



## Grace Free Clinic 2016 Summary

The Grace Free Clinic had a very successful year in 2016. A volunteer staff of 148, including 73 students from Des Moines University and the College of Pharmacy at Drake University, served 303 unique clients, an average of nine clients each Tuesday evening.

Free Clinics of Iowa provides approximately \$3,500 to each of its member clinics, including Grace Free Clinics. This money is used for generic prescriptions for client patients who cannot afford their medicine, as well as for some medical tests done at Broadlawns. A small portion is used for medical supplies and office supplies for the clinic. Donations from the Grace congregation are used to purchase Free Clinic shirts for the volunteers.

The client patients come to the clinic for many reasons, including physicals, chronic illnesses, injuries, and upper respiratory infections. Of the 303 patients treated, 154 were uninsured. The number one reason given for visiting the clinic was the cost of health care, whether insured or not. Other reasons included hours of operation, and difficulty in scheduling a timely appointment with their primary care doctor. Many noted that they feel comfortable coming to Grace Free Clinic.

The free meal served in conjunction with the clinic is a wonderful part of this mission. The meal is solely funded through donations, and follows the Grace practice of uncommon hospitality. Guests not only receive a nutritious meal, but are also offered the hand of friendship and a unique fellowship. In 2016, the Grace Free Clinic meal staff served 3,204 meals. This was made possible through the efforts of ten dedicated volunteers, seven faithful substitutes, and many dependable food donors.

A new addition to the free clinic this winter was the "Winter Warmth" program. Donations of new and gently worn winter clothing for men, women, and children were offered to the clinic patrons at no cost. Depending on the weather and donations, clothing will be available through the end of February.

Both the clinic and the meal team welcome new volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to help in the clinic, please contact Clinic Manager Susan Ryon ([gracefreeclinic@gmail.com](mailto:gracefreeclinic@gmail.com) or (515)829-6511). To assist with the meal, please contact Mary Paulson ([marypaulson0802@gmail.com](mailto:marypaulson0802@gmail.com) or (515)490-4039).



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# Thinking About Arts & Crafts

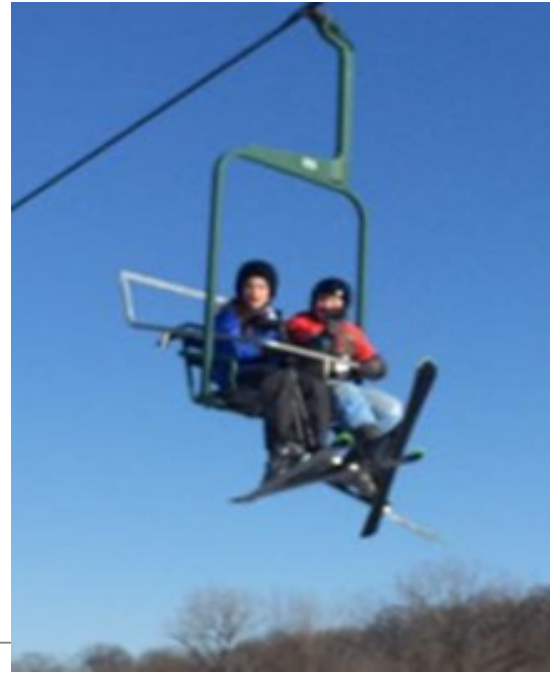
The Grace Members and Friends Art Exhibit is just a few months away, and it's time to think about your entries. Watch for more information in coming editions of the *Chimes*.

Artwork must be entered by the artist, must be original (no kits), and each artist may submit up to three pieces of artwork. You are invited to join the Thursday afternoon art group that meets in the Confirmation Room at 1:30 p.m. at Grace for fellowship and some peer "coaching" and encouragement while you work on your art. We welcome newcomers of any age to the show!

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## Grace Youth Ski Trip 2017

Grace Youth made the annual trip to Hastings, MN January 13-15 for fellowship and skiing at Afton Alps. The youth and parent chaperones spent time on the slopes on Saturday. It was a beautiful, sunny day and no (major) accidents occurred! This year marked Arden Borgen's 30th year making the trip, and his involvement is always a special treat for Grace Youth. Thanks to Arden for always being willing to go along!



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## Change a Child's Story Update

Thank you again for all the time you have put into Change a Child's Story through donating books, reading to kids, and volunteering your time. King School is very grateful for the more than 500 new books they have received through your generosity. They hosted a Parent/Child reading event and were able to give each child a new book. We hope to be able to do the same thing at a reading event this spring. New books can be dropped off at the Change a Child's Story bookshelf in the Narthex. All types of elementary books are great, however, books that represent the diversity of the King School student body and non-fiction are especially welcomed. Thanks again for helping to Change a Child's Story. Please send an email to [Lora\\_Kracht@msn.com](mailto:Lora_Kracht@msn.com) with any questions.

### 3rd Grace Lent Project

The 3rd grade Sunday School class will once again collect travel-sized toiletries for the homeless shelter during Lent. Start collecting them now! Details will be available soon.

### Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch will go to Ruby Tuesday (4900 86th Street, Urbandale) on Friday, February 3. Call the church office at (515)255-2131 to reserve your seat on the bus. Departure time is 11:15 a.m.

### IRMS Membership

Grace UMC is continuing our membership with Iowa Religious Media Services (IRMS). This service allows us to borrow religious curriculum and other material for a certain amount of time. Many adult Sunday School classes use this service for short-term studies, or to evaluate curriculum before purchasing. Contact Coreen Witke for information on how to borrow material from IRMS. Coreen can be reached at [coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org) or 255-6400 ext. 230.

