



Grace United Methodist Church

March 15, 2020

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.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

8:00	"When I Consider How the Father Loves"	Penny Rodriguez
10:15	"Children of the Heavenly Father"	arr. John Ferguson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL INVITATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are those who delight in the commands of God:

Welcome the stranger

Share what you have

Remember those in prison

Seek justice for your neighbors

Let mutual love continue

Let us praise God who opens our hearts to one another

and fills our lives with the riches of love's blessings.

OPENING PRAYER

Our Creator, who binds our lives together, make us brave in our love for one another. When evil seeks to turn us against our neighbors, give us the strength to choose another way. When fear lures us towards trying to take control, remind us of the power of vulnerability. Let courage rise up among us and pride be cast aside. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN (please rise in body or in spirit)

UMH 569 (Red Hymnal)

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:15)

As the children come forward, please join in singing "Jesus Loves Me "

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:38-48

MESSAGE

"Guardrails and Grace"

Pastor Nate Nims

OFFERING**OFFERTORY**

"A Simple Song" Cheryl Fraracci, mezzo-soprano Leonard Bernstein

DOXOLOGY (please rise in body or in spirit)

UMH 95 (Red Hymnal) "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Tune: Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT**

Our Father (Creator, Mother)†, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

UMH 431 (Red Hymnal)

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

8:00 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" arr. Tedd Smith
10:15 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams

Please join us for hospitality time in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10:15 service.

The altar flowers are given in celebration of Marian Johnson's birthday by her family.

.

Health & Wellness

Area hospitals and care centers are restricting visitors due to the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus 2019). All Des Moines hospitals are restricting visitors to primary caregivers, defined as parents/stepparents, spouse/significant other, or other defined caregivers.

For this same reason, Pastor Nate will not be making hospital visits for the time being. If you or a friend or relative would like to visit with Pastor Nate, he will follow up via email (provided we have an email address on file) or phone for the time being.

There is currently no vaccine for COVID-19, so the best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed in the first place. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, either between people who are in close proximity with one another (within about six feet), or through droplets spread when people cough or sneeze.

Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease, or diabetes, seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications. Please consult with your health care provider about additional steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.

Some basic steps you can take to protect yourself are:

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care

This week at GRACE

Sunday, March 15

- 8 am Worship
- 9 am Sunday School
- 10:15 am Worship
- 11:15 am Hospitality Time
- 1 pm Anugrah Church Worship

Monday, March 16

- 1:30 pm Neighbors Class Planning

Tuesday, March 17

- 5:30 pm Finance Committee

Wednesday, March 18

- 9 am Quilters
- 12:10 pm Lenten Soup & Sermon
- 6 pm General Conference Discussion

Thursday, March 19

- 1:30 pm Art Group
- 7 pm Into the Fying Pan Liturgical Study, Walnut Hills UMC

Friday, March 20

No scheduled church events

Saturday, March 21

No scheduled church events

All Grace Committee Members - please mark Saturday, March 28 on your calendars for a special Committee Alignment event from 11 am to 2 pm to help us focus our efforts toward this year's goals. Lunch will be provided. Please join us!



Easter Lilies - If you would like to purchase a lily to decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning, order forms can be found on the usher stand in the Narthex. Cost is \$11.00 per plant. Please include your payment when you submit your order form. All orders are due no later than Sunday, April 7.

Guide to Prayer and Study: March 16 - March 21

Monday

Read – Hebrews 10:22-25, 12:10-15

Notice – Hebrews 12, in just a few verses, linked holiness with healing, peace, discipline and God’s grace. What people or events most shaped your view of what it means to be “holy”? Do you tend to see holiness as positive and appealing, or does the word trigger less positive images for you? Does it make you more eager to “pursue holiness” when you realize that holiness describes what God, and life in God’s kingdom, are like?

