



Chimes



Grace
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A monthly newsletter from Grace United Methodist Church

June and July 2017

Vacation Bible School: Seeking Jesus Super Heroes!!

Get registered today for our FREE Hero Central VBS!! Anyone who is 3 years old (and using the potty) through 5th grade (during the 2016-17 school year) are invited to join us as we experience Bible stories through mission projects, music, crafts, and science lessons. VBS will be held Sunday, June 18 through Thursday, June 22 from 5:15 to 7:45 p.m. each evening. Dinner is provided for our super heroes and their families at 5:15 p.m. each night. Register by visiting www.gracedesmoines.org and search for "Hero Central". There is an option to register online and an option to print out the registration form to turn in at the church office. Please invite your friends to join us for this week of super-sized faith fun!



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We have a few spots available for volunteers to help during Vacation Bible School. Adults are needed to lead children around to the various Super Hero stops each night, we have several spots open to help in the kitchen, and we can use general help in several different areas. **YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS** – we can use your help with our Bible Story Time each night. Actors and narrators are needed each night at 5:45 p.m. Adults are encouraged to volunteer in this area too! Contact Coreen Witke at 515.255.6400 ext. 230 or coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org to volunteer.

We Changed Children's Stories

Grace UMC changed numerous children's stories thanks to your generous time, energy, and financial donations.

The Bishops 2015 initiative was to help get books and volunteers in the hands and lives of children in need. Grace UMC started this project in July of 2016. We partnered with Everybody Wins from the Des Moines Public Schools and one of our community neighborhood schools, King Elementary.

Many members of the Grace community read to children in four local school districts and various special projects. A number of volunteers read weekly to an elementary child, or had the child read to them. Friendships were made, hearts were warmed, and the love of reading was kindled.

King Elementary was the primary beneficiary of our collected books. They shared books with families at their winter parent/child reading event, and hosted an end of the year summer reading book give away. Due to your generous financial donations, the King librarian was able to purchase many, if not all, of the books on her wish list. She had been waiting all year to be able to find the funds to secure these books. She was extremely grateful for the contribution.

Grace UMC shared 1,745 books with neighboring children and read for 65 hours (these hours were reported in house and do not reflect the hours sent directly to the conference). The love and compassion of the volunteers is truly a beautiful gift.

Please continue to share the gift of books and the love of reading. Contact your local school or library to get involved.

Thank you again for Changing a Child's Story.

The CACS committee: Shari, Laurel, Ellen, Ginger, Ann, Linda, and Lora

Rust College Update

Pastor Dave was elected to serve as Chair of the Rust College Board of Trustees. Rust College, in Holly Springs, Mississippi, is a Historically Black College related to the United Methodist Church. Rust has a long connection with Iowa, as well. Pastor Dave has served on the board since 2002.



Summer Adult Sunday School

The Summer Adult Sunday School class will meet in the Library at 9 a.m. for six weeks beginning June 18, 2017. Our discussions will be based on video presentations. Last year we viewed and discussed the first six sessions of the Living the Questions series "Saving Jesus Redux." This year we will view and discuss the remaining six sessions. It is not necessary to have seen last year's videos in order to participate in this year's class. The Summer Adult Sunday School class leads to stimulating discussions with a cross-section of all Adult Classes. Contact Dick Braley if you have questions about this series.

Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch will go to Mullet's in Des Moines on **Friday, June 9** (please note the change to the second Friday in June). Call the church office at 515-255-2131 to reserve your seat on the bus. Departure time is 11:15 a.m.

No Coffee Orders in July or August

Don Justo coffee orders will not be taken in July or August because Ellis Andrews will be out of town. June 3 and 4 will be your last chance to order until August, so be sure to order plenty of your favorite flavors next weekend!

United Methodist Women Salad Luncheon
Thursday, June 1 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

Celebrations of Grace

by Rev. Dr. David Swinton, Senior Pastor
255-2131 ■ daveswinton@gracedesmoines.org



Uncommon Hospitality: Uncommon Generosity

On June 3 and 4 we will announce the totals for our Uncommon Hospitality: Uncommon Generosity campaign. That is that weekend we will also encourage people to make their first gifts to the building project.

We know that even before Commitment Weekend, we had already received commitments from 39 households totaling \$540,000. Our financial goal is \$1,400,000. Whether we meet that goal or not, we have two even more profound goals: 1) that all of our members be in prayer for our church and its ministry, and 2) that all consider ways they can make sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure to support and improve these ministries.

Thank you to everyone who has been generous in these ways to our church and community.

Summer Worship A:

Worship is always more energetic when we have more people in our big sanctuary. We can hear each other sing and respond. We have more of a sense that we are all part of something vital.

