



Grace United Methodist Church

September 26, 2021

OUR WELCOMING STATEMENT

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status.

We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

We are all invited to bless this church with our love, our presence, and our participation.

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRESENTATION ON THE TRIP TO FRANCE

Grace Youth

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Mike Elston
Judy Martin and Michael Rice
Eden Kreighbaum

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus, our lives can feel cluttered.

**We are driven by the need to succeed,
and distracted by all that needs our attention.**

When it feels as if we have lost our way, by your Spirit, clear our minds, open our hearts,
and focus the attention of our souls.

**Let us, like Mary, find the one thing that is needed, so that we too can rest in
your mercy and love.**

OPENING HYMN

UMH 399

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, you are intimately acquainted with the ways our hearts break when we are not fully known and accepted. May our lives be a reflection of the love you express within yourself; that we will come to a place where we cannot help but love, and to know this love fully – for ourselves, the people who surround us, and the earth which we inhabit. This love is an extension of who you are, the source of all kindness, which turns love, into love, into love, into love. Amen.

READING

Luke 10:38-42

SERMON

"Limits and Boundaries"

Pastor Nate Nims

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT

Our Father, 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**OFFERTORY****CLOSING HYMN**

UMH 431

"Let There Be Peace on Earth

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

2021 Thanksgiving Ingathering

It's that time of year again. School supplies will be going on sale in July, and we will be accepting donations for the 2021 Ingathering soon. You may place your items in the receptacle in the church entryway. These items are used during natural disasters and, more generally, to help those in need.

Below are the items needed to complete each kit. If you have any questions about the items, you may contact Lisa Blair (841-223-2372 (please text first); lisa223blair@va-va.com) or Jean Kerber (878-733-3887). For information about making the cloth bags, contact Susan Ryon (616-828-8511).

Personal Dignity Kit Contents:

- 1 Bath Hand Towel - No kitchen towels and please avoid the larger plush towels. We have limited space in the bag.
- 1 Bath Washcloth - No dishcloths
- 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multipacks
- 1 Bar Soap - 3-4 oz
- 1 Shampoo - 16-18 oz
- 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump
- 1 1-gal Re-sealable Plastic Bag
- \$2 donation for razor and toothpaste

All items must be NEW

Student Kit Contents:

- 3 Notebooks -1 subject spiral 8" x 10 1/2"
- 1 Ruler - 12" long with metric
- 6 Pencils - unsharpened
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 1 Pencil Eraser - 2" or larger
- 1 Box 12 Colored Pencils
- 1 Box 24 Crayons
- 1 Pair of Scissors - student round tip

Place in a one handle cloth bag.

The Ministry Fair is today!! If you are wondering how to get involved in a ministry or committee at Grace you need to attend. We start at 11:15 a.m. in the Activity Center on Sunday September 26. Stroll around the room and see what all is offered at Grace. Don't miss this opportunity!!



This year's Charge Conference will be on Sunday, October 10, at 5:00 p.m. at Walnut Hills UMC (12321 Hickman Road, Urbandale).



Grace recently purchased multiple A-frame signs to help guide new folks to our parking lots. We are looking for folks willing to put them out each Sunday morning, and, if you are willing, we would let you collect them after worship, too! If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Coreen Witke at coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org.



Throughout their years of Sunday School, children develop a foundation of faith that will support them throughout their lives. At Grace, we are in need of adults who are interested in guiding our younger members as they build that foundation during Sunday School. As Christians, we are called to share our faith. It is a divine gift to have the opportunity to do so with children and youth. All curriculum is provided, as are all materials needed for each class. If you are feeling the nudge to share your faith, please contact Coreen Witke at 515.255.6400 ext. 230 or at coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org. Our prayer is that we have a team of teachers that allows for personal connection with each student and enough flexibility so that the responsibility for teaching is shared. Take some time to pray about your calling to see where your faith takes you.

Guide to Prayer and Study, September 27 - October 2

Monday, September 27

Read - Exodus 3:2-10, Exodus 4:1-5, John 6:5-9

Notice - Moses was sent by God to challenge the Pharaoh. In Exodus chapter 4, Moses isn't sure he can do what God is asking of him, but God simply asks back to Moses, "What's in your hand?" Standing before a hungry crowd, with no supermarket or fast food near by, Jesus' disciples didn't think they could feed anyone and couldn't believe that a boy's lunch could help the crowd. In both of these readings we see that God is good as using what we've got. Moses didn't feel strong enough to accomplish God's call on his life, but God told Moses, 'I'll be with you'. What call is on your life? Where is God leading you and what do you already have to accomplish what God is trying to inspire you to do? What can you do to trust that God is blessing you with all that you have so that you might be a blessing to others?

