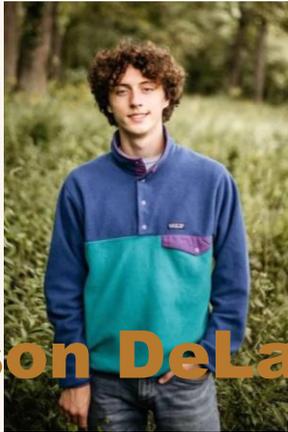


Congratulations!



 Sincere and heartfelt thank you to all the adults, mentors, and leaders who have taught, nurtured and supported our children over the years. Thank you to the parents, families, and people who have volunteered to give our kids the incredible experiences they have had at Grace. 

"The best way to predict your future is to create it."
-Abraham Lincoln



Mason DeLange

Parents: Nathan and Apryl DeLange

High School: Roosevelt High School

Plans for next year: University of Iowa as Open Major

Favorite hobby/pastime: Hammocking and hiking

Favorite high school accomplishment: Being voted captain of the swim team and qualifying for state two years in a row.

Favorite UMYF / Grace UMC memory: My memory would have to be when Pastor Dave scared the crap out of me and some other youth in Hawaii. He was standing with a flashlight on his face on a distant hill looking super eerie and getting ever-closer each time the light went out and came back on.

Favorite Des Moines restaurant: Spaghetti Works

Favorite movie and why: I really like "The Revenant" because it has amazing visuals of nature and a crazy story based upon true events.

Advice for younger Grace youth: Live life, have fun, stay safe out there.

Person(s) who has most influenced you (at Grace): Patty Link has always been there to talk to me about whatever. Her uplifting words and wisdom have helped me through a lot of times in my life. There's so much more I could say about her but I'll leave it at that. I appreciate her so much and I will carry lessons that she has taught me with me for the rest of my life.



Rob Goode

Parents: Tim and Corinne Goode

High School: Roosevelt High School

Plans for next year: Study Sports and Recreation Management at the University of Iowa

Favorite hobby/pastime: Playing Ultimate Frisbee and Tennis

Proudest high school accomplishment: Captaining the Ultimate Frisbee and Tennis teams for our phantom seasons

Favorite UMYF / Grace UMC memory: The back to back Montana work trips

Favorite Des Moines restaurant: Pancheros

Favorite movie and why: "Up". It's a great story about acceptance, redemption, and following your dreams.

Advice for younger Grace youth: Stick with Youth Group, get involved, and listen to Patty and Nathan

Person(s) who has most influenced you (at Grace): Patty and Nathan



Katie Groetken

Parents: Trent and Niki Groetken

High School: Waukee High School

Plans for next year: Attending University of Northern Iowa for Exercise Science

Favorite hobby/pastime: Soccer, track, cross-country, choir

Favorite high school accomplishment: Named newcomer of the year in my first year of cross country

Favorite UMYF / Grace UMC memory: Going to Youth Group and church choir

Favorite Des Moines restaurant: Los Tres

Favorite movie and why: Any Disney movie

Advice for younger Grace youth: Enjoy the friendships you create in church

Person(s) who has most influenced you (at Grace): My parents



Aidan McDonald

Parents: Carrie Young, Christopher McDonald

High School: Roosevelt High School

Plans for next year: DMACC

Favorite hobby/pastime: Working on cars

Favorite high school accomplishment: National Honor Society

Favorite UMYF / Grace UMC memory: Lock-ins and ski trips. I miss Jim ☹️

Favorite Des Moines restaurant: Adong

Favorite movie and why: "American Psycho" because it's very funny and unique.

Advice for younger Grace youth: Enjoy every moment with the people there because they have a big impact on your life and time goes by faster than you think.

Person(s) who has most influenced you (at Grace): Patty, Jim, Pam, DeLange family, Seth, etc.



Max Swinton

Parents: Shari Stucker and Dave Swinton

High School: Roosevelt High School

Plans for next year: University of Iowa as an Open Major

Favorite hobby/pastime: Playing any sport, as long as it's with friends.

Favorite high school accomplishment: Being a Section Leader in marching band.

Favorite UMYF / Grace UMC memory: On work trips, when we stop at a national park, or some sort of landmark/lookout, and we go somewhere that we're not supposed to go.

Favorite Des Moines restaurant: Pancheros Pancheros Pancheros

Favorite movie and why: "Titanic" because it makes you feel every emotion.

Advice for younger Grace youth: The Youth Group is going to be the most fun 6 years of your life. Work trips, ski trips, and lock-ins will be the things you never stop talking about. You're going to meet all of your closest friends, and it's where you're going to feel the most welcome. Don't "just show up when you feel like it". Show up every week. Come to Sunday School, join the Choir, and if you don't show up to Youth Group, I will make sure Nathan and Patty come and drag you to the church. Get everything you can out of this church because now you know what you're missing if you don't.

Person(s) who has most influenced you (at Grace): Nathan DeLange and Patty Link



Evan James Witke

Parents: Coreen and Todd Witke

High School: Urbandale High School

Plans for next year: Go to college to study Computer Sciences and stay close to home.

Favorite hobby/pastime: Hiking and singing and dancing

Proudest high school accomplishment: Getting under 21 minutes in Cross Country this year

Favorite UMYF / Grace UMC memory: My collection of dance videos

Favorite Des Moines restaurant: Jethro's BBQ and Bacon Bacon

Favorite movie and why: "Avengers Endgame". Because: Best. Movie. Ever.

Advice for younger Grace youth: Go on the trips and lock-ins because they're so much fun and you get to know the other youth and adults more.

Person(s) who has most influenced you (at Grace): My parents