

Grace United Methodist Church

July 3, 2022



OUR 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.



gracedesmoines.org
facebook.com/DesMoinesGrace
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WORSHIP

Thank you for joining us for worship. Together, we will join in liturgy, hymns, prayers, and a message to connect with God and one another. Our service today is led by Rev. Gary Armstrong; Muriel Pemble, Liturgist; Ann Gerdom, Music Director and Organist; and Michael Gookin, Choir Director. In hymns, prayers, and liturgies, feel free to use language that makes worship meaningful, enriching, and inclusive.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

O God, early in the morning we cry to you. Help us to worship and to concentrate our thoughts on you: We cannot do this alone.

In us there is darkness, but with you there is light.

We are lonely, but you do not leave us.

We are feeble in heart, but with you there is help.

We are restless, but with you there is peace.

In us there is bitterness, but with you there is patience.

We do not understand your ways, but you know the way for us.

Restore us to liberty and enable us so to live now that we may answer before you and before one another.

Lord, whatever this week may bring,

Your name be praised!

*Opening Hymn UMH 437 – This Is My Song

*Opening Prayer

O generous God, you have answered our prayers, sometimes in subtle or surprising ways. Give us the faith to trust you completely: that even when you confer blessings and miracles upon us in ways we do not anticipate or understand, we shall be able to perceive you at work and rely upon your providence. In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

Reading - 2 Kings 5:1-14

Sermon

Hymn TFWS #2236 – “Gather Us In”

Communion UMH pg. 12

Prayer of Dedication

Open our eyes to see the beauty around us: Then, open them more to see the ever-present poverty.

Open our ears to hear the laughter of our children: Then, open them more to hear the cries of the needy.

Open our hearts to receive the joy of life: Then, open them more to share the pain of another.

Open our hands to grasp the hand of a friend: Then, open them more to help a desperate stranger.

Open our wallets widest of all to give generously through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Anthem

*Closing Hymn TFWS 2130 The Summons

*Benediction

Postlude

* please rise in body or in spirit.

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Call to Worship Adapted from Dietrich Bonhoeffer who wrote this prayer while awaiting execution in a Nazi Concentration Camp

IN OUR PRAYERS

Alan Turnquist, as he recovers from a car accident.

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

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.

GRACE MOVIE NIGHT

Join us for our next movie night at Grace on Friday, July 8, at dusk (around 8:45 pm) to watch Sing 2 on the church lawn, weather permitting.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOOD TRUCK PARTY STARTS THIS WEEK!

You are invited to join us for The Food Truck Vacation Bible School this summer at Grace UMC! We will gather on July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3 (all Wednesday evenings) as we learn how God provides for us and loves us. Each evening we will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner

before learning our Bible and then exploring crafts, science, mission, and music! Contact Coreen Witke for more information or to register. Phone is 515.255.6400 ext. 230 and email is coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org.

You can also register online at www.gracedesmoines.org!

THIS WEEK

Monday, July 4

The church office is closed in observation of Independence Day

Tuesday, July 5

5 pm Grace Free Medical Clinic and Meal

Wednesday, July 6

9 am Grace Quilters

5:30 pm Food Truck Party VBS

GET INVOLVED

Free Clinic - The Grace Free Clinic takes place on Tuesday evening with registration from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Patients are seen from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. No appointments are needed, and all services are free. If you want to volunteer to help with the clinic, send an email to gracefreeclinic@gmail.com.

Tuesday Meals - During the clinic, a free meal is provided that can be enjoyed at the church or to-go. Don't feel like cooking on a Tuesday? Come to Grace! You can volunteer to help with the free meal by contacting Mary Paulson at paulsondanmary@msn.com.

Ushers, Greeters, and Liturgists - If you'd like to volunteer as an usher, greeter, or liturgist at Grace, get in touch with Pastor Nate (natenims@gracedesmoines.org).

Grace Youth at the I-Cubs

The youth group will again be working concessions at several evening I-Cubs games this summer. Mark your calendars to enjoy a game and support our youth. This is one of their major fundraisers, so come out to the ballpark to support Grace Youth!

Friday, August 5

Saturday, August 6

Friday, August 26

Saturday, August 27

GUIDE TO PRAYER AND STUDY

You can also find this daily devotional online at www.gracedesmoines.org or on our Facebook page every morning!

Monday

Read - Mark 5:24-34

Notice - What a burden of shame this woman must have carried, along with her physical issues. Many people saw ailments like hers as judgments from God (see John 9:2) and treated her as an unclean outcast. Was Jesus being unkind when he made the healed woman's touch public, or was he freeing her from shame as well as from her ailment? Are there things in your life, or the lives of people you care about, that cause needless shame?

Pray - Jesus, it was your mission to move the world back toward its intended wholeness. Show me how to join in that mission, to bless others in big or small ways. Amen.

Tuesday

Read - Matthew 8:1-4

Notice - In Jesus' day, people called any visible skin disease "leprosy." Today we know more about leprosy and other skin diseases, so we don't see people literally wearing signs that say "unclean." But social shunning still goes on in 2020, based on race, age, gender, socio-economic or educational level, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and even personal quirks, political beliefs, or looks. Have others ever shunned you? Have you ever shunned someone else? How is God calling you to live up to Jesus' example in touching the leper today?

Pray - Jesus, help me to see those that are shunned and to avoid that injustice in my life and our church. Amen.

Wednesday

Read - 1 Kings 18:16-24, 36-39

Notice - Ahab greeted Elijah with, "Is that you, the one who troubles Israel?" (18:17) Ruling as a tyrant, trying to kill anyone faithful to Israel's God, the king still blamed his kingdom's problems on the one man who dared to speak God's word to him. When have you, in a large or small way, had the chance to "speak truth to power"? How did you do, and what were the results—externally, and in your own heart?

Pray - God, in ancient Israel you needed brave hearts and honest tongues. Grow me into the kind of person you can count on. Amen.

Thursday

Read - Luke 17:11-19

Notice - These sufferers were desperately isolated. "Keeping their distance," they raised their voices and called to Jesus. Their isolation may have broken down ethnic barriers—at least one was a Samaritan, but the story's setting (verse 11) hints that some of the lepers were Jewish. All ten were "cleansed." But when the Samaritan came back to say "thank you," Jesus used a stronger word that can even mean "saved," saying, "Your faith has healed you" (verse 19). How does gratitude point us towards salvation?

Pray - Jesus, you so often do good things in my life; I so often take them for granted. Make my heart whole, so that I can live a life of wonder, gratitude and praise. Amen.

Friday

Read - Mark 1:35-45

Notice - A "leper" had to do more than just announce, "I'm healed!" Verse 44 said Jesus sent the man to follow the ritual from Leviticus 14, which would let him rejoin his community. Limited as it seems to us, that was Israel's equivalent of a clean medical bill of health. In what ways does God's power work in and through the medical, counseling and other professions today? How can human wisdom work with, rather than against, God's healing power?

Pray - Jesus, you knew the healing power of touching the untouchable. Help me know how to reach out in ways that care about and seek to heal today's untouchables. Amen.

Saturday

Read - Acts 2:42-47

Notice - The very first Christians lived out their faith as a relatively small group, living in a city that had crucified their Lord. What challenges do you face when it comes to connecting with others and contributing to their well-being? What holds you back? Prayer, fellowship, devotion to the apostles' teaching, and radical generosity were the foundations of the early Christians' powerful impact. In which of these areas do you sense God inviting you to grow as we move into a new year of opportunities for growth?

Pray - Jesus, thank you for the generous model those early Christians left for me. Help me to live with the same spirit of sharing and caring they showed. Amen.