



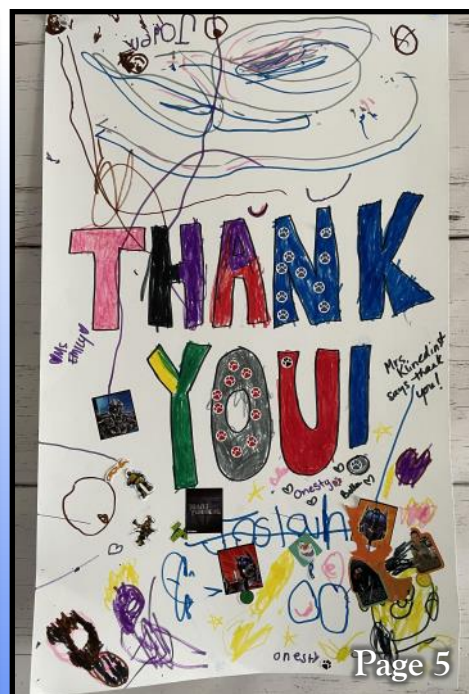
# THE 08 CONNECT - SEPTEMBER

A Newsletter of Grace Presbyterian, North Christian, & United Faith Churches.



*September, a time for sharpening pencils, warming up vocal chords, and opening books. In this edition you'll see Bible studies, choirs, and the fruits of our shared ministries.*

*As always, reach out to the 08 if there is anything that you feel we should cover or share for those in our congregations or those we serve. You can send those petitions to [graceoffice@gprfw.org](mailto:graceoffice@gprfw.org).*

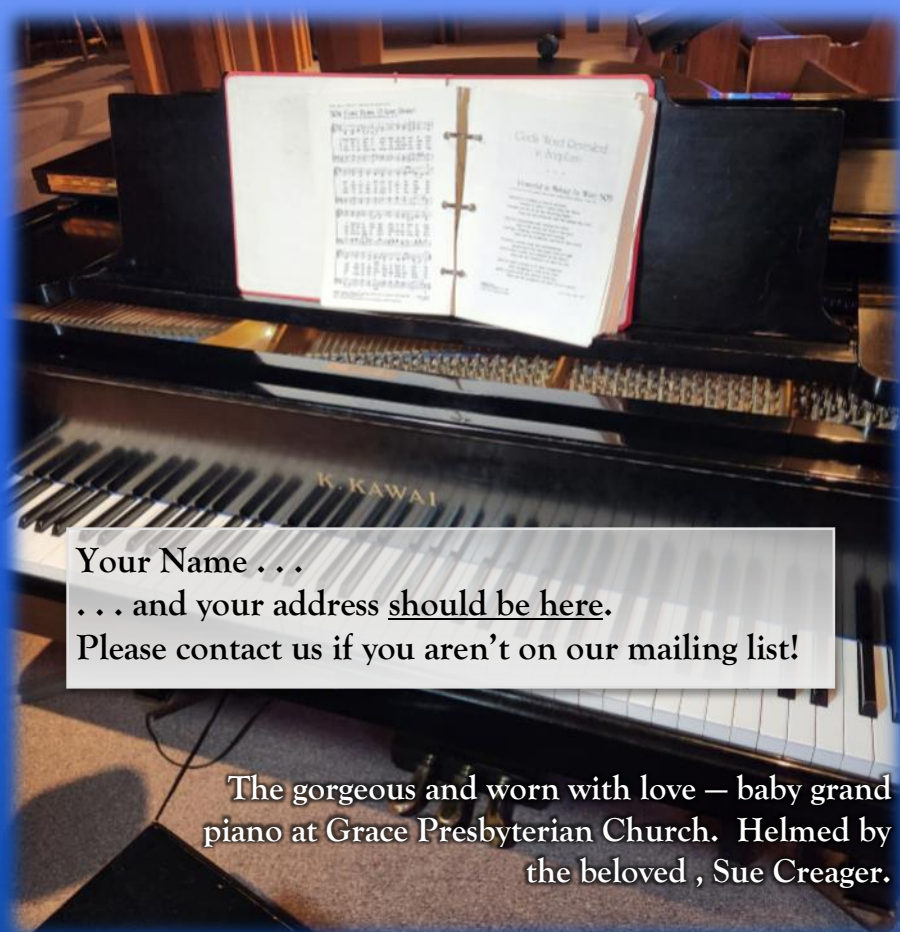


## Where To Find Us

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Your Name . . .  
. . . and your address should be here.  
Please contact us if you aren't on our mailing list!

