

March 25, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY



“My Peace I Leave With You” – Jesus

John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”*

In Jesus' farewell address to his disciples, right before he is arrested, he knows his closest friends are about to face challenging and frightening times. They are about to experience the apparent downfall and demise of their beloved leader: his arrest, his trial, his torture, his death. Jesus knows they will, in the not too distant future, face terrifying trials and persecution of their own.

In preparation for this tremendously challenging time for his disciples, Jesus says, “My peace I give to you...do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” Jesus knows his disciples cannot survive based upon their own strength of will or on any kind of earthly assurance and strength. They need the Divine peace only he can provide, and he is more than willing to bestow it upon them.

We are in the midst of a challenging and rather scary time. Just over a week ago, everything changed in what seemed like the drop of a hat. I would imagine many of us are experiencing anxiety and fear, to say the least. I believe Jesus invites each of us to hear his assuring voice: My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

No matter what happens, rest assured, our Sovereign Lord has us in his hands. Because Christ overcame the world, we can be at peace, even in the most trying of times, knowing that he has prepared a place for us. Christ offers each of us his everlasting peace in this moment. Let us embrace that peace and let us allow Him to make our hearts not afraid.

Rest assured, Grace and Wesley are here as well. Although we have had to cancel all in-person church activities for the time being, we are still churches of Christ. I implore each of you to continue praying diligently and studying God's word. During this time of quarantine, here are some of the ways we will still be available to one another:

(continued on next page)

1. Although worship services and all activities are cancelled, Pastor Craig will be (technology willing!), livestreaming a condensed worship service at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. Rather than switch back and forth, I will stream this on the Wesley Facebook page. If you do not know how this works, please feel free to contact me.

2. For those who do not have access to Facebook or cannot tune in at 9:30, Pastor Craig will also record the sermon and post it on the Grace and Wesley Facebook pages and on both church webpages: <https://mcgumchurch.org> <https://mcwesley.org>

For those who do not have internet access, Pastor Craig will make printed copies of the sermons/CDs available. Please leave a message with the office or on Pastor Craig's phone if you would like one of these delivered to you.

2. The office will be closed for the most part; however, Patty will be checking messages and emails and will be in the office on a limited basis. We should still be able to get back to you within a couple of days unless things change yet again. (If you need an immediate response, you can call Patty at 641-430-4726 or e-mail strttmn@yahoo.com) Pastor Craig will be keeping regular office hours for as long as possible; however, we strongly encourage you to call rather than just stop by. We are, after all, trying to help flatten the curve. You can also contact Pastor Craig via his cell phone: 641.691.5447

3. We want to help those members who are in need of supplies but do not feel safe leaving their homes. We do have people who are willing to help members who need help with grocery delivery, etc. Please contact us if you are needing help in this regard and we will connect you with those who have volunteered to help with this.

4. Finally, I want to encourage you to continue, as you are able, making your financial contributions to Grace and Wesley. This will be a challenging time for both churches financially since many give on Sunday mornings. Please consider enrolling in our automatic payment option or by mailing your check to Wesley. (If you are out of stamps, you can drop your contribution in the mail slot by the Wesley parking lot doors.)

May God bless each and every one of you as we endure through this challenging time. Christ is with us and freely offers his peace to us this very day. Let our hearts not be troubled, nor let them be afraid.

Pastor Craig Luttrell

Grace Salad Luncheon, April 18: CANCELLED
Wesley Guest Day, April 16: CANCELLED

Wesley's Year of Giving Back April 2020



Life has changed for many of us in the last few weeks. We may be physically required to isolate ourselves, but it is a great time to reach out to others by making a phone call, sending a card or writing a letter of encouragement and love. Share a favorite Bible verse or devotion, say thank-you or just take time to listen to other's concerns.

While many of us may be able to connect by social media or email, there are still many that do not have this available and would love to hear from someone. If each of us could reach out to just one person each day, think how many lives can be touched in a positive, uplifting, and caring way.

There are, also, many that may be struggling financially. If you are able, think about getting a gift card and mailing or giving it to someone in need or as a thank-you to those that are helping others in this crisis.

The Mohawk Market is serving many school children's families right now, and they are relying on financial donations. Wesley continues to support this project, and you are encouraged to continue to give as you are able. If you want to order non-perishable foods online and have them delivered to the church (or arrange a time to drop them off), please contact Pastor Craig and he will make sure they get to Roosevelt.

The most important thing we can all do, no matter our circumstances, is to pray!

"Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us..."

The cards and visits I received during my recent hospital visit were very much appreciated. God bless my Wesley family.

