

Grace United Methodist Church

July 24, 2022



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.



gracedesmoines.org
facebook.com/DesMoinesGrace
instagram.com/gracedesmoines

WORSHIP

Thank you for joining us for worship. Together, we will join in liturgy, hymns, prayers, and a message to connect with God and one another. Our service today is led by Rev. Nate Nims; Ann Gerdom, Organist; and Michael Gookin, Choir Director. In hymns, prayers, and liturgies, feel free to use language that makes worship meaningful, enriching, and inclusive.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Children of God: welcome!

**Welcome to this place of love and grace,
Welcome to this place of hope
and perseverance.**

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are.

We are loved, just as we are.

**In gratitude for all of this,
let us worship God.**

*Opening Hymn - 408 The Gift of Love

*Opening Prayer

**Almighty God, whose love is beyond
understanding, whose mercy is beyond
comprehension—we lift up our hearts
to you in prayer. You have created us to
experience divine love in our own lives.
Grant to us a determined faith and a
fervent love, that we might be reflections
of your divine grace. Hear our prayer,
O Lord, as we offer our petitions in the
name of the One who is love, even Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reading - I John 4:7-21

Hymn - 402 Lord I want to be a Christian

Sermon

Anthem

*Closing Hymn -593 Here I Am, Lord

*Benediction

Postlude

* please rise in body or in spirit.

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Call to Worship Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

Opening prayer modified from From The Abingdon Preaching Annual Series 2, Copyright © by Abingdon Press.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jane Hamilton who is in the Health Center at Scottish Rite. Cards can be sent to Jane at 2909 Woodland #203, Des Moines, IA, 50312

Charlene Hjort, as she recovers in the hospital

Alan Turnquist, as he recovers from a car accident.

If you would like to have a prayer added to this list, contact Charlene in the church office at charlenehjort@gracedesmoines.org or call 515-255-2131.

NURSERY CARE is available during the service for children 3 and under. Children are always welcome in the service, too! Activity bags for kids are available in the hallway just outside the sanctuary.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOOD TRUCK PARTY

You can still join in the fun on July 27 and August 3. Each evening we will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner before learning our Bible and then exploring crafts, science, mission, and music! This year, VBS is raising money to purchase a Dream Basket through Heifer International. Each basket includes a sheep, heifer, goat, rabbits, and a flock of chickens, along with training and education in their care. To donate to the program, mark your donation for Heifer International VBS and drop it in the collection plate during worship or give online at gracedesmoines.org/give to make an online donation. Contact Coreen Witke for more information or to register. Phone is 515.255.6400 ext. 230 and email is coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org.

GIVE TO GRACE

You can give to Grace by placing your offering in one of the baskets by the sanctuary doors, online at www.gracedesmoines.org, or mail your offering to Grace at 3700 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, IA, 50311.

GRACE CARE KITS

Every week at the Tuesday meal and medical clinic, volunteers give guests care kits and items. At this time we are in need of

Food (If donating canned goods, please only give items that can be opened without a can opener)

- o Bottled Water
- o Juice Boxes
- o Fruit Cups
- o Applesauce Cups
- o Canned Vegetables
- o Tuna
- o Vienna Sausages
- o Canned Meat
- o Canned Spaghetti and Meatballs
- o Canned Ravioli
- o Peanut Butter or Other Cracker Packs

Toiletries

- o Toothpaste
- o Tampons
- o Small Packets of Wet Wipes
- o Deodorant
- o Antibiotic Ointment

New

- o Men's and Women's socks
- o Men's Underwear (especially L and XL)
- o Women's Underwear (especially M, L, and XL)

New or Gently Used

- o Lightweight blankets

THIS WEEK

Monday, July 25

6:30 pm The Bible Year
7 pm 21st Annual Wayne McCracken Evening of Music

Tuesday, July 26

5 pm Grace Free Medical Clinic and Meal

Wednesday, July 27

9 am Grace Quilters
5:30 pm Food Truck Party VBS

Thursday, July 28

7 am The Bible Year
6 pm The Open Table
7 pm Administrative Board Meeting

Friday, July 29

7:30 pm New Beginnings (NA)

Our goal is to collect 120 student kits and 80 personal dignity kits!

