

05/21/2023

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.

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers were donated in honor of **Will Eyestone's** birthday today! Happy Birthday to you, Will!

Nursery Care

The Grace Nursery is open 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.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to have a prayer added to the prayer chain, please contact the church office at 515-255-2131 or send an email to info@gracedesmoines.org.

Give to Grace

You can give to Grace by placing your offering in one of the baskets by the sanctuary doors, online at gracedesmoines.org or mail your offering to Grace at 3700 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, IA, 50311.

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

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Sunday, May 14

Attendance - 304

In Person - 188

Online - 116

Total Giving* - \$4,764

General Budget - \$4,380

Other - \$384

**not including EFTs*

Order of Worship May 21, 2023 - Ascension of the Lord Sunday

PRELUDE

"Come Away to the Skies"

David Evan Thomas

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God of Open Minds!

ALL: Grant us your indwelling wisdom!

ONE: God of Open Hearts!

ALL: May your grace flow within our souls!

ONE: God of Open Doors!

ALL: Remove from us every barrier to love and acceptance!

ONE: Holy and Blessed Creator, Loving Redeemer, and Comforting Guide!

ALL: Dwell with and within us to change and transform us, now and always. Amen.

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Let us pray: ...

*OPENING HYMN

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

UMH 154

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 47

UMH 781

CHILDREN'S TIME *Children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church as we sing "Where Children Belong" #2233 TFWS*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:44-53

HYMN

"Open Our Eyes"

TFWS 2086

SERMON

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

Dr. Gregory S. Neal

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Statement of Faith of the
United Church of Canada

UMH 883

*GLORIA PATRI

"Glory Be to the Father"

UMH 70

PRAYERS

Following each bidding, the pastor will say: Lord, in your mercy.

*To which congregation is invited to respond: **Hear our Prayer.***

OFFERING

Our offerings of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. There are baskets by each sanctuary door for financial contributions. Giving is also received through the church website. Thank you.

ANTHEM

"We Are Called"

arr. Mark Hayes.

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH 95

*CLOSING HYMN

"Jesus Shall Reign"

UMH 157

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Look, the Sight is Glorious"

William Haller

Worship Leaders: Dr. Gregory S. Neal, Grace UMC Pastor; Ann Gerdorn, Director of Music and Organist; Michael Gookin, Director of Chancel Choir; Muriel Pemble, Liturgist

Farewell to Michael Gookin, Director of Chancel Choir

It is with mixed emotions that we share that Michael Gookin, Director of the Chancel Choir, will be stepping back from his role at Grace at the end of the choir year. While we are incredibly sad to say farewell, we are so happy for Michael that he has accepted a new role as the director of the Heartland Youth Chorus Chamber Choir, their high school choir. You are invited to join us in celebrating Michael by attending a **farewell reception** today immediately following worship. We are also collecting contributions for a **love gift** for Michael. Contributions for the love gift may be dropped off in the church front office. Staff Parish Relations Committee will be posting a job description to rehire for this role soon

Michael Gookin in Concert Today

Juli Bey and **Michael Gookin** are presenting a duet piano performance today, **May 21** at 3 pm in the sanctuary of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The concert is free and open to the public.

Chapel Choir Reunion in June

Have you ever wondered how the youth choir/heritage trips got its start? Well, back in 1972-73 it was the brain child of a wonderful woman named Louise Augustine. A lot of hard work from parents and youth went into fundraising and hours and hours of practicing music for the concerts. June 1973, the first group of youth and chaperones left for England on a trip of a lifetime.

On Sunday, June 4 at the 10:15 service, please join the 1973 and 1977 (which was the 2nd group to go) Chapel Choirs for the 50th celebration of a wonderful tradition.

CRAFTERNOON RETURNS

Remember that great **CRAFTER-NOON** group that met at Geez Louise and Grace back in the 2010s? If not, that's OK. We're bringing it back anyway! Meet with fellow crafters for fun and fellowship every Monday night from 6–8 pm starting June 12. Bring your own crafting supplies and work on whatever projects you want. Everyone is welcome!



