



Grace United Methodist Church

November 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.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETING ON ANOTHER

OPENING PRAYER

God, you know us in the depths of our hearts. Our longings, our intentions, our places of struggle are all known to you. You meet us there with words of courage and deliverance. When fear or insecurity or ego beckon, do not let us be swayed in the direction of evil, but encourage us to trust in you. In Christ, our guide, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:10-20

I was very glad in the Lord because now at last you have shown concern for me again. (Of course you were always concerned but had no way to show it.) I'm not saying this because I need anything, for I have learned how to be content in any circumstance. I know the experience of being in need and of having more than enough; I have learned the secret to being content in any and every circumstance, whether full or hungry or whether having plenty or being poor. I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength. Still, you have done well to share my distress. You Philippians know from the time of my first mission work in Macedonia how no church shared in supporting my ministry except you. You sent contributions repeatedly to take care of my needs even while I was in Thessalonica. I'm not hoping for a gift, but I am hoping for a profit that accumulates in your account. I now have plenty and it is more than enough. I am full to overflowing because I received the gifts that you sent from Epaphroditus. Those gifts give off a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice that pleases God. My God will meet your every need out of his riches in the glory that is found in Christ Jesus. Let glory be given to God our Father forever and always. Amen.

SERMON

Rev. Nate Nims

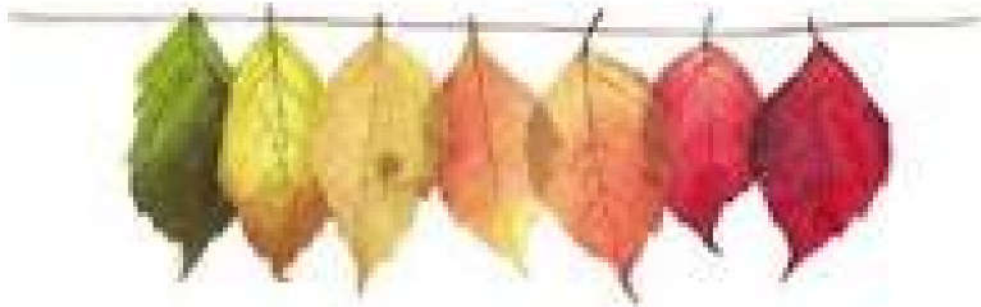
PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT

God who accompanies, God who delivers, God who promises renewal, here we are. We bring all of who we are and all of what we have to the work of your Love. Though our worries and fears will surely try to convince us otherwise: there is no better way than the ways that set free. There is no better way than the ways of love. There is no better way than together for grace and peace. May we live in the assurance of these truths and in trust of the God who is always with us. 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

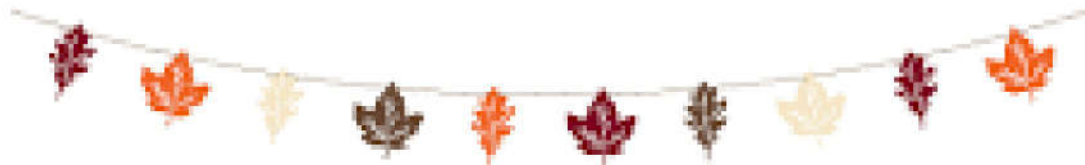
CLOSING SONG "Take My Life, and Let it Be"



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.



Fall Clean-Up Day - Saturday, November 21

We are in need of volunteers to help clean up the church yard next Saturday. We'll get started at 9 am. Bring rakes, pruning shears, and work gloves. Thank you in advance!

Guide to Prayer and Study - Week of November 16-21, 2020

Monday, November 16

Read - Matthew 20:1-16, Luke 12:32

Notice - Jesus showed that God's generosity goes way beyond "fairness." People who worked all day watched the landowner pay people who'd only worked one hour the same amount that they had agreed to work for—and they got angry. (We can almost imagine their pro-rated mental calculations.) But the vineyard owner didn't cheat them. Sadly, the landowner asked the upset workers "Are you resentful because I'm generous?" Does the master's way of paying the workers in this story feel unfair to you? "It was not unfair, of course. No one was underpaid; it was just that some received 'unreasonable' generosity. That is what the kingdom of heaven is like."* In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul said Christ was treated as we deserved, and we are treated as he deserved. In what ways does that "unfair" exchange deepen your gratitude for Christ's generosity?

Pray - Loving God, in fall foliage, winter snow, and spring flowers, every morning and every evening, you delight in giving to me. Keep my generosity growing, even though it will never match the magnitude of yours. Amen.

* R. T. France, article "Matthew" in New Bible Commentary, 21st Century Edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994, p. 930.

Tuesday, November 17

Read - Luke 12:33-34, 48, Acts 20:35

Notice - Our culture often acts as though "mine" is one of the most priceless English words. Jesus always challenged that all-too-human possessiveness. When we loosen our grasp, he said, we can live lighter lives free of worry and stress. Investing our treasure, time, and talent in God's mission to uplift and redeem the whole world is, according to Jesus, the one truly safe investment we can make. In verse 34, Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." True security and satisfaction, he taught, came from seeking God first, not from externals like food, clothing, or material possessions. How does Jesus' teaching challenge the ways you've learned to think and act about the level of security and satisfaction "stuff" can bring you?

