



open hearts
open minds
open doors

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

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United Methodists understand [grace as a gift from God](#), “the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit.”

Bishop Will Willimon describes grace as “the power of God working in you to give you a transformed life.”

We experience [three kinds of grace in our life with God](#) — prevenient, justifying and sanctifying.

Prevenient grace literally means “the grace that comes before.” Prevenient grace calls us into a relationship with God before we are even aware of God. It prepares us for the dawning awareness that God loves us so much that God seeks us out first.

Justifying grace happens when Christians abandon all those vain attempts to justify themselves before God, to be seen as “just” in God’s eyes through religious and moral practices. When God’s “justifying grace” is experienced and accepted, it’s a time of pardon and forgiveness, of new peace, joy and love.

Sanctifying grace enables us to grow into the image of Christ and leads to inward and outward holiness.

On the gift of grace, Rev. Wendy Hudson-Jacoby explained, “[Grace, God acting in our lives, is truly free](#). However, we know that from God’s side, grace is costly. The cross is a stark response of how costly grace is to God. To give ourselves to God in response to this grace costs us our lives.

“However, there is a greater cost — the cost of not responding, the cost of non-discipleship. When we don’t respond to God’s grace it costs us peace with God, the peace of God, the joy of knowing that we belong to God, and the power of God working in our lives to accomplish what we simply cannot accomplish on our own.”

Peace and grace are related. We experience peace, individually and as a community, as we respond to God’s grace. “Peace gives Christians the ability to have grace when facing enemies, an inward knowledge of and conformity to the will of God, a spiritual blessing, and a sense of calm and assurance, a trust that cannot be willed into existence but can only be felt when it is given. Peace found throughout the community and world is considered a sign of God’s kingdom as envisioned by Jesus Christ.” ([The Upper Room Dictionary of Christian Spiritual Formation](#))

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

ACTIVITIES

**In June we collected
\$125.00 for Right
Tree. Thank you!**



**An Open house to
Celebrate the Life of
Suzette Cooley-Sanborn
will be held on Saturday
July 12th from 4-6pm
under the tent at
Reynolds-Jonkhoff
Funeral Home in
Traverse City**

**GOD SHED
HIS
Grace
ON THEE**

**Please consider
being an Usher on
Sunday mornings!
See Darlene!**



**Our Missions
Offering for July is
Supporting
Salvation Army
(G.T. Area-
Housing Fund)
Thank you!**

JULY CELEBRATIONS!

2nd Linda Belcher
8th Shirley Lewis
16th Evie Huver
20th Judy & Tom Jenkins' Anniversary!
21st Jean & Ron Ridge's Anniversary!
22nd Chuck Walter
24th Steve & Roberta's Anniversary!
28th Holly Barrett
28th Sami Aisthorpe



JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 	5
6 9am Worship Communion Coffee Fellowship	7	8	9	10	11	12 Celebration of Life for Suzette Cooley-Sanborn 4-6pm
13 9am Worship Coffee Fellowship	14	15	16 AD Council Mtg 9am	17	18	19
20 9am Worship Coffee Fellowship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9am Worship Coffee Fellowship	28	29	30	31		
					AA SCHEDULE Saturday, Everyone, 7pm Monday, Everyone, 7:30pm	

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