

# MARCH CHIMES



Grace  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A monthly newsletter from Grace United Methodist Church

MARCH 2023

## What is a Disciple?

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19).

This “great commission” given by Jesus is at the heart of the United Methodist Book of Discipline’s description of the purpose of the church and denomination: “The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (UMBoFD, Para. 120).

But, what is a disciple? The word comes from the Latin *discipulus*, which meant a pupil. In its modern form, it can mean “someone who receives instruction from another; a learner; especially, a follower who has learned to believe in the truth of the doctrine of his teacher; an adherent in doctrine.”

But did Jesus simply mean we were to get others to accept our doctrine? We gain more insight into the word “disciple” by looking into the likely root of the word, *dek*, in proto-Indo-European language.

Among the variations developed from this ancient root, *dek*, we find words meaning “*to be fitting or acceptable*” (a modern derivative: decent), “*to teach*” (modern example: docent), “*seemliness, elegance, beauty*” (modern: decor), “*worthy, deserving*” (modern: dignity), as well as the Latin meaning closest to our modern word disciple, “*to learn*”.

We are now in the church season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>), will continue through March and into April, and will end when we celebrate Resurrection Sunday (a.k.a. Easter) on April 9th.

Lent is a time when we challenge ourselves to grow as “disciples” of Jesus Christ. I invite you to find ways to

- *learn* from Jesus’ teachings,
- live lives that are *fitting* as his followers,
- *teach* others about the good news, even as we continue to learn more about our Savior,
- make our lives reflect more of the *beauty* of God’s love, and
- live lives *worthy* of bearing his title: Christians.

Join us for worship (in person or in spirit as you watch the live stream), for Sunday School or other small group meetings, and for service as grow together as disciples of Jesus during Lent.

Yours in Christ,  
Interim Team Pastor Bob Dean

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

### Worship

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

### Address

3700 Cottage Grove,  
Des Moines, IA 50311

### Phone

515-255-2131

### Email

info@gracedesmoines.org

### Website

www.gracedesmoines.org

**Facebook and YouTube**  
GraceDesMoines

Please consider  
joining us in-person  
for Sunday worship.  
Masks will be  
provided. We would  
love to see you here.

Join us as  
Grace Youth Dinner Drama Productions presents the comedy  
**"Customer Service"**

Reserve your seats **today** by completing the attached form and payment and returning it to the church office by **Sunday, March 19, 2023**. Dinner will be served in the activity center, followed by the show in the sanctuary. You may also purchase a live stream/virtual option to participate from your own home.

Please direct ticket related questions to [UMYFtickets@gmail.com](mailto:UMYFtickets@gmail.com)

I would like to attend:

**Thursday evening, March 30 – Dinner Time TBD**

- ☐ In Person Dinner and Show  
☐ Virtual Show & Dinner (meal pick up day of show & link will be emailed)  
☐ Virtual show only (link will be emailed)

**Saturday evening, April 1 – Dinner Time TBD**

- ☐ In Person Dinner and Show  
☐ Virtual Show & Dinner (meal pick up day of show & link will be emailed)  
☐ Virtual show only (link will be emailed)

# of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 =\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 =\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(may contain eggs, dairy and gluten)

# of Student/Children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 =\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Student/Children Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 =\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(may contain eggs, dairy and gluten)

Virtual Show only \$20 =\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL SEATING REQUESTS**

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

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

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*We kindly request your flexibility as portions of this event and meal may be subject to change with short notice out of care for our cast, volunteers and YOU, our dedicated audience and fans! Tickets are non-refundable and your purchase will be considered a donation to Grace UMC and The Grace Youth Program to cover costs of Dinner Drama supplies and preparation.

## **Worship During Lent**

We started our 40-day journey of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22. We continue our Lenten journey, yet always celebrate the resurrection on Sundays - which is how we number 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, by not counting the Sundays. Our retired pastors will continue to lead us in worship:

March 5 (Communion) - Rev. Pam Deeds; Rev. Bob Dean, concelebrant

March 12 - Rev. Gary Armstrong

March 19 - Rev. Judy Wadding

March 26 - Rev. Jim Perdue

Looking ahead to Holy Week:

April 2 (Palm Sunday) -

Communion service, led by Rev. Judy Wadding

April 6 (Maundy Thursday) -

service at 7:00 pm, led by Rev. Bob Dean

April 7 (Good Friday) - service at 7:00 pm, led by Rev. Jim Perdue.



## **March/April Upper Room Devotional Now Available**

The March/April issue of the Upper Room Devotional is now available on the table in the church entryway. Both the regular print and large print are available at no cost.

