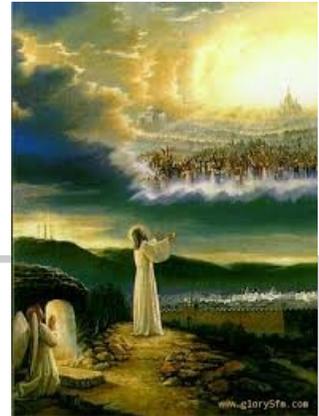


October 22, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY

Thankful for the Kingdom of God

“Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” – Mark 10:14



I admit I have a tendency to complain. It is a character flaw I am continually striving against. Even on the best of days, when the weather is perfect, when I'm feeling great, and everything seems to be going my way, I can still manage to find something to grumble about. And don't get me started on the bad days, when the weather is gloomy, or I am fighting an illness, or nothing seems to be working out the way I want it to. Although I know I was created to give thanks to God in and through all things, I confess I am far from perfect in this regard.

As the father of two little boys, however, I have felt the need to work very hard toward eliminating this ungrateful trait. The last thing I want is for them to take on the complaining trait, especially since they, as children, naturally seem to have a much more thankful attitude than many adults (including their old man). Although they are far from perfect and already do a fair bit of complaining themselves, they are much more thankful and much more excited about little blessings than a vast majority of adults (including their old man).

Maybe this is one of the reasons Jesus said the kingdom of God belongs to children. They, in their innocence, are much more apt to look for things to be thankful for than jaded, world weary adults. Hearing a story, receiving a simple gift, eating a hamburger, getting a hug—these seemingly insignificant occurrences often result in thankfulness that would often be lost on adults.

And, what's more, children are often much more thankful and excited when we tell them they are loved by Jesus and are invited to be a part of his kingdom. Perhaps they are simply much more in tune with the miraculous nature of these claims than adults have the capacity to realize. We adults would be wise to emulate the children in being thankful for the kingdom of God.

Perhaps over the past several months you have, like me, found it difficult to give thanks—at least at times. What, with a pandemic, a contentious election cycle, a fragile economy, and significant social distress, just to name a few—who wouldn't find it easier to complain than give thanks?

And yet, despite the angst, the isolation, the loss, and the division, Christ assures us the kingdom is here; God is at work; hope remains available. I want to encourage all of us, even in the midst of very real challenges and hardship, to try to be thankful for the kingdom we are a part of. Some days this might be as simple as appreciating a friend or meditating on a scripture verse or recognizing the beauty of creation. Regardless, as we approach the holiday we call "Thanksgiving", let all of us intentionally struggle against our complaining nature and embrace the thankfulness instilled in us as children.

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

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

For more information about the "Red, Yellow, & Green" phases, please visit: <https://www.iaumc.org/123churchreentry>



Drive Up Communion available in the Wesley parking lot on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30-2:00 PM.



Let's Talk!

The Covid-19 virus this year has presented challenges to our lives we did not expect. For most of us, our daily routines have been impacted. Perhaps even more fundamentally, it has impacted our personal functioning and our relationships with others. We all work at doing the best we can in facing our challenges. It is more important than ever for us to each focus on what is safe, healthy and functional in our lives. Faith is an important source of strength for us at this time. The Wesley Family Outreach is also here to lend support to us as well. Want to talk? I am just a phone call away for a private conversation by phone, zoom and perhaps in person. Want to talk? I do.

Ken Zimmerman

Phone: 641-512-5565

Secure Email: kzpz@mchsi.com

Confidential fax: 641-423-0855

Turn the clocks back

Remember to move
your clocks
back one
hour.



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1st. Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour!

Wesley Men's Club Money Distribution for 2020

Hospice	\$500
Boy Scouts	\$400
Christmas Surprise	\$400
Air Conditioner	\$1,000
Crisis Intervention	\$500
Humane Society	\$500
Make-a-Wish	\$500

Thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraisers, such as Waffle Day and the Spring & Fall Rummage Sales, so that we are able to support these worthy programs.

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, November 16.