Pray - Jesus, when I stop to realize who you are, I realize that your whole earthly life was an act of massive generosity. Let that awareness inspire me to greater generosity in my life. Amen.

Wednesday, November 18

Read - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Notice - “God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace” (verse 8). “You will be made rich in every way” (verse 11). The apostle Paul, certainly not a rich man by any human standard, wrote that! Even to people who lived in the large city of Corinth, he used the language of harvest, of God increasing their crop. He challenged them (and us) to rethink what “rich” and “more than enough” really mean. God sows generously. He asks us to produce a generous harvest. Paul did not invent the idea that “God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Chronicles 31:4-10 said that after King Hezekiah’s call to supply the Temple, “the Israelites generously gave the best of their grain, new wine, oil, honey, and all their crops—a tenth of everything, a huge amount.” Why would God want us to give from free, grateful hearts without coercion or pressure? When have you felt the joy of giving freely from a grateful heart of love?

Pray - God of abundant life, teach me how to better calibrate my standard of “enough.” And grow in me a heart that cheerfully welcomes invitations to give to bless others. Amen.

Thursday, November 19

Read - 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Notice - So much around us, including some approaches to retirement, tries to convince us that money is the most important part of a satisfying life. As scholar N. T. Wright said, “Every advertisement, every other television program, many movies and most political manifestos are designed, by subtle and not-so-subtle ways, to make us say, ‘If only I had just a bit more money, then I would be content.’”^{*} What are the main drivers of the way you live your life? What kind of outcome to your life do you most wish to avoid? What life goal(s) are you pursuing with all your might? What steps can you take today to resist the temptation to look mainly to money for happiness, fulfillment, and ultimate security?

Pray - Jesus, thank you for being my ultimate mentor, guide, and accountability partner. Teach me to value what you value, to take hold of what is truly life. Amen.

^{*} N. T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone: The Pastoral Letters*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004, p. 71.

Friday, November 20

Read - Acts 2:41-47

Notice - The very first “Christians” (they didn’t even call themselves that yet—cf. Acts 11:26) were a fairly small, largely unknown group, living in a city that had crucified their Lord. But they lived out their faith in ways that have changed the world for over 2000 years now. The apostles’ teaching, prayer, fellowship, and a radical spirit of joyous generosity bound them together. They found such joy and meaning in their lives that they told others, who invited others, who invited others and so on until (as Pastor Hamilton often

says) eventually someone invited you. And now it's your turn to keep the story going. The teachings of the apostles and the power of the Holy Spirit moved the first Christians to share their possessions, setting aside their own gain to bless others. That spirit made their lives joyous, not miserable—"they shared food with gladness." How does your readiness to find joy in sharing with others reflect God's impact on your life? How do you respond inwardly to being part of a congregation that specifically and intentionally exists to reach beyond our walls, to reach, serve and uplift our neighbors and our communities?

Pray - Generous, joy-giving God, I offer you my gratitude. Help me to be willing to adjust my life in whatever ways I need to so that my gratitude isn't just words, but joyful service to you and to your children. Amen.

Saturday, November 21

Read - Exodus 36:3-5, 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

Notice - Moses led the people in building the Tabernacle to honor God (cf. Exodus 35:30-35). The workers met a welcome but surprising problem. They told Moses, "The people are contributing way too much material for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do." Amazing generosity! As the apostle Paul gathered a gift for Christians in Jerusalem, he cared more about the spirit in which people gave than the amount raised. "God loves a cheerful giver" was not a catchy slogan, but a call to check why they gave. "They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure," he said.

Pray - Jesus, you pour out your gifts freely, from the "ordinary" ones like morning sunshine to the biggest gift of forgiveness and salvation. Help me keep learning how to live in your generous spirit. Amen.



GRACE & PEACE

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

This year our Heifer International Living Gift Market will be held online! During Advent, we will be promoting various options for giving to Heifer International, a nonprofit dedicated to helping struggling families around the world lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. By giving living gifts like goats or cows, you will help families start their journey toward self-reliance by supplying them with nutritious milk to drink, share, and sell. Gifts may be made in honor of someone, and we will give you a special card to present to them. Items available include a hive of honeybees, tree seedlings, a flock of chickens, all the way up to a large animal or a share of a large animal. There are so many options that will help folks all around the world! Contact Coreen Witke for more information, including coloring books for kids and other resources, at coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org. Please go to www.gracedesmoines.org/giving to connect to Grace’s donation page.

Neighbors Class Update

The Neighbors Class will be meeting via Zoom and in-person in November and December. Rev. Bob Cook will be presenting a program with a Christmas theme for the December meetings. Masks and social distancing is required for in-person meetings.

Wednesday, November 18, 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 2, 2:00 pm via Zoom

Wednesday, December 9, 2 pm in Fellowship Hall



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.

<input type="checkbox"/> I will pick up my order	<input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER!!!

WREATH ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY **MONDAY,**
NOVEMBER 16

ORDERS MAY BE PICKED UP IN THE
GRACE GARAGE AT THE FOLLOWING
TIMES:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

THOSE WHO SCHEDULED A
DELIVERY WILL RECEIVE THEIR
ORDER ON **SATURDAY.**



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..