But in the summer—like many churches—our attendance declines. Vacations are plentiful. Youth sports abound. Water and sun beckon us to relaxation and renewal. But I would like to encourage you to attend worship every weekend that you are in town. Here are four reasons why.

1. Each person missing is a loss for us. About ten years ago I mentioned to an older friend that I was ambivalent about attending my 20th high school reunion. I wasn't sure I would get anything out of it. He said, "Go. But don't go for you; go for the people who want to see you. It could be that you can really make a difference for *them*." I think this is truer for worship than for high school reunions.
2. We worship better when you are here. Your singing during the hymns and your voice added to the responsive readings are part of what adds to our sense of celebration. Our delight in seeing you makes worship more meaningful for us.
3. Summer is the time when many people visit churches. Some visit because they are visiting several churches and will decide to attend one of them regularly. Others are visiting *here* because they are willing to give faith one more chance. But if you are not here to welcome them and show them care and hospitality, they may well decide that Grace—or even church itself—is not for them.
4. It's what you do. You come to be inspired, challenged, and supported. You come to learn. You come to see that others have been loved and saved from rejection. You come to witness to the power of the Spirit in your life. Worship is what gives perspective to the rest of your week. So...

If you have plans for the middle of the day, come to the early service.

If you are still in your scrubby clothes after doing some chores, come anyway.

If you have company, bring them along. Show off your church!

If you enjoy a lazy Sunday morning, come to the Saturday service.

And invite others to join you! Tell them about a church that welcomes everyone. Tell them about a church that has laid it on the line and risked itself in order to stand up for others. Tell them about a place where you have experienced God's love and felt a sense of holy wonder and awe in the worship services.

Summer Worship B:

When our worship consultant, Dr. Marcia McFee, was here in February, she was very concerned that our congregation was so spread out in the sanctuary. Worshipers don't feel as much like a community with several pews in between them. Of course, the very best way to take care of this problem is to increase attendance. (See above.) She also suggested that we bring people closer together by closing off the balcony during the summer, and by encouraging people to sit closer to the front of the sanctuary.

So this summer we will encourage people to sit on the main floor. We aren't doing this to make anyone uncomfortable in worship. We hope that those most affected understand how important it is for visitors and regular attendees alike to feel a sense of greater participation. And of course, we ask everyone to continue to be aware of visitors and to be friendly as always.

Peace,
Pastor Dave



Looking Ahead to Confirmation Classes Fall 2017

Plans are underway for the 2017-2018 Confirmation Class! While we typically focus on those in 7th grade for the confirmation class, we also invite those who are in 8th and 9th grade who wish to be confirmed to join the class. Those who wish to join the confirmation class this fall are asked to make plans to attend the **Parent and Confirmand Meeting on Wednesday, August 16 at 6 p.m.** Please also contact Coreen Witke, Director of Christian Education, to be included on the list for all confirmation information.



Finance Report 4/30/17

Generosity

With 33.3% of the year completed, we have received 31.9% of anticipated income. A year ago we had collected 31.8% of the amount needed. The five year average is 30.1%.

31% of pledges have been received. Last year 31.5% had been received. The five year average is 30.1% Non-pledged gifts are a very positive 42% of estimated.

Disbursements

31.8% of budgeted expenses have been paid.

\$5,000 of our Shared Mission with the Annual Conference has been paid. Last year we paid \$20,000 by this time. Our annual apportionment is \$120,462.

John Mechem,

Treasurer

2017 Annual Budget: \$784,565

2016 Annual Budget: \$749,223

UMYF Update

By Nathan DeLange

We have had a great year! Patty Link and I have worked hard to keep this busy group of youth engaged and involved. Our main hope is that they have always felt welcomed and loved. We had fun, helped our neighbors, learned, connected with each other, and grew spiritually (Fellowship, Learning, Outreach, and Worship).

This summer (July 15-24), 30 youth and adult chaperones will be embarking on a Hawaiian adventure/mission trip: working on various projects at the Hawaii United Methodist Church Camp Mekokiko, a Volunteers in Mission site. We have been planning for this trip for over a year now. I want to assure you that every youth was asked and had an opportunity to be part of this process. With your support (in particular an angel among us who sponsored two individuals), we were able to ensure that every youth who expressed a desire to go will be able to make the trip!

Camp Mekokiko is a 36-acre property on the slopes of Kalopa State Park on the Hamakua Coast, just seven miles from the historic old sugar plantation town of Honokaa, which is also the gateway to beautiful Waipio Valley. Mekokiko is in a rain-forest area, and it is very warm & humid.

We will spend four full days working on camp and/or construction projects, which will be determined as the trip gets closer. Based at Camp Mekokiko, our accommodations include detached bathroom and shower houses. Sleeping quarters will be dorm style with cots or in tents. I have been told the work in Hawaii will be challenging, but is surrounded by some of the most breathtaking views of God's Creation.

