



# “ABUNDANT GRACE” NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2, No. 3

September, 2024

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings Abundant Grace family, I hope this message finds you all doing well. As the summer months come to end and we enter the fall season, the time in which a new year of ministry activities and programs are being activated, we are set to venture into new possibilities and new ways God will use us. I am excited for the future, as the possibilities of what we can achieve are endless. I recall during one of our Saturday morning gatherings, we imagined what the stories in our newsletter would be 5 years from now. Such wonderful aspirations and goals were shared. Well now is the time to plant the seeds for those imagined dreams to become a reality. Now is the time for us to begin charting the course for a God-led, Holy Spirit-guided, Jesus-anchored mission into our future. There is no limit to what God can do, and I am so excited to be a part of this journey with all of you.



As the Bible has shown us, anytime God has gotten ready to do something BIG in the world, God has prepared the way by calling God’s people to pray. Prayer is the fuel for God’s mission. Our lives will not have the power we need to complete our calling as a people, unless we are being filled daily by the Holy Spirit in our times of prayer alone, and with each other. We need to pray for the broken situations in our world we long to help mend. We need to pray for our church to become what God desires it to be! In our

gatherings together on Sundays, in our ministry and committee settings, and in our own lives individually, I hope in this upcoming year we grow in our love for one another and our practice of prayer. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles reminds us:

***“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14.***

It’s my belief that Abundant Grace members are some of the most loving and caring people on the face of the earth. Combining that love, joy, and caring, with fervent prayer is a powerful combination. Let us begin to center ourselves this year on seeking God’s face, so what God shows us, will propel us to live out the mission God has for this church, this year, and beyond. God is on the verge of doing great things and I am getting myself in position to receive and distribute what God has to offer; please join me in preparing ourselves for what is next.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Emory*





**A NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR**

This month is consumed with planning for the picnic on the 31st. I've been impressed with the way everyone recognizes the amount of work to be done. AND everyone is willing to share the responsibilities. Our committees are working well! Now I'm anxious to have the day happen! In case of "weather" we can meet in the basement! Please plan on attending our first (of many?) Picnic!

*Blessings to all of you.  
Elizabeth*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**



We are starting the fiscal year off with a BANG. Thank you so much for continuing to support GUCC. Contributions were over 130% of what you pledged!!! We do realize that there are many of us who contribute their yearly contribution within the 1st month of the new year. It is greatly appreciated.

*Thank you,  
Finance Committee*



**WORSHIP & MUSIC**

**September 8** will be a busy Sunday at Abundant Grace. The choir will return from their summer hiatus, and are looking forward to a season of inspiring music for all. Our church officers will be officially installed as they continue their service to our congregation. Those in attendance may also notice a couple of changes to our order of worship, so please plan on being with us.



*Nancy Hughes*





## BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

This year the Benevolence Committee would Greetings kind, generous people of Abundant Grace. Well, it has been one full year since we began our Mission Outreach programs. Luckily for us, each of the two blended churches have had a long history with both Respond Now in Chicago Heights, and ANEW (formerly South Suburban Family Shelter), a Building Beyond Violence and Abuse Program organization in Homewood.



Each month AGUCC supported programs that provided an incredible number of bags of food, toys, games, toiletries, along with our concern and care.

We have developed a reputation of support and AGUCC has created a close relationship with these two organizations.

We have now enjoyed a nice vacation of rest and relaxation. Your Do-Able Committee is gearing up for our **September 8th** "Lunch Bunch" food drive for Respond Now. Look for a paper plate with suggestions to provide a delightful lunch opportunity for many hungry people. You did it before and we hope we can do it again.

*Benevolence Committee*



## MISSION CONTROL- DO-ABLE COMMITTEE

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The generous, caring people of Abundant Grace are on the move again and your Do-Able Committee is proud to represent you.



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## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

The Faith Development Ministry invites your participation in a conversation titled, "Family Matters: Abraham through Joseph" on **Saturday, September**

**28th, 10:00 a.m. to**



**12:30 p.m.** After exploring the similarities and differences in family dynamics during biblical times and that of today, our facilitator, Rev. Judith Vicari will engage participants in an enlightening and lively conversation. This topic is one we can all relate to. You don't want to miss it! Light refreshments will be provided.

Rev. Judith Vicari was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1998, after graduation from Chicago Theological Seminary. She served as intentional interim at St. John UCC in Peotone and was installed as Pastor at the First Congregational UCC in Ottawa. Prior to entering seminary, she was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Sociology, from the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL, after which she enjoyed a career as a tenured faculty member, with the title of Professor of Sociology at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights, IL. She retired from that position in 2000, in order to enter full time ministry. Currently, she and her husband, Sam are grateful members of Abundant Grace UCC in Homewood, IL. They divide their time between the Chicago suburbs and Henderson, NV; the two locations where most of their family members reside.

