

## God's gift of hope

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)*

A long time ago – so long that I was a young boy - doctors used to make house calls.

I remember being very sick with some sort of "bug". Two things still stand out in my mind:

how awful I felt (very nauseous and very achy), and

how much better I felt when my mother told me that our doctor was on his way.

The hope I felt when my mother assured me help was coming had a very powerful effect.

I still needed the injection the doctor would give me. I still needed "plenty of rest and fluids". But at the very moment my mother spoke those words, I began to feel better.

God has also spoken an assuring word of hope. God has promised that nothing "in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39).

We still must deal with sin and suffering in life. There are difficult times to face, and difficult decisions to make. There is grief when one we love dies.

The scripture promises that God is with us through those times, offering us an "injection" of divine strength and peace, as well as times of rest (Sabbath) and the comforting and renewing power of the Holy Spirit. This can happen in ways that are hard to put into words. To buttress that promise, God sometimes works through people around us – someone who prays with us, comforts us, and grieves with us. God reinforces that promise through the words of scripture and of hymns and songs of faith.

Slowly, God's promise helps the memories of our loved ones become more comforting and less painful.

Even so, as the German pastor and resister of the Nazis Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote from his prison cell:

"There is nothing that can replace the absence of someone dear to us, and one should not even attempt to do so. One must simply hold out and endure it."

At first that sounds very hard, but at the same time it is also a great comfort. For to the extent the emptiness truly remains unfilled one remains connected to the other person through it.

It is wrong to say that God fills the emptiness. God in no way fills it but much more leaves it precisely unfilled and thus helps us preserve—even in pain—the authentic relationship. Further more, the more beautiful and full

## Join us for worship in-person or online!

### Worship

Sunday @ 10:15 am on  
Facebook, YouTube, and  
GraceDesMoines.com

### Address

3700 Cottage Grove,  
Des Moines, IA 50311

### Phone

515-255-2131

### Email

info@gracedesmoines.org

### Website

www.gracedesmoines.org

### Facebook and YouTube

GraceDesMoines

## Grace UMC Charge Conference November 20

All members of Grace UMC are asked to attend our annual Charge Conference on Sunday, November 20, 2022 following the 10:15 a.m. worship service. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Ron Carlson, will preside over this meeting where we will review the past year and vote on our goals for 2023. Please meet in the sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. on November 20.

# AMOS Hosting Conference on Creating Permanent Affordable Housing at Grace

**Wednesday, November 16 & Thursday, November 17**

## **Seminars on How Community Land Trusts (CLTs) Create Permanent Affordable Housing**

This is something exciting for AMOS church members/institutions. On these days, AMOS and the city of Des Moines will bring Grounded Solutions, the experts in Community Land Trusts (CLT's), to Des Moines for a series of meetings to inform attendees of the benefits of CLTs.

CLT'S are a way to create affordable housing that stays affordable forever and looks like other properties in the neighborhood so it's welcomed by the neighbors!

How is this possible? With the purchase of a CLT home, the buyer purchases only the structure on the property and a trust holds the land. If the owner later wishes to sell, the owner agrees to accept only a portion of the increase in value in order to preserve affordability for the next buyer. The owner may also choose to pass the property along to his or her heirs.

While this is a new idea for the Des Moines Metro, it is in use in 225 other communities in the U.S. and is now an integral part of how other communities are dealing with skyrocketing real estate prices. CLTs have a proven track record of

- offering affordability in perpetuity
- providing for successive lower-income buyers with every property
- preserving the diversity and quality of life in our city
- slowing gentrification
- saving tax dollars for the city and county

Whether you are hearing about CLT's for the first time and want to learn more or are a seasoned advocate for affordable housing, **plan to attend one or more of these informative trainings on November 16 and 17**. There will be more details soon, but you'll want to get this on your calendar. Feel free to email me should you have questions!

Cheryl Long, AMOS member, First Unitarian Church  
clongassoc@gmail.com

AMOS Affordable Housing Research Team

(AMOS is a broad-based, nonpartisan, interfaith community of 50 diverse member organizations (<https://www.amosiowa.org/>)).



## **God's Gift of Hope continued..**

the remembrances, the more difficult the separation.

"But gratitude transforms the torment of memory into silent joy. One bears what was lovely in the past not as a thorn but as a precious gift deep within, a hidden treasure of which one can always be certain." (1)

The first Sunday in November is All Saints Sunday. Interim Team Pastor Judy Wadding will lead us in recalling and honoring Grace members who have died this past year, and thanking God for them and others who have gone before us. Whether you come in person or worship with us online, my prayer for each of you who read this note is that you will take God's hope-filled words to heart.

As the Apostle Paul wrote, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" (2nd Corinthians 4: 6-9).

Interim Team Pastor Bob Dean

(1) Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, vol. 8, Letters and Papers from Prison (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009), letter no. 89, page 238.

## **Youth Group Information**

### **November 6**

Youth group will meet from 5-6:30pm. The meeting will be hosted by the Walker Family. Activity TBD.

## United Women in Faith Memorial Service

November 3rd at 9:30 am in FH. Memorial service for our departed sisters. Please bring gift cards for Bidwell Riverside and make sure the amount is on the card! Looking forward to seeing you!



