



Grace ABOUNDS

August 2026

A Center of Mission and Ministry - Celebrating and Sharing God's Grace!



**From
Pastor Dave**

Well...this is how I closed my Newsletter article for our June/July Edition of Grace Abounds... **“And let’s hope summer is not too unbearably hot!”**

I guess I didn’t **HOPE** hard enough. Of course, we live in South Carolina. Diane, and I are realizing the weather forecasters on our local TV stations really don’t have to change their forecasts very much...at least during the Summer.

So, how can I connect the summer heat to a Newsletter article for our church? Why not share some lighthearted thoughts first?

- It’s been so hot, I saw a squirrel fanning himself with our church bulletin.
- It’s been so hot, the asphalt was considering joining the choir just to get inside.
- It’s been so hot, my car seat tried to baptize me by fire.
- It’s been so hot, the weather forecast just says, “Still.”

Once the summer heat domes are formed the weather here doesn’t change very much, does it?

Weather changes by season, but God’s love does not change with our circumstances, our feelings, our failures, or the world around us. His love is steady, faithful, patient, and everlasting. God’s Holy Word in Scripture helps to support this understanding.

Malachi 3:6 — “For I the Lord do not change...” This is a reminder that God’s character is constant and dependable.

Hebrews 13:8 — “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” While life changes, Christ remains steady.

Romans 8:38-39 — “For I am convinced that neither death nor life...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Paul reminds us God’s love is stronger than every power, every fear, every hardship, and every change we may face.

God’s unchanging love means that His care, mercy, patience, and faithfulness toward us do not rise and fall with our circumstances. Seasons change, weather changes, people change, and even our own feelings change—but God’s love remains steady. His love is not temporary, conditional, or fragile; it is everlasting, dependable, and made known most clearly through Jesus. For God’s eternal and unchanging love for us...we give thanks.

PS – One of our members recently told me we only have 3 more months of this weather. I’m guessing many who read these words are looking for some change with the weather...**HOPE** it can change soon!

Blessings always, Pastor Dave

Sacred Harmony Concert - August 15

This award-winning Tennessee-based trio has developed a distinctive style unlike any other group in Christian music. Through powerful harmonies, heartfelt testimony, and Spirit-led worship, *Sacred Harmony* shares the Gospel with authenticity and passion. We look forward to hosting this group here for our community. Invite your friends and family to join us at Grace—6pm.



Contact Pastor Dave by cell phone at 219-707-9823 or by email at pastordaveadamsgace@gmail.com.



AUGUST

Special Days

Birthdays

- 2 - Jimmy Caughman, Lexi Medlock
- 5 - Kimberly Lane
- 11 - Mike Whitlock
- 12 - Candace Frick
- 13 - Jeanna Hall, Deborah Ruff
- 25 - Wayde Dominick
- 28 - Lagina Harmon
- 30 - Kim Metz, Ronnie Pridgen

Anniversaries

- 1 - Wanda & Barry Hartman 33rd
- 5 - MarySue & Eddie Rivers 54th
- 13 - Cissie & Bob Dibble 60th
- 19 - Donna & Eugene Jacobs 48th
- 22 - Susan & John Dawkins 33rd
- 30 - Linda & Ronnie Cromer 57th

Baptism Anniversaries

- 1 - Donna Jacobs
- 5 - Beverly Merck, Lynn Wessinger
- 11 - Ronnie Pridgen
- 12 - Camyrn Shealy
- 13 - Jim Luther, Meggie Kendrick,
Melodie Waters
- 15 - Brad Waters
- 22 - Sharon Neel
- 23 - Rev. Al Potter
- 25 - John Dawkins, Tara Stewart
- 31 - Hunter Hall

People of Grace Updates:

Andrea Lewis no longer has her land line. Please now contact her by using her cell number: 803-924-4627.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting the Wicker Campership Fund so we were able to go to Lutheridge this year! We both made new friends, played games, sang songs, camped outside on night, swam, made crafts, ate some good food, laughed, and enjoyed our time there! We learned more about ourselves and God's world.