The gorgeous and worn with love — baby grand piano at Grace Presbyterian Church. Helmed by the beloved , Sue Creager.

## Nothing but Waiting and Surprises.

Waiting is hard. I know that nobody likes to wait, but I think I'm worse than some. They say patience is a virtue. I'm pretty sure it's not one of mine. I like to make plans. I don't like not-knowing what's coming up. Heck. I don't like not-knowing what I'm going to make for supper!

This past month has been nothing but waiting and surprises. Waiting for doctors to fess up that they think they know something. Waiting to hear someone say, "Cancer." Waiting for test results. Waiting to schedule appointments. Waiting to hear, "Small and very treatable." Waiting to schedule surgery. Waiting to find out if they got it all. Having people ask, "We will help with anything. Just let us know when your is surgery?" And having to say, "I don't know, but thank you so much."

And the surprises. On Friday, August 18, I found out that not only will I have a lumpectomy, which has a short recovery time, but I will also have a hysterectomy. I had NOT planned on that, nor the much longer recovery time. Basically, our bodies are a balancing act, and we're all out of warranty.

That's when I realized it. It hasn't been nothing but waiting and surprises. It's also been about becoming aware of just how much people care.

And not just in my own congregation but in congregations with whom I have only had a relationship for a couple of years. It's been quite humbling and quite wonderful. I've received more hugs in this past month than I have in years.

My nickname is Grace.

Now, my name is Katherine June, after each of my grandmothers, but somehow, Grace became my nickname.

My sister was a ballerina. I was not. I made it through a week or two of dance classes before I flunked out. I would have been really good in musical theater, but I can't dance. In college, my dancing caused at least one known injury in the chorus line. I am a klutz. Every time I walk up or down chancel steps, I remind myself not to fall because I have fallen down those chancel steps at least once. I have fallen up the steps more times than I can count.

In fact, I try to plan worship so that I avoid steps altogether. And so, yes. Grace became my ironic nickname. And not something I was particularly proud of.

A few months ago, someone complimented me. They said, "You are so graceful." They didn't know about my nickname. I asked, "What do you mean?" And they said, "When people are misbehaving, you don't shout, 'Whatever in the name of all that is good and holy made you think it was a good idea to do that horrible thing you just did?' — I know you must be thinking that when it happens. But, you just . . . are graceful with them. And I appreciate that and aspire to it."

I walked away from that conversation thinking. Thinking a lot. I was not wholly convinced that I had risen to a remarkable, regal, perhaps even saintly level of grace . . . but I did accept the compliment.

And accepting the compliment made me want to be MORE graceful. And then I

thought, “What if we can suggest to people that they already have the talent and resources to face something difficult? What if we can encourage people by telling them how much we appreciate and admire them. Perhaps by overstating our confidence a little. I thought of all the kids who became amazing adults because somebody complimented their mediocre efforts . . . or stories I’d heard of the spouse who complimented a mediocre meal or home improvement, and how that kind word inspired the creator to attempt something with more skill and value the next time.

A few weeks later, I smiled a huge smile when my friend Tammy sent me this card (see cover). Tammy has known me for maybe three years. She didn’t know about my nickname. Yet, somehow, she took a name that was an embarrassment for me and turned it into something to be proud of. Something to continue to live into. Grace Under Fire. I tucked that card into my “cancer bag” that will go to all of my appointments with me.

I sent Tammy a draft of this musing to thank her for the card. She wrote back that she was absolutely in tears. “I had three cards to pick out. The first two took 5 minutes each. An hour later, my husband teased me, ‘Can we go yet?’ I told him I hadn’t found the right card. And then I found this one, and I just knew.”

