



## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Palm Sunday - April 9

The children of the congregation will lead the Parade of Palms at the 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services. All are encouraged to join in the procession.

### Holy Thursday - April 13

The Holy Thursday service begins at 7 p.m., and will include the Sacrament of Communion. The Confirmation Class will assist with the service.

### Good Friday - April 14

The Good Friday service begins at 7 p.m.

### Easter Saturday and Sunday - April 15 & 16

We will rejoice in Christ's resurrection at all three services Easter weekend. Our Saturday service begins at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday services are at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. The 10:15 a.m. service will feature the Flowering of the Cross during the children's sermon time, with music from all Grace choirs and orchestra.



### Palm Sunday Procession for Peace

The Palm Sunday Procession for Peace starts at Grace on Sunday, April 9 at 3 p.m. Led by a donkey, the procession will travel from Grace to First Christian Church, at which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke in 1959. The prayer service will include a reenactment of the sermon Dr. King delivered 50 years ago at Riverside Church. The call of the service will be to end racism, militarism, and materialism, to recommit ourselves to the cause of peace, and to move forward toward what Dr. King called the Beloved Community.



# Celebrations of Grace

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



## Enhancing Our Ministries with Grace and Gratitude

I wanted to pass along news about some wonderful developments that have been happening in our ministry at Grace.

On February 25 and 26, Dr. Marcia McFee visited our church to consult with us about our worship services, and many of you have already experienced the changes. We have committed to singing through many of the transitions in our worship services, to make our worship more participatory, to plan with more creativity and visual elements, and to make everything more meaningful and memorable.

We also have a group that is putting together gatherings for people in the millennial generation (ages 19-35). A leadership group has formed that is contacting members and friends in this age group to develop new ministries and strategies that will involve young adults. We plan to hold small gatherings to listen to concerns, pick up ideas, and scheme for the future over the next few months.

The Administrative Council has set an objective of cultivating our connection with Drake students and other young adults. We have taken several important steps toward developing an internship program for college students to work with the ministries at Grace. Students would receive a stipend to help with our youth program, our music program, our outreach in the community, and to reach out to other college age adults. Representatives from Drake, the Wesley Foundation, and Simpson College have been very excited about and helpful in getting us set up to start with four ministry interns this fall.

I also want to use this space to give a special notice to the staff members who work with our youth group and after-school programs. Nathan DeLange and Patty Link put in countless hours with the youth and parents from our church. Nathan brings his training and experience as a psychotherapist, and Patty brings training and experience as a teacher. But much more than that, they are incredibly good friends and mentors to our young people. They want to spend time with the kids, and the kids value spending time with them. Many other parents provide excellent volunteer leadership and support as well, but I want to ask you to tell Nathan and Patty how much you appreciate the wonderful ministry they make possible.

Peace,  
Pastor Dave

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## Christian Education Corner

For more information on the items below, please contact Coreen Witke at [coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org) or 255-6400 ext. 230

### Faith Guides Needed

We have a couple of opportunities for adults who wish to nurture and guide the faith lives of our **high school** and **middle school** Sunday School classes. We have teachers for these classes who plan to continue to teach, but we would like more teachers to even out the teaching schedule. Our hope is to have enough teachers to so that each person teaches about twice a month. All curriculum is provided, as is training on handling the classroom and our Safe Sanctuary policies. Contact Coreen Witke with questions or for more information.

### Grants for Campers & Kirby Gull Memorial Scholarships

Grace UMC has a couple of important announcements for those who plan to attend church camp this summer. Our Grants for Campers program offers to pay \$200 or half the cost of the camp (whichever is less) to ANYONE attending a United Methodist Camp in Iowa. The Kirby Gull Memorial Scholarship is designed to remove financial barriers for anyone attending a church camp this summer. Visit [www.gracedesmoines.org](http://www.gracedesmoines.org) or pick up forms in the narthex of the church to register.



## Save the Date!

**April 9 - Palm Sunday**  
Parade of Palms  
Palm Sunday Procession for Peace

**April 16 - Easter Sunday**  
Flowering of the Cross

**May 7 - Confirmation Sunday**

**May 14 - Senior Sunday**

**May 21 - Last Day of Sunday School**

# Annual Spring Member/Friend Art Show

The Annual grace Members and Friends Art Exhibit runs from Saturday, May 6 through Sunday, May 28 in the Grace Gallery on the lower level. The exhibit is available for viewing whenever the church is open. Invite your friends and neighbors so that they, too, may enjoy this exhibit. Grace's Fine Arts Committee will set up the exhibit Saturday morning, May 6.

In place of the usual after church Hospitality Time, the Hospitality Committee will serve an artists' reception from 11:15 a.m. to noon on Sunday, May 7 in the Grace Gallery. Everyone is invited. Meet and visit with your friends and neighbors who are displaying their creative efforts.

Many types of original art will be displayed. We have had prints, drawings, paintings, textiles, ceramics, photographs, wood-carvings, stained glass and more in past exhibits. We have space for more artists and craftpersons who would like to enter up to three items of their own original work. Entry forms and additional information may be picked up in the church office beginning Sunday, April 2. Entry forms must be returned to the church office no later than Thursday, May 4.