Thanks again, Jaxon & Raelynn Wessinger



**New Number?
New Address?
New Haircut?
Let Us Know!**



Let the Church Office Know When . . .

- A family member is admitted to or discharged from the hospital;
- A new baby arrives or a death occurs;
- Your team or group schedules a meeting date and time or changes its meeting date and time;
- You are moving;
- Your telephone number, e-mail address, or physical or mailing address changes.

You may call the office at 803-364-3331 or email gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com.

In an emergency, you may reach Pastor Dave at pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com or call him on his cell # 219-707-9823.



NEWBERRY
COLLEGE

Newberry College Sunday

On August 23 we are looking forward to having Pastor David Coffman with us in worship.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

**Deadline for the September
Newsletter is August 18th.**

OUR
AMAZING
 Volunteers

 for August

Assisting Ministers

- 2 Sally Dominick
 9 Melodie Waters
 16 Andy Hawkins
 23 Allie Waters
 30 Deborah Ruff

Altar Flowers

- 2 Eddie & MarySue Rivers
 9
 16 Donna Jacobs
 23
 30 Roberta Capó

Live Stream Operators

- 2 Brad Waters
 9 Brad Waters
 16 Jessica Shealy
 23 George Dawkins
 30 George Dawkins

Acolytes

- 2 Zoe Frick
 9 Thomas Mewbourn
 16 Lillie Waters
 23 Jonathan Shealy
 30 Raelynn Wessinger

Communion Assistant Meggie Kendrick

Communion Preparation The Moates

Communion Clean up The Ruffs

Ushers Linda & Ronnie Cromer,
 Candace and Chad Frick

Greeters Jonathan and Mike Shealy

Tabulators Linda & Ronnie Cromer,
 Candace and Chad Frick

Front Sign J.C. Caughman

Altar Guild Beverly Hawkins

Pew Rack Helper Beverly Hawkins

**SANCTUARY
 LAMP
 SPONSORS**



During the month of **August** the Sanctuary Lamp is sponsored by Katherine Bennett and burns to the glory of God and in memory of Louwilla & Hunter Fellers, her grandparents, and to remember all the homeless.

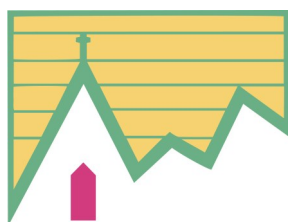
For honorary or memorial information to be included in the newsletter and bulletin, information and a \$30 donation should be received in the office by the last Sunday of the month prior to the month you sponsor.

Welcome,
New Members



On Sunday, June 28, Grace was blessed with four new members. We welcome them in to the Grace family and look forward getting to know them.

**Roger and Becky Everett
 Margie Welch and Marc Stanley**



Church FINANCES

Our monthly financial report will now be available the second Sunday of each month as an insert included in the bulletin.

You may also request one at any time by contacting the church office if you are not present to pick one up.

Electronic Giving



Electronic giving is an option at Grace through Vanco. Scan the QR Code at right or go to the Online Giving page via graceluth.org to get started.

June & July Memorials and Honorariums

For our Current Budget

Phil & Deborah Ruff in honor of Emmett Wicker

For Vacation Bible School

Katherine Bennett in honor of Pastor Dave & Diane Adams

For Maintenance Fund

Amy & Brian Rossett in honor of Judy Bedenbaugh's 86th birthday

Christmas is Coming!

The Christmas Cantata Choir is gearing up in August. Regular practice will resume Wednesday, 8/12, at 6:30 p.m. We are also getting ready to preview the 2026 Christmas Cantata. This year's cantata is "*Glorious Night When Christ was Born*." The cantata music reflects on the miracle of Jesus' birth and praises God for the gift of His Son.

We will preview the cantata Wednesday, 8/26, at 7:00 p.m. at Grace in the Ministry Center. Anyone who is interested in singing with us this year is invited to come listen and get all the information about the presentation. We look forward to seeing our regular choir members and some new faces too. Be sure to mark the date and time!

