

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – August 30, 2026
14th Sunday After Pentecost



Today we celebrate the baptisms of Myles and Rosalind and the beautiful promise of God's grace: You are known. You are loved. You belong. Before you could understand God's grace, God's grace was already yours. May you always know that you belong to God and that this community of faith promises to walk beside you as you grow.

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: Jill Werling – 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 — *When I Look into Your Holiness* by Perrin

Welcome — Rev. Sandy Garcia

***Call to Worship —**

Before we knew God,

God knew us.

Before we could speak God's name,

God called us by name.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

We come today not because we have earned our place,

but because grace has already made room for us.

Come, people of God—rooted in grace and growing together.

Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn — #475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

***Call to Confession —**

The God who knows us completely also knows the places within us that need healing, forgiveness, and renewal. Trusting not in our own goodness but in God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sin together.

***Prayer of Confession —**

Gracious God, you know us completely and love us still. Yet we confess that we sometimes forget who we are and whose we are. We measure ourselves by what we accomplish. We compare ourselves with others. We forget that our worth begins not with what we do, but with your grace. Forgive us when we fail to welcome others as Christ welcomes us. Forgive us when fear keeps us from growing, when pride keeps us from listening, and when we forget that every person we encounter bears your image. Wash us again in your mercy. Root us deeply in your grace, and teach us to grow together in love. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon —**

Hear the good news: Before we could find our way to God, God came looking for us. Before we could make ourselves worthy, Christ welcomed us. Before we could earn grace, grace was already ours. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and beloved.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

God who knew Jeremiah before he was born and whose Son welcomed children into his arms, open our hearts now to your Word. Help us hear again that we are known, claimed, blessed, and called. Root your Word deeply within us, that our lives may grow in your grace. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading — Jeremiah 1:4-10

p.1169

4 The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

6 “Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

7 But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.

8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

9 Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth.

10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:13-16

p.1570

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.

14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn of Response – #486 “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation

Today we come to the waters of baptism, where God’s grace becomes visible among us.

In baptism, God claims us as beloved children, joins us to Christ and Christ’s church, and welcomes us into a covenant community that promises to walk beside us in faith.

Myles Wayne Hochstetler & Rosalind Ruth Lilly are presented for baptism with their families.

Questions to the Family

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? If so, say, “I do.” - **I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? If so, say, “I do.” - **I do.**

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? If so, say, “I will, with God’s help.” - **I will, with God’s help.**

Questions to the Congregation

People of Grace Presbyterian Church, do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture these newly baptized members by word and deed, with love and prayer?

We do.

Will you encourage them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of Christ’s church?

We will, with God's help.

Profession of Faith - 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.

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious and eternal God, we give you thanks for the gift of water. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters. Through water you have brought your people into freedom and new life. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was baptized and revealed as your beloved Son. Send your Holy Spirit upon this water and upon those who receive it, that they may be joined to Christ, made members of his body, and rooted forever in your grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Baptisms

Myles Wayne Hochstetler, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Myles, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

Rosalind Ruth Lilly, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rosalind, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

CONGREGATIONAL CIRCLE OF BLESSING

Baptism is never a journey taken alone.

I invite the congregation, as you are able, to come forward and surround our newly baptized and their families. Let us form a circle around them and join hands as a visible sign of the covenant we share.

The congregation gathers.

Look around you. This is what the church looks like.

Different ages. Different stories. Different gifts. One body, held together by the grace of God.

There may come a day when those baptized today wonder where they belong. There may come a day when faith feels difficult. There may come a day when they need someone else to remember God's promises for them.

And so today, if you agree, say, "Yes, we promise to remember together.

Yes, we promise to remember together.

People of God, will you surround these newly baptized with love, prayer, encouragement, and grace—not only today, but throughout the years ahead? If so, say, "We will, with God's help."

We will, with God's help.

Will you remind them that they are known by God, loved by Christ, and never alone in the family of faith? If so, say, "We will, with God's help."

