



A Place of Grace

A Newsletter for and about Grace Church

October 7, 2026

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



I sense God leading us into a season of asking an important question: What if? What if we looked at the challenges of our time through Jesus' eyes?

What if Jesus shaped our response to war, immigration, economic pressure, and the difficult social issues confronting our communities each day?

These conversations often begin with fear, frustration, or political division. As followers of Jesus, however, we are invited to begin differently—with prayer, careful listening, and a willingness to let his life and teachings guide us through a complicated world.

Jesus did not avoid the difficult realities of his time. He entered places of conflict, welcomed those pushed aside, challenged systems that burdened the vulnerable, and affirmed the God-given dignity of every person. He spoke truth with courage and met people with compassion. His way was rooted in love, sustained by prayer, and centered on the kingdom of God.

His example matters as we face today's challenges. In a world marked by war, Jesus calls us to pray for peace and care for those who suffer. In conversations about immigration, he teaches us to see the stranger not as a problem, but as a neighbor. When families struggle with rising costs, uncertain work, or widening inequality, He directs us toward generosity, justice, and concern for those carrying the heaviest burdens.

These issues are complex, and faithful people may disagree about policies and solutions. Our upcoming church series will not offer easy answers or promote a political platform. Instead, it will invite us into faithful discernment—listening to Scripture, seeking God in prayer, learning from one another, and asking what love of God and neighbor requires of us now.

Together, we will explore how compassion, courage, and discernment belong together. Compassion draws us near to suffering. Courage moves us to speak and act when silence would be easier. Discernment keeps us rooted in Christ so that our responses are shaped not by outrage, fear, or party loyalty, but by the wisdom and grace of God.

I hope you will join us for this important series. Come with your questions. Come ready to listen, pray, and grow. Together, we will ask not only, "What would Jesus do?" but also, "What is Jesus calling us to do here and now?" What if? What if we looked at the challenges of our time through Jesus' eyes?

My prayer is that this series will form us into people who meet a divided and anxious world with Christ's compassion, the courage of faith, and hearts open to the Holy Spirit's guidance. There will be series information to follow...

May Peace & Hope be with you all...

Pastor Ken+

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

This month's spotlight is on Treasurer Dale Salewsky and Council Member Holly Hatter.

Meet Our Treasurer - Dale Salewsky

Dale Salewsky has been a member of Grace for 49 years and has faithfully served our congregation in many ways, including his dedicated work on the Property Committee and as Treasurer.



Dale grew up in Menominee, Michigan, and retired from the GM Proving Grounds. He is married to Cindy and has three grown children, Nicholas (married to Emily), Jeremy and Joshua (married to Kendra). In his free time, Dale enjoys gardening, restoring Corvettes, and reading about Civil War history. His favorite cookie is a classic chocolate chip, and when it comes to dining out, you'll find him enjoying a steak at Texas Roadhouse.

If Dale could travel anywhere in the world, he would choose Europe. His favorite Bible passage is Psalm 23, and one of his favorite hymns is Children of the Heavenly Father.

We are grateful for Dale's many years of faithful membership and service to Grace and appreciate the time, talents, and dedication he continues to share with our church family!



We're pleased to introduce Council Member Holly Hatter.

Holly is married to Gary, and together they have two daughters, Megan and Heather, who is married to Brad Schmidt. Holly and Gary are also proud grandparents to two grandsons, Zach and Zayne.

Holly is a Certified Medical Assistant and instructor and also works as a substitute teacher for Howell Public Schools. Over the years, she has lived in Ferndale, Wauseon, Ohio, and Defiance, Ohio, before making her home here.

Holly enjoys many creative and relaxing hobbies, including crafting, quilting, and gardening. When dining out, she enjoys seafood or a good salad. Her dream travel destinations include Italy, Greece, and Alaska. She loves historical fiction and fantasy books and especially enjoys spending a quiet Sunday afternoon taking a nice nap and listening to an audiobook.

Holly's favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:35, and she especially enjoys the parables found in Scripture. She is an active part of our church family, participating in the sewing group, singing in the choir, and helping Nancy Collins with funerals and weddings. Holly also enjoys planning fun activities and bringing people together.