Eddie Rivers, Choirmaster



**Save the date: *Sunday, Oct. 18*
Homecoming**

Rev. Jane Mitcham, guest pastor



Manna House Items

August: 4 lb. bags of Sugar

Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sanctuary	Online	Total
5/31	64	16	80
6/7	53	12	65
6/14	60	17	77
6/21	57	26	83
6/28	53	23	76
7/5	47	12	59
7/12	54	8	62
7/19	68	15	83
7/26	63	12	75



5/31	27
6/7	26
6/14	32
6/21	27
6/28	24
7/5	22
7/12	26
7/19	33
7/26	30

Join us for our 5th Sunday Fellowship

Everyone is invited to a covered dish meal on **Sunday, Aug. 30**, after worship as the Care and Fellowship Team sponsors its third Fifth Sunday Fellowship.

Bring a covered dish (or several) or pick up something from your favorite grocery store deli. We hope everyone will join in this time of good food and great fellowship with our church family.



YOUTH MINISTRY



Make sure to bring your bookbags to church on August 2nd to receive a special blessing for the 2026-27 school year!

Youth at VBS!

Thank you to the Grace Youth (and friends) who served as station leaders, station helpers, group assistants, and our main photographer during Vacation Bible School in June!

And thank you to the youth who participated as students too! Your presence at VBS was needed and greatly appreciated.



Flashback to Summer: A couple of our Youth helped volunteer at Manna House on June 23! We were able to serve 10 families, which included 20 individuals, that afternoon. Thank you to these two, as well as the adults who helped us out behind-the-scenes!



happiness



*Love
like
Jesus*

JOY!



Ice Cream Social

Grace celebrated National Ice Cream Day on Sunday, July 19, with our second annual Ice Cream Social. We enjoyed delicious ice cream, several entertaining rounds of Bingo, and good fellowship. The social was sponsored by the Care and Fellowship Team. Check out more photos of the fun on Grace's Facebook page.





Blessing of the Bookbags

August 2nd

Along with **Scholarship Sunday**, we will also be blessing the bookbags of students & teachers heading back to school this fall.

Scholarship Sunday—August 2

On Sunday, August 2 we plan to have Blessing of the Bookbags and also recognize and congratulate our scholarship recipients.

2026 Scholarship Recipients:

Camryn Shealy, Lyla Kendrick, Zoe Frick, Bailey Stewart, Allie Waters, and Hunter Hall.

Thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Grace Bedenbaugh-Chariker Scholarship fund. It will certainly help to off-set the cost of my tuition at Piedmont Tech. *Hunter Hall*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Bedenbaugh-Chariker Scholarship Fund Committee,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of the Bedenbaugh-Chariker Scholarship. I am truly honored and grateful for your generosity and investment in my education.

This scholarship will help me as I begin my journey at the University of South Carolina and pursue a degree in nursing with the goal of becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Your support eases the financial burden of college and encourages me to continue working hard toward my goals.

I sincerely appreciate your kindness and belief in students like me. Thank you for making a difference in my future.

With gratitude, *Zoe Frick*

A Big Thank You to Robert Hook. His company, *Hooked on Clean*, power washed the moss and dirt from the north wall facing the preschool building, the driveway, and the sidewalk coming out of the doors at the new parking lot on Route 76. He provided that service to our church at no cost.



Preschool Supply Drive



We have a wonderful preschool program here at Grace, and as part of their service to the church and our community, Grace Youth Ministry is holding a school supply drive through the month of August for our preschool ministry. A pail will be in the narthex, along with a list of needed items.

Although the preschool is self-sufficient, it IS an important part of our congregation, and we would like to show our gratitude and appreciation for the leaders and teachers who do an amazing job helping these little ones get a good foundation in faith, knowledge, and friendships. Like most teachers who have a heart for service, they do not hesitate to buy needed items themselves.

We pray for your support and participation.
Thank you, *Grace Youth Ministry*

A list of needed supplies is listed below:

Crayons, Jumbo Crayons, Markers, Expo Markers, Water-Color Paint Tray, Glue Sticks, Bottle of Glue, Fabric Pencil Case, Colored Pencils



Our Preschool starts back September 8th. We pray for the students and teachers as they begin a new school year!

