

GRACE NOTES



The Newsletter for
Grace Presbyterian Church
August & September, 2021

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Sunday School:

9:00 A.M.

Worship:

10:30 A.M.

Fellowship:

11:30 A.M.

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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

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Pastor:

Rev. Robert Brown

[gracepastor@gpcfw.org](mailto:gracepastor@gpcfw.org)

Cell: (260) 267-5367

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Administrative Assistant:

Justin Peter Gudel

graceoffice@gpcfw.org

Office: (260) 426-4712

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## FROM PASTOR ROB

My family does not wait for the cavalry to arrive. If we can fix a problem – even if the job belongs to someone else – we will.

I recently found myself thinking about a storm that happened the year between college and seminary. In Iowa, it barely registered as a bad storm, but it did knock a few dead and dying limbs off trees in our neighborhood. The limbs blocked some of the roads, not really stopping anyone but making it harder to get around or to the main road.

My mom and I did what we always do; we started fixing the problem. We moved limbs and broke down what we could without proper tools – not fully cleaning or disposing of the waste but at least getting it off the road so people could start moving a bit freer that day instead of waiting for the city or property owners.

This memory would probably have faded into the black hole of my forgetfulness if one small thing had not happened. A car full of young people – roughly my age at the time – drove past and said, “Hey, the city will take care of that.”

And they would have within a couple of days of the storm, whisked away the debris and the neighborhood would be normal again. That day, though, either we did it or people would have struggled to get around.

As a congregation, we just lived through a 16-month storm that has not ended yet and has brought devastation beyond a few downed trees. We will not know the extent of the damages – to relationships, to our church, to our own mental health – for a significant amount of time. We have a lot of ‘cleanup’ to do.

As we start this cleanup and start to see the work that needs doing, I encourage you to not think about who has done it before or whose job it might be; instead, think about how you can start the process and get us over a hump or two. “We’ve always done it that way!” doesn’t get the limbs out of the road, and those limbs will hinder us from growing and thriving.

Food for thought, at least.

Peace,  
- Pastor Rob





As we're rolling through the heat of summer, looking to the beginning of the school year, it's that time to think ahead to the choir. We are planning a joyful return to choral participation in our services. I'll be reaching out

individually to those who have participated in the past. As always, we welcome anyone who feels moved to join us. The more voices the better, and you don't need to be a pro!

This year will bring some challenges with some unknowns regarding the pandemic (we will adjust as needed to keep people safe). Additionally, my situation means I may not be present in Indiana at all of our services. With that said, as long as singers are willing, we will be back to making a joyful noise for our services Sunday, September 12. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday evening, September 9, 6:30 - 7:30 PM. I know how much I've missed having full choir participation in services and imagine you have as well.

If anyone has any questions, requests, or if you want to join in (and you haven't before), I'd love to hear from you in person at church or by phone!

Thomas Callahan, Music Director, (260) 227-0495

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## Per Capita

Just a friendly reminder to pay your Per Capita if you can! The payment for 2021 is \$41.42. It provides resources for the presbytery, synod, and the General Assembly's work to support and represent congregations. 65% goes to the presbytery, 13% to the synod, and 22% to the General Assembly. We pay Per Capita on every person on the rolls and your payment helps Grace a lot!

## Introductions From Your New Administrative Assistant

Greetings, my name is Justin Gudel. I'll be helming your church office for the foreseeable future — hopefully in a friendly and humble fashion. I am a big fan of the written word, board games, and behavioral economics. My wife, Allison, and I don't have any children but were legal guardians for a niece until she moved out to join the Army. Our new passion is fostering rescue dogs so that they are ready for their future forever homes. I'm a bit of a jack of all trades: I have a theology degree, this summer I painted one of the art benches for Fort Wayne Humane, and I do all the cooking in our house. Enough of the introduction, please feel free to drop by the office to say hello.

Justin Peter Gudel

**You are invited to Join us** – You are invited to join all of you Northeast Indiana Presbyterian Friends on Smock Senior Ministries Theater Trips! The bus for each of these trips leaves First Presbyterian at 10:15 AM! Tickets for each of these shows are \$35 and lunch will be on your own at St. James.

