

Grace United Methodist Church

August 7, 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
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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 Gerdorn, 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

God is the love that feeds my soul;

God is the love that makes me whole;

God is the love that flows from me;

God is the love that sets me free.

God is the hope that moves us on;

God is the strength we lean upon;

God is the mystery and hope

and love within us all;

So when we serve or give or care

It's God's involvement everywhere.

*Opening Hymn - 433 All Who Love and Serve Your City

*Opening Prayer

In the noise of ideologies and agendas, you gently whisper, O God; In the madness of war, the chaos of power-games; the crying of grief, through loss, disease, poverty and the empty echo of wealthy isolation, you whisper your words of love to every broken heart. We, who by your spirit, have heard the gentle rhythm of your voice, praise you for your proclamation of grace and peace. Thank you for your presence among us; thank you for making us your people, and with your spirit, following Christ, may we gently whisper and boldly share your love and justice. Amen.

Reading - 1 John 5:13-23

Sermon

Communion

Anthem - A Place At Your Table, by Ben Walther

*Closing Hymn - 399 Take My Life and Let it Be

*Benediction

Postlude

Call to worship modified from God is the Love by George Stuart from <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/god-is-the-love/>

Opening Prayer modified from <https://sacredise.com/whispers-of-love-and-justice/>

IN OUR PRAYERS

Silas Nelson, the one month old son of Colin and Kelsey Nelson, and grandson of Scott and Melody Nelson

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 a care facility

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.

Save the Date!

Retiring Missionaries Larry and Jane Kies, of Africa University, are returning to Iowa to visit supporting churches to say "Thank you". Grace will host Larry and Jane on Monday, August 15, for a lunch and presentation at 12:15 pm. Larry and Jane will share a message of hope through all that God is doing at Africa University and tell us about opportunities for continued support of Africa University and its missions.

If you plan to attend the meal and presentation, please contact the church office to RSVP for the meal provided by the Grace United Women in Faith.

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, July 31

Attendance - 148

In Person - 77

Online - 71

Total Giving* - \$8,187.65

General Budget - \$7,182.65

Other - \$1,005

*not including EFTs

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, August 8

6:30 pm The Bible Year

Tuesday, August 9

5 pm Grace Free Medical Clinic and Meal

Wednesday, August 10

9 am Grace Quilters

5:30 pm Trustee Meeting

5:30 pm Church and Society Meeting

Thursday, August 11

7 am The Bible Year

6 pm The Open Table

6 pm Finance Meeting

Friday, August 12

7:30 pm New Beginnings (NA)

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

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.

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 - Acts 17:22-28

Notice - Few in today's culture hold the specific idea Paul challenged in the Athenians: "we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought." In what ways, however, can we idolize "human skill and thought" in place of God? Do you find inner resonance when Paul said, "God isn't far away from any of us," or do you struggle to believe that is true?

Pray - God, I believe in and trust you as a personal being who loves me and my world. Help me live and act in ways that show that your love has touched my life. Amen.

Tuesday

Read - Colossians 1:14-20

Notice - Jesus came to earth, not to change God, but to change us. Colossians says, "Once you were alienated from God and you were enemies with him in your minds, which was shown by your evil actions. But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death." List all the actions and qualities of Jesus that Colossians named. Which of them mean the most to your spiritual journey? In what ways has Jesus changed you, and drawn you closer to God?

Pray - Jesus, you told Phillip, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). With so many distractions in my world, help me keep my heart's gaze focused on you as God's true image. Amen.

Wednesday

Read - 1 Corinthians 8:2-6

Notice - The culture of Corinth (and the Roman empire) urged people to muscle their way to the "top" of the pyramid and tear down all competitors. But Paul said the church is NOT like a pyramid. Under Christ's headship (cf. Ephesians 4:15-16), every person in the church has a unique, valuable part to play in God's work. What role(s) has Christ's Spirit equipped you to play in the church's mission?

Pray - Lord of my life, teach me your ways. Give me wisdom to know how to live to honor you and help me shape my service to maximize the gifts you've given me. Amen.

Thursday

Read - Daniel 6:20, 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

Notice - N.T. Wright summed up Paul's message: "telling pagans that there was one true God... that this God had a true son, and had demonstrated

this fact by raising him from the dead (nobody had ever said that before). And people in Thessalonica, knowing from the start the risk they would be taking, turned away from their idols to this living God, and discovered, at the same moment, suffering and joy (verse 6)." What drew you to start or continue serving "the living God"?

Pray - Jesus, it doesn't always fit my human expectations, but you are alive and active even in this broken, troubled world. Let my life reflect yours in words, but even more importantly in actions. Amen.

Friday

Read - Psalm 32:1-7

Notice - Step 4 in a 12-step program is "Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves." That idea has strong Biblical roots. Israel's King David found himself in a tangled moral situation that just kept getting worse (cf. 2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:13). Verses 3-5 of Psalm 32 reflect the reality we sometimes express with the phrase "the coverup is worse than the original offense." Most of us have experienced in some way (though maybe not for anything quite as huge as David's failure) of "when I kept quiet, my bones wore out." Have you also ever experienced the relief and lightening of your load verse 5 described? Is there anything in your life right now that you need to come to grips with honestly?

Pray - Jesus, by your Spirit lead me to be honest with myself and with you. And then by your Spirit lead me to the hope of a renewed, purified way of life. Amen.

Saturday

Read - Isaiah 44:14-20, 46:3-7

Notice - The prophet posed a pointed question in Isaiah 44:19: "Should I bow down to a block of wood?" In chapter 46, he pictured people in Babylon carrying around the images of their gods to protect them from conquerors. We choose the real estate we own, vehicles we drive, and usually where we keep our savings. None of these things should not claim God's place by claiming our ultimate attention and allegiance. But, our ability to choose things can make them tempting as "gods." We might ask, "Shall I bow down to my own wisdom, my own decisions?" How can you make wise, responsible choices without worshiping their results?

Pray - God, help me learn and remember that in life's I can't do it all by myself. I need your strength and wisdom—and you offer them to me. Amen.