Letter Writing Session Today

The Church and Society committee invites you to join us **after worship today in the Activity Center** for a letter-writing event in support of Afghan refugees. Most Afghan refugees are here on a temporary status that leaves them open to deportation back to Afghanistan unless Congress passes legislation to give them permanent status in the US. We have invited an English speaking Afghan refugee to join us to talk about the need, encourage us to write our legislators, and answer questions listeners may have. Please plan to join us! For more details, stop in the Activity Center and talk to Mary Ellen Barber or Wendy Vasquez.

Coffee Connections

All Grace folks are invited to connect with one another at our new Coffee Connections Group. Everyone is welcome and you are encouraged to bring family and friends. The group will meet at Caribou Coffee on Ingersoll Avenue and will meet the last Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. The inaugural gathering will be **Saturday, May 27**. So, come connect with others while enjoying a beverage and a snack.



Vacation Bible School This Summer!



Join us at Grace for our Hero Hotline Vacation Bible School! VBS will be held Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. beginning June 28. We will continue to meet each Wednesday night through July 26. Each night we will learn about a Bible story and learn how God calls us together to serve God. Dinner is served for the whole family at 5:30 p.m. and our sessions begin at 6 p.m. The kids will learn about Heifer International during mission time, experience fun science experiments, and do a few other fun things each night. Mark the dates on your calendar and visit www.gracedesmoines.org for more information and to register. Contact Coreen Witke at 515-255-2131 or coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org.



SPECIAL UPDATES

Volunteers Needed to Pickup Altar Flowers

We are in need of folks to pickup altar flowers on Fridays and deliver them to Grace. They will be picked up at Nielsen Floral on 22nd Street in West Des Moines. For more details, contact the church office at 515-255-2131 or info@gracedesmoines.org.



Missing Tablecloths

The white, round tablecloths that are kept in the Activity Center are missing. If you know where they are, please call the church at 515-255-2131 and let us know when they will be returned.



Sunday Morning Bus Schedule Changes

Beginning May 28, the church bus will only pickup for the 10:15 a.m. service. Please call the church office at 515-255-2131 if you would like to be added to the pickup list for Sunday mornings.

Storm Fundraiser at Grinnell UMC

The Grinnell United Methodist Church is raising money to help those in Grinnell and surrounding areas with financial assistance after the recent storm damage. Visit <https://pushpay.com/g/grinnellumc> to make a donation.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, May 21

9 am Sunday School for Children and Adults
10:15 am Worship Service
11:15 am Special Hospitality Time Honoring Michael Gookin
11:30 am Church & Society Letter Writing Event
5 pm Youth Group

Tuesday, May 23

1:30 pm Bible Year Class
5 pm Free Clinic and Free Meal
5 pm Low Cost Mental Health Clinic

Wednesday, May 24

9 am Grace Quilters

Thursday, May 25

Ann Gerdorn's Birthday
6 pm The Open Table
6 pm Grace Preschool UPK Celebration
7 pm Administrative Council

Friday, May 26

7:30 pm New Beginnings (NA)

Saturday, May 27

10 am Coffee Connections

Sunday, May 28

10:15 am Worship
11:15 am Hospitality Time
11:30 am Community Care Meeting

Altar Flowers

I/We will sponsor the altar flower arrangement on:

☐ May 28 ☐ July 2 ☐ July 30
☐ Aug 13 ☐ Aug 20 ☐ Aug 27

Cost is \$40 per week. Please submit payment with your request.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dedication _____

Please print clearly. Place this form in the offering basket or turn in at the church office.



3700 Cottage Grove Ave ■ Des Moines, IA 50311
phone: 515.255.2131 email: info@gracedesmoines.org web: gracedesmoines.org
Like and Follow us on Facebook at **GraceDesMoines**
Please subscribe to our **YouTube Channel** for virtual services.