



# Grace United Methodist Church,

November 8, 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**

God, our hope and our comfort, turn our hearts and our feet in the direction of love. Though paths unfold before us promising success or security, give us the courage to ask if they are also the paths of love. In Christ, you have shown us what it is to choose each other, to commit to justice, and to live compassion. Make it so among us. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Philippians 4:8-9

From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.

### **SERMON**

Rev. Nate Nims

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

God, in different ways and to different degrees, we each face barriers to our becoming. Some of us struggle to voice our needs and some of us struggle to respond to the needs of others. Give us the discernment, O God, to know when to speak and when to listen; to know when to rise up and when to step back, each according to your will, for the flourishing of your people. 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**

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

## *Member Updates*

**RRenne 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.

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.



**Our Charge Conference** has been scheduled for this coming Thursday, November 12, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Please keep an eye on the GraceDesMoines Facebook page for call-in information. We will also post it on our website.

**Let's Catch Up!** What have you been doing since the last time we were together? Have you learned to cook? Have you learned how to play an instrument? Have you knitted a scarf, or made a quilt, or painted a masterpiece? Perhaps you've learned a new language, or started writing actual letters to friends and family. Or maybe you took part in a virtual wedding, or met a new member of the family over Zoom. Send a note to [info@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:info@gracedesmoines.org) about how you've spent your time over the last eight months, and we'll include as many of them as we can in the December edition of the Chimes.

## **Guide to Prayer and Study - Week of November 9-14, 2020**

### **Monday, November 9**

**Read** - Luke 10:38-42

**Notice** - Jesus' friend Martha was very busy with good, sensible things! She wanted to be a good host, to offer her guest a good meal and restful lodging. We, too, often feel hurried and stressed, because we're trying to do too many good (not bad) things. In Jesus' day, to "sit at someone's feet" meant becoming that person's disciple. In this story, "Martha did what the culture valued in women: cleaned the house and cooked the food. Mary did what the culture valued in men: became a disciple."\* This story would have shocked many of Luke's readers. To listen at a rabbi's feet was for the rabbi's main followers—an honor their culture kept for men. (In the first century near east it was truly thought that a women's place was "in the kitchen.") Jesus did not put down Martha's caring. He did say, "Mary has chosen the better part." As you set your priorities, how can you keep "listening to Jesus" and "sitting at his feet" a focus and priority?

**Pray** - Jesus, help me to slow down and listen to your voice today. When it comes to my priorities, show me the better part, and give me the will to follow your ways. Amen.

\*John Ortberg, Who Is This Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012, pp. 54.

### **Tuesday, November 10**

**Read** - Psalm 40:1-8

**Notice** - "All my hope in the LORD," Psalm 40 said. Okay, we may think, I put some hope in God, maybe a lot. But there's also my job, my family ties, my retirement account.... Part of what makes the current pandemic frustrating is that it shows the fragility of so many of the human possessions and activities in which we tend to put our hope. The psalmist said it was folly to pay attention to "the proud" and "those who follow lies." Instead, the psalmist called us to celebrate God's wonderful deeds and plans. "Those who put their trust in the LORD... are truly happy," said verse 4. We're bombarded with claims that nearly anything, from whitening toothpaste to a luxury cruise to the best new smartphone, will make us truly happy. Do you believe that the source of true happiness to which Psalm 40 pointed is more credible than the ads that barrage you from all sides? In what ways have you found a greater depth of true joy and hope by trusting in God?

**Pray** - God, sometimes it's hard for me to look beyond today's circumstances, beyond even tomorrow's problems. Keep teaching me how to focus on your wonderful deeds and your plans for us. Amen.

## **Wednesday, November 11**

**Read** - Matthew 6:31-34

**Notice** - Jesus saw, as we often do not, that worry makes us focus on the wrong things. We often fixate on food, clothing, and other material goods because we fear that at some future time we might not have enough. “Desire first and foremost God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness,” Jesus said, inviting us to trust that God really cares for us. In God’s hands, he said, we are always eternally secure, through any trouble life brings. Scholar N. T. Wright said in Jesus’ teaching “the point was... priorities. Put the world first, and you’ll find it gets moth-eaten in your hands. Put God first, and you’ll get the world thrown in.... Living totally without worry sounds, to many people, as impossible as living totally without breathing.... Here, at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, is an invitation that surprisingly few people even try to take up.”\* Are you willing to try to take up Jesus’ invitation about worry?