There must be a kernel of truth in my theory that complimenting someone for that so-so box cake or Pillsbury baked dish or that nearly nuclear debacle can cause people to aspire to be better and to do more.

Watch for your opportunities to compliment people who are somewhat awesome sometimes. You never know when your words might inspire a klutz to see herself as a hero.

God bless you. I thank you so much for all of your prayers and kindness.

I want to especially thank Pastor Kevin Buchanan from Grace for offering to help with pastoral concerns. I will lean on him early in my recovery.

It’s good to be part of a neighborhood team.

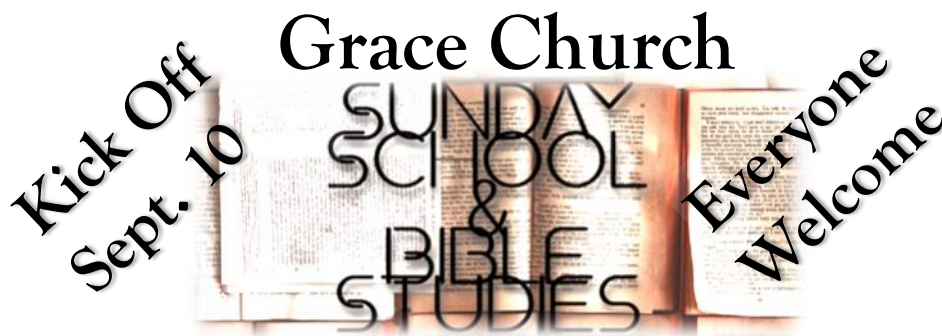
Rev. Kate Howard, North Christian Church



How you can bless Pastor Kate through her recovery:

- Pastor Kate will have surgery on September 22. She asks that you consider donating to Welcome Table instead of sending a gift card or flowers. Checks can be sent to North Christian Church, 1616 W Main St, Fort Wayne, IN 46808.
- Pastor Kate does enjoy cards & emails. Cards can be dropped off at church or sent to Kate Howard, 97 Andrew Avenue, Columbia City, IN 46725. Her email is revpenney@gmail.com
- There is a Meal Train set up for the Howards - you can sign up here: <https://mealtrain.com/yk25dm> - there will be some efforts to coordinate deliveries so everyone is not driving to Columbia City. You can keep in touch with Preston - his phone number is 260-316-4964. If you are unable to use the Meal Train site, you can email Jennifer Stanford at [fifjoe@frontier.com](mailto:fifjoe@frontier.com)





### Sunday Mornings

**The Wire Word - 9:00 AM, Sundays** – A study led by Todd German that focuses on the intersection of current topics and God's Word.

**Women's Book Study\* - 9:00 AM, Sundays** – A book study led by Cindy Bowers. The text they will use is *Better* by Jen Wilken and is focused on the Hebrews epistle.

**High School on Sundays - 9:00 AM, Sundays** – A study led by Cathy German with the focus on application of God's Word in our daily lives.

**Children on Sundays - 9:45 AM, Sundays** – A gathering of children from 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The materials will be tailored to those attending by the leaders Cathy German, Holly Bouthot, & Gabby Monnier.

**Young Parents Group - 9:45 AM, Sundays** – Sometimes with a selected topic – sometimes without – expect enjoyable and engaging conversation for parents while their children are in their group.

### Other Studies

**Retired Men's Bible Study\* - 10:30 AM, Wednesdays** – Join Jim Wolfe and other retired men as they dig a little deeper into topics that we rarely have the time for on Sundays. Contact Jim for more information about the current study @ james.wolfe6@frontier.com.

**Women's Bible Study\* - 2:30 PM, Thursdays (starting September 21)** – This newly added study is led by Peggy Mahoney. Key your eyes open in our publications for more information on the materials.

\*Indicates a book study. You can still participate without the book, but we'd love to help get you a copy.

