



Grace United Methodist Church

October 25, 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, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETING ON ANOTHER

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal Wisdom, in the midst of all of life's noise, we long to recognize your voice. Where we have been led astray by the loudest and most visible, the power-hungry, and the greedy, you call us back to love and grace and peace. Back to your way that nourishes. Back to the dreams of your prophets. Back to what grounds and sustains. Today and always, may we be open to your Spirit whose truth leads us home. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

P hilippians 4:1-3

Therefore, my [siblings in Christ] whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord. Loved ones, I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to an agreement in the Lord. Yes, and I'm also asking you, loyal friend, to help these women who have struggled together with me in the ministry of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the scroll of life.

SERMON

"Hanging Around Your Neck"

Rev. Nate Nims

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT

Incarnate One, especially in these times of uncertainty, we hope to be companions of righteousness. We hope to divest from all that destroys. We hope to live into the Spirit of Christ that sets the captives free. Blessed are we, are nourished by the gifts of heaven. May we dwell in Your truth, reach for the ways of justice, and seek the joy of liberation and love. With our hearts set upon the teachings of God, may we seek this transformation of grace. All this we pray through Christ who taught us to pray saying, **Our God (Father, Mother, Creator) who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

"I Surrender All"

Member Updates

Helen Young will celebrate her 99th birthday on November 6. Cards may be sent to 3520 Grand Ave #101, Des Moines, IA 50312.

one Shadduck will celebrate her 97th birthday on October 28. Please send birthday greetings to lone at 3431 Brookview, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265. lone had a big eyear in 2019, including her induction into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. Birthday greetings will help her create wonderful memories of 2020.

Renne Ellingson has moved to Iowa Falls, where she continues to recover from a recent stroke. Cards and letters may be sent to Renne at Scenic Manor Assisted Living, 1409 N. Fremont Street, Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126.

If you would like to share an update in our weekly email or the worship bulletin, please let the church office know

Please continue to keep your Grace friends and family in your prayers. Think about the persons that you often sat by in the sanctuary or the people you'd share a cup of coffee with. Could you send them a letter this weekend or even make a call to check in on one another? If you need help finding a phone number or address, please contact the church office.

If you would like an updated copy of the church directory, let us know and we will put one in the mail for you.

Guide to Prayer and Study - Week of October 26-31, 2020

As we begin Philippians chapter 4 in worship, we will be reviewing Philippians chapter 3 in our GPS this week

Monday, October 26

Read - Philippians 3:1-2

Notice - Without their setting, these two verses don't seem to fit together. "Be glad in the Lord"—that's Paul, focused on joy. "Watch out for the 'dogs'—watch out for people who do evil things"—oops! Where'd the joy go, Paul? But there was tension in the Philippian church. In verse 2, Paul warned about "those who insist on circumcision." He knew their "earn your way" approach to faith would rob all Christians of their God-given joy. Our culture generally loves dogs. Not so in New Testament times: non-Jews "remained Gentile outsiders, 'dogs' as some Jews referred to them. (Dogs in the ancient world were mostly wild and verminous, not often family pets.)" * Paul was ironically turning the insult around. The real "dogs," he said, were those who called Gentile converts "dogs" if they didn't keep the full Jewish law. What people have you seen Christians treat as "dogs"? How can you avoid doing that?

Pray - Jesus, your life offered all of us grace and a place with a God who loves relentlessly. Help me never to distort that message by denying grace to people who aren't just like me. Amen.

*Wright, N.T., Paul for Everyone, The Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon (The New Testament for Everyone) (p. 116). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.

Tuesday, October 27

Read - Philippians 3:3-7

Notice - Paul answered Christian teachers (cf. verse 2) who said circumcision was an act God still required of all Gentile men. They often called themselves "the circumcision." Paul, raised as a devout Jew, listed his human credentials. He knew circumcision was a physical sign of God's covenant with Abraham (cf. Genesis 17:13). But the apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit, had agreed that in Christ's new covenant of grace and love that was not required of Gentile converts (cf. Acts 15:1-21). Christianity's roots were and are, of course, in Judaism. We value the Hebrew Scriptures, often called the Old Testament as a part of God's revelation. Paul claims 'we are the circumcision.' What Paul means is that our heart, body, mind, and strength, our whole being, is devoted to grace and peace. In what ways do we commit our bodies, our tangible being, as a part of our faith? What are the physical signs of Christian faith?

Pray - Jesus, thank you for the gift of relationship that doesn't depend on our successes. Help us to live into the covenant you have made with us based on your unconditional love for your people. Amen.

