

September 2021, a Communications Ministry of  
Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

# GRACE NOTES

Gather to Christ • Grow as Disciples • Go to Serve

# GREETINGS AND UPDATE FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY SEARCH COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP!

---

By: Rev. Cindy Marino

The Music Ministry Search Committee knows that we are all excited and ready to move forward with a new choir director and regular organist in place. The committee met several times over the months of June and July to clarify what our needs are, envision what we hope for the music program in the future, and discern how to best staff the worship and music program for future success. The outcome of this process is a realignment of responsibilities with several new positions moving forward:

- Choir Director (for Chancel Choir and Evensong Singers)
- Principal Organist and Accompanist
- Music Coordinator
- Technical Coordinator
- Youth Choir Director

We have received applications from several promising candidates for both the Choir Director and Principal Organist roles. Applicants have completed screening interviews on a rolling basis, with two additional rounds of interviews to come before a candidate is recommended to the Grace Staff Parish Relations Committee for hire. SPRC is watching the budget to be sure we are hiring within the means of the congregation. We appreciate your patience as we continue the important and necessary work of finding the right leaders for our music program moving forward.

We do have the pleasure of announcing that Lynn Leitzen has accepted the position of Music Coordinator. Lynn has long been serving in this way behind the scenes between the children's and adult programming, in addition to her other responsibilities for Children's Music Ministry and the 9am Gathering Service Worship Leader. The Music Ministry Search Team and the SPRC see this as a great way to tap into Lynn's institutional knowledge and experience, a wonderful use of her creative gifts, and a natural extension of her current position. This will also greatly assist a new director in making the best use of his or her time. The Music Coordinator's responsibilities will not detract from Lynn's current position and will truly allow Lynn to maximize her talents. The Music Coordinator does not have supervisory responsibilities over other music staff, but instead serves to communicate, coordinate, and facilitate existing and future programming. ***Congratulations, Lynn!***

In other music news, Debbie John has agreed to serve as the interim director for the Adult Bell Choir. Debbie also currently directs the Children's Bell Choir and will continue to do so.

Thanks also to the hard work of Jim Stellmacher. Jim and his wife, Susan, and daughter Aurelia are new to Grace, but certainly not new to music ministry. Jim has patiently and passionately guided this process to ensure the best possible outcome for Grace.

All of this brings us to the most important part of the music program - YOU! Without your participation, there is no music program at Grace. If ever you have considered the joy of serving through music, this is a wonderful opportunity as we welcome a new director. Whether you are new or a long-time participant, please take a few moments to register using this link so we know how to plan for the fall. Your responses determine our next steps and how we're able to start moving back toward worshipping with the fullness of our voices in praise and singing!

[Register at peopleofgrace.org/reigster](https://peopleofgrace.org/reigster) for ADULT Choirs and Worship Technology!

[Register at peopleofgrace.org/register](https://peopleofgrace.org/register) for Children and Youth!

Our choirs will be following the latest in COVID guidelines, which allow for smaller groups of singers, masked and distanced by three feet, singing for a maximum of 50 minutes in one space. We continue to move forward at Grace by considering what it is we can do, and doing it with faith, hope, love, passion and creativity!

# THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN A GRACE COMMUNITY BUILDERS (GCB) GROUP!

---

Grace Community Builders help build a stronger sense of community within our church. This powerful idea is based on getting to know other members of our church better and having an enjoyable time while you are doing it. Each (GCB) Group is comprised of six people. Each Community Builder will spend approximately one hour a week with one of the other participants in his/her Group over a period of five weeks. A pairing sheet is provided which identifies each Community Builder and who she or he will meet with during each of the five weeks. It includes the phone numbers and email addresses of the participants.

The GCB Groups result in building stronger personal relationships among our members. The greater sense of community derives from the deep, multiple connections each Community Builder has within the church. Thus far, 140 individuals have participated in at least one group. The next GCB Groups will begin meeting the week of September 12th.