**July 29th:** Land That I Love

**September 30th:** Little Women

**December 9th:** A Christmas Musical

There will also dinner and a show of ***Godspell*** at Cornwell Theatre in Turkeyville, on August 12th. Tickets are \$40. You can contact John Current with questions.



**The Grace Youth Group met on Sundays all year long and finished the Sunday School year strong. They presented a Youth Sunday service in May. All members took part in the program with seniors Megan Mahoney and Katelynn Monnier being in charge of the messages.**



**Youth's Annual Donation** — As they have done for many years, the youth collected offerings for Heifer International. This organization's mission is to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. With the help of generous congregation members, they collected enough this year to donate two alpacas, ducks, and a 'Hope Basket!' The Hope Basket includes rabbits and a starter flock of chickens, along with training and education on their care.

**Gatherings and Sunday School** — Please watch for upcoming information on youth and adult Sunday School classes resuming in September. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office, Pastor Rob, or Cathy German.



## Special Offerings

### **Pentecost Giving Report**

The Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also addresses the needs of at-risk children. We have been collecting this offering during the month of June and our total collection was \$260. Of that total 60% which is \$156 was sent to Whitewater Presbytery Mission Agency and 40% which is \$104 will stay in our Pentecost Fund for our Mission Team to distribute.

### **Peace and Global Witness**

The special giving opportunity for September and October is the Peace and Global Witness program. It provides tools and resources to help our members and friends of the church to deal with conflict. Together we can aspire to being faithful peacemakers — in all times, in all ways.



### **Wellspring Interfaith Social Services**

Grace has many outstanding Mission Partners. Some are new and some we have worked with for decades. One of our oldest is Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, who are, "People of faith working together to support and enrich the lives of Fort Wayne's central city residents." From its beginning in 1968, the organization quickly expanded to offer a variety of programs focusing on food and clothing insecurity, and the educational, social, physical and recreational needs of at-risk individuals. In 2020, Wellspring directly impacted the lives of over 20,000 clients throughout Allen County — the most ever in this organization's history. Grace has worked with Wellspring in a variety of ways. In addition to our regular annual donation, the shopping cart in our Narthex is always overflowing due to the generosity of Grace's members and items are taken to down to them regularly at 1316 Broadway. We have also served a number of dinners to some of their clients, put on musical performances, and we found that Pastor Rob calls a mean game of Bingo which their clientele really enjoys! Like so many things, Grace's involvement with them has been limited over the last year, but we look forward to again working closely with Executive Director Melissa Rinehart and her outstanding staff.

*Photo: Todd German at Wellspring Christmas 2019*



**TinCaps Baseball game** — Are you interested in attending a TinCaps game this year? Please let Tammy (260-483-4856) or the office know how many people from your family would like to attend. There are no set details at this time. Just trying to get an idea of how many are interested. A very quick response would be appreciated.



**Garage Sale** — What a great sale we had this year. We had lots of items, lots of help, and lots of people attending. The sale made over \$400.00 with the proceeds to help the United Faith Food Bank and to assist with the purchase of a refrigerator for Foundation First. Special thanks to everyone who donated items for the sale. Also, thanks to Ken, Peggy, Joyce, Bill, Jill, John, Nancy, Tyler, Alex and Tom for helping with set up and/or tear down. All the donations and help were very much appreciated.

**Ongoing fellowship** — The Sarah circle is poised to start back up around the start of the school year. Additionally, as of now there are no upcoming dates from the Lunch Bunch. As always, keep your eyes on the bulletin and social media for the latest information.

### **The Mowing Team**

Special thanks to our members who sweated under the summer sun. Their hard work kept our landscaping the pride of our community. If you see any of them, tell them you have appreciated their efforts. This last crop of volunteers included: Aaron Bowers, Tyler Bowers, John Current, Todd German, Alex Monnier, & Tom Monnier. We ask for forgiveness if we missed anyone's name.

