



## LENT

### Second and Third Grade Lent Project

The second and third grade Sunday School classes will be collecting individual personal hygiene items again this year for their Lent project. Please start collecting individual sizes of the following items:

- Shampoo and conditioner
- Soap
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Washcloths
- Combs or brushes

Collection boxes will be available in the Narthex and outside the second and third grade room (303 in the Education wing) during Lent. Thank you in advance for your help!

### Greeters Change

February was the last month that I was responsible for scheduling greeters for the 10:15 a.m. worship service. Beginning in March, the Welcoming Committee will be responsible for scheduling greeters. Tiana Crandall is chair of this committee. Some of you may remember June Rutt, who worked with lining up greeters for many years. I took over when she retired, and now it is time to pass it on. Thank you to all who have greeted over the years.

-Carole Turnquist

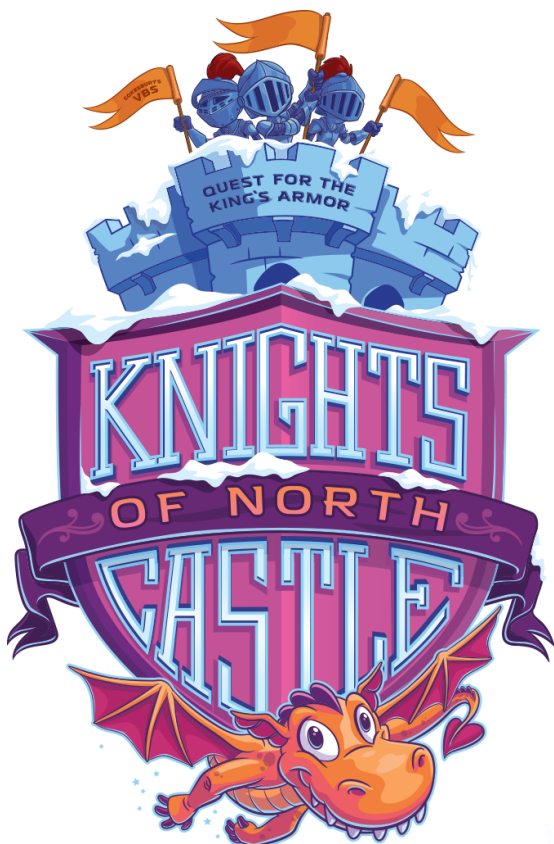


### Knights of the North Castle Needs Volunteers

Grace's Knights of the North Castle VBS will be held Sunday, June 28 through Thursday, July 2 from 5:15 to 7:45 p.m. In order to create an environment in which children can learn about Bible stories in a safe and enriching environment, we need lots of volunteers! Listed below are several opportunities for you to get involved. We encourage EVERYONE at Grace to look at their schedules and volunteer when they can. It's a challenge to volunteer every night, so think about volunteering for two or three nights instead. Contact Coreen Witke if you would like to volunteer, or if you have any questions, at [coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org) or 515255.6400 ext. 230.

- **Kitchen** — Dinner is served every night, so we need kitchen help from about 4 until 6:30 p.m. each night. One way that we show uncommon hospitality is by serving dinner to the children attending VBS and their families!
- **Group Leaders** — These are the folks who take small groups of children from stop to stop on their North Castle adventure. These leaders are those who will keep the group on schedule, help those leading the activities, and have some time to connect with those attending.
- **Crafts** — All of the lesson plans relate to the main story of the day Detailed instructions for each craft are provided to the leaders, and all of the shopping is done for you. Give Coreen a call, and she can show you the lesson plans before you commit!
- **Miscellaneous** — We can always use extra help at registration, in the various activities, and to step in if someone can't make it at the last minute.

We hope you will join us for Vacation Bible School this year! It will be a royally good time for everyone!





# Celebrations of Grace

by Rev. Nate Nims, Senior Pastor  
natenims@gracedesmoines.org

If someone were to ask you where in the Bible they could find out what it looks like to live as a Christian, you might suggest reading the Ten Commandments in Exodus. When it comes to how we should seek to live our lives, the Ten Commandments are a good place to start, but John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, said that the best way to know what a Christian life is, is to read the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. In these three chapters, Jesus teaches us how to have a personal faith that makes a difference in the world. Nowhere else does Jesus express more clearly what it means to follow him. The Sermon on the Mount is a provocative and counter-intuitive announcement about what happens when we awaken to the movement of God in our midst: the poor, the meek, those who mourn, are called blessed. Enemies are not only prayed for but loved. The poor and the cast aside are cared for as God's will on earth is done as it is in heaven.

The season of Lent is one of self-examination. We are given the opportunity to simplify our lives by removing something that diminishes our flourishing. We're also given the opportunity to enhance our lives by adding a practice our routine to our daily life that will help prepare us for the hope and promise of resurrection. As we journey through Lent together at Grace, the Sermon on the Mount will give us much to consider and contemplate as we examine ourselves in light of the love that we find on Easter morning.

