

A Time of Transition

by Margaret Borgen
for the Grace Lay Leadership Committee

It's a fairly regular thing for United Methodist churches to be in transition related to pastors coming and going. In our system, clergy are appointed to churches. This comes from our history which is rooted in the Anglican Church of England and from the practices of John Wesley himself. Our Bishop ultimately makes decisions about pastoral appointments. Local churches have input in terms of their needs, but we do not "call" our clergy like Lutherans, Presbyterians or Congregationalists. Our system is based on "the common good" and pastors are deployed in the way that is perceived to have the best result for the most local congregations.

When we learned on August 7, that Pastor Nate was being appointed to Walnut Hills UMC and that he would be leaving us after just two more Sundays, it was startling. It was not in the usual timeframe. We audibly gasped...but the change happened within the appointment system that is part of Methodism.

After the initial shock, I very quickly began to hear optimistic, faith filled words: "We can get through this." "We are a strong church." "We can take care of ourselves for a while." "God is here." And people began to step up!

- **Shawn Mullen** said YES to returning to be the interim Ad Board chair, a role he held several years ago. (It was open because of another transition: Jenna Pokorny moving to accept a position in Washington DC.)
- **Music Director Ann Gerdorn** stepped up and has organized a preaching schedule for the next several months.
- The **SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)** has already met with our District Superintendent to begin the process of identifying characteristics of the right pastor for Grace UMC.
- **Retired clergy** in our congregation (we are blessed to have many!) are stepping up to provide pastoral care, preach and care for weddings, funerals and other needs.
- Faithful staff and volunteers are continuing to play many vital roles: **Christian Education, office volunteers, Free Clinic and**

continued

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



The **United Women in Faith** nut sale is going on now. All orders must be turned in to the church office no later than **Tuesday, October 4.** See the order form in this newsletter for more information.



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

Last spring, the Church & Society Committee administered a survey to church and neighborhood members about their views on issues they would like to see Grace focus on for social advocacy and outreach. We were pleased with the number of responses, and have selected the five issues that received the most interest. These include:

- Education (i.e., public education/adequate funding)
- Gender Rights (GLBTQ and Women's)
- Climate Change/Global Warming
- Social Justice/Racial Equality
- Immigration

The committee will be hosting a series of **"Listening Sessions"** throughout the fall to bring together people interested in each topic to develop a short-term plan. These sessions will be scheduled for an hour and a half each and facilitated by members of the committee. If you responded to the survey, you will receive an invitation to come - but even if you didn't respond, you are invited and encouraged to engage in these sessions. You have an opportunity to strengthen our church's engagement in these areas - please join us to help Grace make an impact in our community and our state. Scheduled dates and times are below and will be in the Red Doors! If you want to be included in our distribution list, please reach out to Binnie LeHew at lehew27@msn.com.

Church & Society Listening Session Schedule

Education - Wednesday, October 5 from 5 - 6:30 pm

Gender Rights/GLBTQ - Sunday, October 9 from Noon - 1:30 pm

Social Justice/Racial Inequality - Sunday, October 23 from Noon - 1:30 pm



United Women in Faith Meeting

The Grace Unit of the **United Women in Faith** will meet **Thursday, October 6** at **9:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see many smiling faces!

Altar Flower Liners

We are looking for the plastic inserts that hold the altar flower arrangements. They are usually dark green or white. If you happen to have any at home, please return them to the church.



A Time of Transition continued

Free Tuesday meal volunteers, the monthly Homeless Shelter Meal and so many others make Grace continue to hum and serve its people, the community and world.

There are important roles for **YOU!**

The Lay Leadership (Nominating) Committee began their meetings in September. During and after the pandemic, many volunteer positions were not filled and energetic, committed members will be sought to repopulate these opportunities. We ask two things of you:

- Let us know if you are interested in helping in a specific area of Grace's life.
- Prayerfully consider any invitation to serve.

You can let the Committee know of your willingness to serve by calling the church office at 515.255.2131. And if you have any questions about roles, needs and possibilities, please call me to visit about it. I will be convening the Lay Leadership Committee and having your responses to share with the group will be a great help! My numbers are 515.243.2400 and 515.490.9328.

Although this transition came to us unexpectedly, we can seize it as an opportunity to keep Grace UMC strong, to care for each other and the world around us and to be ready to work with our next pastor. We hope you will be part of this transition!

