



# Grace United Methodist Church

June 21, 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.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May God's peace be with us all.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

God, we are your children, called by the Spirit of Christ into freedom. Lead us in the work of love that transforms.

Love confronts us. Love changes us. Love enables us to leave behind whatever we need to in this moment.

With your grace, may we build your world anew. Strengthen us with your Spirit so that we may do and seek your will.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Philippians 1:7-8

I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in God's grace, both during my time in prison and in the defense and support of the gospel. God is my witness that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

### **SERMON**

Phroneo, Koinos, Splagchnon

Pastor Nate Nims

## **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.

### **OFFERING**

### **CLOSING SONG**

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

## Guide to Prayer and Study

### Monday, June 22

**Read** - 1 John 4:7-21

**Notice** - “Surely 1 John 4:16 is one of the most famous verses in the New Testament: ‘God is love.’ It touches on everything, from the individual-psychological to the radically communal. God is not visible to the human eye at this point in history except through acts of love (4:20); until the last day (and the full unveiling of God’s face), the only sure way to connect to God is to practice loving. Love and God go together; hate and God do not (4:20); fear and God do not (4:18).”<sup>\*</sup> Who are the people in your life that are difficult to love? Are there things about them that you can appreciate? What is it that makes them difficult to love? What in you makes them difficult to love? What do you think they would say about you? How might you connect with God by finding some way to love them, remembering that love can come with boundaries, clear expectations, and even making the first step within yourself to move forward.

**Pray** - God, help me to live with your love. Inspire me to love others because love is from you and you are love. Amen.

<sup>\*</sup>CEB Women’s Bible note on 1 John 4:16:20, page 1562.

### Tuesday, June 23

**Read** - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

**Notice** - As the Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible notes, “Personal names in the ancient world provided much more than a moniker...Name generally offered information, at some level, about the person’s identity and in a variety of ways names were believed to be intertwined with a person’s destiny...In this verse, it is not that God is demonstrating [God’s] authority over Abram but more important, [God] is demonstrating Abram’s destiny - to be the father of a multitude. The name Abram meant ‘the father is exalted... His new name Abraham designates him as the significant ancestor as it looks to future generations yet to be born.”<sup>\*</sup> How would you describe what happened in the lives of Sarah and Abraham when God changes their names and destinies? Have you ever wanted to change your name? Why or why not?

**Pray** - God, just like Abraham and Sarah, you have called me into a new life with your love. Even though I can’t always see it, remind me of the ways that my life will make a difference for generations. Amen.

<sup>\*</sup>Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, note on Genesis 17:5, page 45

### **Wednesday, June 24**

**Read** - Isaiah 62:1-4

**Notice** - What names or words would you use to describe the broken areas in your life or our world? When you read in verse 4, "You will no longer be called Abandoned, and your land will no longer be called Deserted" what comes to mind? This section of Isaiah was written during the Babylonian Exile, a time of political and personal unease, no one knew when, if ever, things would go back to normal again. How does our current context inform or influence how you could read passages like this?

**Pray** - God, in this passage your Spirit delights in us, seeing us as partners see one another the day they are married. Help me to know that you see me with such great love even when I would call myself abandoned and deserted. Amen.

### **Thursday, June 25**

**Read** - Genesis 50:15-21

**Notice** - If anyone in the Bible had an excuse to cut ties with their family, it's Joseph. His brothers were jealous of him, so they sold him into slavery and told their father he was dead. Joseph was beaten, jailed, and enslaved due to their betrayal, and yet, God provided for Joseph and put him in a place to care for his family even though they refused to care for him. Just before our reading today, Joseph leaves Egypt to bury his father, and his brothers are nervous, not knowing what the funeral and family reunion will bring. Joseph says to them in verse 21, "Don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." When have you felt like Joseph in this text? When have you felt like his family? Have you ever experienced God's grace breathing new life and hope into the world, even doing so in moments or experiences that felt broken?

**Pray** - God, sometimes it is only through the cracks that your light can shine through. Help me to remember and know that your love will always win. Amen.