Here are some recent comments from participants: Jan Smucker said, *"GCB is a fantastic program that offers our members the opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners on a deeper and more personal level. During the isolation due to COVID-19, it was great to have the chance to safely socialize and make meaningful connections."*

Mike Craig elaborated, *"Having participated in several GCB Groups, I had the opportunity to meet people of Grace in a personal and rewarding way. I would highly recommend that all people of Grace participate in at least one GCB Group."*

What is discussed at each meeting is up to the two participants. Most often the topics include a bit of personal history (Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school? etc.), when each person started attending services at the church and how s/he is involved within the church. Often people find they have many things, such as hobbies, in common which easily carry the conversation.

Grace Community Builders is one of the Church's internal foundational steps that help equip our members to understand one another better and to participate in the outreaches of our church to do the Lord's work.

Contact Bill Fronk ([wcfronk1@gmail.com](mailto:wcfronk1@gmail.com)) to sign up to participate or for more information.

## WORSHIP TIMES

---

We are planning to return to three Sunday morning worship services beginning Sunday, September 12, the Sunday after Labor Day weekend:

- 8 a.m. Traditional Service in the Sanctuary with weekly Communion
- 9 a.m. Contemporary Service in the Activity Center with weekly Communion
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

The live-stream of our Traditional Worship Service will continue at 10:30 a.m. and be available anytime on [peopleofgrace.org](https://peopleofgrace.org). We hope to also continue to provide an edited version of our 9G service.

Outdoor Worship is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 5, in addition to the 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

*\* All of the above is subject to change depending on the status of COVID-19 and the availability of volunteers*

## THANK YOU PEOPLE OF GRACE!

---

By: Rev. Eric Blachford

I want to thank all of you who took the time to read my Grace Notes article last month. I am especially grateful to each of you who filled out the online form, hand-wrote answers to the questions, or invited me for coffee and a chat in response to that article. It's helped me get a better sense of who you are as individuals and as a church.

If you haven't filled out that form online ([peopleofgrace.org/hello-questions](https://peopleofgrace.org/hello-questions)) and would still be willing, I'm going to extend my deadline and leave it open for a couple more weeks. If technology isn't your thing, reach out to set up a time to meet via email or phone and we can try to find a time that works for us both!

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

*On-going ministry registration is now open for Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Children's Music Ministry.*

All who are planning to participate in any of these areas are asked to visit [peopleofgrace.org/register](http://peopleofgrace.org/register) to complete the registration form. It will take less than 5 minutes to complete—we promise! Completing the registration will assist us in effectively communicating with you and give us all of the necessary information to help keep our children and youth safe, supporting our commitment to Safe Sanctuary.

**ADULT VOLUNTEERS** are needed in all ministry areas. Adults available and interested in helping in any of these ministry areas, please visit [peopleofgrace.org/adult-volunteer](http://peopleofgrace.org/adult-volunteer) to register.

**\*Here is the breakdown of who, what, when, where, how\***

### Children's Faith Formation

- Nursery Available (Birth – 2 years old): 8:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
- Sunday School (3 years old -5<sup>th</sup> Grade): 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m.

### Youth Faith Formation

- Junior High (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) Sunday 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. Room 233
- Senior High (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) Sunday 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. Room 234

### Youth First Sunday 9G

- Senior High attends 9G worship with follow-up discussion/fellowship in Room 234

### Wednesday G.Y.M.\*

- Wednesday evening 7 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Room 234

*\*(large group followed by age-appropriate small group discussion)*

### Confirmation (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- 6 p.m. -7 p.m. Sunday in-person Room TBD

### Children's/Youth Music Ministry

*Hybrid includes in-person and Zoom choices*

- Treble Tikes (Pre-K 3-5 years old) 9:30 a.m. Tuesday or 1 p.m. Thursday
- Children's Bell Ensemble (4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade beginner-intermediate ringers) Wednesday 4:15 p.m. - 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Cherub Choir (K-3<sup>rd</sup>) Wednesday 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Junior Singers (4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>) Wednesday 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Youth Choir (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) TBD
- Youth Bells (8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> intermediate/advanced ringers) TBD

## FOREST BATHING PRAYER WALK

An ancient Japanese custom is coming to Grace this fall! While the name might bring a bit of discussion, the art of forest bathing is an excellent way to destress, focus, and appreciate the beautiful property we have here.