We will, with God's help.

Prayer of Blessing

God of grace, root these newly baptized deeply in your love. When they are joyful, rejoice with them. When they struggle, surround them. When they question, give them companions. When they wander, gently call them home. May this congregation be for them a community of grace—a place where they are known, welcomed, challenged, forgiven, and loved. And may all of us remember the promises of our own baptism: We belong to you. We belong to one another. And by your grace, we are growing together. Amen.

Presentation of Baptism Boxes

Today, each baptismal family receives a keepsake box containing cards and messages from members of this congregation.

These words are offered for the years ahead—reminders of the people who stood with you today, prayed for you, and promised to accompany you in faith.

May they remind you always:

You are known. You are loved. You belong.

God who knows us by name,

Root us in your grace.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the gift of baptism and for the community of faith surrounding those welcomed through its waters. Help us keep the promises we have made today, walking together in love, patience, and prayer.

God who knows us by name, **Root us in your grace.**

We pray for your church, here at Grace and throughout the world. Teach us to be a community where all are welcomed, where faith can grow, where questions are safe, and where your love is made visible in the way we care for one another.

God who knows us by name, **Root us in your grace.**

We pray for our community and our neighbors. Open our eyes to the people around us. Show us where you are already at work, and give us courage to join you there.

God who knows us by name, **Root us in your grace.**

We pray for our world—for places where there is violence, fear, hunger, or division. Bring peace where there is conflict, hope where there is despair, and justice where people are suffering.

God who knows us by name, **Root us in your grace.**

We pray for all who are sick, grieving, lonely, worried, or in need, especially those we name before you now, silently or aloud. Surround them with your presence and remind them that they are never alone.

God who knows us by name, **Root us in your grace.**

(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.

And gracious God, as we begin this new season together, keep us rooted in you. Help us trust your grace, love one another well, and grow together into the people you are calling us to be.

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 (special collection for Indiana flood victims)

Before we give anything to God, God has already given everything to us. Our offering is not payment for grace. It is our grateful response to grace already received. Let us offer our gifts and our lives to God.

Offertory — *Come Christians, Join to Sing* arr. by Englert

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

***Prayer of Dedication —**

Let us pray: Generous God, everything we have begins with you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Use them to nurture faith, welcome neighbors, serve those in need, and share your grace beyond these walls. Root us in generosity and grow within us hearts ready to serve. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

***Closing Hymn — #482 “Baptized in Water”**

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude — *Postlude on "Kingsfold" arr. by Rodriguez*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School Kick-off & Cookout: We are celebrating our new year of Christian Education during the service on September 13th. After the service we'll be adding to the festivities with hotdogs (provided). Members are invited to bring sides and desserts to share.

North Highlands Clean Up: Our community neighbors will be cleaning up the Hamilton park on September 12th. Everyone is invited to join Sandy and our neighbors, start time to be announced soon.

First day of Sunday School Classes: The first day of our classes will be on Sunday, September 20th. Here is an abridged list of what's being offered:

Adult Bible Study - Sundays at 9:00 AM – Led by Cindy Bowers

We will be using a new curriculum starting with a study of the parables of the Bible.

Youth Group – Sundays at 9:00 AM – Led by Tammy Menkes

Fellowship and studies cover a wide series of lessons following the lectionary, familiarizing ourselves with the Bible, and projects like “Remembrance Boxes.”

Thursdays at 2:30 PM – Led by Peggy Mahoney

A weekly study and discussion on, "Praying the Names of God." The class is open to everyone.

Children's Sunday School – Sundays at 9:00 AM – Led by Cathy German

We'll be using the Presbyterian curriculum call "Welcome All" as a starting point. The class will also include crafts, memory verses, a charity project, and a time for music (each Sunday at 9:50 AM).

New Women's Evening Bible Study – A monthly with a rotating leaders and location.

Hospitality and fellowship as we come together for a variety of individual studies. These rotating locations (member's homes) and that evening's study will be provided by its host.

