



## Celebrations of Grace

by Rev. Nate Nims, Senior Pastor  
255-2131 ■ [natenims@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:natenims@gracedesmoines.org)



In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul writes, "You are the body of Christ and parts of each other." If Paul was from the south, he would have written, "Y'all are the body of Christ," because Paul knows that it takes all of us, it takes all of you, all of us, to be the church.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and I are using the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT Survey - we Methodists love acronyms don't we?) to help me define roles and expectations for my first year with you at Grace. Your survey feedback indicated three areas of focus that I will be pursuing this year - worship, community outreach and connections, and administration. Since I will be focusing on these three areas, I will need y'all to remember that we are the body of Christ.

Thankfully, Grace has many talented and gifted staff persons that are able to lead the church in the areas of education, music, youth group, and more. Our staff is passionate and excited about reenergizing our church as we continue in our mission to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, practice uncommon hospitality, and prepare disciples to serve in the world. In getting to know the staff these past few weeks, I have come to know them as engaged and talented leaders.

And yet, Paul doesn't simply write that church staff is the body of Christ. Paul reminds us that you all, y'all, are the body of Christ. Grace has many more members than we have staff, and our membership, you all, y'all are gifted difference makers in the church and community. It has been great to get to know you and hear some of your stories, and it will be even better as I continue to learn your names with the help of your name tags! I see in you all the body of Christ. I see in you a commitment to justice and joy. I see in you all mercy and moxie. I see in you all gratitude and grace. I see in you all hospitality and social holiness. I see in you all the body of Christ, because we are the body of Christ together.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12, "Certainly the body isn't one part but many. If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like [God] wanted. If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? But as it is, there are many parts but one body. So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

I can't say to any of you, "I don't need you", because if we are going to be the church together, we have to admit we need each other. As I focus on the areas of worship, community outreach and connections, and administration, I will need you to help our church focus on the other areas that make Grace the amazing church that it is.

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Irene and I were legally married on January 4, 2019, and are looking forward to celebrating our marriage with friends, family, and you on Saturday, August 17 at 4:30 pm in the Grace Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join us for the wedding ceremony. There will not be a receiving line at the church following the ceremony, but we look forward to celebrating with you all.



## Reconciling Signs Update

The Reconciling signs on Grace property have been featured in the *United Methodist Insight*, a publication hosted by the St. Stephen United Methodist Church of Mesquite, TX. The article, "Without Condition, Without Exception, God Loves Us All", was authored and submitted by Rev. Bill Cotton. You can read the article at: <https://um-insight.net/in-the-church/ordained-ministry/without-condition-without-exception-god-loves-us-all/>.



## Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch is going on the road on Friday, August 2. Join them as they journey to Winterset, where they will enjoy lunch at the North Side Café (61 E. Jefferson St.). Rumor has it that there may be some side stops, as well. The bus leaves early at 10:00 a.m. so call the church office at 515.255.2131 to reserve your seat!

## Time for Ingathering!

It's time to begin collecting our Ingathering donations to UMCOR. These items go toward disaster relief in the United States. Last year they were sent for hurricane relief, flood relief, and relief for those affected by wild fires in the western United States. Please drop your donations in the designated plastic tub in the coat room. School supplies have just gone on sale in most stores, so this is a great time to stock up for UMCOR! Please see the supply lists below for the School and Hygiene Kits, and be sure that your purchases meet the requirements shown. Thank you all in advance. A small donation can do so much!

### School Kit Materials

#### **One pair blunt scissors**

- Round tips only
- No plastic scissors

#### **One box of 24 crayons**

- Only 24-count boxes

#### **Three one-subject notebooks**

- No marble composition books
- No 3 or 5-subject notebooks

#### **One pack of loose-leaf paper**

- 100-200 page packets are acceptable
- Wide or college rule accepted

#### **One hand-held pencil sharpener**

- 1-inch or longer
- Remove from packaging

#### **One ruler**

- 12 inches or 30 centimeters long
- Sturdy or flexible material accepted

#### **Six unsharpened pencils**

#### **One eraser**

- Two inches or larger

#### **One TWO-gallon re-sealable plastic bag**

### Hygiene Kit Materials

#### **One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)**

- No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels

#### **One washcloth**

- No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels

#### **One comb**

- Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
- No pocket combs or picks
- Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth

#### **One toenail or fingernail clipper**

- No emery boards or metal nail files

#### **Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)**

- No Ivory or Jergen's soap
- Do not remove from packaging

#### **One adult toothbrush**

- Do not remove from packaging
- Personal advertising not acceptable

#### **10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)**

- Common household bandages acceptable

#### **One ONE-gallon size re-sealable bag**

IOWA CONFERENCE *of the* UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# Ingathering





## Christian Education Updates

Please contact Coreen Witke at 515.255.6400 ext. 230 or [coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org) or more information on any of these activities or events.

### Acolyte Training

Anyone who is in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade is eligible to be an acolyte this fall. To help prepare these young folks to bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary, we will be having Acolyte Training on two Sundays in August. Sessions will be at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 18 and Sunday, August 25. Please attend the session that best fits your schedule. Let Coreen know if your child will be attending either training. If your child cannot attend one of the training sessions, but wants to serve as an acolyte, let Coreen know and she will set up a separate time to meet.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Sunday Coming in September

It's a big year for those who are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! This is the year they will receive their very own Bible and learn how to use it. Each Bible will have their name inscribed inside the front cover. On Sunday, September 15 we will have a special presentation during the 10:15 a.m. worship service. If you know a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader who would like to receive a Bible, please contact Coreen with their name and contact information.