Blessings,
Margaret



Kitchen Cleaning Night October 3

The **Kitchen Committee** is in need of volunteers to help with **Kitchen Cleaning Night**. We need folks to help clean and reorganize the Activity Center Kitchen on **Monday, October 3** from **6 pm** until it's finished. Many hands make light work!!

New Book in the Grace Library
“**When Bad Things Happen To Good People**” by Harold S. Kushner has just arrived in the church library.

It is “A touching, heart-warming book for all those who must contend with suffering, and that, of course, is all of us” -Andrew M. Greeley

Thank You from



United
Women
in Faith

Grace United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt Thank YOU for donating to our Bakeless Bake Sale.

In your generosity \$1,310.00 was given.

ALL proceeds go toward helping support UWF missions locally, nationally, and worldwide.

UWF's vision is *‘turning faith, home and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.’*



Music and Worship in October

by Ann Gerdorn, Director of Music and Organist

We begin October with World Communion Sunday on October 2. Our guest preacher will be **Christine Anders**, who served as Minister of Discipleship at First UMC in Des Moines for 13 years. Her sermon title on the 2nd is "The Family Table." On World Communion Sunday, United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Other guest preachers for October are **Pam Deeds** (October 9 and 30), **Cindy Hickman** (October 16), and **Bob Dean** (October 23). We are grateful for their willingness to lead worship during our transition time. Pam Deeds is a retired United Methodist pastor and has been attending Grace, but her roots at Grace go back to when her father, Chuck Rinkel, served as one of our pastors from 1964-69. Cindy Hickman is also a retired United Methodist pastor, who most recently served at West Des Moines United Methodist Church. Rev. Bob Dean has been active at Grace, teaching Sunday School, helping in the sound booth, and filling in as a preacher for us on several occasions.

Chancel Choir rehearsals have begun, but it's not too late to join. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Contact our choir director, Michael Gookin, if you are interested. There are some Sundays when we will be having an "informal choir," meaning we won't wear robes and will help lead hymns during worship; a soloist will provide special music (this month that will be October 23).

continued

Grace United Methodist Foundation

Thank you for the generous giving to the Foundation Scholarship Fund. It was an honor to have Cecil Bolsinger's daughter, Sondra Bolsinger-Lamb join us in worship on Mother's Day as we recognized the 19 recipients of the Bolsinger awards and the two recipients of the Hartline-Funaro awards for the 22-23 academic year.

On behalf of the Foundation, we

also share in the heartfelt gratitude of two long-time members who have left lasting legacy gifts to Grace. At the May 26 charge conference, the bequests from Gwendolyn Mix and Helen Young were accepted on behalf of the Foundation. Gwendolyn's estate gift is undesignated while Helen Young's gift will benefit the Music and Children/Youth Programs.



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.

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	_____	_____
	Total		_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Notes: _____

Financial Update

As of August 31 the income received is \$321,531 which is 56% of the 2022 income budget.

Expenditures paid are \$346,328 which is 61% of the expenditure budget. \$5000 has been paid towards conference support. At the end of this period, expenses exceed income by \$29,797.

Organ Recital on October 9 at First UMC

Kent Tritle, organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and organist with the New York Philharmonic, will present an organ recital on **Sunday, October 9, 4 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 1001 Pleasant Street, in Des Moines**. The recital is free, and there is New York cheesecake and an art show before the recital at 3 p.m. The church asks that you register ahead of time by visiting dmfirstchurch.org or by calling 515.244.6209.

Music and Worship in October continued
Michael Gookin and I met with some of the "transition team" on September 28 to look at worship plans through the end of the year. We will share more information in upcoming publications. We do plan to add more music back to our services, including choral introits and benedictions and singing the communion liturgy. Grace UMC has a rich legacy of excellence in music and worship, and we intend to continue that tradition moving forward.

My Volunteer Interests 2022

Name _____

Phone _____

Something(s) I can do that I'm willing to share with the church:

(This could be anything from teaching kids to gardening to office work to mission projects, to cooking, singing, a book study, driving, etc....)

Some skills, hobbies, professional interests or talents:

(These can vary in range. Who knows? Maybe there will be ways these things could be utilized.)

If I was going to help with a "committee" or "team" it might be related to:

I'd be interested in:

Return to:

Grace UMC 3700 Cottage Grove Ave., Des Moines IA 50311