## Shelter Meal

Once a month, a meal is prepared and delivered to CISS (Central Iowa Shelter and Services). Central Iowa Shelter & Services is committed to providing low-barrier shelter, meals, and support services at no cost to adults experiencing homelessness, while also facilitating their move towards self-sufficiency.

Meals are very needed during this time of the year, as shelters are full due to cold weather.

If you are interested in helping with the preparation of this meal, which occurs the 1st of every month, please contact Lisa Blair at 641.223.2372

## Worship in November

Our guest preaching schedule continues, and we are grateful for our retired pastors who have stepped up to be a part of our worship services going forward:

**November 6** (All Saints Celebration and Communion) - Judy Wadding. You are welcome to bring a photo of "saints" to add to our Remembrance Table in the narthex - family members or friends who you would like to remember.

**November 13** - Gary Nims

**November 20** - District Superintendent Ron Carlson. Our Annual Charge Conference follows the 10:15 am service

**November 27** - Bob Dean

The end of November brings the beginning of the church year, which begins with the First Sunday in Advent on November 27. The four weeks of Advent prepare us for the coming of Jesus, and we will be lighting the candles on our Advent wreath each Sunday to remind us of the light that came into the world with Jesus' birth.

## Plans for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

The holidays seem to arrive quickly, once fall arrives. In order for our church members and friends to be able to plan ahead, we want to let you know that we will celebrate Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24) at 7:00 pm with a Service of Lessons and Carols, led by our Chancel Choir, with a sermon by Pam Deeds. There will be no in-person worship at Grace on Sunday, December 25; the Christmas Eve service will be re-broadcast at 10:15 am that morning.

**Join the Choir** for Advent and Christmas Eve services. If you would like to sing with the Chancel Choir on a short-term basis, join us for rehearsals beginning Wednesday, November 30, 6:30 pm.

## Music Events at Grace

**Des Moines Community Orchestra** will present G. F. Handel's "The Messiah" at Grace on Sunday, December 4, at 2:00 pm. Attendees are welcome to sing along with the orchestra and soloists. If you plan to attend and need to borrow the musical score, let Ann Gerdorn know - we have quite a few copies that we would be happy to lend you.

## Financial Update

Operating Income for September was \$24,143 vs. budget of \$47,583.  
Operating Income YTD \$345,674 vs budget of \$428,250 or 60.5%

Operating Expenses for September were \$21,656 vs budget of \$46,583  
Operating Expense YTD \$367,984 vs budget of \$423,174 or 64.4%.

Conference Support paid YTD is \$5,000. Open staff positions have contributed to the lower expense.

We are thankful for your continued generosity during this transition period.

## Bible Study Starts Anew in January

In January of 2023, Grace will start a new group of The Bible Year. The goal of this group is to read through the entire Bible in one year. The experience for those participating in it this past year has been eye opening, inspiring, and rewarding. In many cases, it has led to challenges to our beliefs and caused us to reevaluate our previous convictions. The study will follow the schedule in "The Bible Year: A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days" which features weekly videos and daily devotions. Once we know who is interested in participating, we will identify a regular meeting time that works for the majority. We may even have two different sessions depending on the interest. Contact Coreen Witke at [coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org) or call 515.255.2131 ext. 230 to get more information or to register for the group.



## Grace Youth Wreath Sale



The Grace United Methodist Youth are selling wreaths & greenery. The proceeds from the sale will be used to support youth activities, including the Wesley Heritage/Choir Trip to Europe in 2024.

Wreaths and greenery may be ordered by:

1. Printing this 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](mailto:johnwalker3000@gmail.com).

Orders may be placed through **Monday, November 14**. Orders will be available for pick up at Grace on **Saturday, November 19**.

☐ I will pick up my order

☐ Please deliver my order

	Price	Quantity	Total
22 in. Wreath	\$ 28.00	_____	_____
36 in. Wreath	\$ 45.00	_____	_____
12 in. Door Swag	\$ 22.00	_____	_____
25 ft. Balsam garland	\$ 40.00	_____	_____
42 in. Cane	\$ 40.00	_____	_____
44 in. Cross	\$ 40.00	_____	_____
Wreath easel	\$ 10.00	_____	_____
	<b>Total</b>		_____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ingathering Information

### UMCOR Kits for Ingathering and Midwest Iowa Missions

Grace UMC is collecting supplies to make 120 student kits and 80 personal dignity kits for this fall's Ingathering in November 5th. We currently have a need still for shampoo, deodorant, soap, and postage money. Please attempt to get items turned in by the date of event.

### Quilters Group

The quilters have been working hard to create a quilt to provide to Ingathering, which has their annual meeting Saturday, November 5th. Their quilt will be on display in the Narthex.

Thank you so much to all our quilters!

### The Grace Free Clinic

The clinic needs volunteers to help with registration or be a manager for the evening. Time requirement is one Tuesday per month from 5:00 pm to approximately 7:00 pm. Both require using the computer for patient registration. The evening manager is responsible for opening, setting up, oversee the registration process, and closing up the clinic. To volunteer or for questions, please contact Susan Ryan at [gracefreeclinic@gmail.com](mailto:gracefreeclinic@gmail.com)

### LADOS (Life After Death of Spouse)

Will be meeting November 13 in Fellowship Hall. Any members experiencing hardship after the loss of a spouse are encouraged to attend. Please contact Dennis Woolums with any questions. 515.265.4036