Please advise me if you have any questions or concerns.

*Blessings,*

*Rev. Melbalenia Evans*

## WOMAN'S BOOK CLUB

The Woman's Book Club will meet on **September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am**, to discuss the book entitled, "*The Lost Letters from Martha's Vineyard*"

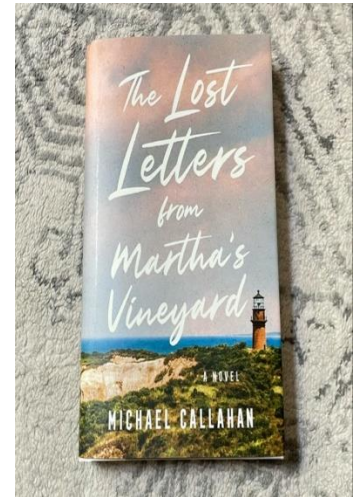
by Michael Callahan.

This book has been chosen by many book clubs including Good Morning America.

Not only do we discuss the book, but also what it means to us personally, and as a group.

At the last meeting, we had a wonderful discussion as well as great time together.

You are welcome whether you have read the book or just want to hear about it.

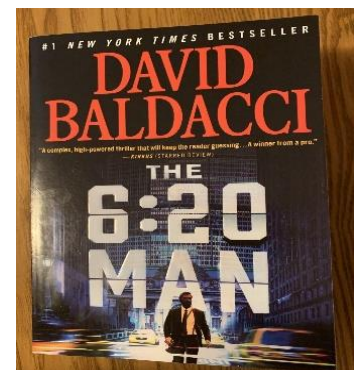


## MEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Men's Book Club will meet **Saturday, September 14, at 10:00 am**, in the Gathering Room. We will be discussing the book entitled; "*The 6:20 Man: A Thriller*" by David Baldacci.

This book

is described as a "cryptic murder" - A former soldier, turned financial analyst, is pulled deep into the corruption and menace, that prowl beneath the opulent world of finance. Come and join in the discussion of what promises to be a "heart racing thriller". All men are invited.



**ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS, BAKERS,  
AND CRAFTERS!**

**OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>!** We are just 7 weeks away from the day of our Arts, Bakery, and Crafts Show (fondly called the ABC Show). Have you started to prepare? Will you/we be ready? Painters, photographers, greeting card makers, jewelers/beaders, embroiderers, crocheters, knitters, paper crafters, ornament makers, whatever your special artistic talent is, now is the time to sign up to participate and reserve your table. We are in need of all those who have previously been a part of this fun and exciting fundraising event, and we are hoping to have some new talent participation!



Please look for the special sign-up list on the table next to the elevator, and add your name! This event will only be successful with your participation,



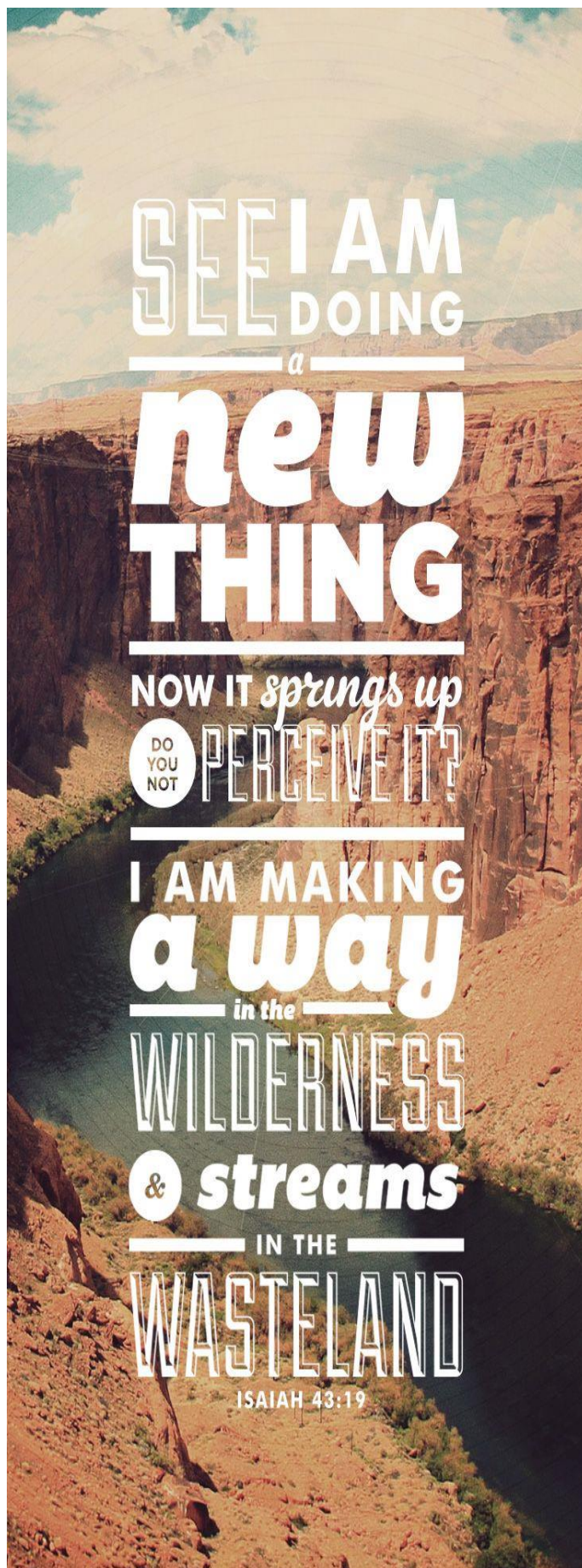
so plan to be here **October 20<sup>th</sup>** to share your talents and shop the tables of others. All proceeds go to the Abundant Grace fundraising budget.