Beginning Sunday, September 12 until Sunday, September 26, several areas on the Grace property will offer invitations for individuals (or small groups) to slow down, focus on the present, and spend some time in scripture and in appreciation of the beautiful world God has given us.

The invitation sites are not collaborative, so you may visit as many as you wish, in whatever order you choose.

Come, spend some quiet time with God. Come once, come several times. Bring a friend. Come alone. All are invited!

Contact Gaye Lynn at ([gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org)) for more information.

## NEW BIBLE STUDY UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE

We are excited to invite you to join Pastor Doug Bowden as he offers a Disciple Bible Study of "Under the Tree of Life." This class will begin on Thursday, September 16, at 9:30 a.m. in-person in Room 254 or on Zoom and will run for 30 weeks.

Books are available for purchase in the Church Office starting Tuesday, September 7.

Contact Pastor Doug Bowden ([dbowden6@aol.com](mailto:dbowden6@aol.com)) to receive Zoom details or for more information.



## WILL VS TRUST: WHICH IS BEST FOR YOU?

Join us for the Wills vs Trusts Seminar presented by Ted Kuczek, an estate attorney from Ted Kuczek and Associates. Ted's educational seminar will help you start the process of creating or updating your estate plan in a friendly setting. This event will be held both in-person at Grace in Room 231 and live on Zoom at noon on Sunday, September 26, and is sponsored by the Grace Church Foundation.

*"This seminar was well worth the hour. A 'must' if you don't have a will or trust. Even if you have a will or trust, Ted presents the material in a way that leads you to think about your current estate plan and what is important to you." ~ Scott Oats, attendee and member of Grace UMC.*

Register Now at [peopleofgrace.org/willsvstrusts](http://peopleofgrace.org/willsvstrusts)! **Deadline to register is Monday, September 20.**

Contact Scott Oats ([soats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:soats@sbcglobal.net)) for more information.

## FALL EVENING SISTERS CLASS

Join us starting Thursday, September 23, at 7 p.m. on Zoom, as we begin a new six-week Bible Study entitled Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life by Beth Moore.

In this companion piece to her stunning nonfiction book Chasing Vines, Beth Moore explores the ways God delights in watching things grow--and how the land of the vineyard holds the secret for how we can have a more abundant and meaningful life. As she traces the metaphor through Scripture, Beth uncovers how every part of our own lives--even the rockiest, most difficult soil--is used by God to make a difference for His Kingdom.

Books for this class can be ordered via Amazon and run approximately \$11.60. Contact Sandy Bray ([braysnap@aol.com](mailto:braysnap@aol.com)) to receive Zoom details or for more information.

## CONFIRMATION 2021-2022

---

Until 1945 there were only two age categories of people: children and adults. At that time, a 12-year old was deemed old enough to run the family farm and thus “graduated” from the title of child to that of adult. In 1945 there was recognition that 12-18-year old people exhibited behaviors and abilities somewhere between that of children and adults and thus became known as teenagers. The church recognizes 12-year old youth as adult Christians, encouraging a 12-year old to choose to profess publicly an intention to continue learning and growing in faith, thus confirming his/her/their baptism.

**All 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited (and encouraged) to join Pastor Eric Blachford and Gaye Lynn Loufek on Sunday evenings (6 p.m. -7 p.m.) for Confirmation at Grace.**

Our first gathering will be on September 12 when youth AND parents/guardians are invited to come learn a bit more about this exciting opportunity. Confirmation will be a time for relationship building and spiritual growth through field trips, class time, worship attendance, and special fellowship events.

If you are in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (or have an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade student) and have not received information regarding Confirmation, please contact Pastor Eric ([eric.blachford@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:eric.blachford@peopleofgrace.org)) or Gaye Lynn ([gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org)) as soon as possible so we may provide the appropriate information and welcome you into the class.

