

04/23/2023

Order of Service for
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.

**SUNDAY MORNING
FAITH FORMATION**

All classes begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday

CHILDREN & YOUTH

PreK - 5th Grade Room 204

Sunday Morning Youth Room 208

ADULTS

Carpenters Room 206

Ikono Odyssey Room 306

Winsome Neighbors Room A2

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

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.

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



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION OF PASTORAL APPOINTMENT

*OPENING HYMN	"Lift High the Cross"	UMH 159
SCRIPTURE		Psalms 16:1-4, 12-19
HYMN	"Breath on Me Breath of God"	UMH #420, vs. 1
GOSPEL		Luke 24:13-35
SERMON	"Their Eyes Were Opened"	Dr. Gregory Neal
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	"The Apostles Creed"	UMH #881

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING

ANTHEM

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION Word and Table II – Sung Responses A

*CLOSING HYMN	"Now Let Us From This Table Rise"	UMH 364
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Dr. Gregory Neal, Pastor; Ann Gerdson, Director of Music and Organist; Michael Gookin, Choir Director; Kade Rogers, Liturgist.

An Order for the Celebration of an Appointment

LEADER: Dear friends, today we welcome the Reverend Dr. Gregory S. Neal, who has been appointed to serve as our pastor. We believe that he is well qualified and has been prayerfully appointed by our bishop, Kennetha Bigham-Tsai.

Dr. Greg, you have been sent to live among us
as a bearer of the Word of God;
a minister of the Sacraments;
and a sustainer of the love, order, service and discipleship of the people of God.

DR. GREG: Today I reaffirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

LEADER: Sisters and brothers in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, will you who celebrate this new beginning support and uphold Dr. Neal in these ministries?

CONGREGATION: We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

LEADER: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger

CONGREGATION: who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

LEADER: Let us pray.

Eternal God, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries together, with Dr. Neal as our pastor.
Give him and us patience, courage, and wisdom so to care for one another and challenge one another
that together we may follow Jesus Christ, living together in love, and offering our gifts and talents in
your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you still call us to go into your service and spread the message of the salvation of your
Son.

Bless richly, we pray, your servant, Reverend Dr. Greg Neal's entrance into our fellowship.
Fill him with the power of your Holy Spirit and let him find with us an open door for the Word.

We also pray for your church on earth.

Equip us all with a spirit of willingness, that we with courage can witness about you by the profession of
our mouths and through our way of living.

Grant us all to partake in your strength and joy, so that we can enter into the anxiety and suffering of
the world, to be radiating and make alive that hope which Christ gives.

All this we dare to pray of you;

for you are to us the Father of mercy and the God of all grace;

you are the Son, the Savior and the Redeemer;

you are the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Helper and the Giver of life.

Blessed be you. **Amen.**

LEADER to DR. GREG:

Dr. Greg, accept this Bible, and be among us as one who proclaims the Word. **Amen.**

Dr. Greg, take this water, and baptize new Christians in this place. **Amen.**

Dr. Greg, take this bread and cup, and keep us in communion with Christ and his Church. **Amen.**

DR. GREG: Let us pray.

CONGREGATION:

Lord God, bless the ministries of your Church.

We thank you for the variety of gifts you have bestowed upon us.

**Draw us together in one Spirit, that each of us may use our differing gifts as members of
one body.**

**May your Word be proclaimed with faithfulness, and may we be doers of your Word and
not hearers only.**

**As we who have died and risen with Christ in baptism gather at his table and then scatter
into the world, may we be one in service to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The leader may lay hands on the pastor:

CONGREGATION:

**The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious
to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.**

DR. GREG: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

CONGREGATION: And also with you.

SPECIAL UPDATES

- **Carpooling to Brahms Requiem Concert at Stephens Auditorium in Ames** - The Des Moines Choral Society, under the direction of Dr. James Rodde, and with the Iowa State Singers plus orchestra will perform the Brahms Requiem Sunday, April 30 at Stephens Auditorium on the Iowa State campus. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Adults are \$10; Seniors, students and children are \$5. The ticket office opens 90 minutes before the performance. Those interested in carpooling, call Cheryl Fraracci at 515-279-6245 or email at fraraccic@gmail.com. Gather at the church parking lot by 1:45 to sort out who drives and who rides so that you can arrive, buy tickets, and get your seats by 3 p.m.
- **Grace United Methodist Foundation Scholarship** - As we recognize and celebrate our 2023-24 GUMC Foundation scholarship recipients, let us remember with heart-filled gratitude the vision, opportunity, and generosity of the Bolsinger and Hartline-Funaro families. Both families recognized how the Foundation could provide scholarships that support the dreams and academic goals of our Grace families. Instead of flowers or a mug to celebrate Mothers and Father's Day this year, consider a donation to support and grow the Foundation's Scholarship Funds.
- **Coreen Witke** will be out of the office from noon on **Wednesday, April 26** through **Friday, April 28**. During this time she will be attending an online Christian Education conference.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, April 23

9 am Sunday School for
Children and Adults
10:15 am Worship Service
11:15 am Reception for Dr.
Greg and Kade
5 pm Youth Group

Monday, April 24

Tuesday, April 25

1:30 pm Bible Year Class
1:30 pm Pastor Coffee with
Dr. Greg
5 pm Free Clinic and Free
Meal
5 pm Low Cost Mental Health
Clinic

Wednesday, April 26

9 am Grace Quilters
6:30 pm Chancel Choir
Rehearsal

Thursday, April 27

6 pm The Open Table
7 pm Ad Council

Friday, April 28

7:30 pm New Beginnings
(NA)

Saturday, April 29

Sunday, April 30

9 am Sunday School for
Children and Adults
10:15 am Worship
11:30 am Community Care
Meeting
5 pm Youth Group

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Sunday, April 16

Attendance - 173

In Person - 95

Online - 78

Total Giving* - \$6,151

General Budget - \$5,156

Other - \$995

**not including EFTs*

Grace United Methodist Church

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Facebook at
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virtual services.