

August 27, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY

Beginning Anew



My wife has always looked forward to going back to school. When she was a student, whether she was in elementary school, high school, or college, she enjoyed buying and gathering school supplies, going shopping for back to school clothes, and getting ready for a year of new experiences and learning. As our own children have now entered into the “school days” phase of life, she enjoys getting them ready for a new year as well.

I, on the other hand, was a bit more ambivalent when it came to going back to school. While I did often look forward to seeing some of my classmates again, I did not particularly look forward to getting up at 7:00 am five days a week, nor did I cherish many of the uncertainties that came with new classes, new teachers, and more homework.

Regardless of my ambivalence, there was certainly always a sense of excitement that came with starting a new school year. Though I probably wouldn’t have described it as such at the time, I think the excitement revolved around an annual “fresh start” and a sense of new possibilities: the potential for new friends; the opportunity to do better in classes; the prospect of getting off on the right foot with a new roster of teachers.

It is traditional that churches kick off the “new year” in the fall, much like schools do, with something akin to a rally day. Rally Day provides an opportunity for churches to gather back together after the summer and refocus on the coming year: new goals, new, ideas, new ventures. Indeed, when I was growing up, Rally Day marked a return to Sunday school and typically the launching of a new season in the church.

As we all know, the past six months have been a different kind of season—one which will likely persist for several more months at least. Although we will reopen for in person worship on September 13th, “church life” will look different than it has in the past. Many will choose, for the time being, to continue worshipping online instead of attending in person. Many of our typical Sunday morning activities, such as Sunday school and fellowship time, will not resume immediately. Many in person activities and missions, which require a great deal of contact with one another, will remain dormant for the time being (or will require creative substitutions or alterations).

And yet, this fall still provides an opportunity for Grace and Wesley to begin anew. The Bible speaks often about new beginnings and new opportunities. “Behold, I am doing a **new** thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Jeremiah 43:19) “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are **new** every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-24) “See, I am making all things **new**.” (Revelation 21)

So, what does it look like for us to have a fresh start in our faith and in the church this year? Perhaps a fresh start means committing to more regular attendance this year, virtually or in person. Perhaps a fresh start means committing to more regular Bible study this year. Perhaps a fresh start means connecting with a small group this year. Perhaps a fresh start means committing to serving in a ministry of the church on a more regular basis. Perhaps a fresh start means committing more fully to giving financially to the church or a local mission this year.

I know I am excited and am filled with a sense of new possibilities, despite the ongoing pandemic, and I hope you are as well. Although we do not know what the next few months will look like, I would like to encourage all of us to embrace a sense of a “fresh start” and new possibilities this fall. God is with us. God is moving among us. God will build his Kingdom through us if we are willing to surrender to Him.

May God bless Grace and Wesley United Methodist Churches in this new season!

Pastor Craig Luttrell

Fall Reopening: September 13



Both Grace and Wesley councils have approved a plan to reopen in person worship services on **Sunday, September 13th**, conditionally. If the hospital is at capacity and Public Health requests businesses/organizations refrain from remaining open, we will reassess at that time.

I will continue to strongly suggest 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.

If you have not joined in one of the Saturday evening services at Wesley, we want you to be prepared for a different kind of “church experience” than you are used to. Social distancing will be in place and masks will be required. Certain elements, such as congregational singing, responsive reading, the offering, and communion will be different. (Saturday services are open to both Grace & Wesley members.)

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

On September 13th, we will go back to our usual Sunday schedule:

9:00am Worship @ Wesley/Facebook Livestream Service

10:30 Worship @ Grace

Saturday service will still be offered at 5:00 PM.

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.*





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 Keri Retterath who passed away on 8-4 and Vera Stockberger who passed away on 8-12.

Thank You

A BIG thanks to the 500 Card Club for their donation of \$36 to purchase supplies for the Derecho Disaster Relief effort!

For the last 16 years we have been custodians of Wesley Church. We have decided it was time to give it up. We want to thank everyone who showered us with cards and many lovely gifts. We have enjoyed our 16 years as custodians and we want to thank everyone who helped us along the way!

Thanks also for those who remembered our 60th wedding anniversary!

We love you all, so stay safe and well!

Blessings, *Dick & Carol Jass*

Thank you for your donation of school supplies to help the Salvation Army. Because of friends like you, the Salvation Army is able to continue to help families of North Iowa with backpacks and school supplies to begin the school year.

Majors Geffory & Leti Crowell



We are very pleased to announce that Doug Janssen will be offered the position of Wesley custodian. Welcome, Doug!