Those planning to participate in Confirmation must RSVP no later than Sunday, September 5, at [peopleofgrace.org/confirmation21-22](https://peopleofgrace.org/confirmation21-22).

## CALLING ALL COLLEGE-AGED STUDENTS

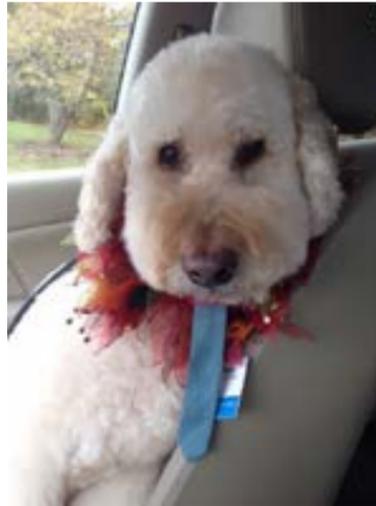
---

We LOVE to keep in touch! If you are a recent high school graduate or are a current college student, please provide the Youth Office with your fall 2021 mailing address. Cell phone numbers are welcome as well (so we can send a quick text or invitation to a ZOOM call). Contact Gaye Lynn at ([gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org)) with questions.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH?

---

In past years, the Open Doors Ministry has been blessed to host Bucky, a service dog, to the Children’s Ministry Wing during Sunday School.



Service dogs provide companionship and build confidence. They help their humans perform daily tasks, increase mobility, accomplish goals, experience adventure, and overcome debilitating mental illnesses, such as anxiety, depression and PTSD.

The Americans with Disabilities Act grants service dogs full public access rights, allowing them to enter places where animals are not otherwise allowed.

## FALL FESTIVAL

---

Do you love the smell of the crisp, cool air? Do you enjoy a good cup of apple cider? Have you ever ridden in a wagon pulled by Belgian draft horses, petted a pig, carried or fed a chicken? You can experience this and more at our annual Fall Festival.

Join us on **Sunday, October 24, from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the lower parking** lot for food, fellowship, and fun! Ticket sales will be coming soon and volunteer sign-ups are just around the corner.

**Do you have additional ideas for Fall Festival?** Contact Gaye Lynn Loufek ([gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org)) to serve on the planning team!

## TALKING ABOUT INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES WITH KIDS & TEENS

---

Have you ever been caught off-guard when, in public, your child asks about someone’s disability? Despite your intention to love people of all abilities, perhaps you had a moment of panic in how to respond? Or, has your own child recognized that they learn differently or make friends differently than their peers? Are you unsure what to say to him/her?

Join Parenting with Grace and the Open Doors Ministry (ODM) on **Sunday, September 19, at 4 p.m. in Room 231** as Nicole Zaccaria, ODM’s Coordinator, addresses these questions and builds your understanding of how to talk openly about disabilities. Nicole has been working in special education as a speech-language pathologist in District 204 for over 20 years. Additionally, she has served as the ODM Coordinator, welcoming and supporting individuals of all abilities at Grace United Methodist Church since 2014. She always says, “The more we know, the better we do,” and this is the perfect opportunity to ask questions and learn in an engaging and safe environment!

This event will be held in-person at Grace UMC but we will be able to stream it on Zoom for those who would prefer to attend virtually. Childcare will be available for those attending in-person.

Register now at [peopleofgrace.org/parenting](https://peopleofgrace.org/parenting) and follow “Parenting with Grace Group” on Facebook for updates. Contact Stefanie Abderhalden ([stefanie.abderhalden@gmail.com](mailto:stefanie.abderhalden@gmail.com)) with questions.