### **Friday, June 26**

**Read** - 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Notice** - "In his own translation of 2 Corinthians 5:17, Wesley adheres strictly to the original Greek text: 'If anyone be in Christ, there is a new creation.' He adds, 'Only the power that makes a world can make a Christian.' By the power of God's love communicated to us through Christ we are re-created, our dulled spiritual senses are reawakened."\* As God puts the pieces of your heart back together and unleashes new creation in your life, how do the names and words that once described your brokenness and pain reveal your wholeness in God's grace?

**Pray** - Jesus, in you there is a new creation birthed within me. There is a new hope, grace, and peace, that transforms everything, even me. Reawaken me to your new creation so I can continue to create a new world with you. Amen.

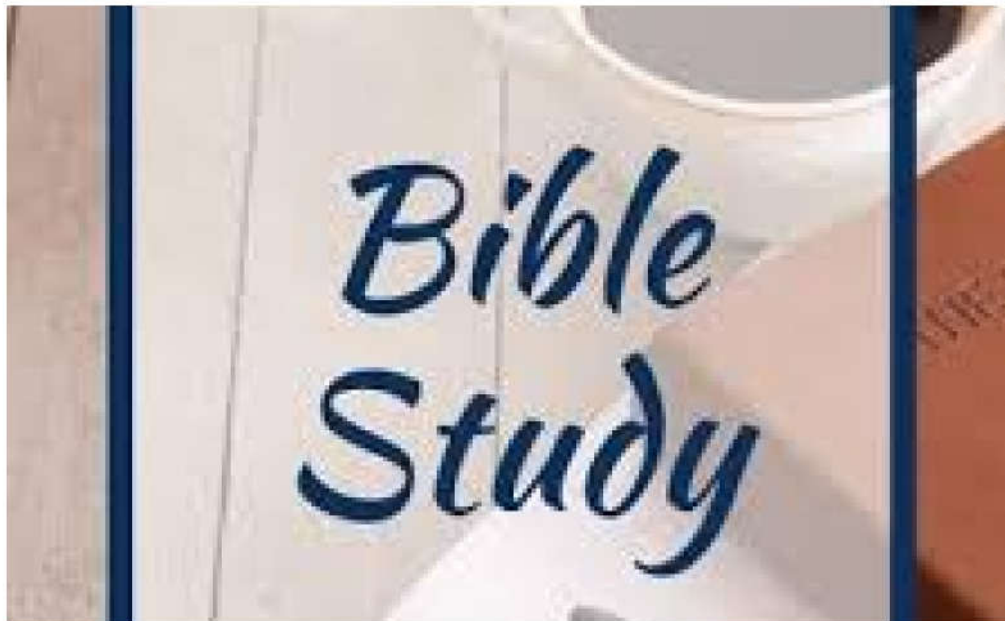
\*The Wesley Study Bible, Wesleyan Core Term, New Creation, page 1466

**Saturday, June 27**

**Read** - Philippians 1:7-8

**Notice** - Think back to our sermon from last Sunday as you read this passage again. Has your understanding of these words changed during the week? In verse 7, Paul writes that he has the Philippian church "in his heart". Letters in the ancient near east, like letters in our lives today, often expressed the joy or the sorrow that we share with friends and family. Who do you carry in your heart today? Could you send them a letter and speak words of encouragement and support to them?

**Pray** - God, you have graced me with family and friends, with a community of love and support that carry one another in our hearts. May the love in our hearts over flow into the work of our hands so together we might witness to your grace and peace. Amen.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Subscribe to the Beyond the Red Doors** weekly email for information on upcoming events by going to [www.gracedesmoines.org](http://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.

**Resources from the Upper Room** are available to all as part of the COVID-19 response. If you would like a hard copy, but are unable to come to the church to get one, call Charlene in the church office at 515.255.2131 to have one mailed or emailed to you. English and Spanish editions are available. You may also listen to the daily devotional on the phone by calling 1.877.600.7218. To see all available study and worship opportunities currently available, please go to [www.upperroom.org/covid-19](http://www.upperroom.org/covid-19).

**Just a reminder that all in-person meetings are cancelled for the time being.** If you need assistance setting up a video or audio conference, please contact the church office.