STUDENT KIT (\$16 VALUE)

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

PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT (\$15 VALUE)

- 1 Hand Towel - No kitchen towels
 - 1 Washcloth - No dishcloths
 - 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multipacks
 - 1 Bar Soap - 3-4 oz
 - 1 Shampoo - 12.5-19 oz
 - 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump
 - 1 1-gal Resealable Plastic Bag
- Place all items in the resealable plastic bag
\$2 donation for razor and toothpaste, per kit

GUIDE TO PRAYER AND STUDY

Monday

Read - 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Notice - In this short reading, Paul gives us a model of prayer. Paul hoped to be able to make a trip from Corinth to Thessalonica. He prayed for God to guide him on his way back to the community he loved in that city. In what ordinary day-to-day tasks do you remember to ask God's love to guide you?

Pray - God, in one short prayer Paul asked you to guide his current travel plans and to keep his people holy to stand blameless before you at the end of time. Remind me to include all my life in my prayers, too. Amen.

Tuesday

Read - Romans 12:9, Romans 13:9-10

Notice - The apostle Paul said God's kingdom calls us to a standard of relating that reaches beyond particular rules or laws writing, "Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor". John Wesley, the founder of the urged Methodists moment we are a part of at Grace wrote, "Let us provoke all men, not to enmity and contention, but to love and good works; always remembering those deep words... 'God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him!'" In what ways has following Christ made you and your relationships more loving?

Pray - Lord, please help me to take in, and then live out, "the religion of love." I want to live in love, to live in you and to have you live in me. Amen.

Wednesday

Read - Proverbs 10:12, Proverbs 15:1-4

Notice - "These proverbs do more than simply urge us to watch what we say and how; they also inspire us to examine the intentions of our hearts... We may find that our motives are more complicated than we imagined." * Does responding to anger with anger usually make things better or worse? When have you seen wisely chosen words break down barriers that harsh speech would only have made higher and more rigid?

Pray - God of life and love, help my mouth not to "gush" with hurtful words. Shape me by your Spirit to make my speech more and more a "tree of life" for all people, especially those I love most. Amen.

* Paul E. Koptak, Proverbs: The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003, p. 408.

Thursday

Read - Luke 10:25-37

Notice - Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you the priest or Levite, the Samaritan, or the helpless victim? Jesus called us all to become like "the one who demonstrated mercy." How do you (or could you) act on your relationship with God by offering compassion and healing to someone who needs it? If you feel like the victim, who do you need to accept compassion from?
Pray - Jesus, place someone in my path who will give me the chance to act like the Samaritan. Teach me that I'm here to help others. And thank you for showing me mercy in all my broken places. Amen.

Friday

Read - 1 John 4:7-12

Notice - John knew that loving others with Christ's love doesn't spring from a naturally warm human disposition. It goes much deeper than just being "nice." This kind of active love comes from the heart of the God of the universe. God loves us—that is the reason that we love. Which people, inside or beyond the church, do you find it hardest to love? Ask God to help you live out God's love even toward them.

Pray - God, you ARE love—what an amazing, mind-stretching truth. You know that it's not quite as natural for me to love. Please keep loving me as I stretch and grow in my ability to reflect your love to others. Amen.

Saturday

Read - 1 John 4:14-19

Notice - John's words are so familiar that we can easily miss the depth of his thought. "God IS love" (which John said in verse 16) was a different reality from "God loves" (among many other qualities). In her book Many Waters, Madeleine l'Engle wrote that "all the raging of creation... was enfolded in a patient, waiting love."* How does it shift your view of life's meaning and purpose to believe in a patient, waiting love, rather than just a cold, uncaring universe?

Pray - Jesus, thank you that your love is a fixed point I can depend on in an ever-changing world. Keep me steady, stable and loving every day of 2020. Amen.

* L'Engle, Madeleine. Many Waters (A Wrinkle in Time, Book 4).

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR). Kindle Edition, p. 318

The Ingathering team is pleased to continue its partnership with Midwest Mission Distribution Center. They are an UMCOR Cooperating depot, and also partner with many other nonprofits. They regularly ship two to three containers of humanitarian relief each month, domestically and internationally.

The kits Midwest Mission is focused on in 2022 are outlined for your convenience, along with updated lists of specific supply needs for each kit type. NOTE: We are excited that the kits fully meet the highest priority needs, as Midwest Mission listened to feedback from kit recipients and have made significant changes accordingly.

REQUIREMENTS

- All kit items must be NEW.
- Kits should only include kit items no cash.
- Kits should contain only the requested items.
- No handprints, footprints, paw prints or camouflage on fabrics.