Pray - Jesus, I want to offer you any gifts and talents I have, as the lad offered what he had. Use and multiply my abilities to bless others, and thank you that you bless me in the giving. Amen.

Tuesday, September 28

Read - Matthew 7:9-14

Notice - In this passage, Jesus sums up the many of the ideas he taught in the Sermon on the Mount. There, Jesus had told his hearers to love their enemies, be honest, show mercy, and more. Those were not separate, individual rules, from which we could choose which to follow. They expressed the great principle of treating others as God treats us, and as we wish others would treat us. Sometimes we think the "Golden Rule" is just a 'nice' motto. After the Golden rule, Jesus added, "The gate that leads to life is narrow and the road difficult, so few people find it" (verse 14). What people or conditions make it hardest for you to treat others as you'd like them to treat you? What are some ways you have proactively sought to treat others in "Golden Rule" fashion? How easy or hard was that for you to do?

Pray - God, like the psalmist, I want your kind of honest strength. Teach and guide me in building my trust in you as I respond to your calling. Amen.

Wednesday, September 29

Read - Ephesians 4:29-5:4

Notice - In this passage, we see qualities that can build up relationships as well as qualities that can tear them down. We strive to 'put aside bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander...' because these things can lead to emotionally unhealthy relationships. Notice that the reading doesn't simply say, 'Be nice to everyone, even when someone annoys you.' This passage from Ephesians is about transformation, about changing our hearts as well as our actions. How can you open your heart to God's spirit so that you can live into the calling to be 'kind, compassionate, and forgiving'?

Pray - Jesus, make me aware of anger or bitterness inside myself. Keep transforming my heart with your grace so that your love can transform my relationships with others. Amen.

Thursday, September 30

Read - 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

Notice - Paul loved the Thessalonian Christians, but he was also realistic about the ways flawed humanity shows up even in a group who honestly aim to be faithful. Scholar William Barclay observed, "Verse 14 picks out those who need special care and attention."* He listed "those who are disorderly," "the discouraged," and "the weak," adding that at times they would need to "be patient with everyone." Paul listed the "disorderly" (or "idle"), "discouraged" and "weak" as needing special care, along with "everyone" needing patience. How do you think that applies to the ways you (and our church) care for people? To what contemporary issues do you and your congregation most need to apply Paul's wisdom to your ministry life?

Pray - God, shape me into a person who can warn, comfort, help and be patient with others. Guide me to always pursue the good for others and for your kingdom. Amen.

* William Barclay, *The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians* (Revised Edition). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1975, p. 207.

Friday, October 1

Read - Ephesians 5:18-33

Notice - It is easy to wince at our reading today, especially if you only read verse 22, "For example, wives should submit to their husbands as if to the Lord." In this passage, some scholars believe that Paul is using what was a common Greek and Roman form of writing about families and relationships called a 'Household Code'. Paul seems to adapt and modify the code to alter the message, shifting it from hierarchy to mutual service and love. Ephesians 5:21 said, "Submit to each other." "Submission" in the ancient near east was a mutual duty, not something only one partner gave while the other took. When have you seen a healthy relationship built on mutual "submission"? What does that kind of submission look like with your family and friends?

Pray - Jesus, help me to submit to your love. Inspire me to know that I am called to love others because you love and trust me. Amen.

Saturday, October 2

Read - Luke 10:38-42

Notice - To 'sit at someone's feet' is to be that person's disciple. In Acts 22:3, the apostle Paul described being a student while sitting 'at the feet of Gamaliel'. In our reading today, Martha busies herself around the house but Mary sits at Jesus' feet as a disciple. Jesus told Martha, who seems to have seen many details of her role as hostess as critically important, that "One thing is necessary" (or, as The Message renders it, "One thing only is essential.") What would making Christ the only essential thing in your life look like? How would it affect your priorities, time use, leisure activities, and other choices? How might it offer you greater freedom in your life?

Pray - Lord, I have a lot to do. It's hard to stop all my doing to listen to you. Help me recognize how important that is to my growth as your follower. Amen.



ARISE!
SHINE!

**YOUR LIGHT HAS COME;
THE LORD'S GLORY
HAS SHONE UPON YOU!**

— **ISAIAH 60:1** —



WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Nate Nims; Laura Thompson, liturgist; Ann Gerdome, Music Director and organist; Michael Gookin, Senior Choir Director.

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

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Hymnals: United Methodist Hymnal (UMH); The Faith We Sing (TFWS); Worship & Song (W&S).

Opening prayer modified from Collect at <https://www.divergingmag.com/lent2020-week-2/>



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Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter at GraceDesMoines

Worship in-person with us at 10:15 a.m. Sunday morning, or join us online.

Watch the livestream of the 10:15 am service on the GraceDesMoines Facebook page, on our YouTube channel, or at gracedesmoines.org.