Pray - God, thank you for connecting me to your family. Help me to “spark” love and good deeds in others, and to be receptive to your sparks as they arrive in my life. Amen.

Tuesday

Read – Psalm 147:7-12

Notice - Psalm 147 encouraged readers to worship and praise God. It said God rejoices in those who love, honor and worship him with their lives. God doesn’t require great feats of strength, hard work or even faith. To worship is to honor God, and put our hope in God’s faithful love (verse 11). Do you find it hard to believe or trust that your worship can bring God joy? How does knowing that God rejoices in your worship affect your relationship with God?

Pray - Jesus, you knew what I sometimes forget: ultimately, worship is not about dressing up or going somewhere. Worshipping God means making God and God’s kingdom my highest priority. Help me to do that every day. Amen.

Wednesday

Read – James 1:22-27

Notice – One key reality that John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, grasped early from his worship and Bible study was that true holiness wasn’t just personal, but social. He and his friends got actively involved in helping prisoners and widows in Oxford. Holding together personal and social holiness has remained important to Wesley’s spiritual descendants ever since. James used a phrase that may startle us at first, writing of “the perfect law, the law of freedom.” In what ways have you found that living in accordance with God’s call increases your freedom rather than limiting or frustrating it?

Pray – Jesus, I want the true freedom you offer me. Help me use my freedom to serve and bless others, as you did. Amen.

Thursday

Read – Ephesians 4:14-16, 21-25

Notice – To fail to tell someone else the truth is not loving. To tell them the truth in angry or belittling ways is also not loving. Ephesians said one key to helping each other grow is “speaking the truth in love.” Which do you find harder most of the time: speaking the truth at all, or doing so in love? What can help you grow toward maturity in both of those dimensions?

Pray – Jesus, you honestly challenge me to grow more like you. You give me a climate of love and grace in which to do so. Help me become more like you in the ways I speak the truth in love. Amen.

Friday

Read – James 3:8-18

Notice – James 3:13-15 said “bitter jealousy” and “selfish ambition” are bad fruit; humility good and wise fruit. Have you ever seen jealousy or selfish ambition damage relationships between people? How does humility protect against these hurtful ways of thinking? Do you believe you can act with confidence (in any setting) out of humility rather than pride? What attitudes or actions does it take to make that a reality?

Pray – God of wisdom, I want to increasingly live out your wisdom in my earthly life. Guide me as I prune and shape my character to more closely match your ideal for me. Amen.

Saturday

Read – 1 Peter 1:13-16

Notice – Scholar William Barclay wrote about Peter’s words, “The word for ‘holy’ is hagios whose root meaning is ‘different.’ The Temple is hagios because it is different from other buildings; the Sabbath is hagios because it is different from other days; the Christian is hagios because he is different from other men. The Christian is ... chosen for a task in the world and for a destiny in eternity. He is chosen to live for God in time and with God in eternity. In the world he must obey God’s law and reproduce his life. There is laid on the Christian the task of being different.” How does your heart respond to Peter’s stirring call to be holy, to be different by living as God’s blazing light in a darkened world? Are you willing to step up and say, “Yes—count me in”?

Pray - God, you call me to give up comfort for greatness, set apart to live for you. By your grace and your power, I commit myself to answer your call to be different by being holy. Amen.



It's time for a new church directory! Grace members will be able to sign up for a time slot at the table in the Narthex next Sunday, or on the website beginning this week. (watch your email for the website address). Photos will be taken at the following times:

- Friday, April 24 from 2 pm to 9 pm
- Saturday, April 25 from 10 am to 5 pm
- Wednesday, May 6 from 2 pm to 9 pm
- Thursday, May 7 from 2 pm to 9 pm

If you would like to help with scheduling appointments, making reminder calls, and greeting folks as they arrive for their photo sessions, please contact Charlene in the church office by calling 515.255.2131 or emailing her at charlenehjort@gracedesmoines.org.