### Ministry Monday

NCC invites you to join us in supporting Ministry Mondays to support Forward Indiana Food Pantries to fight food scarcity in our community. You can drop your contributions in the Donation Center which is in the breezeway at 1616 W. Main, or you can meet us at the park. If you are able to shop, please divide your contribution into eight bags.

We meet at a local park to swap items and chat . . . and then items are delivered to eight different pantries in Fort Wayne. Our next swap will be at Hamilton Park on Monday, September 11, at 11:00am.



**It's a Presbyterian thing.** Each year your individual contribution helps support the ministry of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. If you're unsure on what it is or how to give your portion, speak to a deacon or elder of your church. Your treasurer will greatly appreciate you checking this off your to do list.

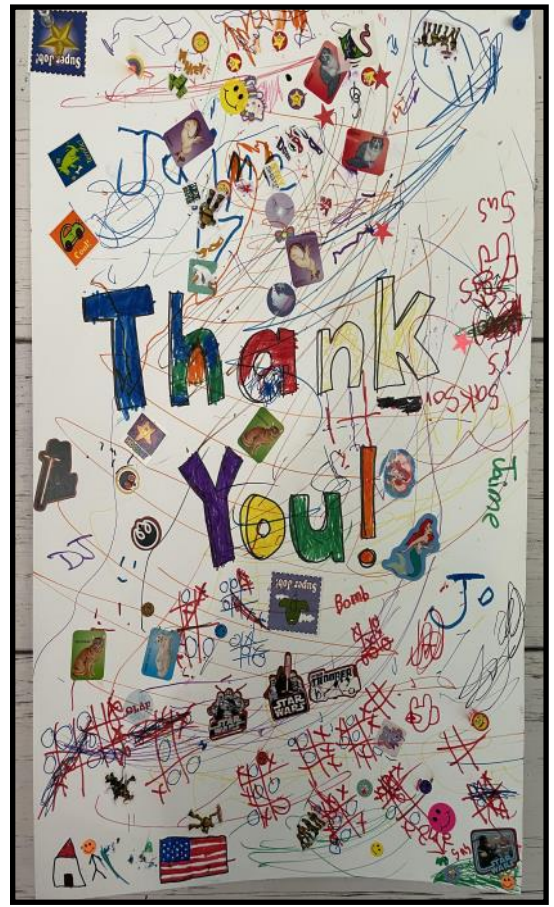
## School Supply Drive – An 08 Report

UFPC and NCC worked to supply 70 backpacks filled with supplies to Bloomingdale Elementary School this year, 10 for each of their seven grades. The younger kids in pre-K, K, and grade 1 got a smaller pack this year to fit them better. Each grade required a different assortment of materials. Overall, here is a list of what we supplied:

Backpacks, composition notebooks, Crayon boxes, disinfectant wipes, dry erase erasers, dry erase markers, plastic folders, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, earbuds with microphone, pencil bags, pink erasers, Play-Doh, Post-it notepads, reusable water bottles, tissues, and zipper storage bags in two sizes.

Helpers from both congregations turned up, and we filled the backpacks before 7:30 PM. We also enjoyed fellowship and ice cream afterward. Dan & Deb Wolf delivered the filled backpacks to the school on Thursday, August 3rd. The case manager was delighted to get them! She gave us two thank-you cards the kids made for us at registration, which have been posted in the narthex.

Thanks again to everyone at NCC and UFPC who supported and worked on this project. We helped a lot of kids and families who really needed it!!



*The other Bloomingdale Thank –You card can be seen on the front page of this 08 Connect.*

## Worship Matters

I did not submit an article last month. I was on quite an adventure. What started out as ten days away to visit my family in Nebraska and attend a cousin reunion turned into waiting for my oldest sister to pass away. Then the funeral service and seeing more family. I then went directly to Louisville for the General Assembly of the Disciples of Christ.

In the midst of all of that, I discovered pictures of my mother as a child, I got a tour of my Great grandfather's Sears Catalog home, I was bit by a spider twice, I won the trust of a cat named Rooster, and I attended a demolition derby.

