



Celebrate Sunday School

It's time to gather for a celebration! Sunday School for children and youth begins again on **Sunday, January 9** with, what else, a party! Let's celebrate being together again with a **Celebrate Sunday School** party. There will be streamers and confetti, along with special drinks and snacks. The only other thing we need is YOU!

Room Locations for Celebrate Sunday School

Preschool — 2nd Grade will meet in **Room 204**

3rd Grade will meet in **Room 301**

4th and 5th Grade will meet in **Room 204**

Middle School and High School will meet in **Room 208**

This will be a bit of a reset as we start anew after the pandemic. With all of the adapting, reshaping, and updating that we have all had to do, it's time for a festive gathering as we start the new year. You are invited, and we pray you'll join us on **Sunday, January 9 at 9 a.m.** Contact Coreen Witke at coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org or 515.255.2131



New Group Reading the Bible in One Year

Have you ever wanted to read the entire Bible? Grace is starting a new Bible study group in January of 2022 with the goal being to read the entire Bible in one year. The study will be based on "The Bible Year: A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days", which features weekly videos and lessons. Once we have identified all of those who wish to participate, we will figure out a regular meeting time that works for the majority of the group. Contact Coreen Witke at coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org or call her at 515.255.6400 ext. 230 to register for the group.

There will be no UMW Unit Meeting in January. Join us for the first meeting of 2022 on Thursday, February 3 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Sunday, January 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the Library.

Upper Room Booklets Location Change

The Upper Room pocket devotional booklets will now be available in the entryway of the church. These booklets give you an opportunity to experience a centering moment that includes a scripture reading and reflection each day. Look for them on the table near the church office.

A New Take on Confirmation

So much has changed in the last (nearly) two years, that it inspired us to rethink our some of our programs. If you, or a person in your household, is currently in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, and hasn't been confirmed, please keep reading. The pandemic has affected our in-person gatherings, so we have been evaluating how we have been structuring programs at Grace. This led to us to lengthening out confirmation class from one year to a year and a half, and including students from two grades within the class. Combining the classes will give the confirmands a better opportunity to create a community with their peers and learn more about how they want to live out their faith in a meaningful way.

Here are the details: Those who are in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, and wish to be confirmed, are invited to attend our first session on **Wednesday, January 12 at 6 p.m.** in the Confirmation Room. Parents and caregivers are also asked to attend this meeting. We will go over the Confirmation Calendar, review class expectations, and answer any questions that come up. If you will be attending the January 12 meeting, please contact Coreen Witke at coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org or at 515.255.6400 ext. 230.

Grace United Methodist Church financial Dashboard

as of November 2021

	Budget 2021	Actual 11/30/2021	Actual 11/30/2020
INCOME			
Pledges	\$ 368,737.00	\$ 329,673.00	\$ 362,147.00
Prepaid Pledge	-	\$ 7,155.00	\$ 9,806.00
Non-Pledge	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 108,603.00	\$ 61,863.00
Preschool	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 4,800.00
Other Income	\$ 41,535.00	\$ 25,154.00	\$ 16,170.00
Fund Raising Chlg	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 8,499.00	\$ 15,562.00
Designated	\$ 6,565.00	\$ 2,646.00	\$ 3,183.00
Total Income	\$ 522,237.00	\$ 486,680.00	\$ 473,531.00
EXPENSE			
Payroll	\$ 329,904.00	\$ 292,518.00	\$ 284,046.00
Utilities	\$ 38,850.00	\$ 34,895.00	\$ 27,076.00
Insurance	\$ 18,131.00	\$ 20,874.00	\$ 18,125.00
Other Admin	\$ 36,500.00	\$ 36,318.00	\$ 34,250.00
Other Maintenance	\$ 69,667.00	\$ 61,729.00	\$ 56,647.00
Other Property	\$ 10,824.00	\$ 9,182.00	\$ 8,303.00
All other expense	\$ 25,750.00	\$ 14,944.00	\$ 19,417.00
Total Expense	\$ 529,626	\$ 470,460	\$ 447,864
Net Gain	\$ (7,389)	\$ 16,220	\$ 25,667

Scholarship Applications Available Now

Applications are now available in the Church office for the 2022-2023 Grace Foundation/Bolsinger Scholarships. An electronic copy is also available on the Grace UMC website, located at <https://gracedesmoines.org/giving>.

Applications are due by March 31, 2022.

There is a new application for 2022. Please make sure you have the correct application

A wide variety of scholarships for all college students are available through the Iowa United Methodist Foundation.

Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2022.

Please visit the foundation's website at <https://iumf.org.scholarships> for complete information.

www.gracedesmoines.org



Celebrations of Grace

by Rev. Nate Nims, Senior Pastor
natenims@gracedesmoines.org

Have you ever been on a cruise? I haven't been that lucky yet, but someday I hope to be able to relax in a tropical climate while enjoying a cruise that takes me from one beautiful location to another. Part of the appeal of a cruise is that so many things are taken care of - someone else plans and prepares the meal. They even do the dishes, too! On top of that, there is a staff that makes the beds, cleans the rooms, navigates the boat, manages the stops, and provides entertainment along the way. The passengers of a cruise can relax and enjoy their trip, because the captain and crew work together to make it possible.