Wednesday, October 28

Read - Philippians 3:8-11

Notice - In the film "The Greatest Showman", vandals burned down the building that housed Barnum's circus. In the wreckage, Phillip Carlyle said, "You know, Barnum...when I first met you...I had an inheritance, acclaim, an invitation to every party in town. And now, thanks to you, all that's gone. All that's left is friendship, love, and work that I adore. You brought joy into my life." The apostle Paul wrote a remarkably similar message to the Philippians about how making Jesus his Lord had changed his life. Paul said he came to see all his human credentials—his top-notch rabbinic education (cf. Acts 22:3), his renown as a religious leader, his respectability and status—as "sewer trash" compared to the value of knowing Jesus. Of what achievements, degrees, or awards, if any, are you particularly proud? Would you rank knowing Jesus above them?

Pray - Jesus, as I read Paul's description of his life, my prayer is, in the words of the classic hymn, "Live out thy life within me, O Jesus, king of kings." Dwell in my heart and keep shaping my existence. Amen.

Thursday, October 29

Read - Philippians 3:12-15

Notice - Pastor/writer Frederick Buechner said, "Our mass culture...[says] the only thing that really matters about your work is how much it will get you in the way of salary and status....The world is full of people who seem to have listened to the wrong voice and are now engaged in life-work in which they find no pleasure or purpose....We should go with our lives where we most need to go and where we are most needed." * Paul found the goal that gave his life joyous meaning, even in jail, and pursued it with all he had. Have you found the God-given, God-centered goal for your life?

Pray - God, let me hear and respond to your calling voice above all others. Give me the courage and the hunger to pursue your high calling wherever it leads me. Amen.

*Frederick Buechner, *The Hungering Dark*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1969, pp. 29-31.

Friday, October 30

Read - Philippians 3:16-19

Notice - Having told the Philippians he was all-in to reach his life's goal, "the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14), Paul urged his Philippian friends to imitate him and "those who live this way." Imitate him? He wasn't a CEO with stock options that let him buy a superb suit and a sleek sports car. He was a prisoner in a Roman

icell who wasn't sure if his future life span was measured in years or just weeks or days (cf. Philippians 1:20-24). Yet he boldly said, "Use us as models." If Paul were able to hold a seminar on "How to Live Successfully" and charged \$99 for a 2-hour session, would you pay to attend? (You don't have to—you have Philippians!) Scholar William Barclay wrote, "Few preachers would dare to make the appeal with which Paul begins this section... Paul was able to invite his friends, not simply to listen to him, but also to imitate him." * What have you learned so far in studying this letter that you want to imitate in your own life? **Pray** - Jesus, thank you that Paul loved his friends in Philippi enough to write this letter from which I can learn so much. Make me more eager to imitate Paul than the "influencers" our culture pushes me to imitate. Amen.

*William Barclay, *The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians* (Revised Edition). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1975, p. 68

Saturday, October 31

Read - Philippians 3:20-21

Notice - Paul wrote, "Our citizenship is in heaven." Scholar N. T. Wright helped us see what that meant: "We naturally suppose he means 'and so we're waiting until we can go and live in heaven where we belong'. But that's not what he says, and it's certainly not what he means. If someone in Philippi said, 'We are citizens of Rome,' they certainly wouldn't mean 'so we're looking forward to going to live there.' Being a colony works the other way round. The last thing the emperors wanted was a whole lot of colonists coming back to Rome. The capital was already overcrowded....No: the task of the Roman citizen in a place like Philippi was to bring Roman culture and rule to northern Greece, to expand Roman influence there....The church is at present a colony of heaven, with the responsibility (as we say in the Lord's Prayer) for bringing the life and rule of heaven to bear on earth." * Too often Christians think being "citizens of heaven" means that we don't care what happens to this sad, troubled world we live in. But Jesus didn't ignore people's needs, saying "Someday I'll make it all better" (cf. Matthew 4:23-24). Paul, following Jesus' example, was in prison because instead of finding a quiet retreat he traveled constantly, calling often-hostile citizens of the Roman Empire to the better life that came with making Jesus, not Caesar, their true Lord. In keeping with the "colony" idea about which he wrote to the Philippians, he told another group of Christians, "We are ambassadors who represent Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20). In what ways are you living as an ambassador, a colonist seeking to bring the life and rule of heaven to bear on earth? How can you join others in your congregation to carry out that mission?

Pray - Jesus, you're not going to be my Lord "someday." You are Lord of my life today, with work for me to do for your kingdom. Give me your heart for this hurting world. Amen.

* Wright, N.T., *Paul for Everyone, The Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon* (The New Testament for Everyone) (p. 126). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition

We have regularly scheduled live-streams on Facebook and YouTube. You can also always catch our videos at gracedesmoines.org. Our new schedule of live stream events is:

Sunday - Worship at 10:15 am on the GraceDesMoines Facebook and YouTube pages

Tuesday - Guide to Prayer and Study at 9 am

Thursday - Spiritual Practices at 9 am



Amplify Membership

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 for information on how to access all the materials with Grace’s code.