I thought surely, in the midst of all these things, I would have something inspiring to write about. It feels strange, but I am happy that my sister's decline due to a rare form of dementia, similar to Alzheimers, was over. It's simple, but reconnecting with family and friends can be so lovely. I also found that I actually had enough extra time to rest and rejuvenate.

Is there a lesson about worship in all of this? How about, “God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.”



**Alin Cass, North Christian Church**



## Music Ministries — Fall into the Music

While I can't say that the handbell choir at North Christian is starting rehearsals, we are starting at the very beginning with the basics of ringing and counting — becoming one unit. Now is the best time to give it a try. If you can count to four, you can play handbells. Join us for a rehearsal or two to see what you think. This group plays for the North Christian service, sometimes for United Faith, and often for our combined celebrations. I would like to have another group providing a ministry outside the church walls. The reason I couldn't say that we are starting up is because we have been ringing ever since we returned to in-person worship.

Music benefits your health, and you get to meet some nice people. Oh, did I mention they are beautiful? Send me a message [office.northchristian@gmail.com](mailto:office.northchristian@gmail.com) or call me 260-750-899.



Alin Cass, North Christian Church



### Grace Choir Begins Fall Season

New or old to corporate worship, we've got your back. Join the singing club. Each Thursday we will meet for fellowship, singing, and to rehearse some of the music for the upcoming worship.

Choir practice is 6:30-7:30 PM in the church sanctuary. There is no need to sign up. If you have any questions you can reach out to the church office or email Tom Callahan at [GraceMusic@GPCFW.org](mailto:GraceMusic@GPCFW.org).



To submit an article, photos, or a save-the-date to The 08 Connect, our joint newsletter, please send your information to Justin at [GraceOffice@GPCFW.org](mailto:GraceOffice@GPCFW.org).

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## Welcome Table

UFPC, NCC, and Peace UCC invite you to our no-cost pop-up restaurant, the Welcome Table. Really! It's a pop-up community restaurant for everyone! Upcoming Welcome Table dates are September 11 & 25, October 9, and December 4 & 18. Seating for the dinners is from 5:30-6:45 pm at 1616 W. Main.

**Menu for September 11:** Swedish meatballs served with mashed potatoes and corn (GF), Chicken & Vegetable hibachi served with fried rice (GF), Traditional meat Lasagna served with steamed vegetable medley, Veggie stir fry\* served with rice pilaf (V, GF). \*optional shrimp available

**Menu for September 25:** Salisbury Steak served with mashed potatoes and Green beans (GF), Chicken Stroganoff served with buttered noodles and steamed broccoli, Walking Taco Bake served with chips, salsa & guacamole (GF). Spinach & Mushroom Pasta Alfredo\* served with Normandy vegetables (V). \*optional chicken available

Neighbors and members of our congregations are encouraged to come and dine or to volunteer! We need bakers to make desserts and people to help set up, serve, and clean up. If you would like to volunteer for Welcome Table, contact Pastor Kate at [revpenney@gmail.com](mailto:revpenney@gmail.com).

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### NCC/UFPC Nesting Partnership Anniversary

Please join us on World Communion Sunday (October 1, 2023) for worship at 10:30 at 1616 W. Main. We'll celebrate the things we have experienced so far in our nesting relationship and the hopes that we have for the future. We will have a fellowship potluck meal afterward. Please bring a dish that does not need to be tended during worship, and please pre-cut desserts.