For all details or to add your name to the participants list, please call 708-747-1330 or 708-798-0700.

*The Fundraising Committee*

**Show  
Your  
TALENT**



# Bible Trivia Quiz



1. Who were the three sons of Adam and Eve listed in the Bible?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many brothers did Joseph have?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many plagues did God send on Egypt?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Where did God give Moses the Ten Commandments?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who baptized Jesus?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What were men trying to do at the Tower of Babel?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many books are in the Bible?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

8. How many people were saved on Noah's ark?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Where did Jesus turn water into wine?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Name the shortest verse in the Bible?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is the only book of the Bible that does not contain the word "God"?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is the last word in the Bible?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

14. The New Testament was originally written in which language?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

15. How many books are there in the Old Testament?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

16. What is the shortest book of the Bible?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

17. What is the last book of the New Testament?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Where did Jesus grow up?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Kathleen Jenkins</b> |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Marilyn Reed</b>     |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Janet Ulreich</b>    |
| <b>15</b> | <b>Sandra Ryder</b>     |
| <b>25</b> | <b>Robert Hughes</b>    |
| <b>25</b> | <b>Jean Wildermuth</b>  |
| <b>26</b> | <b>Jim Podgorny</b>     |
| <b>28</b> | <b>Cindy Thomas</b>     |
| <b>29</b> | <b>Lois Fritz</b>       |

# SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b><u>1</u></b> COMMUNION GIFT CARD ORDERS 9:30 AM – WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 AM – BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK	<b><u>2</u></b>  <b style="color: red;">LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b><u>3</u></b> 10:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY 12:00 PM – PASTOR, CHAIR, V. CHAIR	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b> 7:00 PM- CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b><u>6</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
<b><u>8</u></b> 9:30 AM – WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 AM- INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 10:30 AM – FINANCE COMMITTEE 10:30 AM- W&M MTG 10:45 AM- FUNDRAISING MTG.	<b><u>9</u></b> 9:39 AM – TENTATIVE PICNIC WRAP-UP MTG	<b><u>10</u></b> 10:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY 12:00 PM – PASTOR, CHAIR, V. CHAIR	<b><u>11</u></b>	<b><u>12</u></b> 7:00 PM- CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b><u>13</u></b>	<b><u>14</u></b> 10:00 AM- MEN'S BOOK CLUB
<b><u>15</u></b> 9:30 AM – WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45 AM- FAITH DEVELOPMENT	<b><u>16</u></b> 1:00 PM- ELISABETH CIRCLE	<b><u>17</u></b> 10:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY 12:00 PM – PASTOR, CHAIR, V. CHAIR 1:00 PM- PROPERTY MTG	<b><u>18</u></b> 1:00 PM- SSP MEETING	<b><u>19</u></b> 7:00 PM- CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b><u>20</u></b>	<b><u>21</u></b> 9:00 AM- COUNCIL MTG 10:30 AM- SATURDAY MORNING MANNA (MEN'S GROUP)
<b><u>22</u></b> 9:30 AM – WORSHIP SERVICE	<b><u>23</u></b>	<b><u>24</u></b> 10:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY 12:00 PM – PASTOR, CHAIR, V. CHAIR	<b><u>25</u></b> <b style="color: red;">NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 12:00 PM- PRC MEETING	<b><u>26</u></b> 7:00 PM- CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b><u>27</u></b>	<b><u>28</u></b> 9:30 AM- FAITH DEVELOPMENT
<b><u>29</u></b> 9:30 AM- WORSHIP SERVICE	<b><u>30</u></b>					