Something to think about— Cell phones & the Bible

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phones?

- ◇ What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- ◇ What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- ◇ What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- ◇ What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- ◇ What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
- ◇ What if we used it as we traveled?
- ◇ What if we used it in case of an emergency?

This is something to make you go ... hmm... where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't ever have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill! And no dropped calls.

Author unknown

Grace Celebrates the Savior at VBS



Vacation Bible School brought a lot of joy—and noise — to our church building June 22-26 as we celebrated our Savior, Jesus. It was a tremendous week of our "Celebrate the Savior" VBS with 31 children and 42 volunteers participating.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at VBS, to the ones who were here every single night and to the ones who came and filled in when they could.

Names of our volunteers are listed below.

Thank you to those who led our crafts, music, games, and storytelling stations, to the ones who led children around, and to the ones who worked in the kitchen to prepare and serve the nightly meals.

Thank you to the ones who donated food or who made home-cooked food for the meals. Thank you to those who donated funds to help purchase food, decorations, and craft materials.

Thank you to everyone who took photos, kept watch on the doors, registered and welcomed children and their families, helped blow up balloons, decorate, and set up the audio and the air conditioning. Everyone's contribution was important.

You can find more photos from VBS week on Grace's Facebook page.

2026 VBS Staff

Directors: Julie Shealy, Jessica Shealy

Openings and Closings: Julie Shealy, Jessica Shealy, Pastor Dave

Crafts Leaders: Samantha Yarborough, Cindy Amick

Music Leaders: Melodie Waters, Lillie Waters

Storytelling Leaders: Pastor Dave, Dale Shealy

Games Leader: Allie Waters; **Games Helpers:** Brad Waters, Colton Temples, Jonathan Shealy, Landon Kendrick, Travis Beard, Kayleb Graham

2s and 3s: Robin Romano, Camryn Shealy, Deborah Ruff, Melinda McCormick, Becky Everett, Valerie Reed

4s and 5s: Sally Dominick, Cayce Moates

Kindergarten–Grade 3: Lynn Wessinger, Diane Adams, Len Fulmer

Grades 4-6: Meggie Kendrick, Nathan Shealy, Len Fulmer

Backdrop and Decor Creation: Emmett Wicker, Dale Shealy

Decorating Team: Sarah Shealy, Christopher Shealy, Melinda McCormick, Emmett Wicker, Dale Shealy, Matthew Shealy, Jessica Shealy, Julie Shealy

Audio: Johnny Merck

Welcome/Registration Table: George Dawkins, Wayne Mitchell

Photographers: Lyla Kendrick, Jessica Shealy, Diane Adams

Security: Mike Moates

Meal Coordinators: Sue Mitchell, Mike Shealy

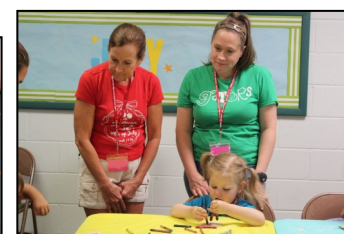
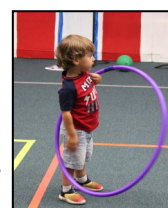
Kitchen/Serving Staff: Judy Bedenbaugh, Kathy Brown, JC Caughman, Nancy Derrick, Len Fulmer, Beverly Hawkins, Edwina Wicker, Emmett Wicker, Diane Adams, Kelli Fulmer, Deborah Ruff

Special thanks:

- to Tara and Greg Stewart of *Poppin Party Rentals* for providing a water slide and outdoor game for Friday night's closing;
- to Clyna and Walt Quattlebaum for securing a \$250 Thrivent gift card to help with VBS expenses;
- to Tammy and Ronnie Livingston for the loan of six balloon column bases and balloon circle base for decor.