**Pray** - Jesus, you were too aware to claim that every earthly life has a happy short-term ending. You knew a cross waited for you. And yet you spoke of peace, of not worrying. Fill me with your trusting peace in a broken world. Amen.

\* Wright, N.T., Matthew for Everyone, Part 1: Chapters 1-15 (The New Testament for Everyone) (pp. 66-67). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.

## **Thursday, November 12**

**Read** - Matthew 7:1-6

**Notice** - Judging is a necessary part of life. Yet Jesus said, “Don’t judge.” This did not mean we should not have opinions or that we should not evaluate people’s actions carefully, especially if they are harmful. It does mean that we should hold our opinions with humility and remember that we too have fallen short of how God calls us to live. Humility requires us to admit we often don’t know the entire story. Ultimately God, not us, is the all-knowing judge, and justice is finally God’s responsibility. (Still verse 6 made it clear that Jesus did not call anyone to be naïve or accept abusive actions.) A wise woman had to testify in court. In answer to the question, “Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?” The woman humbly replied, “Your honor, I don’t know the whole truth.” Sometimes that uncomfortable reality is at least part of Jesus’ hyperbolic “log” in your eye. What is a current tense situation that might find a better resolution if you could open yourself to look at it from a different point of view?

**Pray** - Jesus, keep me healthily aware of my strengths while still being able to “take the log out of [my] eye” before trying to correct or “improve” others. Amen.



## **Friday, November 13**

**Read** - Matthew 6:5-8

**Notice** -

All through Matthew 6, as Jesus taught about various spiritual practices, he never used the word “if.” In today’s passage, he said “When you pray...” just as in yesterday’s passage he said, “when you give to the poor.” As scholar N. T. Wright put it, Jesus “assumes that people will continue to do all of these. What matters is learning to do them simply to and for God himself.”\* Jesus’ description of people who think their prayers will be heard because they “pour out a flood of empty words” might recall the bizarre, tragic scene of the Baal prophets “praying” on Mount Carmel (cf. 1 Kings 18:26-29). They didn’t see their god(s) as caring and loving, but as careless, aloof, and needing to be “won over.” What helps you trust that God wants to hear you, that you don’t need to impress God by eloquence or lengthy rhetoric?

**Pray** - Jesus, when we make it a definition, it sounds so obvious: “Prayer is talking to God.” Help me keep growing so that I value talking to you more highly than any other friend to whom I talk often. Amen.

\* Wright, N.T., *Matthew for Everyone, Part 1: Chapters 1-15 (The New Testament for Everyone)* (p. 55). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.

## **Saturday, November 14**

**Read** - Acts 7:54-8:3, Acts 9:1-9, 20-22

**Notice** - Saul first appeared in the book of Acts as almost a bit player, a young man holding other people’s coats. He quickly became a leading persecutor of early Christians. A stunning encounter with the risen Christ utterly changed his life. He soon began using his Roman name, Paul (cf. Acts 13:9). His passion and drive, formerly used in hate and harassment, now focused on proclaiming persuasively that Jesus was, in fact, the long-awaited Messiah. In Saul’s upbringing, nearly everyone he valued, from the high priest down, rejected Jesus and saw Christians as a threat to God’s truth. It’s no wonder he worked passionately to destroy a faith he saw as dangerously wrong. In what ways did Saul have to adjust his dreams and expectations to reorder his life after meeting Jesus? Did your background and training make it easy or hard for you to believe in Jesus? What changes, if any, has your faith called you to make?

**Pray** - Jesus, you called Saul and changed his life. He went on to change millions of lives by his preaching and writing. Give me listening ears and an openness to meet you as you reach out to my heart. Amen.



### **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](mailto: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](mailto:lssonner@aol.com);

**We have regularly scheduled live-streams on Facebook and YouTube.** You can also always catch our videos at [gracedesmoines.org](http://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

**2021 Calendars from Luther Park will be available later this year.** Calendars will be available for pick up at the church, or we will mail one to you if you are not comfortable coming to the church or are physically unable to do so. If you would like to receive a mailed copy, call the church office. We don't know yet when the calendars will be available.



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](http://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.

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

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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](https://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](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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Des Moines, IA 50311

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

phone: 515.255.2131

email: [info@gracedesmoines.org](mailto: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..