

GRACE NOTES

September Birthdays:

- 6 – Jamie Fiorini
- 23 – Nancy Wallace
- 24 – Yvonne Fiorini
- 26 – Fred Lennard
- 28 – Rachael Welch

September Anniversaries:

- 14 – Ron and Lina Schmitt

~Ladies Birthday Luncheon ~

Grace Ladies' Birthday luncheon
will celebrate this month with a
salad bar potluck at church on
Wednesday, 9/18, at 11:30.
All ladies are welcome!!

Today-September 1 – Communion Sunday
 September 2 – Labor Day Holiday
 September 3 – 10:00 am Adult Bible Study Begins (every Tues.)
 September 4 – 9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study Begins (every Wed.)
 September 5-8 – Pastor Nick on vacation
 September 8 – 9:00 am Sunday Worship
 September 15 – 9:00 am Sunday Worship-Potluck Sunday
 September 18 – 11:30 am Ladies' Birthday salad potluck @ church
 September 22 – 9:00 am Sunday Worship
 September 23 – Session meets
 September 29 – 9:00 am Sunday Worship
 September 30 – 7:00 pm Book Discussion @ McDowell's

	LAY READER	GREETERS & USHERS
1	John Pitzer	Dee Gann & Karin Cook
8	John Christ	Neil & Marge McDowell
15	June Watson	Don VonTungeln & Mike Krause
22	John Pitzer	Sharon & Bob Grace
29	Sharon Graze	John & Joyce Christ

COMMUNION – SEPTEMBER: BETTY CLOUGH OCTOBER: JUNE WATSON

From the desk of Pastor Nick:

Brothers and Sisters,

As we close our time in the difficult and grim book of Judges we open up to the hopeful and redemptive story found in the book of Ruth. The book of Ruth tells the story of loss, despair, kindness, redemption, and a royal line being preserved. It is a fantastic and brief look at the difference that joyful obedience to God's word can truly make in the lives of those around us. I look forward to digging into this book and then moving into the books of 1-2 Samuel. I thought I would share a brief article with you from the ESV Gospel Transformation Bible introduction to the book of Ruth.

The Gospel in Ruth

Ruth is the story of a young Moabite widow who comes to know the covenant love of the one true God and the joy of belonging to his people through her Jewish mother-in-law, Naomi. As these two women navigate through difficult as well as ordinary circumstances, there is unmistakable evidence of God's sovereign hand at work to redeem a people for himself. He is the hero of the story as the faithful God who with great loving kindness (*hesed*) cares for his own and provides what they need. In Ruth's story we see a reflection of our own. For we too were "alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" ([Eph. 2:12](#)). Like Ruth, we too need a Kinsman-Redeemer who will do what is necessary to remedy our helpless condition.

The language of redemption permeates the story of Ruth: words built on the root "redeem" (*ga-al*) appear 23 times. Key to understanding the narrative is the concept of the kinsman-redeemer, the closest living male relative who had the duty to preserve the family name and land. He could do this in a number of ways: buying back either land that a poor relative had to sell or the family member that had sold himself into slavery to pay debts ([Lev. 25:25, 47-49](#)), avenging the death of a family member ([Num. 35:19-21](#)), or marrying the widow of a deceased relative ([Deut. 25:5-10](#)). All of these duties could be refused, including marriage to the late relative's widow (now known as "levirate" marriage, *levir* being the Latin translation of the Hebrew word for brother-in-law). In certain cases, one could be a *goel* (Hebrew for "close relative" or "redeemer") without being a *levir* (one who would provide an heir to the deceased relative through marrying his widow). In Ruth's case, the kinsman-redeemer Boaz elects to carry out the duties of both, buying her estate and taking her as his bride.

Readers of the New Testament will recognize Jesus Christ as the ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer who voluntarily paid the price for the redemption of his people and takes them as his beloved bride ([Eph. 5:23-32](#); [Rev. 19:7](#)).

I hope you will join us during September for a closer look at this wonderful book.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, you can listen to and download any of these sermons again or share them with others at gracecpc.org/sermons

Peace and Rest, Pastor Nick.

Christian Education *Elder Betty Clough*

CHILDREN:

We're happy to have Sharon Grace heading up our nursery 'staff,' leading a few of us in teaching Sunday School for babies-toddlers through grades K/1. Sharon has experience in this area in her previous church Sunday School. Betty, with Neil substituting, will continue with grades 2 through 6. We occasionally have families and grandchildren visit and we want to be prepared when they do come.

Which brings up:

We need a few good men and women to team up with Betty, Sharon and Neil so that we can alternate Sundays, maybe once a month or less. We have materials ready and labeled, for you to step in and teach.

Please consider sharing your spiritual gift with the children.

Your Sunday in the nursery may be to rock a baby, read or tell a Bible story, sing-a-long Bible songs with a CD, crafting, or telling the story of Noah using the amazing wooden, hand-made Noah's Ark gifted to us...and much more!

Sign-up today (or next Sunday). We'll meet Sunday, September 8 after worship to go over materials and to familiarize yourself with the setup.

ADULTS:

It's Kick-Off-Bible Study week!! This is a great opportunity to learn, discuss, question, and enjoy fellowship with one another! Take a look at these two studies and do consider attending one or both of them.

1. 1st Samuel: Choose Your King by Tim Chester

Meets Tuesday mornings 10:00 – 11:30 at church, September 3 – October 8.

A six-week study, with excellent facilitators Neil McDowell and Mike Krause!

(Pastor Nick will soon begin a sermon series on 1st and 2nd Samuel.)

Book \$4.85.

2. Even Better Than Eden, a Ladies Bible Study by Nancy Guthrie

Meets Wednesday mornings 9:30 – 11:00 at church, September 4 – October 30.

A nine-week study, facilitated by outstanding Rachael Welch!

Book \$13.