September

- 4 Scott Davison, *Gerald & Meg Brady*
- 6 Ron Rezabek
- 7 Katrina Hamilton, *Abbi Anderson*
- 8 Matt Hammarstedt
- 10 Joseph Mariner
- 11 Kathy Arnold, *Jill Alman*
- 12 Donna Sutcliffe, *Scott & Judy Alman, Todd & Missy Peters*
- 13 Jeanette Diekhuis, *Kallie Whitehill, Ron & Dawn Ballantyne*
- 14 Jenna DeVary, *Todd & Shari Ristau*
- 15 Jeannette Kloberdanz, *Ken Christensen, Elizabeth Luttrell*
- 17 Derek Arnold
- 20 Erin Brownmiller
- 21 JoAnn Mozack
- 22 Nancy Christensen, *Donna Rafferty, Larry & Delores Bernemann*
- 23 Tom Rafferty
- 24 John McCallum
- 25 Destiney Somers
- 26 Rose Tobin
- 27 Lila Johnson
- 28 Gary Howe, *Frank & Julie Fox*
- 29 Scott Alman
- 30 Sally Lunde

Wesley Financial Report

7/31: \$4,837

8/12: \$7,981



Wesley Delivers Meals on Wheels in September!

Wesley Church is in charge of Meals on Wheels September 21-25. Pick up of meals is at the main entrance on the south side of Mercy at 10:45 a.m. On Fridays, there may be a sack lunch for some people and they are in a large red container. If you would like to help out that week, would you please call JoAnn Gerbig at 424-5212. If I don't answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you.

If you do not have a mask and would like one, I would be happy to make one for you.

Wesley's Year of Giving Back: September 2020

2020 has been a most unusual year with a pandemic, quarantines, school closings and now a massive storm that has damaged a large part of Iowa. Each month you have reached out to others to help them through this difficult year.



Thank you to all our Wesley, Grace and community members who contributed items and financial assistance this past week to those affected by the derecho storm that hit Iowa on August 10.

Over 25 totes and boxes of items were collected for those who suffered devastating losses.

We will continue to accept cash donations for the next few weeks which will be sent to Disaster Ministries. Please designate "disaster ministries" on the memo line of you check if you choose to give to this project.

This past month you also supported are local schools and students with much needed school supplies. Six boxes of supplies have been delivered to Salvation Army for distribution to area students and another five boxes will be delivered to Lincoln Middle School and Roosevelt Elementary School.

For the month of September, we will be collecting items for Mohawk Market and the Food Bank to help those who continue to struggle with food insecurity. Boxes will be in the entry way of the church where you may leave your items. Suggested items are cereal, canned fruit, snack items, or any other non perishable items.

"...Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH INGATHERING

THE 41st Annual Mission Ingathering will be held across Iowa on Saturday, November 7, 2020. The Purpose of the Mission Ingathering is to show the love of Christ to the world's people by ministering to their needs.

This year we will be collecting items for Personal Dignity Kits. These items are distributed to those needing humanitarian and disaster relief in the United States and around the world.

Personal Dignity Kit

- 1 Hand Towel
- 1 Adult Tooth Brush -no multipack
- 1 Washcloth 1 Toothpaste-2.5 oz or larger
- 1 Comb-sturdy- no rat tail or picks
- 1 Bar Soap - 3-4 oz.
- 1 Razor - with guard 1 Shampoo - 15-18 oz.
- 1 Nail Clipper - no files or emery boards.
- 1 Deodorant-2-3 oz stick, roll, pump
- 10 band aids - 3/4 " x 3"



Any of the items listed above may be donated and the kits will be assembled at the church. Items may be left in the box in the church entryway. We have already collected many hand towels and wash clothes. Our greatest need is for toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant and razors. Cash donations will be used to purchase nail clippers and combs thru Amazon.

Our greatest need is for: Toothpaste - 2.5 oz or larger

Shampoo - 15 -18 oz

Deodorant - 2 to 3 oz stick, roll, pump

If you would like to make a cash donation, please put Ingathering on memo line of your check.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10 NIV



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.)

Cookie Schiff

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 Larry Behrends, Hailey Piper, Dean & Jeannie Johnson
- 8 Jon Gobeli
- 11 Pete Ferleman
- 12 Carly Gobeli
- 13 Carolyn Ryan
- 15 Elizabeth Luttrell
- 16 Caleb Gobeli
- 20 Cookie Schiff
- 21 John Green
- 25 Pat Colby
- 28 Amanda Tynan

Ingathering School kits have been sewn and now they need to be filled. The school supplies are in stores, so now is the time to fill the School Bags for Mission. If you want to purchase any of the supplies listed, you can bring them to Kathy Sautter, Dorothy Matson and Gail Behrends. If you would like to give a donation, we will do the shopping. Make the checks payable to Grace UMW. Send the checks or cash to Kathy Sautter 1041 S. Illinois, Dorothy Matson 666 14th Pl. , Maxine Green 1504 S. Kentucky and Gail Behrends 319 W. State St Mason City. Thank you for helping us fill the school bags.

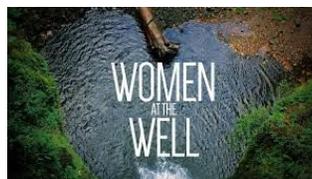
Grace UMW

School Kit

- 3 Notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8x10 1/2
- 1 pair of student round tip scissors
- 1 ruler 12" long with metric
- 1 pencil sharpener 1"
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 pencil eraser 2" or larger



- 1 box of 12 colored pencils
- 6 unsharpened pencils



September HOLY PAIL: Women at the Well



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!

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, September 21.



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
September 24, 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