## GIVE THANKS, WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

---

**By: Barbara Hoch (a humble child of God)**

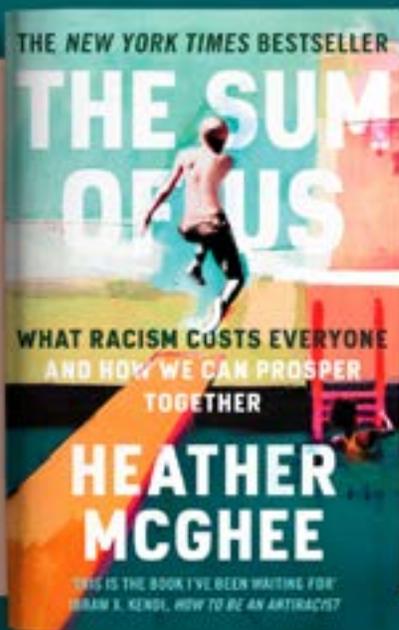
You’ve heard of the expression, “I wondered why someone hadn’t done anything about a certain situation, and then I remembered I was that someone.” Right now, I feel called to do something about encouraging others in these uncertain times. So, here’s my message, “Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!” This is to all those who have taken the lead in keeping the Grace Worship service so successful this last year.

This includes our awesome pastors, past and present. I’m sure there were times they felt this isn’t what they signed up for, but God knows who he can count on to serve his purpose for our Church. This includes all the technical people, who make it easy for us who have various levels of abilities to be able to enjoy our Worship sermons. This includes all the people who continue to minister to those in need. This includes all the musicians who do wonders with their God-given abilities. This includes all the people who continue to care for our Church, inside and out. I’m sure

I’ve left out some who have been working hard behind the scenes, but you know, and God knows, who you are. So, I hope I can speak for our Grace family and say to you all, Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To quote from 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 16:34 “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.”

As an over 50-year member of Grace Church, I feel much joy for the future of our Church. We started out with God’s grace. We continued with hope, and now we continue with gratitude to God for all he has done, is doing and will do for us. We are blessed because of each one of you who have followed God’s calling when there was a certain need you could perform for his glory.

May Grace Church family remember 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 16:8, “Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his good name; make known among the nations what he has done.”



*New Study Starts Thursday, September 16*

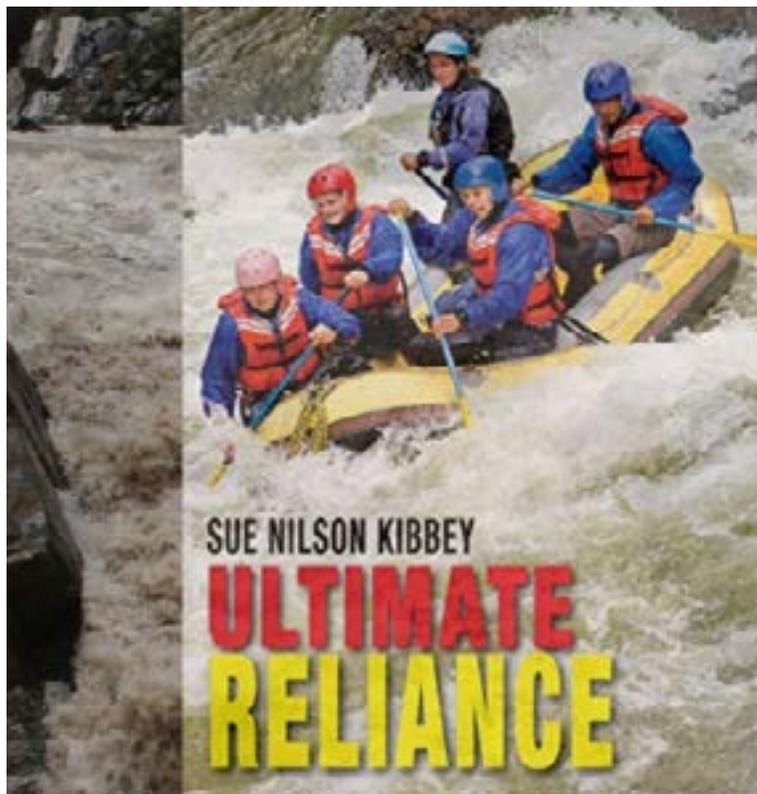
# THE SUM OF US

*What Racism Cost Everyone and  
How We Can Prosper Together*

*By Heather McGhee*

**Thursday Nights  
with the 9 Gathering Group  
at 7:30 p.m. 8:45 p.m. on Zoom**

Contact Lynn Leitzen ([lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:lynn.leitzen@peopleofgrace.org)) for Zoom details



# All Church Book Read & Sermon Series

**Begins Sept 12**

**Book available on Amazon & Cokesbury.com**

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GIVE THANKS

---

Join us on **Tuesday, October 5, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 231 or on Zoom** for our World Thank Offering Program.