### Thank you, Marian!

Kudos to Marian Johnson, aka Mrs. Heifer Project. Since 1990 she has worked during Advent to sign people up to give gifts of animals to people in developing countries. In those 26 years, Marian has raised \$52,000! Congratulations, Marian!



[www.gracedesmoines.org](http://www.gracedesmoines.org)

## Celebrations of Grace

by Rev. Dr. David Swinton, Senior Pastor  
255-2131 ■ [daveswinton@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:daveswinton@gracedesmoines.org)



### Marcia McFee Worship Design Workshop

Grace will host a very special event the weekend of February 25 and 26.

Well-known worship consultant Dr. Marcia McFee will lead a workshop on worship design at Grace on Saturday, February 25. She will then lead worship and preach at our services on February 25 and 26. While Dr. McFee is here, she will spend several hours consulting with our worship leaders and musicians.

Dr. McFee has been a renowned leader and designer of worship for regional and national gatherings for two decades, including the United Methodist General Conference and the United Church of Christ General Synod. She has taught courses at 11 seminaries. But her main call to ministry is creating interactive learning environments where local church staff and volunteers of any denomination experience ways to create "deep soul" worship that honors our traditions while offering the message through 21st century mediums.

I want to issue an invitation to Grace church members who would like to attend the Saturday workshop. Please consider attending if you have any interest in helping to plan the theme and content of future worship services, designing worship space or graphics, adding elements to our music, contributing dramatic readings or presentations, or making other aspects of worship more sensory-rich and deeply spiritual.

The workshop is from 9:00-3:30. You may arrive as early as 8:15 to check in and make your payment. Lunch is included in the registration fee. Pre-registration is required. Please call Charlene in the church office at (515) 255-2131 or send an email to [info@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:info@gracedesmoines.org) to be added to the list of attendees. Topics for the day include creating worship with deep soul, the politics of change in worship, the rhythms of liturgy and life, and the planning process.

Thanks to joint sponsorship by Grace and the Central District of the Iowa Annual Conference, the cost is only \$15 per person. The Grace UMC youth will serve the lunch, the cost of which is included in the \$15 registration fee. Grace is able to pay for the consultation thanks to the generous bequest of Phyllis Roberts. I hope to see many of you there!

Peace,

Pastor Dave

**United Methodist Women Unit Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 2 at 9:30 a.m.**





## Sunday School Teacher Valentine Breakfast

All children and youth Sunday School teachers are invited to our annual Valentine's Breakfast on Sunday, February 12 at 8:15 a.m. in the Activity Center. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the love of Jesus you share with your students. Please contact Coreen Witke for more information (255-6400 ext. 230 or [coreen-witke@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:coreen-witke@gracedesmoines.org)).

## Help Wanted

Are you interested in being a liturgist or providing a children's message in 2017? If so, please indicate your interest and provide your contact information in the "Opportunities of the Week" section of the "Growing with Grace" bulletin insert, or call the church office at 515-255-2131.

## Altar Flowers for 2017

There are still lots of opportunities to provide altar flowers in 2017. Please indicate your interest and provide your contact information and dedication in the "Opportunities of the Week" section of the "Growing with Grace" bulletin insert.



**address:** 3700 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, IA 50311  
**phone:** 515-255-2131  
**email:** [info@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:info@gracedesmoines.org)  
**web site:** [www.gracedesmoines.org](http://www.gracedesmoines.org)  
**facebook:** GraceDesMoines  
**twitter:** GraceDesMoines

**Worship:** Saturday: 5 p.m.  
 Sunday: 8 and 10:15 a.m.

## Chimes Deadline

Submit complete articles for the next issue by the 15th of each month. Please send them to Charlene Hjort at [charlenehjort@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:charlenehjort@gracedesmoines.org).

View the Chimes on line and in color on our web site at:  
[www.gracedesmoines.org/newsletter](http://www.gracedesmoines.org/newsletter).

## Our Mission

Grace United Methodist is a community in Christ where a cross section of metropolitan Des Moines gathers for worship, study and service. At the core of our existence is Christ's vision for the world and the church. We are a servant people striving to live our lives so as to increase the Love for God and neighbor in the world. We are called:

- To tell God's story in fresh new ways through preaching and teaching.
- To practice uncommon hospitality.
- To equip and send servants into the larger community for Service.

## Our Welcoming Statement

God's love is for all and God's grace is present in all creation. God's spirit draws us into community. We are filled with genuine care and love for one another. Honoring the diversity of our faith journeys, our welcome is extended to all—people of all races, sexes, ethnic backgrounds, generations, physical and mental abilities, economic conditions, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. No matter who you are, no matter where you are in your life, you are welcome here. We are all invited to bless this church with our love, our presence, and our participation.

## STAFF LISTING

**Senior Minister:**  
 Rev. Dr. David Swinton

**Minister of  
 Congregational Care:**  
 Rev. Gary Nims

**Director of Christian Education:**  
 Coreen Witke

**Grace Preschool Director:**  
 Kelly Donnelly

**Office Manager:**  
 Charlene Hjort

**Music Director/Organist:**  
 Josh Morgan

**Children and Youth  
 Choir Director:**  
 Ann Gerdorn

**Grace Club and  
 Youth Group Coordinator:**  
 Nathan DeLange

**Outreach Coordinator and Super  
 Wednesday Coordinator:**  
 Patty Link