**AMOS is launching a COVID-19 Survey** to understand how this public health and economic crisis is impacting members of our communities. This survey is another tool to hear stories of what Central Iowans are experiencing, reach out beyond our usual contacts, and invite others to act with us during this isolating time. Information received with this AMOS survey will be shared with institutional leaders to help support our community.

AMOS COVID-19 Survey Link: <https://www.123formbuilder.com/form-5369321/>

**If you know of Grace members who would appreciate receiving hard copies** of worship bulletins, sermons, and other reading materials, please call Charlene in the church office with their names. Information packets will be mailed each Monday.

**Keep growing in faith at home.** Pastor Nate (and Irene) have helped us stay in touch via the internet during this coronavirus isolation time. There is another way to supplement those efforts so we can grow in faith while we are apart. Grace currently has a membership to Amplify, a media ministry of the United Methodist Publishing House. You can look at free options at <https://amplifymedia.com/>, even without the Grace “code” for our membership. If you would like to look at other content, please email [bob.dean@iaumc.net](mailto:bob.dean@iaumc.net) for information on how to access all the materials with Grace’s code.

**The Grace Administrative Council has agreed to worship online only through the month of June.** As July approaches we will look at the rate of community spread in Des Moines and the surrounding area and make the safest decision we can for our church. For now, Grace will continue to live stream worship each Sunday at 10:15 am on our facebook page and website [www.gracedesmoines.org](http://www.gracedesmoines.org) We will also continue to send sermons and devotions to individuals that prefer to stay connected with the church that way. If you would like to be added to that mailing list please contact the church office.

**Our church staff will continue to work primarily from home** and all in-person activities at the church remain on hiatus. If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Nate at [natenims@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:natenims@gracedesmoines.org) or call the church office. Pastor Nate checks his church voice mail a couple of times a week.

**We have many regularly scheduled live-streams on Facebook.** Even if you don't have facebook, you can always catch our videos at [gracedesmoines.org](http://gracedesmoines.org). Our new schedule of live stream events is:

**Sunday** - Worship at 10:15 am

**Monday** - Bible Study and Sermon Q&A at 11 am

**Tuesday** - Guide to Prayer and Study at 9 am

**Wednesday** - Nate at Noon (soup and sermon)

**Thursday** - Spiritual Practices at 4 pm

**If you have had trouble finding the livestreams** either on facebook or on our website, make sure that while with Grace online you 'refresh' your browser and if all goes well you should be able to join us live. If you ever miss a livestream, don't worry, you can always catch it later on 'Nate TV' at [gracedesmoines.org](http://gracedesmoines.org)

**Thank you all, again, for your continued support and prayers. If there is anything our church can do to help, please don't hesitate to let us know.**

**Would you like to be a Liturgist?** As we continue to worship online, we would like to have liturgists to help with the service. If you would like to help with readings and prayers, please email Nate at [natenims@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:natenims@gracedesmoines.org).



### **Grace Offering VBS at Home**

As we seek to "do no harm" due to the coronavirus, yet also want to "do good" by offering a summer faith formation event, Grace's Christian Education team will be offering a Virtual Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Cokesbury has adapted this summer's VBS "Knights of the North Castle" so that families can learn and have fun together at home. Rather than five consecutive days, one lesson will be offered per week beginning the week of June 28.

Videos for each lesson will be available for free through our church's subscription to Amplify Media. A family packet containing the lesson plan and needed supplies for each week will be available for "curbside service" pick-up at the church (times to be announced).

Please register your family or send questions to [coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org) by June 21.

### **Bolsinger Scholarship Awards**

This year, Grace awarded 14 students with more than \$16,000. The Bolsinger Scholarship continues to be a blessing to Grace and the community. We congratulate the following scholarship winners:

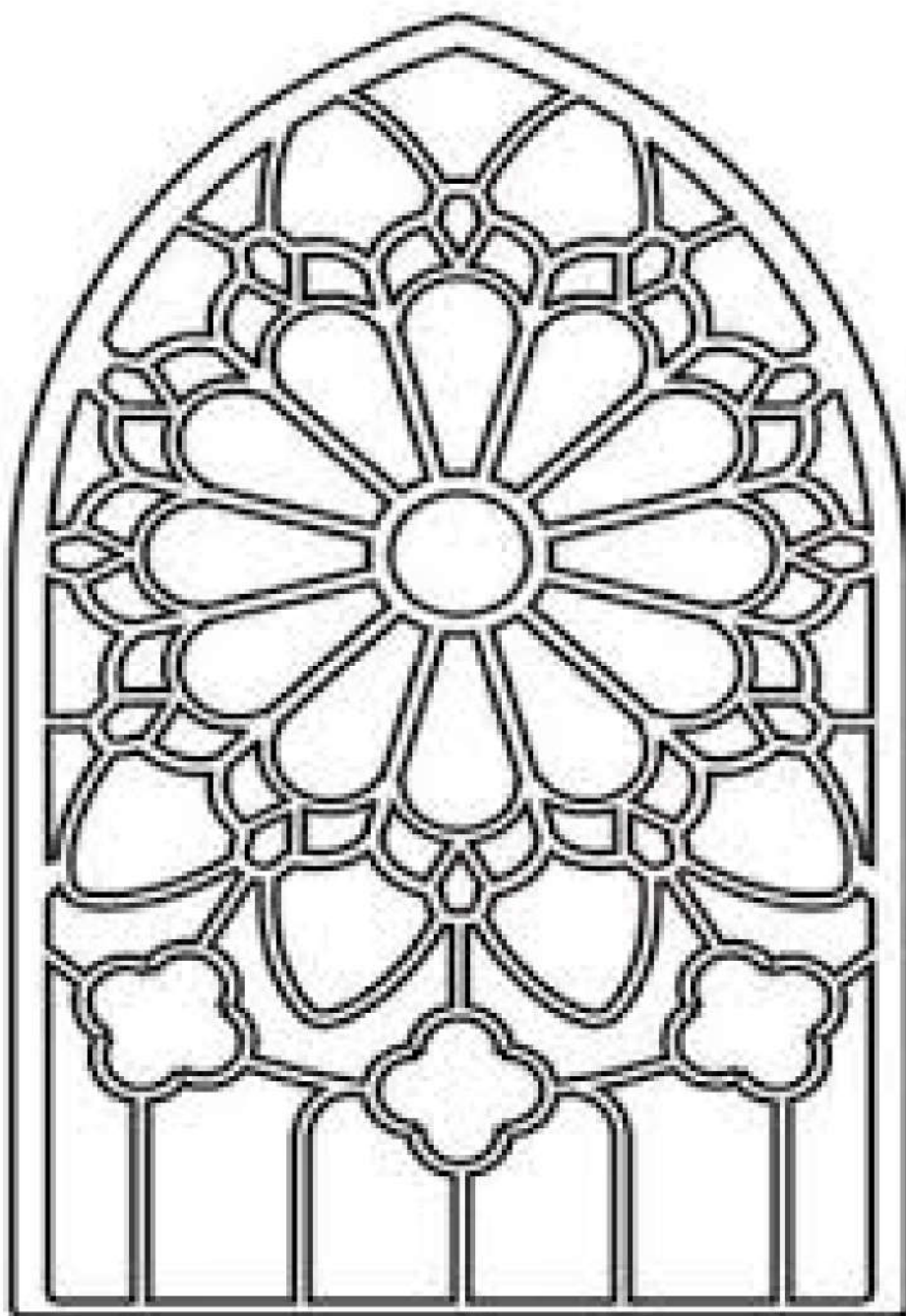
Chris Becker  
Evan Burnham  
Mason DeLange  
Fiona Donnelly  
Bridget Easler  
Brian Goode  
Rob Goode  
Kaitlyn Groetken  
Theo Miller  
Catie Mullen  
Sarah Sahlin  
Max Swinton  
Evan Witke  
Jared Witke.