Heifer Marketplace 2020

Advent begins November 29. Usually that would be your first opportunity to participate in a long tradition at Grace UMC: helping provide an animal that changes the lives of families around the world. Obviously, there will be no table in the narthex this year. Heifer Program people are working on a “Digital Marketplace”. The initial page looks pretty straightforward and easy to access. It will mean using a credit card to make your gift. I am working with them to make it specific to Grace. If you receive email from Heifer, it would help me to know that. If you are interested in receiving their mail, I would like to know that as well. New situations call for new ways to make it work. I would be happy to talk with you about your gift for this year.

Sue Sonner (515.822.1355; lssonner@aol.com;

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 1

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed next Saturday, November 1.



Doodle Art Alley ©



Grace UMYF Wreath Sale

The Grace United Methodist Youth is selling wreaths & greenery. The proceeds from the sale will be used to support youth activities, including the Wesley Heritage/Choir Trip to Europe next year.

Wreaths and greenery may be ordered by:

1. Printing the form and mailing it with your payment to:
Grace Youth
c/o GRACE WREATH SALE
3700 Cottage Grove Ave., Des Moines, IA, 50311
2. Printing the form and dropping it off with your check in the church office.
3. Contacting a Grace Youth Group member or Kari & John Walker at 515-210-7367 or johnwalker3000@gmail.com.

Orders may be placed through November 16th. Orders will be available for pick up at Grace on Saturday, November 21st.

☐ I will pick up my order

☐ Please deliver my order

	Price	Quantity	Total
22 in. Wreath	\$ 22.00	_____	_____
36 in. Wreath	\$ 38.00	_____	_____
12 in. Door Swag	\$ 19.00	_____	_____
25 ft. Balsam garland	\$ 32.00	_____	_____
Cemetery wreath holders	\$ 6.00	_____	_____
	Total		_____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-mail: _____

Notes: _____



ATTENTION! Please REGISTER NOW for Grace Youth Des Moines-Grace UMC's fundraiser!

It's super easy! Please help support our fundraiser by following the steps below to register online today. When you register, we'll know you're committed to supporting our fundraiser and helping us reach our goals. To help our organization even more, send 10 email invitations to friends & family and spread the word about our need for help. With over 2,500 gift ideas, supporters can shop and check-off their holiday gift-list, all while supporting our important cause.

Will you follow the instructions below and register today? It's easy, it's simple, and it's important!

Here's how to register today and help us spread the word!

Invite friends and family (even if they're out of town), online orders ship directly to the purchaser!

Organization ID:

11519



Step 1: REGISTER at www.charlestonwrapstore.com
(use organization ID to the left)



Step 2: Use our Email-Invite Generator to invite out-of-town friends & family to shop and support! Plus, share your unique invite links via text and social media.



Participant Registration

Ultra-Heavy Gift Wrap



Personalization



Holiday Décor



Kitchen & Home



Charleston Wrap
BETTER PRODUCTS. BETTER FUNDRAISING.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME CUB'S CLASSIC VIRTUAL CONCESSIONS

Grace Youth is asking for your help, more or less
 To make our virtual concession stand a big success
 Just send us the money, if you please
 That it would cost to purchase a pretzel with cheese
 Or a cubby dog and a ballpark beer
 We are giving the cubs a virtual cheer
 Send in the money it takes to buy
 Tickets close enough to catch a pop fly
 We know you will help us if you can
 Because you are a Baseball and Grace Youth Fan!



CONCESSIONS MENU (prices may appear larger than average)

____ Candy (Red Vine, M&M's, etc.) \$25	____ Giant Ballpark Beer \$90
____ Hot Pretzel with Cheese \$35	____ I-Cubs Face Mask \$100
____ Kids Cubby Meal \$40	____ Colossal dog prepared by the Beckers \$125
____ Nachos with Cheese \$45	____ Picture with Cubbie Bear \$250
____ Popcorn \$50	____ Run the bases with Meg Malone-Titus \$500
____ Cherry or Blue Raspberry Slushie \$50	____ Weiner Cannon ride with the Goodes \$750
____ Peanuts roasted by Shawn Mullen \$85	____ Skybox Rental with Guest Bartenders: Chris Heilskov & Jacob Naumann

Submit your donation in one of the following ways:

Online - gracedesmoines.org > Giving > Make a Donation > Enter the amount you would like to contribute in the **Grace Youth Fundraising** row.

USPS – Grace United Methodist Church (3700 Cottage Grove Ave, Des Moines, IA 50311). **Make checks payable to Grace Youth.**

Venmo - @Grace-Youth-2 (Todd Witke) – indicate virtual concession as the reason

WORSHIP LEADER: Rev. Nate Nims;

RESOURCES USED IN THIS SERVICE:

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.



Grace United Methodist Church

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

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
or on our YouTube channel..