### **Not Sure What to Volunteer for**

Do you want to use your time and gifts for Grace and your community but you don't know where there is a need? We can always use help with: Sunday School, Youth, care cards, coffee, worship technology, and children's messages. If you can help contact the office.



# THE FACES OF GRACE



***Robert Gilbert's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday!***  
***Front: Nan Gilbert, Bob Gilbert, Dot Gilbert***  
***Back: Dave Gilbert, Deb Zimmerman, Brian Zimmerman, Dave Zimmerman.***



***Grace German looses at tag and becomes a Deacon during our laying on hands service.***



***Grace Presbyterian Praise Band***



***Gabe Evans, grandson of Pat Morrison and great- nephew of Bill and Jill Werlinf. Graduated from New Tech Academy part of Wayne High School. Plans to study accounting.***

### **Foundations First — Still Standing**

Foundations First is proud to say we are still standing after the pandemic season we've had to endure. We have had families come in and some go out but through all of this, we are grateful to still be able to serve the community as we do. Serving the community plays a huge role for Foundations First not just for the children but for the family as a whole.

### **Family & Community Friday**

In this regard, Foundations First will be celebrating family and community on Friday August 6th. We'll be hosting a carnival! All are welcome! This will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church at 6:30 pm tickets can be purchased for \$.25 or a bracelet for \$5.00. There will be bounce houses, concessions, raffles and more. We hope to see you there.



*Foundations First - playing in the new fenced in yard.*

### **Staying Connected**

Throughout August and September we want to polish and increase our online presence, both for those worshiping with us remotely and for everyone to stay connected after the service. To do this, we have a couple projects in the works:

### **More Social Media Content!**

Starting August 5th, look for "Throw-Back Thursday" pictures and more on our Facebook page. If you have ideas for regular or special content for Facebook, let Pastor Rob know. And be sure to visit us at [www.facebook.com/GracePresbyterianChurchFortWayne](http://www.facebook.com/GracePresbyterianChurchFortWayne).

### **Rebuilding the website!**

If you lead a group - say, M.O.E. or Congregational Life - get Justin a few sentences and/or pictures from your group. Look for updates about this project in August!

### **Facelift for the Bulletin Board**

Is there something you'd like to see on the bulletin board? If you have ideas for our communal wall-space please contact the office.



# Grace Birthdays

**Gregory Lilly** — August 9  
**Carol Fahrenbach** — August 9  
**Tammy Menkes** — August 19  
**Frank Lehman** — August 20  
**Jon Wolf** — August 21  
**Bob Fahrenbach** — August 24  
**Tom Weber** — August 28  
**Bill Werling** — August 31  
**Donna Parrish** — August 31  
**Meara Geist** — September 1  
**Bruce Barnett** — September 3  
**Maureen Rogers** — September 5  
**Brian Geist** — September 7  
**Doug Haller** — September 7  
**Judi Eckler-Queen** — September 7

**Rachel Lilly** — September 8  
**Lauren Widmann** — September 8  
**Dot Gilbert** — September 12  
**Anne Courtney** — September 14  
**Linda Haller** — September 16  
**Audra Widmann** — September 16  
**Kevin Hahoney** — September 19  
**Landon Seitz** — September 20  
**Mila Wolf** — September 21  
**Allison Schneider** — September 22  
**Steve Lochry** — September 23  
**Don Stoiche** — September 24  
**Tom Callahan** — September 25  
**Brian Zimmerman** — September 25  
**Todd German** — September 27

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***"I like you just the way you are." - Mr. Rogers***

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# Grace Anniversaries

**Matt & Teri Seitz** — August 9, 2003  
**Bryan & Beth Boggess** — August 24, 1965  
**Gregory & Rachel Lilly** — August 25, 2018  
**Steve & Kattie Lochry** — August 27, 2016  
**Don & Isy Bosse** — August 27, 1949  
**Troy & Karla Lee** — September 2, 2017  
**Jeff & Betsy Kachmar** — September 3, 1984  
**Kevin & Jennifer Mahoney** — September 28, 1996