When asked what turns her off, Holly says she doesn't care for anything that becomes too stressful! It's easy to see why her creativity, sense of fun, and caring spirit are wonderful additions to our church community.

We're grateful for Holly's willingness to serve on the church council and look forward to the many ways she will continue to share her gifts with our congregation!

OCTOBER DEVOTION

Isaiah 40:8 (NIV)

“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

Isaiah 40:8 (NIV)

Reflection

This verse offers a striking contrast: the fleeting beauty of nature versus the eternal truth of God’s Word. The grass and flowers symbolize the temporary nature of earthly life and pleasures — they bloom, then fade, just as human circumstances change. In contrast, God’s Word is unchanging, reliable, and everlasting, providing a firm foundation for our faith and daily living.

Key Insights

- **Eternal Truth in a Changing World** – Life’s ups and downs, relationships, and seasons may shift, but God’s promises remain constant.
- **Foundation for Faith** – Note that God’s Word is the “firm foundation” that heals, restores, and protects, outweighing all problems we face.
- **Hope and Assurance** – This verse is a reminder to look beyond the temporary to the eternal, trusting God’s unchanging truth.

Application

- **Anchor Your Life in God’s Word** – Let Scripture be the standard for your decisions, relationships, and priorities, not shifting feelings or circumstance.
- **Trust God’s Promises** – Even when outcomes seem delayed, hold fast to God’s Word; it will stand and will not fail.
- **Find Peace in Stability** – In a world of constant change, God’s Word offers a steadfast place to rest and draw strength.

Daily Prayer

Lord, help me to cling to Your unchanging Word, even when life’s seasons change. Let it be my anchor, my guide, and my hope. Thank You for promises that stand forever. Amen.

THE ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN

Every October, pumpkins, costumes, and candy remind us that Halloween is just around the corner. But where did this unusual holiday come from?

The word Halloween comes from “All Hallows’ Eve,” meaning the evening before All Saints’ Day, which Christians observe on November 1. In the early church, Christians set aside special days to remember the saints—those faithful witnesses who had gone before them. November 2 became All Souls’ Day, a day to remember the faithful departed more broadly.



Over time, Christian traditions surrounding these observances blended with some older European autumn customs and folk practices. In medieval Britain and Ireland, the evening before All Saints’ Day became associated with special prayers, bonfires, costumes, and the remembrance of those who had died. As these traditions traveled and changed, Halloween gradually became the holiday we recognize today.

For Christians, Halloween can be an opportunity to remember something deeper than ghosts and goblins. All Saints’ Day reminds us that death does not have the final word. In Christ, we have the promise of resurrection and eternal life. As St. Paul writes, “Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54).

So, whether your Halloween celebration involves carving pumpkins, welcoming trick-or-treaters, or simply enjoying an autumn evening with family, it can also point us toward the hope at the heart of the Christian faith: Christ has conquered death, and in Him we have life everlasting.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE?



November 1, 2026 is our Annual Congregational Meeting. It will be held immediately following the service. We hope you plan to attend!

At the Annual Meeting we will ask the congregation to approve our updated Constitution. Karen Bird will be available after Church on October 25 to answer any questions you may have.

Have you noticed the new awning? It looks awesome! Thank you Tom and Ed for making that happen.

Graceful Hands has been working on making draw string Christmas tree bags for the New Creations kids. They will fill them with a book, candy and small trinkets.

The Fall Bazaar, sponsored by Graceful Hands, will be **Sunday, November 8, 2026**, immediately following the service. Invite your family and friends to attend Church so they can shop afterwards. New

this year is a bake sale, which will be led by Linda Schick. Money made from the bazaar will go to feeding families in Howell.

Don't forget there are comfort blanket for your use in the back of the Church. They are clean and ready to use. Please fold them up and return them after use.

THIS MONTH AT GRACE

Sundays

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

We are on Facebook Live and YouTube!

Mondays

AA Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

TOPS – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays

Mid-week prayer with Pastor Ken – 10 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursdays

Medilodge service – 10:00a.m.

New Creations – 4:30 p.m.

Council Meeting – 2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Fridays

AA Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