### Confirmation Begins Soon

Confirmation is a year-long experience of discovering what it means to be a Christian, living out your faith, and understanding God's call. At Grace UMC, we invite all of those in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older who wish to join in the classes and conversation to participate. Our first meeting for parents/guardians and confirmands will be held on Wednesday, August 14 at 6 p.m. in the Confirmation Room. At this meeting we will go over the calendar for the year, discuss the expectations for confirmation, go over the points system, and get to know the others in the class. Let Coreen know if you will be attending the meeting on August 14.

### Making Disciples

One of the most meaningful ways to live out our faith is by teaching others how to live into their faith. Think about when you were first learning about Jesus, working on understanding the Bible, and those people who walked with you on your journey. And now imagine that you are guiding others on that same journey. We are in need of several folks to join our Sunday School teaching teams. There are teacher openings in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Lessons and material for lessons are provided. Each lesson includes the Bible story, prayers, and several different activities. Teachers choose which activities will fit their class best. Sample lessons are available for each class.

### Save the Date for Rally Day!

Take a moment to mark Sunday, September 8 on your calendar as RALLY DAY and the first day of Sunday School!! Additional details will be available soon!



### Shelter Meal Updates

For the September 1 Central Iowa Shelter Meal, we will be using Sign Up Genius for volunteering. Please use this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094caaad2ea7f85-september>

As always, four people are needed at 4:00 p.m. to help prep, and ten people are needed to help serve at 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or problems with the sign up, please contact Susan Ryon at [gracesheltermeal@gmail.com](mailto:gracesheltermeal@gmail.com).

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

### Missing Painting

A painting that had been hanging in the Narthex has gone missing. The painting depicts the Last Supper, but with families at the table. If you have any idea what might have happened to the painting, please contact the church office at 515.255.2131.

### Tuesday Night Meal & An Anniversary Celebration

Cindi and Dennis Woline celebrated their 25th Anniversary at Grace on July 2 during the Grace Free Medical Clinic and Meal. Cindi and Dennis met in a Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant! Cindi faithfully serves as the manager of Grace's Tuesday Night Meals.

If you would like to volunteer or donate food to the Grace Tuesday meal, please call Cindi (515.210.8208) or Natalie Burnham (515. 778.4880).

Please join us as we strive to increase our love of God and neighbor every Tuesday at the Grace Free Medical Clinic and Free Community Meal. Will you help Grace set a feast for our guests with uncommon hospitality?



**INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT**  
6/30/2019

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
Balance Beginning January 1, 2019	\$ 12,123.00	
<b>INCOME</b>		
Pledges	\$ 239,490.00	\$ 213,279.00
Non Pledged	\$ 48,101.00	\$ 55,292.00
Other	\$ 32,185.00	\$ 23,189.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 319,776.00 ***</b>	<b>\$ 291,760.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Payroll	\$ 176,896.00	\$ 182,823.00
Administrative Expenses	\$ 21,091.00	\$ 19,033.00
Building Expense	\$ 81,586.00	\$ 79,434.00
Program Expenses	\$ 8,776.00	\$ 11,191.00
Outreach	\$ 1,504.00	\$ 1,550.00
	\$ 289,853.00	\$ 294,031.00
Conference Support	\$ 300.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (290,153.00)</b>	<b>\$ (294,031.00)</b>
Balance June 30, 2019	\$ 41,746.00	\$ 2,271.00

\*\*\* Income on a prorata basis is distorted by an unanticipated prepayment of \$16,200 and the estimated prorata loss by death and transfer of \$8,713 is not deducted.

John Mechem  
Treasurer

## Because You Can Never Have Too Many Cookies

We need more cookie recipes for our upcoming Grace Cooks cookbook! Therefore, we're holding another Cookie Bake-Off.

To participate, please bring one dozen of your best cookies to Fellowship Hall before the 10:15 service on **Sunday, August 25, 2019**. During the service, the cookies will be judged by a local food pro. Winners will be announced during our fellowship time after service – there will be prizes! All the cookies will be served at that time.

Please email Wini (winimoranville@yahoo.com) if you plan to bring cookies. Any kind of cookie (except bar cookies) is eligible – we don't even care if you start with a mix! But keep in mind that if you win, you will have to share the recipe!



**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

## 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. Nate Nims

### Minister of Congregation Care:

Rev. Gary Nims

### Director of Christian Education:

Coreen Witke

### Grace Preschool Director:

Kelly Donnelly

### Office Manager:

Charlene Hjort

### Custodian:

Merci Jackson

### Director of Music and Organist:

Ann Gedom

### Chancel Choir and Grace Chimers Director:

Michael Gookin

### Chapel Choir Director:

Devon Steve

### Chorister Choir Director:

Emily Miller

### Grace Youth Coordinator:

Nathan DeLange

### Grace Youth Assistant Coordinator:

Patty Link