### **Cards for Bill Cotton**

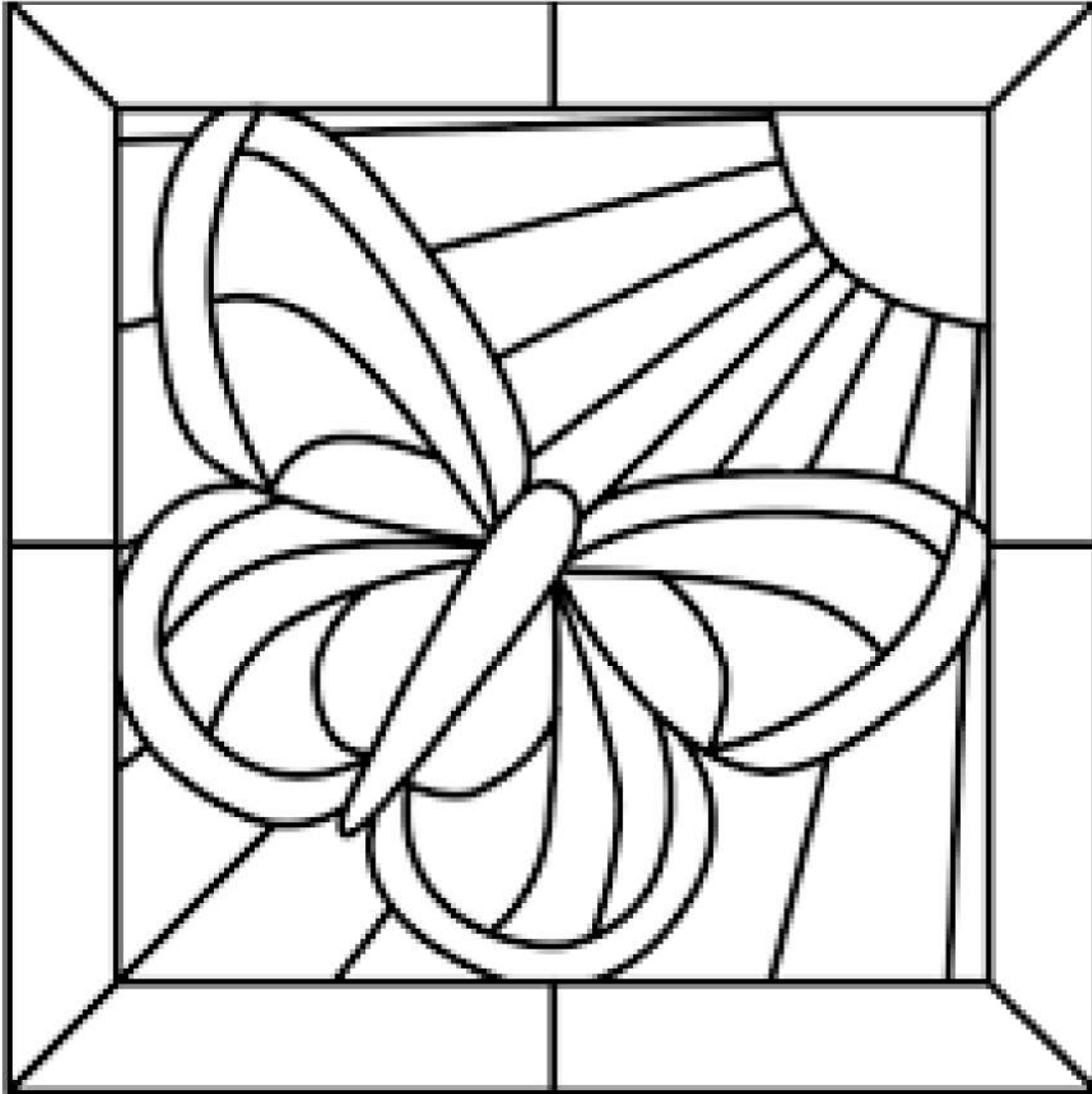
Rev. Bill Cotton is in hospice care at home. Cards, notes, and phone calls are welcome. If you wish to visit, please check with Jan first. Their home address is 622 Glenview Drive, Des Moines IA 50312.





## Coloring Pages

Create your artwork and post a picture of it on the GraceDesMoines Facebook page.



**WORSHIP LEADER:** Rev. Nate Nims;

RESOURCES USED IN THIS SERVICE:

Opening Prayer from enfleshed ([www.enfleshed.com](http://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.



Grace United Methodist Church

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phone: 515.255.2131

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***Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter at GraceDesMoines***

In-person services are suspended for the time being, Please join us online for worship.

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