

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – August 9, 2026
11th Sunday After Pentecost



The Sacred Slowdown: Summer invites us to slow down, breathe deeply, and notice God's presence in ordinary life. In a season shaped by vacations, neighborhood gatherings, longer evenings, walking, rest, and reconnection, this series explores how God continues to speak—not always through noise or urgency, but through presence, attentiveness, community, and grace.

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **BOLD**. *Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.

Worship Volunteers: Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Tyler Bowers – Ushers: Jen Mahoney, Nancy Current, & Sue Creager – Tech: Bill Werling & Kevin Mahoney – Counters: Kevin Mahoney & Jill Werling – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude —

Welcome — Rev. Sandy Garcia

***Call to Worship —**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name.

We will make known God's marvelous works.

Sing to the Lord and remember all that God has done.

We seek the Lord's strength and rejoice in God's presence.

When fear keeps us in the boat,

Christ calls us to step forward in faith.

Come, let us worship the God who is always faithful.

***Opening Hymn —**

***Call to Confession —**

There are many things that keep us safely in our boats. Fear of failure. Fear of change. Fear of not being enough. Yet Christ continually calls us beyond fear into deeper trust. Let us confess the places where we have hesitated to follow.

***Prayer of Confession —**

Gracious God, too often we choose the safety of the boat instead of the adventure of faith. We cling to certainty instead of trusting your promises. We focus on the wind instead of your presence. We allow fear to speak louder than your voice. Forgive us. Take us by the hand when we begin to sink. Strengthen our faith. Renew our courage. Teach us to trust that wherever you call us, your grace will always meet us there. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon —**

Friends, hear the Good News. Even when Peter's faith faltered, Jesus never let him go. Christ reached out his hand, lifted him up, and remained with him. The same grace is offered to us today. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Song of Assurance #583 "Glory to God"

***Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

Lord Jesus, as your Word is read and proclaimed, quiet the storms within us. Open our ears to hear your invitation, our hearts to trust your promises, and our feet to follow wherever you lead. May your Spirit strengthen our faith and remind us that your hand is always reaching toward us. Amen.

Psalm Reading — Psalm 105:1-6

p.942

1 Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

2 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

5 Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

6 you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matt. 14:22-33

p.1522

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone,

24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Step Out of the Boat! – Rev. Sandy Garcia

***Affirmation of Faith:** *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn of Response –**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

When fear keeps us from following your call,
Lord, help us step out in faith.

When the winds of life seem overwhelming,
Lord, keep our eyes on you.

For those facing illness, grief, uncertainty, or loneliness,
Lord, reach out your hand.

For our church, that we may follow Christ courageously into our community,
Lord, help us step out in faith.

For those beginning new journeys...students...teachers...families...those seeking work...those discerning God's call...
Lord, walk beside them.

For those who feel as though they are sinking today,
Remind them that your grace is never far away.

For all the prayers we carry silently in our hearts...

(Invite prayers from the congregation. Remind them of the prayer cards in the pews)

Holy God, we now lift before you the prayers spoken aloud and those held silently within our hearts.

Gathering these prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts into one, we pray as Christ taught us, saying,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Every good gift comes from God. As Peter discovered, faith often begins with one courageous step. Our offerings are one way we step out in trust, giving thanks for God's faithfulness and participating in God's work in the world. Let us present our gifts with grateful hearts.

Offertory —

***Doxology — #606 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

***Prayer of Dedication —**

Let us pray: Generous God, receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. Bless them and use them to proclaim your love, serve our neighbors, and strengthen your Church. Continue to lead us beyond fear into faithful discipleship, one step at a time. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn —

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude —

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NHNA Block Party - Today: The North Highlands Block Party is just around the corner, August 9th – 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Grace is planning on attending with our bright faces and a table with treats or games. There's a sign-up in the narthex for anyone able to assist with our table. You can volunteer for one or both time slots. The more faces the better.

Session Reports Due Wednesday, August 19th:

Sandy Out of the Office: Sandy will be gone August 10th through 16th for a pastoral retreat covering a variety of ministry directives.

Chair Yoga August 20th: The third Thursday of the month is Chair Yoga. This is open to everyone and costs \$5 (which goes for paying the instructor).

Share a Baptism Blessing: On Sunday, August 30, we are excited to celebrate the baptisms of Myles Hochstetler and Rosalind Lilly! Please help us welcome Myles and Rosalind into our church family by writing a brief note of encouragement, a prayer, a blessing, or a favorite Scripture verse.

Blank cards are available in the narthex. After writing your message, please place it in the designated basket. The cards will be presented to each family in a keepsake baptism box as a reminder that Grace Presbyterian surrounds them with love, prayer, and support as they grow in faith.

Please return your card by Sunday, August 23, so we have time to prepare the baptismal keepsake boxes before the celebration.

Fiber Arts Fridays: Do you knit? Crochet? Have another craft you'd like to work on while having some fellowship? Then join us on Fridays, at 11:00 AM, in the conference room.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers of peace and comfort for the family of Tom, Tim's brother.
- Prayers of peace and comfort for the family of Butch.
- Prayers of strength and recovery for Sue.
- Prayers of strength and recovery for Rebecca.
- Prayers for guidance for Tammy and her doctors.
- Prayers of peace and strength for Bruce as he goes through chemo.
- Prayers for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, with her cancer treatments.
- Prayers of safety and joy as the children begin their new school year.

Birthdays

Greg Lilly - August 9th

Vivian Lilly - August 11th

Anniversaries

Matt & Teri Seitz - August 9th

Worship Volunteers for August 16, 2026

Lay Leader – Pam Callahan

Ushers – Jen Mahoney, Nancy Current, & Sue Creager

Technology – Bill Werling & Kevin Mahoney

Counters – Kevin Mahoney & Jill Werling

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