



GRACE GAZETTE

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IUKA, MISSISSIPPI

A NEW YEAR, A FAITHFUL JOURNEY

Grace UMC Family and Friends,

A new year always carries a mix of emotions. Hope and anticipation often walk hand in hand with uncertainty and reflection. As we step into this new season together, we do so grounded in the steady faithfulness of God, who has walked with us through every chapter that brought us here and promises to remain with us in every chapter yet to come.

At Grace UMC, we are beginning this year with open hearts, grateful for where we have been and attentive to where God may be leading us next. Whether you are a member, a regular attender, or someone who connects with us online or through the community, you are part of this story. God continues to do meaningful work in and through ordinary people who are willing to show up, serve, and love.

Worship remains the heart of our life together. Each Sunday we gather to hear God’s Word, share prayer and song, and be reminded that grace meets us exactly where we are. No matter what the week behind us has looked like or what the week ahead may hold, worship gives us space to breathe, listen, and be renewed. If you have been away for a while or are new to Grace, know that there is always room for you.

As the year begins, we are also looking ahead with intention. Our missions and outreach ministries continue to shape how we live out our faith beyond the walls of the church. From ongoing community partnerships to new ideas taking shape, we are asking thoughtful questions about how we can love our neighbors well and serve faithfully in the year ahead. Your prayers, ideas, and willingness to participate matter deeply.

There are several opportunities to gather and serve this month. Be sure to mark your calendar for upcoming worship services, fellowship opportunities, and ministry meetings. Details and dates can be found on the calendar, and updates will continue to be shared in worship and online.

We also want to celebrate the people who make Grace UMC what it is. Birthdays and anniversaries remind us that God works through lives, relationships, and shared history. If you have a birthday or anniversary this month and haven’t already shared it with the church office, please let us know so we can celebrate with you.

As we move forward into this new year, let us do so without rushing, without fear, and without forgetting the grace that has carried us this far. God is not finished with us. May we remain attentive, faithful, and hopeful as we continue this journey together.

Grace and peace,
Cheryl Farr
Pastor, Grace United Methodist Church

OTHER STORIES THIS MONTH:

DECEMBER RECAP 2



CALENDAR 3



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 4



I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” – C.S. Lewis

DECEMBER RECAP

December was a meaningful and faith-filled month at Grace UMC, marked by worship, service, and connection both within the church and throughout the community.

On December 19, Grace UMC participated in downtown luka’s Dickens Christmas celebration. With a firepit and a table set up for children to make reindeer food, we shared simple joy and hospitality with families and neighbors, reminding us that church happens wherever God’s people show up with open hearts.

Our sanctuary was filled with scripture and song on December 21 during a Lessons and Carols Christmas Cantata, beautifully arranged and led by Debbie Hamrick. The service invited us to slow down, listen, and reflect on the story of Christ’s coming through music and scripture. Just days later, we gathered again on Christmas Eve for a Communion service centered on Emmanuel, God with us. Sharing the bread and the cup together offered a quiet, holy space to receive Christ’s grace once more.

On Christmas Day, members of Grace UMC visited the jail, sharing time, conversation, and gifts of books, games, and Christmas goodies with inmates. That ministry reflected the heart of the gospel, Christ drawing near to those who are often overlooked.

The month also included Soup Sunday on December 28, when over 200 sixteen-ounce containers of soup were prepared and shared. We were especially blessed by a family without a church home who came simply to help, reminding us that generosity and welcome often flow both ways.

December was busy, but more than that, it was faithful. Through worship, outreach, and shared service, Grace UMC lived the story of Christmas in tangible and hope-filled ways.





JANUARY 2026

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Led by the Light Matt 2:1-12	5	6	7	8 Jail Ministry	9	10
11 11:00 Worship Bishop Bill McAlilly 1:00 PM Planning Meeting The Place on Front	12	13	14 6:00 PM Bible Study	15 Jail Ministry	16	17
18 Come and See John 1:29-42 3:30 PM Sunday Soup	19	20	21 6:00 PM Bible Study	22 Jail Ministry	23	24
25 Calling Us to Follow Matt 4:12-23	26	27	28 6:00 PM Bible Study	29 Jail Ministry	30	31

Worship Information

Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Fellowship/Hospitality: 10:30 AM
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00
Location: 213 E. Eastport St. Iuka, MS

Online Worship

Live: <https://www.youtube.com/@IukaGraceUMC/streams>

[Sermons](#)

[Daily Devotionals](#)

Upcoming Events & Gatherings

- Missions and Outreach Planning – 1/11/2026 1:00 PM The Place on Front

Missions & Outreach

We are looking forward to a meaningful day at Grace UMC on Sunday, January 11. We are honored to welcome [Bill McAlilly](#), who will be bringing the message during worship at 11:00 am. Bishop McAlilly's voice, wisdom, and steady faith have shaped many across the life of the church, and we are grateful for the opportunity to hear him preach.

Following worship, Bishop Bill will join us for our Missions and Outreach Planning Meeting at 1:00 pm at The Place on Front, 102 Front St., in Iuka. This will be a whole-church conversation as we begin thinking ahead to missions and outreach for 2026. We invite everyone to come ready to share ideas, hopes, and possibilities, including mission and outreach events or activities you would like Grace UMC to consider continuing or starting.

Whether you come for worship, the planning meeting, or both, we hope you will be part of this day as we listen for where God may be leading us next.

Stay Connected

[Facebook](#)

Website: graceumciuka.org

Contact: [Rev. Cheryl Farr](#)

You are always welcome at Grace UMC. Come as you are.