## **March Sunday School Offering**

March Offerings will go to the P. Kirby Gull Camp Scholarship Fund. The fund is in memory of Rev. Kirby Gull and is used to help folks pay for church camp.

## **UWF**

Ladies, our next meeting is Thursday, March 2 at 9:30 am in F.H. Mary Circle will host. Donna Reams will share devotions and the program will be "The Comparison Project: Islam". Please bring healthy snacks for CFUM. See you soon!

## **Boiler Update**

Church service has been held in Fellowship Hall recently because our boiler that heats our Sanctuary, the Activity Center and Wesley Hall failed when asked to heat on Sunday morning. Two different HVAC companies have told us that boiler needs to be replaced. While we are fortunate to have the second company realize there was a fix to one of the boiler issues, the fix was only to get us through the heating season. That gives your Trustees breathing room look at all the alternatives. As many know there are systems that provide both heating and cooling and reduce utility costs. Our chiller, that cools our large spaces turns 40 next year and we've been told it is well past it's expected life, so we are looking at geothermal as an alternative. Since this problem arose, we have had three companies in the building assessing our needs and they will all be back for more visits as we look at all the possibilities.

## **Thank You for Canning Us!**

Usually getting "canned" is a negative expression. But we (Sunday School youths) would like to thank everyone who "canned" us on Soup-er Bowl Sunday.

A quick count showed we received 72 cans (plus three tuna packets – also great protein!) on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> for the Grace and Peace Mission Pantry, as well as cash and check donations!

Like in the Super Bowl football game, the Chiefs "triumphed" with 46 cans in their box to 26 cans (plus the tuna) in the Eagles' box. But in this case, we are winners whenever we seek to live out Jesus' teaching to feed the hungry (Matthew 25).

## **New Security System Coming to Grace**

We are all members of Grace UMC, because we are an open and welcoming church and we all want that to continue even with recent events that have led Trustees to decide we need more security, which will be coming in the next few weeks.

Schools have been the first to realize more security is needed for students and the 2019 renovations allowed us to add a key pad operated door to the preschool classrooms, but that was only part of the need. The preschool uses the activity center for kids to run and play when it is raining and during much of the winter and with the building being completely open anyone can come and interact with the kids and staff. Over the years there have been some difficult interactions with preschool, and Grace staff having to deal with it. In addition, we recently had a theft in the building by a person who, days before had threatened one of the staff.

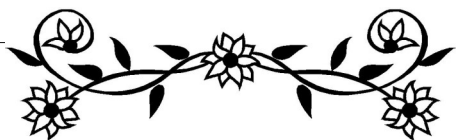
When fully implemented we will have a key pad entry system for the NE preschool entry door along with ones for the south, north and west main building entry doors. Every family will be given a 5-digit code that will allow entry at any time during normal hours from 7 AM - 8:30 PM.

Due to the many groups we sponsor, the many public events we host, plus the times we rent the facility, there will be times when the building will be fully open. First and foremost is our Sunday Service and any funerals. In addition it will include evenings we host our Free Clinic and when the Des Moines Community Orchestra rehearses; on Monday's when the Diversity Choir rehearses, when we host AMOS meetings. There are many other events as well.

Should anyone forget their code during office hours, the south entrance will have a security camera set up to allow people to contact staff. In the coming weeks you will receive a letter with your code and instructions. Trustees and other volunteers (please let the office know if you can help) will be doing the wiring work and we owe a big thank you to the Shawn and Shari Mullen for their \$10,000 plus donation of equipment to make this possible.

## **Worship through Art**

We should honor and glorify God in everything we do. We should offer Him our best--intellectually, artistically, and spiritually. I love and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. Just look around you. There is beauty everywhere! I have even found beauty beside an ugly parking lot; the beauty of a flower. God's artwork is all around us. He loves color, texture, and form. We can see this displayed in nature.



## **Healing Prayer**

**By Michael Cochran**

Heavenly Father, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I pray for every person who is reading this.

Lord, I pray for emotional healing. For those who are overcome by fear or worry or depression, I rebuke every doubt and anxiety in the name of the Son of God. For those who are searching for self-significance, let them find it in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Glory. I ask the Holy Spirit, who is the source of peace, to invade their hearts and minds. Pull up every root of bitterness, erase from their minds every horrible experience they've ever had. Release them from every terror. Those things that torment them at night, that they cannot get rid of, that they cannot shake, in Jesus' name, leave their body right now. Let every person who prays this prayer with me feel the healing virtue of the Lord Jesus Christ in their heart, soul, body and emotions, in Jesus' name. Amen.