We will have two full days of travelling to and from the Big Island, and a handful of excursion days to explore the natural beauty of Hawaii. We will experience a traditional luau, see waterfalls, beaches, and volcanoes, and explore local shops and cuisine. We will have a send-off ceremony at the 10:15 service on July 9, including communion and our special work trip rituals (#bandanas #travellizards) after the service. We hope you will be able to join us!

Summer Bible Study Break

The Thursday Morning Bible Study and Prayer Group is taking a break for the summer. Watch for future announcements regarding their fall start up date.

Grace Free Clinic Needs Your Help!

The Grace Free Clinic is totally managed and run by volunteers. From the doctors, nurses, and registration staff, to the amazing kitchen team that serves a free meal each week to anyone in the community who wants to stop in, everyone donates their time and skills to serve our community.

We are now in need of help with scheduling volunteers monthly, keeping the volunteer roster, and/or doing the quarterly financial report. All of these tasks can be done from your home at your convenience. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Susan Ryon at gracefreeclinic@gmail.com or 515-829-6511.

So far in 2017, the Clinic has seen 124 patients of all races and ages. Youths age 6-17 account for a significant number of our patients, mostly for school physicals.

Our volunteers have given over 961 hours since January 1, 2017. Those hours are valued at \$21,991. What a gift to our community! Our thanks to all for your continued support.

Child Protection Policies: Things Everyone Should Know

Grace UMC is considered a "Safe Sanctuary" church due to our implementation of our child protection policies. These policies not only provide a safe environment for our children, but also a safe place for our ENTIRE congregation. Keeping our church a safe place means that everyone at Grace has a role in following our Safe Sanctuary procedures. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Coreen Witke, Director of Christian Education, is the contact for all Safe Sanctuary concerns. Any questions regarding our policies should be directed to her. Her direct phone number is 515.255.6400 ext. 230 and her email address is coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org.
- Children and youth should not be in the church without proper supervision.
- If anyone sees something that is out of the ordinary or suspicious, please document the details including the date, time, description of the individual/group, actions of the individual/group, whether or not the police were called, and any other important details and report it to Coreen as soon as possible.
- Accurate dates and times of the occurrence are very important and helpful should we need to review footage from the security cameras that are placed around Grace's property.
- In certain situations, calling the police may be the best option. The two options for contacting the police are either calling 911 or 515-283-4811 (DMPD Non-Emergency Line). Please use your own best judgment on whether or not the police are called. **If the police are called to the church, please report the details of what prompted you to call the police to Coreen.**

Additional articles on keeping our church a safe and welcoming place will appear in the Chimes over the next several months. As you read through these articles, please note what you can do to keep our building, and parishioners, safe.

www.gracedesmoines.org



The Thanksgiving Ingathering will be here before we know it, and it's not too early to start gathering items for the health kits. Please note that the Ingathering kits must include **exactly** what is listed.

HEALTH KIT ITEMS

ONE NEW HAND TOWEL
ONE NEW WASHCLOTH
ONE LARGE STURDY COMB (not pocket-sized)
ONE NAIL FILE OR FINGERNAIL CLIPPERS (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
ONE BAR WRAPPED SOAP: 3 ounces or larger (No Ivory or Jergens)
ONE NEW ADULT-SIZED TOOTHBRUSH in original wrapper (no child-size brushes)
SIX ADHESIVE PLASTIC STERILE BANDAGES: 3/4 inch wide

Health & Wellness Committee Update

The Health and Wellness Committee would like to inform the congregation of activities going on in our church.

- Community meal: 5:00pm- 7:00pm, Tuesday evenings, in the Activity Center
- Free medical clinic: 5:30pm-7:30pm, Tuesday evenings
- Free mental health counseling: 2:30pm-5:00pm, Wednesday afternoons
- Overeaters Anonymous group meeting: 5:30pm every Wednesday evening in the Library
- Broad Highway AA group-9:00am Saturday mornings in the Library
- New Beginnings Narcotics Anonymous group meeting: 7:00pm every Friday in the Library
- Life After Death of A Spouse (LADOS) meeting: second Sunday of the month at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Buy shares from Farmer Rick of smallpotatoesfarm.com, which delivers to Grace on Friday afternoons through the spring, summer, and fall, with occasional winter deliveries.
- Blood pressure checks periodically after the 10:15am service or Tuesday evening at the free clinic

Check out the bulletin board across from the restrooms on the main level for articles and information about health and wellness activities in the community. If you have any thoughts or suggestions for this committee, please contact committee chair Jody Off at 865-0864 or jodyoff68@gmail.com



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phone: 515-255-2131
email: info@gracedesmoines.org
web site: 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.

View the Chimes on line and in color on our web site at:
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