Soup & Sermon

Our guest speaker for Soup & Sermon on Wednesday, March 18 will be Pastor Lee Roorda Schott. Pastor Lee is currently the pastor of the Women at the Well congregation at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. In July, she will become the pastor at Valley UMC in West Des Moines. She will share her reflections on the Sermon on the Mount with us. Come for the great preaching, stay for the soup! We begin at 12:10 p.m. in Fellowship Hall this Wednesday. Other guest preachers for Soup & Sermon will be:

- Wednesday, March 25 – Ryan Arnold, Director of Community Engagement for Drake University
- Wednesday, April 1 – Anne Bacon, Executive Director of IMPACT Community Action Partnership

Be sure to stop by the sign-up in the Narthex to bring a pot of soup or other items for Soup & Sermon during Lent. We have several spots open, so take a few minutes to check it out. Many hands make light work!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The church bus service is currently on hiatus because we have no effective way to sanitize the seats. We will notify our regular riders when the bus returns to service. If you have questions, please call the church office at 515.255.2131.



Emerging Issues: Our Changing Climate - Sunday, March 29

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 Sunday, March 29, at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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!



With renovation wrapping up by mid-April, the Renovation Committee is offering Sunday school classes or any group or individual the opportunity to join a tour to see all the changes to the building and have any questions answered. Tours will take place during the 9-10 am hour on Sunday mornings. We will limit the number of people per tour group to 15, but we can accommodate up to 3 different groups each Sunday. Please call the office at 515.255.2131 to reserve your spot.

Articles for the weekly worship bulletin and Beyond the Red Doors email are due each Wednesday at noon. Articles for the Chimes Newsletter are due the 15th of each month.

Send complete articles to Charlene Hjort at charlenehjort@gracedesmoines.org or drop them off at the church office.

Subscribe to the Beyond the Red Doors weekly email for information on upcoming events by going to www.gracedesmoines.org. Scroll toward the bottom of the page until you see the "Beyond the Red Doors" section and follow the instructions to subscribe.

I would like to receive the monthly Chimes Newsletter:

- via US Postal Service via email

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2020

- I/we will provide altar flowers on:
- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 26 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jul 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jul 26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sep 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sep 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec 27 | |

Cost is \$40 per week. Please submit payment when you turn in your form. Flowers will not be ordered if payment has not been received by the Wednesday prior to the date for which you signed up.

Dedication: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please print clearly and place in the offering plate or return to the church office.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Nate Nims; , Rev. Judy Wadding, liturgist (10:15); Ann Gerdom, Director of Music, organist, and pianist; Kapri Sargent and Audrey Sargent, acolytes.

RESOURCES USED IN THIS SERVICE:

Call to Worship and Unison Opening Prayer from enfleshed (www.enfleshed.com.)

All music used under OneLicense A-727197

Guide to Prayer and Study modified from cor.org

† In hymns, prayers, and liturgies, use language that makes worship meaningful, enriching, and inclusive.

NURSERY CARE is available for children aged 3 and younger from 9 to 11:30 am. The nursery is on the second floor. Please ask an usher if you need help finding it.

WORSHIP BAGS are available outside the sanctuary for children to use and enjoy during the service.

Inclement Weather Policy

The church office will be closed on any day that Des Moines Public Schools are closed as a result of inclement weather. On those days, all church programming will be canceled. If classes are dismissed early, all events at the church will also be cancelled. In the event that Sunday morning worship is affected by weather or road conditions, a decision will be made by 7 am. Local television stations will be notified to publicize the announcement and the information will be posted on the Grace Facebook page and website (www.gracedesmoines.org).



3700 Cottage Grove
Des Moines, IA 50311
gracedesmoines.org
phone: 515.255.2131

email: info@gracedesmoines.org

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter at GraceDesMoines

Services are held every Sunday at 8 am and 10:15 am

Can't make it to church?

Watch the livestream of the 10:15 am service on the GraceDesMoines Facebook page.