VBS Service Project: Joy-full Birthday Cake Kits

Thank you to everyone who contributed cake mixes, cake frosting, birthday candles, and lemon-lime soda for our *Joy-full Birthday Cake Kits*, this year's VBS service project. We are getting to share the joy of Jesus by giving 36 kits to Manna House to distribute to families who may not be able to afford a birthday cake for their child. We are overjoyed, as 36 completed birthday cake kits far exceeded our goal for this project!





Council Minutes for June 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order with a reading of the Mission Statement.

Len Fulmer shared devotions titled '*Always The Same*'. We should use Jesus's example and influence in our lives to be our best.

Pastor's report: Mike Hall had a hip replacement and Sharon Neel is doing well after having a second stint. Ember Corley, the Grace Christian School student, has lost significant weight with twelve more chemotherapy treatments to go. Any donations to Ember's family would be greatly appreciated as her mother has taken leave at work to care for her. Robert Hooks pressure washed the east wall and driveway of the church free of charge. At the Pastor's request after receiving several comments Len will check on a price to have the church's ducts cleaned. There will be one 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service this year due to poor attendance at last year's 10:30 pm service. Pastor Dave would like to have a string quartet at the 7:00 pm service this year to attract more members and guests outside of Grace. Grace will have a 250 year celebration of our nation's founding on July 5th featuring a special collection of hymns. August 25 will be Newberry College Day at Grace with Dr. Caughman delivering the sermon. Pastor Dave, Len, and Johnny Merck will be helping elect a new Bishop at the 2026 SC Synod Assembly. Sacred Harmony, a country gospel Christian music group, will perform at Grace on Saturday, August 15, at 6:00 pm.

Adoption of Reports: Ronnie Cromer moved to adopt the reports as presented, seconded by Robert Martin, and passed. Discussion: Johnny reported that the church's wiring has been inspected and is in good shape. He is waiting for a quote to replace the spot lights with upgraded LED lights. Len reported that the Men's Group had good attendance with eleven members present. The group will meet again on June 30 at 6:00 pm at Roma's. The need for a new church sign was brought up, with discussion to be continued at the next council meeting.

Ministry Team Updates: The Care and Fellowship Team had 45 people in attendance for the 5th Sunday Meal on May 31. There will be another Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 19 at 3:00 pm. Grace's Youth have been very active, conducting the Youth Sunday service on May 17 and a pool party on June 7. Vacation Bible School from June 22 - 26 and Manna House on June 23 offer opportunities to volunteer. The Lifelong Education Team has sign up sheets for volunteers and food donations in the Narthex. Twenty four children have confirmed attendance so far. More volunteers are badly needed as there was a rush the week before the start last year. Two adults are needed per class.

Shepherding Concerns: Several shepherding concerns were discussed. Pastor Jane has advised Pastor Dave that Mitch has been moved to memory care at Laurel Crest in Lexington.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11th at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center.

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, David Luther, Council Secretary



August 11
6:30 p.m.



AUGUST

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Manna House Item: 4 pound Bags of Sugar please.			 How was your SUMMER?			1
2 Scholarship Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship <i>Blessing of the Bookbags</i>	3  Worship Team 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	10	11  6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	12  6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal starts back	13	14	15  Sacred Harmony Concert 6:00 p.m.
16 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16	18 September <i>Newsletter DEADLINE</i>	19	20	21	22
23 Newberry College Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship	24	25	26 9:30 a.m. Newsletter Team 7:00 p.m. Cantata Preview 	27	28	29
30 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship <i>5th Sunday Gathering</i>	31	6-7pm Men's Group meets at Roma's				



Grace Lutheran Church

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P.O. Box 188 (*Mailing Address*)
Prosperity, SC 29127

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803-364-3331

gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com

Ministers: The People of Grace

Pastor: Rev. Dave Adams

pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com

Online Giving

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online giving page.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming up at Grace

**Scholarship
Sunday**  **Sunday, August 2nd**



**Blessing
of the
Bookbags**



**Sacred Harmony
Concert**

August 15 at 6pm



**Newberry College Sunday
August 23**



5th Sunday Fellowship
August 30 after worship



Sunday School Kick Off
coming in September



Grace Christian Preschool
begins September 8th