

September 24, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY

Christ the Solid Rock



Matthew 7:24-29 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

Over the past two and half months or so we have been going through the parables of Jesus. Jesus often used parables to describe the nature of the kingdom of God, the values he expects his disciples to embody, and to contrast his kingdom and the world.

In the parable of the wise man, who builds his house on the rock, we find perhaps one of the most encouraging and reassuring parables of Jesus. The parable makes it clear that we, as his followers, will never truly fail or fall if we build our lives on our faith in Christ. No matter what life throws at us, no matter what challenges we face, no matter what terrible events transpire in this fallen world, we will stand strong so long as we keep our faith in Jesus.

This is not to say we will not be drenched at times by the rains. Nor does this mean we will never feel as though we are about to drown as the rivers rise around us. It does not ensure we will not sometimes be battered and bruised by the winds that beat against us and injure us with debris. As children living in a fallen world, we are subject to the frailties of our human nature.

And yet, Christ assures us, as long as our belief is firmly built on his Lordship, we will not fall. As the concerns about COVID-19 continue to drench the world, our faith provides an umbrella of peace. As we are bombarded by the non-stop negativity of 24-hour news cycles, our faith provides hope to keep the streams at bay. As we enter into the last leg of a vitriolic political season, in which division is championed over reconciliation and common humanity, our faith provides a shield against despair.

Yes, truly if our faith in Christ forms the foundation of our being, we will not fall. This, friends, is Good News! Nations rise and nations fall; cultural values shift and move; but, the truth provided in Jesus Christ never changes. Let all of us, then, ensure our lives are built on Christ, the solid rock, by tending to our faith. I encourage all of us to continue reading Scripture; continue investing our time in prayer; continue participating in worship (virtually or in person); continue reaching out in love and compassion to the community in which we are planted. These are the ways in which we build our lives on Christ, our solid rock.

Pastor Craig



Both Grace and Wesley have reopened for in person worship services.

It is strongly suggested that anyone who is uncomfortable or in the high risk category hold off on joining in until we enter into the “green” category of reopening and keep on participating through the virtual services (which will move to 9:00am on Sundays). We will remain in the “yellow” phase until the virus is contained.

It is a different kind of “church experience” than you are used to. Social distancing will be in place and masks will be required. Congregational singing, responsive reading, the offering, and communion will be different.

Children’s Sunday School and fellowship time will not take place until we enter into the “green” phase.

Sunday schedule:

9:00am Worship @ Wesley/Facebook Livestream Service

10:30 Worship @ Grace

Starting in October, we will be temporarily suspending the Saturday evening service at Wesley. Those who attend the Saturday service are encouraged to attend on Sunday mornings. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented period.

At the present time, you will NOT be required to call in if you plan to attend any of the weekend services. (This policy could change if it appears attendance may reach capacity.)

Thank you for your patience during this unprecedented season.

God bless you all, Pastor Craig Luttrell

For more information about the “Red, Yellow, & Green” phases, please visit: [https://](https://www.iaumc.org/123churchreentry)

www.iaumc.org/123churchreentry

****It is still the strong recommendation of Cerro Gordo public health and the State of Iowa that persons in the high risk categories refrain from gathering in large groups. It remains my recommendation that members with underlying health conditions and those over the age of 65 refrain from gathering at this time.*

Next Newsletter Deadline

Have something to put in the next newsletter? Write up an article and get it to the church office!
The deadline for the next newsletter is Monday, October 19.





Hospital Ins & Outs:

(Due to HIPAA regulations, we can only publish names of those who have given their consent, either by letting the church and/or pastor know or through the hospital chaplain.)

Condolences: ...to the friends and family of Dick Eldridge who passed away on 9-22.

Thank You

On behalf of Darlene and myself, I would like to thank those that have called and sent cards after the passing of my son-in-law, Raymond Brown. It was so thoughtful and caring of you during this difficult time. *Dorothy Yanney*



The UMW Executive Board will meet on Thursday, October 1 at 3:30 PM.

Wesley Financial Report

8/26: \$5,690
9/10: \$5,026



October

- 2 Steve DeLong
- 4 Marcy Ballantyne
- 5 Ron Gettman
- 8 JoAnn Gerbig
- 9 Sandy Crooks, Todd Broers
- 12 Al Deike
- 13 Delton Dixon, Janet Clemons
- 14 JoAnn McCallum, Vivian Lincicum, Sara Broers, *Todd & Sara Broers, John & DeAnn Halligan*
- 15 Kristie Whitehill
- 16 Karen Bull, Roger Peterson
- 17 Hal Minear, Randy Lincicum
- 18 Mary Everhart, Gary Sutcliffe, Shirley Sharp
- 19 Dick Jass, Don Ohden
- 20 Alberta Robinette, *Laurent & Fifi Pongo*
- 21 Merle Mikkelson
- 22 Gage Juhl
- 23 Deb Kranz, Lincoln Vorba
- 24 Judy Kamps, Janine Hammarstedt
- 25 Ledger Mensink, Myles Manson
- 26 Megan Retterath, *Hal & Beckie Minear*
- 27 Sandra Lockwood
- 28 Sue Deike
- 30 *Orville & Mary Alverson*

Wesley's Year of Giving Back: October 2020

As many continue to struggle during 2020, Wesley members have stepped up to help our community members. This month we ask you to step up again to help our most vulnerable.



Local agencies have stated there is a great need for infant and toddler items. Suggested items are diapers (larger sizes are most needed such as 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups), baby wipes and lotion.

Please leave your items in the box located in the church entry way.



"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16 (NIV)



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Grace UMW meeting October 6, 2020 at the church fellowship hall. We will require masks and we will distance for the meeting. If you are not comfortable, please do not feel pressured to attend. And of course, if you are not feeling well, don't plan to attend. There will be a business meeting and no food will be served.

October

- 6 Daryl Gobeli
- 15 Dean Johnson, *David & Lisa Ebel*
- 16 Dorothy Matson
- 20 Norma Jean Gobeli
- 22 *Steve & Lori Tynan*
- 23 Lisa Ebel
- 27 Ellie Authier

**October
HOLY PAIL:
Heifer International:
Bees**



Annual ALS Walk is October 3, 2020. Due to the Covid-19 virus, I will not be walking, but the fight for this disease still goes on. If anyone would like to donate to the cause, please send to:

Donna Eldridge
719 N. Tyler
Mason City, IA 50401

Checks made out to "ALS Association" Thank you in advance and may God bless you all!

**GRACE & WESLEY
CHARGE CONFERENCE
IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 6:30 PM.**

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
October 22, 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