Lenten study – Stay tuned for more information as we approach the season.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers for continued recovery for Patricia.
- Peace and strength for Bruce Barnet during his cancer treatment.
- Peace and courage for Skip Calvin's upcoming heart procedure.
- Guidance for Tammy and her doctors.
- Patience for Pam and direction for her doctors.
- Your continued presence and healing for Sue.
- Comfort for Bruce as his health journey continues.
- Healing for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, in her cancer treatment.
- Compassion and recovery for those affected by the flood in Nepal.

Birthdays

Emmett Lochry – August 29

Bill Werling - August 30

Donna Parrish - August 31

Meara Geist – September 1

Bruce Barnett – September 3

William Bowers – September 4

Anniversaries

Jeff & Betsy Kachmar

September 3, 1984

Worship Volunteers for September 6, 2026

Lay Leader – Volunteer

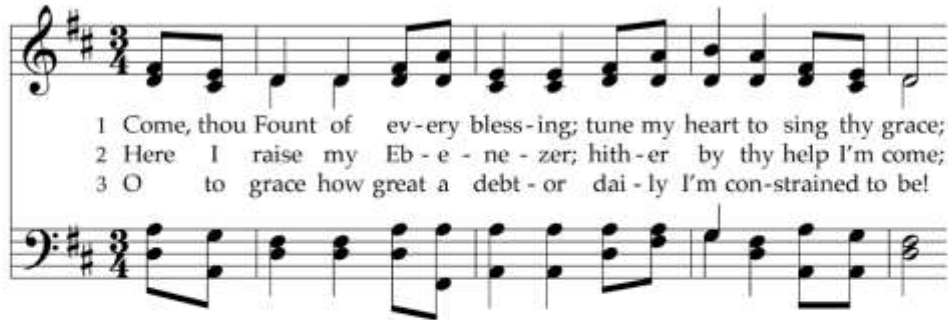
Communion – Cathy & Todd German

Ushers – Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler

Technology – John Current & Jen Mahoney

Counters – Tyler Bowers & Jon Wold

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



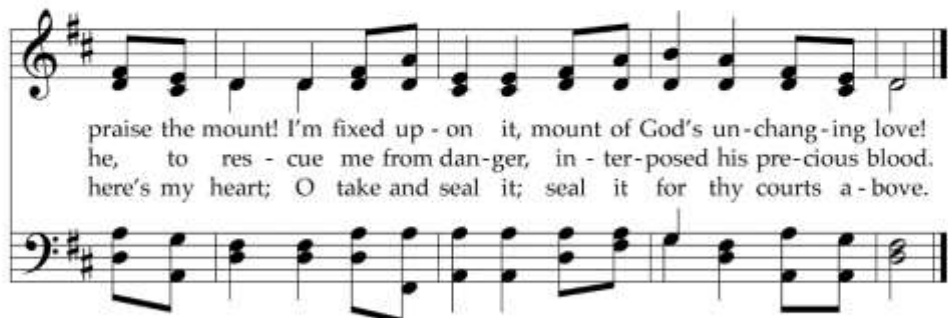
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a-bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON
 8.7.8.7.D

BAPTISM

486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

1 Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
 2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
 3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you
 4 Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
 a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our
 are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly
 lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
 give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
 wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

This hymn addressed to a newly-baptized child begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

TEXT: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980
 MUSIC: V. Earle Copes, 1959
 Text © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner

KINGDOM
 8.7.8.7
 (alternate tune: STUTTGART)

BAPTISM

482

Baptized in Water

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Each stanza of this compact and carefully constructed text about baptism begins with allusions to John 3:5 and Ephesians 1:13. The interplay of constant and changing lines accentuates each added image. It is set here to a Gaelic tune first transcribed in the 19th century.

TEXT: Michael A. Saward, 1981

MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grottenhuis, 1985

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Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

BUNESSAN

5.5.8.5.5.9

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