Can you imagine going on a cruise that set out from the Caribbean without a destination in mind? How enjoyable would a cruise be if the weather, wind, and tides set the destination, while the kitchen crew fished off the edge of the boat, hoping to catch the next meal? What if some of the passengers of the boat thought the cruise was headed to Aruba, while others were planning to go to Alaska? No cruise ship would leave the harbor without a destination in mind. Every cruise ship has an itinerary, desired destination, and a plan to get from here to there. The same should be true of the church.

The Administrative Board at Grace is in the early stages of reviewing and realigning our administrative and committee structure. We hope that a new, simplified and accountable, leadership board will be in place by the middle of 2022. With this new structure. We will align our church, like the crew of a cruise ship, with a clear destination in mind - making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In the United Methodist Church, that is our mission: to make disciples and to transform the world. Jesus gifted us with the church so that we can continue to experience and share the good news of God's grace and peace.

When we reach alignment as a church, our simplified and accountable leadership structure will clarify the decision making processes, procedures, and policies of the church, so that we will have more time, energy, and people available for ministry instead of meetings, all while the leadership will be more accessible, transparent, and accountable.

Do you believe that Grace has the potential to be a vibrant and thriving church? Do you want to see our church fulfill the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? Do you think our church can reach new people and make a difference in our community? If the answer is yes, we must work to align all that we do and all that we have so we don't get tossed around by the sea of the way things have been on the ocean of life and culture.

We've got a destination in mind, by the grace of God we have a future of hope, and to get there it's going to take all hands on deck. In the months to come, please keep our church in your prayers, and pray that our Administrative Board may have the discernment to guide Grace into God's preferred future. As there are updates to the review and revision of our administrative and committee structure, we will share that information with you.

A new, simplified leadership structure will allow our church to focus on the basics, on the roots of our mission, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Simple isn't the same as easy, ask anyone who works on a cruise. And yet, simplification allows for clarity and unity so that we can become better focused on our purpose and mission. This journey may not be easy, and there will be bumps along the way, so please be patient with me and our Administrative Board as we move forward. My hope and prayer is that in this time of moving closer to faithful effectiveness in fulfilling our mission, we can become the church that God needs us to be.

Grace, let's lift anchor and get moving into God's future of hope!

Grace and peace,

Nate Nims



GRACE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION REPORT FOR 2021

The Foundation is pleased to report the earnings distribution as follows:

Scholarship Funds

Bolsinger Scholarships
Hartline-Funaro Scholarship

\$ 22,027.00

GUMC Admin Council

Commingled Small Endowment
Glenn Robinson
Gene and Marilyn Leonard
Harold Wilson
Eulleta Popp
Lora Jane Bevington
Marie Hill
Ruth Biddle
Marjorie Canine
Larry Hoch

\$ 21,816.00

Designated

Merrill & Betty Blackburn
Phyllis Roberts
Helen Young
Robert Young
Virginia Haworth
Art Jones
Gladys Burkhead

\$ 26,307.00

Total Earnings Distribution

\$ 70,150.00

We are grateful for the generosity of these donors who continue to provide these gifts for the programs at Grace.

Carolyn L. Nelson
Treasurer



Address: 3700 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, IA 50311
Phone: 515-255-2131
Email: info@gracedesmoines.org
Website: www.gracedesmoines.org
Facebook: GraceDesMoines
Twitter: GraceDesMoines
Worship: Sunday—10:15 am on Facebook, YouTube, and GraceDesMoines.com

Chimes Deadline

Submit complete articles for the next issue by the 15th of each month. Please send them to Charlene Hjort at charlenehjort@gracedesmoines.org.

View the Chimes on line and in color on our web site at:
www.gracedesmoines.org/newsletter.

Our Mission

Grace United Methodist is a community in Christ where a cross section of metropolitan Des Moines gathers for worship, study and service. At the core of our existence is Christ's vision for the world and the church. We are a servant people striving to live our lives so as to increase the Love for God and neighbor in the world. We are called:

- To tell God's story in fresh new ways through preaching and teaching.
- To practice uncommon hospitality.
- To equip and send servants into the larger community for Service.

Our Welcoming Statement

Each of us is a child of God worthy of God's love. In our diversity, we are created in God's image. In celebration of that good news, everyone is invited to join in worship and fellowship. This invitation is extended to all—people of all races, all ethnic backgrounds, all generations, all physical and mental abilities, all economic conditions, all sexual orientations—honoring the diversity of our faith journeys. We invite you to bless this church with your presence as God's grace is present in all creation.

STAFF LISTING

Senior Minister:

Rev. Nate Nims

Director of Christian Education:

Coreen Witke

Grace Preschool Director:

Kelly Donnelly

Office Manager:

Charlene Hjort

Custodian:

Tyler Caulfield

Director of Music and Organist:

Ann Gerdom

Chancel Choir and Grace Chimes Director:

Michael Gookin