Through the Sermon on the Mount, we will learn what it means to fast from hurting words so that we can speak necessary words, we will learn to fast from anger as we are filled with patience, we will see what it looks like to fast from pessimism since we are filled with hope, all while we fast from our worries and find hope in God.

Someone once asked a child why the church always served coffee after the service. The kid responded, "So people can wake up for their drive home." As we explore and learn from the Sermon on the Mount, my hope and prayer is that we all awaken to the promise and the life that God wants for us.

Nate



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*UMW Unit Meeting - Thursday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall*



## Emerging Issues: Our Changing Climate

The climate of our home, the earth, is changing in really big ways. Scientists attribute this to human-caused global warming caused in large part by our massive use of fossil fuels. Many places are feeling the dramatic effects already, with weather extremes and rising ocean levels as each new year brings record-breaking heat. Join us for a presentation on the facts about and potential solutions for the climate crisis affecting us here in Iowa and around the globe.

Denise Franck is a concerned grandmother who infuses her educational talk on our changing global climate with concerns specific to Iowans. Her presentation takes a difficult topic and makes it easy to understand. She attended the Climate Reality Project leadership training in Minneapolis in 2019.

## Red Doors Concert Series

We are excited to announce that the Grinnell College Choir will be presented in concert on Saturday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. as part of our Red Door Concert Series. The concert, under the direction of John Rommereim, is preparing for a European tour, and contacted us to see if they could perform for us before their tour. As Mr. Rommereim wrote, "We had such a wonderful experience at Grace United Methodist several years ago. The people were so warm and welcoming, and the acoustics were excellent for choral singing."

There is no charge for the concert; a free-will offering will be collected to help defray travel expenses for the choir. The concert will include a variety of choral works, including three pieces for choir and jazz saxophone: "Idumea," by Richard Bjela; "Amara," by John Rommereim; and "Deep River," arranged by Anders Paulsson.

Plan now to attend this special evening of choral music with your family and friends!!

## Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch is going to Ruby Tuesday (4900 86th Street, Urbandale) on Friday, March 6. The bus leaves the church at 11:15 a.m., so call the office (515.255.2131) to reserve your seat!



## Lenten Soup & Sermon

Our Lenten Soup & Sermon series continues this month. Join us each Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. for worship and a soup lunch. If you would like to sign up to bring soup and/or serve as the soup captain or soup helper, look for the sign up sheet in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

Contact Coreen Witke  
(515.255.6400 ext. 230; coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org) if you have questions.



## General Conference and the Future of the United Methodist Church

In March we will have three discussions about the upcoming General Conference and the future of the United Methodist Church. Discussions will be held on Sunday, March 8 and Sunday, March 22 at 9 a.m., as well as on Wednesday, March 18 at 6 p.m. At these discussions, you will learn more about upcoming legislation and be able to talk with Pastor Nate, who is a delegate to General Conference.

# Preschool Highlights

This was a wonderful winter season, which included receiving our 2020 City View Award(s) and PASSING our off year surprise DHS inspection visit with a perfect rating!!! Please congratulate the preschool teachers when you see them! Mr. Nate Knepper, our DHS inspector, spent time asking the students for their input and enjoyed all their answers on why Grace Preschool is a fun and safe location for kids!

Ms. Willow Huber has started a weekly science rotation, doing small group experiments on Thursdays in the preschool as part of our STEM Curriculum. We are looking for science or weather experts to share their knowledge with our students. Please contact Willow ([willowhuber@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:willowhuber@gracedesmoines.org)) if you have resources to share.



## 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

Each of us is a child of God worthy of God's love. In our diversity, we are created in God's image. In celebration of that good news, everyone is invited to join in worship and fellowship. This invitation is extended to all--people of all races, all ethnic backgrounds, all generations, all physical and mental abilities, all economic conditions, all sexual orientations--honoring the diversity of our faith journeys. We invite you to bless this church with your presence as God's grace is present in all creation.



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**Facebook:** GraceDesMoines  
**Twitter:** GraceDesMoines  
**Worship:** 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).

## STAFF LISTING

### Senior Minister:

Rev. Nate Nims

### Director of Christian Education:

Coreen Witke

### Grace Preschool Director:

Kelly Donnelly

### Office Manager:

Charlene Hjort

### Custodian:

Tyler Caulfield

### Director of Music and Organist:

Ann Gerdom

### Chancel Choir and Grace Chimes Director:

Michael Gookin

### Chapel Choir Director:

Devon Steve

### Chorister Choir Director:

Emily Miller

### Grace Youth Coordinator:

Nathan DeLange

### Grace Youth Assistant Coordinator:

Patty Link