Julie Tiedemann

Wesley



April

- 1 Bob McGowan
- 2 Chase Peterson
- 3 Meg Brady
- 4 Mary Alverson
- 5 Jeff Skogen
- 6 Courtney Peters, Paul & Susan Dixon
- 7 Alexis Ballantyne, Alex Trainer
- 9 Jon & Sheryl Mariner
- 11 Evelyn Buffington, Michelle Beek
- 12 Sandy Schupanitz, Spencer Ristau
- 14 Ron Ballantyne
- 15 Jason & Katie Dannen
- 23 Judy Alman, Lindsay Kearns
- 24 Kris & Amy Scheppler
- 25 Caren Ellis
- 26 Brent Schupanitz, Kenli Peterson
- 27 Ann Butcher
- 28 Darlene Dailey
- 30 Jan Weaver

May we be a village to each other at a time when we also need to observe basic health safety precautions.

We get through difficult times by being of support to one another.

Wesley Family Outreach remains an active option in being part of that village and being of support to you and those you care about. You can reach Ken by calling 641-512-5565 and asking for Wesley Family Outreach.

You will be served by conversing by phone. Face-to-face visits will be suspended for now.

Ken Zimmerman LISW



NEED TOILET PAPER?

Wesley has some that we can distribute. You can make arrangements to pick some up by calling the church (423-6549) and leaving a message, email Patty at strttmn@yahoo.com or call Pastor Craig (641-691-5447) to see if he is in the office.

Grace



April

- 4 Marlene Gobeli
- 5 Steven Tynan
- 9 Phil Ehrenberg
- 16 Kristina Tynan
- 20 Jon & Laura Gobeli
- 25 Pam Hardy
- 26 Dixie Mennen,
Allison Eldridge
- 28 Steve & Paulette Lugg
- 30 Kathy Sautter

**Grace United Methodist Church Administrative Council
Virtual Meeting Minutes , March 19, 2020**

PRESENT: Lisa Ebel, Pat Colby, Pastor Craig Luttrell, Troy Gobeli, Linda Garcia, Kathy Sautter, Val Suby, Doug Mitchell, Cookie Schiff, Kathy Gaines, and Carolyn Ryan.

CALL TO ORDER: Pastor Craig called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

PRAYER

PRIORITY BUSINESS:

Church Services/Activities Due to Coronavirus: Pastor Craig paraphrased communication posted on Grace's Facebook page which is:

Although worship services are cancelled, Pastor Craig will be livestreaming a condensed worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Rather than switch back and forth, he will stream this on the Wesley Facebook page. If you do not know how this works, please feel free to contact him. For those who do not have access to Facebook or cannot tune in at 9:30, Pastor Craig will also record the sermon and post it on the Grace and Wesley Facebook pages and on both church webpages: <https://mcgumchurch.org> <https://mcwesley.org> For those who do not have internet access, Pastor Craig will make printed copies of the sermons/CDs available. Please leave a message with the office or on Pastor Craig's phone if you would like one of these delivered to you.

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We want to help those members who are in need of supplies but do not feel safe leaving their homes. We do have people who are willing to help members who need help with grocery delivery, etc. Please contact us if you are needing help in this regard and we will connect you with those who have volunteered to help with this.

Finally, he wants to encourage you to continue, as you are able, making your financial contributions to Grace and Wesley. This will be a challenging time for both churches financially since many give on Sunday mornings. Please consider enrolling in our automatic payment option or by mailing your check to Wesley.

Kathy Sautter and Troy Gobeli offered to assist, as needed, members who are in need of supplies but do not feel safe leaving their homes. Grace members are encouraged to send financial contributions to Wesley as it will be easier for Cookie to pick up. Troy will check at Grace frequently for contributions and will get those to Wesley. Grace does not have the capability of receiving electronic transfers at this time. Pastor Craig noted that if significant financial issues arise, he is willing to take a pay cut. Lori Tynan will continue to work/get paid but her duties will focus on different cleaning responsibilities. Troy and Lori will be in the church as indicated and will check on any building issues that may arise. Patty will maintain her hours at this time.

Troy noted that, not knowing what was coming, he paid \$6,000 in apportionments a couple of weeks ago. After paying current bills, there is \$335 in the checkbook. We are okay for now but need funds to come in for future expenses.

Pastor Craig will put signs on the doors tomorrow regarding cancellations and contact information. Pastor Craig will try again to get our church cancellation on KIMT (he had not yet been successful).

CONCERNS: Jean Stenberg is at home on Hospice care. Arlo Hansen is feeling better.

NEXT MEETING: April 9 (either in person or electronically)
Adjournment and Closing Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Colby, Council Secretary



Grace delivered Meals on Wheels the week of March 16-20.
Thanks to Marilyn and Jack Mueller, Paul Garcia and Dan Tripp for delivering these meals.

Wesley United Methodist Church
1405 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401
641-423-6549 patty@mwesley.org
Office Hours: M-F 7:30-4:30 (closed noon hour)
Worship Times: Saturday, 5:00 PM
Sunday, 9:00 AM
Sunday School (during the school year): 9:30

Next newsletter mailed
scheduled for
April 23, 2020.

Grace United Methodist Church
200 14th St. NW
Mason City, IA 50401
641-423-5727
Worship Time: Sunday, 10:30 AM
Sunday School (during the school year): 9:15