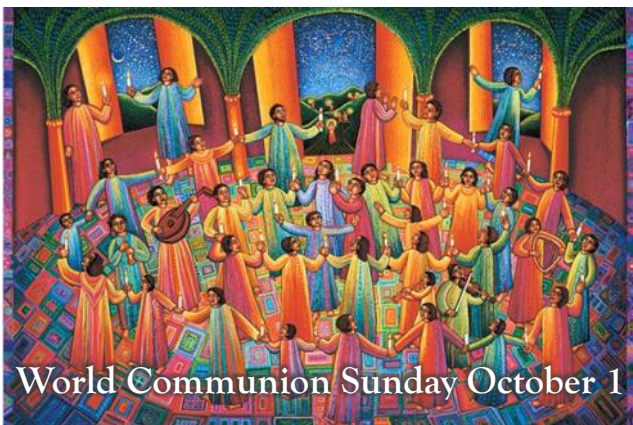


Image credit: "Celebration" by John August Swanson



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**MISSION OPPORTUNITY** – Tom Monnier, of Grace Presbyterian, will lead a Mission Team to El Salvador with the Fuller Center for Housing. The trip will be a return to Apancea, where Tom and Alex Monnier helped build the 1<sup>st</sup> of 100 homes in the community. Please call, text, or email Tom for more information. Contact him at 260-312-1591 or [monnierent@yahoo.com](mailto:monnierent@yahoo.com). The trip will be open to others nationwide and limited to 15 people. We will fill the team with people we know before opening it up to others from around the country. The scheduled dates of the trip are March 9th-March 16th, 2024. The cost per person is \$1460 plus airfare.

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# September 2023

Events are generally open to everyone! When you see a meeting on the calendar, double-check to make sure you see the host's location.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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GPC = Grace Presbyterian Church - 1811 Fairhill rd.  
NCC = North Christian Church - 1616 W Main Street  
UF = United Faith - 1616 W Main Street

3	Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
Bible Studies @ GPC 9:00 AM Children & Parent Groups @ GPC 9:45 AM Worship @ GPC 10:30 AM Worship @ UF 10:30 AM			Food Bank @ UF 9:00-11:00 AM Thrift Store @ UF 9:00-Noon	Handbells @ NCC 5:30 PM Worship @ NCC 7:00 PM Grace Choir @ GPC 7:30 PM		
10		12	13	14	15	16
Bible Studies @ GPC 9:00 AM Children & Parent Groups @ Worship @ GPC 10:30 AM Worship @ UF 10:30 AM Sharon Allen Memorial @ GPC 11:30 AM	11 Food Bank @ UF 9:00-11:00 AM Thrift Store @ UF 9:00-Noon Ministry Monday @ Hamilton Park 11 AM Welcome Table @ 5:30-6:45 PM	Grace Fellowship @ Zoom 5:30 PM	Food Bank @ UF 9:00-11:00 AM Thrift Store @ UF 9:00-Noon The Scribes @ UF 12:30-2:30 PM	Retired Men's Study @ GPC 10:30 AM Worship Meeting @ GPC 5:30 PM Handbells @ NCC 5:30 PM Worship @ NCC 7:00 PM Grace Choir @ GPC 7:30 PM		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Bible Studies @ GPC 9:00 AM Children & Parent Groups @ Worship @ GPC 10:30 AM Worship @ UF 10:30 AM Grace Session @ GPC 11:30 AM	Food Bank @ UF 9:00-11:00 AM Thrift Store @ UF 9:00-Noon	United Faith Session @ Zoom 7:00 PM	Food Bank @ UF 9:00-11:00 AM Thrift Store @ UF 9:00-Noon	Retired Men's Study @ GPC 10:30 AM Woman's Bible Study @ GPC 2:30 PM Handbells @ NCC 5:30 PM Worship @ NCC 7:00 PM Grace Choir @ GPC 7:30 PM		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Bible Studies @ GPC 9:00 AM Children & Parent Groups @ Worship @ GPC 10:30 AM Worship @ UF 10:30 AM Grace Deacons @ GPC 11:30 AM	Food Bank @ UF 9:00-11:00 AM Thrift Store @ UF 9:00-Noon Welcome Table @ 5:30-6:45 PM		Food Bank @ UF 9:00-11:00 AM Thrift Store @ UF 9:00-Noon The Scribes @ UF 12:30-2:30 PM	Retired Men's Study @ GPC 10:30 AM Woman's Bible Study @ GPC 2:30 PM Handbells @ NCC 5:30 PM Worship @ NCC 7:00 PM Grace Choir @ GPC 7:30 PM		