



A Place of Grace

A Newsletter for and about Grace Church

June 18, 2026

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Kindness

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness..." — Galatians 5:22 (ESV)



Kindness is more than being polite; it is visible evidence that God is at work within us. The world often celebrates power, speed, and success, but the Holy Spirit produces something deeper. It shapes our hearts and minds into a gentle, compassionate, and fertile awareness, that we are not alone and that we need one another. Kindness is love in action.

When Jesus teaches about loving our neighbor, He shows us that kindness crosses boundaries. It notices the hurting, lifts the fallen, and refuses to pass by when someone is in need. And remember that kindness does not always require great resources, but it does require a willing heart. A word of encouragement, a patient response, a helping hand, or a forgiving spirit can become a testimony of Christ's presence in our lives.

So may the Lord not make us more religious but make us kinder. May our homes, our churches, and our daily lives reflect the kindness of Christ. And when people encounter us, may they leave with the sense that they have encountered the mercy of God. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Lord, thank You for reminding me that kindness is the fruit of Your Spirit and the reflection of Your heart. Forgive me for the moments when I have been harsh, impatient, or indifferent. Fill me with compassion, gentleness, and love, so that my words and actions may honor You. Help me to see the needs of others, to respond with grace, and to show the kindness of Christ in my home, Your church, and my daily walk. Let my life become a testimony of Your mercy and goodness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Love you fine people of God!

PKG

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Beginning this month, we will shine the spotlight on two (2) of our Council members. This month we are going to get to know Pastor Ken and our Council Vice President, Greg Stiles, a little better.

Pastor Ken and his wife, Pastor Diane, have been married for 17 years. Together they share a beautiful family that includes two daughters: Sara, who is married to Mike, and Kaitlynn, who is married to Ben. Pastor Ken and Diane are also proud grandparents to three wonderful grandchildren—Margaret, Henry, and Delaney—who bring much joy to their lives.



Originally from Long Island, New York, Pastor Ken has spent his career serving others. While many know him as a pastor, some may be surprised to learn that he spent more than 30 years in the bowling business. These days, one of his favorite pastimes is watching NBA basketball.

At home, Pastor Ken and Diane dote on Frazier, their seven-year-old Gordon Setter. When he's not spending time with family, Pastor Ken enjoys camping, reading the Bible, and sharing stories and laughter with loved ones. He believes some of life's greatest moments happen around a campfire or gathered together with family and friends.

When it comes to favorite foods, Pastor Ken admits that potato chips and ice cream are hard to resist. He is also a big fan of Italian food. If given the opportunity to travel anywhere in the world, Israel and Ireland are at the top of his list.

Pastor Ken has been part of Grace for nearly five years and will celebrate that milestone this November. During his time here, he has especially enjoyed the relationships built through the church's social activities, worship gatherings, and opportunities to spend time together as a church family.

Spiritually, Pastor Ken has a deep appreciation for the Gospel of John, drawn to its rich and complex style. Currently, he is enjoying studying the Gospel of Matthew, particularly the many stories that emphasize relationships and remind us that we are ***better together*** as followers of Christ.

One thing that becomes clear when spending time with Pastor Ken is his love for people. Whether leading worship, sharing a message, participating in church events, or simply enjoying conversation, he values the connections that strengthen our church family and help us grow in faith together.

Thank you Pastor Ken for all you do for Grace!



Next up, we are pleased to spotlight Greg Stiles, Vice President of Grace's Council and a faithful member of Grace Lutheran Church for the past 26 years.

Greg grew up in Spring Arbor, Michigan, and has built a life centered on faith, family, and service. He and his wife have been blessed with six children: David, John, Chris, Pam, Janice, and Elizabeth.

Before retirement, Greg worked as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist, serving patients with skill and compassion throughout his career. While many people have hidden talents, Greg jokingly notes that his special ability is being exceptionally good at starting IV lines!

When he's not volunteering at church or serving on committees, Greg enjoys spending time outdoors. His favorite hobbies include hiking and camping, activities that allow him to appreciate God's creation and enjoy the beauty of nature.

If you're looking for Greg's favorite place to eat, you'll likely find him at The Feed Bag or Block Brewing, where he enjoys good food and fellowship. His comfort-food choices are always a welcome treat.

Given the opportunity to travel anywhere in the world, Greg would choose New Zealand, drawn by its breathtaking scenery and outdoor adventures.

Greg's favorite book is The Lord of the Rings, and his favorite movie is Animal House. On Sunday afternoons during football season, you can often find him cheering on the Detroit Lions.

One Bible verse that has special meaning to Greg comes from 1 Corinthians 13:4: "Love is kind." This simple but powerful truth reflects the spirit he seeks to live out each day.

We are grateful for Greg's many years of service, his willingness to work on committees, and his dedication to helping Grace Church thrive. Be sure to say hello and thank him for all he does the next time you see him!

Monthly Devotion

Abiding in Christ (John 15)

Theme: Staying connected to Jesus daily.

Key verse:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."
(John 15:5)

June reflection:

As plants and gardens grow during this season, reflect on what spiritual fruit God is producing in your life. Spend time each day asking:

How am I staying connected to Christ?

What fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) is growing in me?

What distractions are pulling me away from Him?



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE?



Have you ever wondered where the Raise Right money goes? This month, \$250 of it will go towards sending Lauren Petrill to a silent retreat. Thank you Cathy Stiles for your dedication to this project to raise money for Grace.

We have previously announced that \$5,000 of the Pastor Lou Siefkas memorial money (which has been invested with Thrivent), will be used in conjunction with Love, Inc. to help those in our community who are in need.

This would include making a rent payment, paying an electric bill, etc. These payments will be made directly to the landlord, etc. The remaining balance, will continue to be invested. If there comes a time where we may need to dip into it, we can do so.

Members have been busy working outside of our Church. Weeding, mulch and new plants have added to the beauty of our Church yard. Thank you to all those who work to make our landscape beautiful.

We purchased a new copier (the previous lease was up). The cost is only a few dollars more, but we receive many more color and black and white copies.

Graceful Hands will be making draw string Christmas tree bags for the New Creations kids. They will fill them with a book, candy and small trinkets. Over the next two months, Graceful Hands members will be working independently on their projects for the Fall Bazaar. Their monthly meetings will return in September.

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

Service at MediLodge – 10 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.

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

Thursdays

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.