## Finance Report 2/28/17

### Generosity

With 17% of the year completed, we have received 16% of anticipated income. A year ago we had collected 16.1% of the amount needed.

14.6% of pledges have been received. Last year 15.1% had been received. Non-pledged gifts are 22.2% of estimated.

### Disbursements

Obligations paid are 13.2% of budget.

Of our Shared Mission (paid through the Annual Conference), none has been paid. Last year we had paid \$5000.

John Mechem,  
Treasurer

2017 Annual Budget: \$784,565

2016 Annual Budget: \$749,223

*United Methodist  
Women Unit Meeting  
Thursday, April 6 at  
9:30 a.m. in  
Fellowship Hall*

## Easter Offering

Each year we take a special Easter offering to help one of our mission projects. This year our Easter offering will be taken in support of Larry and Jane Kies, our missionaries in Zimbabwe, Africa. Larry is originally from Jesup, IA. He is an agricultural missionary, and works with the farm at Africa University in Mutare. Jane is a teacher from South Africa. She works with helping the students from the 22 different countries represented at the university to become fluent in English. It was a privilege and a pleasure to meet Larry and Jane when they visited Grace last year.

## Final Lenten Soup & Sermon

Our final Soup & Sermon session will be on Wednesday, April 5 at 12:10 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Rev. Susan Hendershot Guy, executive director of Iowa Interfaith Power and Light.

## 3rd Grade Lent Project

The third grade Sunday School class is collecting individual personal hygiene items again this year for the Lent project. Please start collecting individual sizes of the following:

Shampoo	Conditioner	Soap
Toothbrush	Toothpaste	Deodorant
Washcloths	Combs	Brushes

Collection boxes are currently available in the Narthex and outside the third grade room. Thank you in advance for your help!

## Youth Group Fundraisers

### Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Purchase your Yankee Candles before April 9th. Contact anyone in youth group to purchase. Great Mother's Day gift idea! Stop by the table in the narthex on Sunday, April 2. Orders will be accepted through Sunday, April 9.

### Palm Sunday Brunch

Treat your family to egg casserole and pastries in the Activity Center following the 10:15 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, April 9. Free will donations accepted.

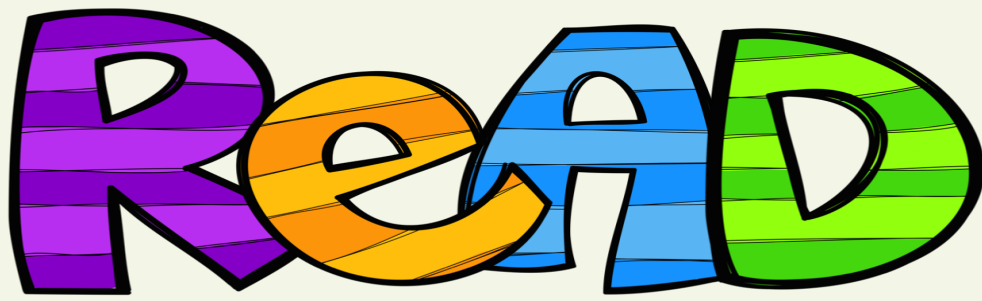
### Easter Bake Sale

Easter is Sunday, April 16th, and Grace Youth is planning for the annual Easter bake sale. Proceeds will be donated to the Grace Youth charity of choice.

### Renes Plant Sale

Order your gardening and spring/summer plant needs while supporting Grace Youth. The plant sale goes through April 30th, and tables will be setup for selling on April 23 and 30.





## Canine Memorial Funds Add Books to Library

Attention, readers of all ages! There are new books in the church library! Funds from the **Marjorie Canine Memorial Fund** were used to purchase books for children and adults. All books are now available in the blue and white Little Library in the narthex. For a complete listing, visit [www.gracedesmoines.org/library](http://www.gracedesmoines.org/library).

The new children's books address topics such as **Alzheimer's Disease** (*The Memory Box* by Mary Bahr), **common childhood fears and feelings** (*Bedtime for Frances* by Russell Hoban), and **connecting children to nature** (*You Are Stardust* by Elin Kelsey).

Books for **middle school and high school ages** include several that focus on **social justice** (*Sylvia and Aki* by Winifred Conkling), **racial conflict in the 60s** (*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia), and **taking a stand against deforestation** (*Operation Redwood* by S. Terrell French).

Other books include *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living* by Krista Tippett, in which the author has created a master class in living in a fractured world; *Transgender 101: A Simple Guide to a Complex Issue* by Nicholas M. Teich; and *This Is How It Always Is* a novel by Laurie Frankel about a family who has a son who wants to grow up to be a girl.

## Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch will go to Chili's in Clive on **Friday, April 14** (please note the change to the second Friday for April). Call the church office at 515-255-2131 to reserve your seat on the bus. Departure time is 11:15 a.m.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**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