn to discuss the readings, ask questions, and sharing how God's word is transforming our lives.

Flower Fund

Thank you so much for participating in the Mother's Day and Father's Day dedications. We were able to deposit \$345 (MD=\$161 & FD \$184) into the Flower Fund. It will help so much in purchasing the Advent wreath, palms, special occasions, etc. Congratulations to the Dads! This is the first time we have had more donations for Fathers than Mothers. We appreciate your generous donations! Thanks to Diane Wittreich for creating both dedication flyers. **Helen Steele, Sherry Jenkins, and Carolyn Bell**

In Remembrance

We want to remember members of Grace who have recently died.

Frances Kane (100 yrs. Young) died April 23, 2023, at Blue Ridge Hospice Inpatient Care Center. A service was held April 28, 2023, at Omps Funeral Home.

Pamela Hinkle Hawkins died May 29, 2023, at her home. She is the daughter of Bardy Hinkle. No service is planned at this time.

Charles Richard "Dick" Legge died June 23, 2023, at his home. He is the husband of Anne Legge, father to Lisa Beauchamp and Tracy Madagan, and grandfather to Megan Bowers and Katie Fauver. A service was held at the Middletown Vol. Fire and Rescue Co. 12 on June 29, 2023.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

Outreach

Update from Bright Futures: We recently received a Thank You from Bright Futures for our donation of time, talent, and treasure this past school year. They provided almost 1,300 weekend food packs each week along with holiday assistance for 995 students. They also gave school supplies to over 740 students and expects the need to increase this upcoming school year. You can go to their website for more information:

<https://sites.google.com/fcpsk12.net/brightfuturesfrederickcounty/home>

Bright Futures Summer Wish List:

School Supplies but especially:

Markers	Highlighters	Lined Paper
Folders	Expo Markers	
Crayons	Glue Sticks	

We continue to collect items for C-CAP. Here is their Summer Wish List:

Adult Backpacks

Baby Wipes Individual Packs

Incontinence Pads

Gently Used/Clean Lines and Towels

Newborn Diapers

Hygiene Products: Baby & Adults

Adult Disposable Diapers

For a full wish list, go to CCAP's Website: <https://www.ccapwinchester.org/donate-or-volunteer>

Thrift Shop News

The dedicated Thrift Shop volunteers offer their thanks to you for donating your "hard to part with" items. We have met our goal in the adult clothing department however, we are still in need of children/infant clothes. And we would love for you to stop in and rummage through our "junk drawer" basket.

Quite a few travelers have seen our sign and stopped in to browse and shop. One traveler from Canada, with a very pronounced French accent, was excited to receive a Grace United Methodists Church coffee mug as a souvenir. A couple from Pittsburgh came by when we were pricing and hanging ladies dress suits. She and her husband were staying at Wayside Inn. They returned the next day and bought several of the suits. The Grace United Methodists Church Thrift Shop is also family.

Church website updated

The new website is up and running! Here is the link: <https://www.graceumcmiddletown-va.org/>

Library News

Thanks to the hard work of Sandy Good and Tara Walter, the church library has been organized and cleaned and is now open for you to use! Checking out books is easy, but there also several comfy chairs just waiting for someone to settle in with a good book. Directions on how to check out books is on the table just inside the library door. Sandy and Tara do ask that you check with them before leaving any books. Their contact information is on the checkout table, too. When you see Sandy or Tara, please thank them for taking on this mission for our church.



Congratulations Graduates of 2023!

Virginia (Ginny) Williams: Granddaughter of John & Mary Lock, graduating from Ardent Preschool. She will be attending Bluff Park Elementary in Hoover, Alabama

Regan Johnston: Parents are Alan & Brenda Johnston of Winchester and great-niece of Helen Steele, graduating from James Wood HS. She will be attending Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Ellie Johnson: Parents are Danny & Christen Johnson, graduating from James Wood HS. She will be attending Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia

Adam Hawkins: Son of Kate & Mark Hawkins. He graduated from Sherando HS. He will be attending Va. Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

Allyson Santmeyer: Parents are Andy & Kim Wright, graduated with a Nursing Degree from Laurel Ridge Community College, Middletown, Virginia.

Finances At a Glance

The finances of Grace remain stable through May with total offerings exceeding expenses. Many thanks to everyone who supports the church through their financial gifts. Please keep Grace in your prayers and give as you are able and led by the Holy Spirit.





Grace United Methodist Church
PO Box 61
Middletown, Virginia 22645

Website: graceumcmiddletown-va.org
Email: graceumcmiddletown@gmail.com
Phone: 540-869-1008
Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:30 – 10:20 am

Updates & Reminders:

Administrative Council meets June 28th at 6:30 pm.
Newsletter deadline for articles is September 15, 2023.

About Us:

Sunday Worship Services 8:30 & 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:30 – 10:20 am

Pastor: Reverend Mary J. Lock, 540-303-1076,
marylock@vaumc.org | Office Hours: Varies,
See board outside Pastor's Office.

Music: Joy Walker

Church Office:

Diane Wittreich, Administrative Assistant
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 10am-2 pm
Email: graceumcmiddletown@gmail.com
Phone: 540-869-1008
Web: www.graceumcmiddletown-va.org
Mail: PO Box 61, Middletown, VA 22645
Street: 7882 Main St, Middletown, VA 22645

Prayer Requests during the week: Call or email the church office or call Barbara Steele 540-869-2430. (Please leave a message if prompted.)

2023 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board in the Hamilton Hall Entryway - Please sign up to provide flowers for Sundays. See Sherry Jenkins or Helen Steele for info.

Grace Thrift Shop OPEN: Thursdays 10-3, Fridays 10-3, Saturdays 10-1. (Donations are accepted during shop hours.)

For your convenience we offer electronic giving. Visit our website and look for the PayPal Donate link, or visit:

<https://paypal.me/GraceUMCMiddletownva>