We will learn a little about the history of World Thank Offering, some of the missions we support, and ways we can show our gratitude to each other.

Interested in learning more about United Methodist Women? Visit [peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women](https://peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women) or contact UMW President Kathy Carey ([percula4344@sbcglobal.net](mailto:percula4344@sbcglobal.net)).



## DISTRICT 204 BACKPACK THANK YOU

---

**By: Chamus Burnside-Savazzini, Director of Children's Faith Formation**

On behalf of the 100 children that will have received the backpacks that we collected through August 1<sup>st</sup>, I say thank you!! Your generosity and commitment each year is uplifting and impactful! The bags were collected, prayed over and delivered to the District Office on August 4<sup>th</sup> in order to allow time for the District to prepare them for the children that need them. These donations will bless many children. Thank you Grace UMC for always answering the call of support in our community!

## THANK YOU, PEOPLE OF GRACE

---

Julie Yurko, the President and CEO of the Northern Illinois Food Bank, has shared some exciting news with us at Grace!

She writes: "I am pleased to let you know that Grace United Methodist Church is part of Northern Illinois Food Bank's Circle of Hope Society, based on its giving this past fiscal year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). The Circle of Hope Society is one way we can thank and recognize you, one of our most invested partners.

"The generous support of Grace United Methodist Church makes a difference in our community. As a Circle of Hope member, it will be recognized in the Food Bank's online Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report and on our Donor Wall at the West Suburban Center in Geneva. Contributors will be listed in ranges of gift amounts for donations made between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

"In FY2021 your support helped provide 100 million meals through the Food Bank and our network. Your gifts made it possible for us to respond effectively during the suddenly-increased demand due to the COVID-19 health and economic crisis. Even as our community looks at recovery, your partnership helps the Food Bank work towards a vision where every neighbor has the food they need to thrive."

What you do matters. We value you as our partner in solving hunger!



## BIBLE SUNDAY

---

Grace is excited to continue our Bible Sunday tradition where we present our Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade children with their new bibles! It is our biggest responsibility as a church community to pass on the Word of God to the next generation. Proverbs 22:6 tells us to *“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”* The most important gift we can give them is the Word of God.

We invite all families with Kindergarten and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students to register for their Bibles. We will bless and present students with their Bibles on **Sunday, September 26, at the 10:30 a.m. service.** All registered children in Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders will receive a Bible. If you know of a child who missed getting their Kindergarten or 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible, please let us know!

For those who prefer, we will arrange for delivery of your child's Bible and/or prepare it for pick up! This is an exciting time and we are thankful.

Register Now at [peopleofgrace.org/Bible-Sunday](http://peopleofgrace.org/Bible-Sunday)  
*\*Deadline to register is Monday, September 20.*

Contact Chamus ([chamus@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:chamus@peopleofgrace.org)) with questions.

## OUR OWN PAUL BUNYON

---

Perhaps you noticed the large brush piles on the parking lots or the even bigger ones down along the river this spring/summer. The Trustees extend a big THANK-YOU to Bob Schmitt for the herculean task of cutting all of that!

From March through July, Bob removed invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle, undesirable species, and dead trees/shrubs with chain saw, loppers, and shovel. “It was a labor of love,” he modestly says.

Thanks also go to Steve Piper & Sons for hauling away all of the piles on the pavement—gratis.

In late July Trustees hired a landscaper to chip the piles along the river and leave the chips as mulch in that area. Bob then spread them out more evenly.