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 Patrick Dunavan who passed away on 9-30...to the friends and family of former Wesley member, Gordon Bates who passed away on 10-19...to Gretchen Peterson on the loss of her mother.

Thank You

Thank you for the Stress Less Coloring Mandalas, I will enjoy using it to pass my days. Thank you again. *Marcia Butcher*

We would like to thank all who helped in any way with the church garage sale. We especially want to thank the family members of Dennis Scott who provided us with a place to hold the sale, and Donna Sutcliffe and Rose Gilchrist for all the planning and organization of the event. All of you who made donations, helped to move and haul, set up, organize, helped through the actual sale or clean up made the sale a big success. We made approximately \$2570. Thanks to all!

I believe we had a successful rummage sale. Thanks to all who donated items, helped haul, brought donuts and rolls, came and worked and helped clean up. Thanks to the Dennis Scott family for letting us use the garage. All help was very much appreciated. *Donna Sutcliffe*

The Wesley Council is looking for anyone interested in serving on the council for Finance, at large, and secretary. If you are interested in either one of these positions, please call the church office. (423-6549)



Children's Packets will be available during Sunday church services or for pick up in the church entryway.



Paul Anderson is in need of a ride to Iowa City on Dec. 8 for an eye appointment. If you can help, please call the office. (423-6549)

Wesley Financial Report

9/25: \$4,713
10/7: \$5,065
10/15: \$5,046



The UMW Executive Board will meet on Thursday, November 5 at 3:30 PM.



November

- 1 Kyle Harrington
- 2 Abbi (Schupanitz) Kay, Jed & Lisa Vorba
- 4 David & Deb Kranz
- 5 Mel Mitchell, Velma Tschetter, Ralph Hamand
- 7 Beckie Minear
- 11 Abel Adungy
- 12 Ellen Pyle, Delton & LeAnn Dixon
- 14 Scott Whitehill, Tara Thompson, Coy Kelly
- 16 Erin Phillips, Jon Whitesell
- 17 Jeff & Tracy Skogen
- 18 Jennifer Crooks, Mark & Karen Bull
- 19 Bob Echelbarger, Cheryl Ohden, Shila Trunkhill, Tom & Donna Rafferty
- 21 Hazel Barloon
- 23 Art Ades
- 24 Larry Mozack, Mandi Terlisner
- 25 Christopher Keller
- 26 Ramona Huan, Marlys Thompson, Gen Lepird, Letha Markwardt
- 27 Barbara DeVary, Roger & Gretchen Peterson, Craig & Elizabeth Luttrell
- 28 Allen Halfpop, Nate Juhl
- 29 Alan Anderson, Bud & Carol King
- 30 Bud King, Vicki Als, Collin Kelly

Wesley's Year of Giving Back: November & December 2020

Winter is coming! Can you help give the gift of warmth for our school children and homeless shelters? This November and December, we will be collecting hats and mittens and other cold weather items such as socks, scarves, underwear, boots and snow pants for those in need.



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10



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(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.)



Prayer Request: Request from Shirley Stephen: "Prayers please for Faith Lutheran Nursing Home in Osage. 32 residents and 11 staff are positive for Covid. One is Lillian, my Mom's best friend. Also, my Uncle Richard had surgery with complications. So very hard on family when can't visit loved ones."

November

- 2 Daryl & Norma Jean Gobeli
- 4 Donna Eldridge
- 13 Loy Ferleman, Noah Hamilton
- 14 Deb Trebil
- 15 Doni Brecke
- 21 Robert & Judy Duda
- 24 Gus & Margaret Sasse
- 25 Chris Keller
- 27 Craig & Elizabeth Luttrell
- 29 Tim & Kathy Sautter

November HOLY PAIL:

Thanksgiving basket money can be sent/given at church until November 15. Names for basket recipients to be given to Pat Colby by Sunday, November 15.



GRACE & WESLEY



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the position of Wesley/Grace secretary is now officially part-time.

Office hours are variable, but Patty will generally be in the office M-W-F mornings. Since nothing is engraved in stone, you might want to call ahead to make sure the office will be open before coming.

You can also call Patty (641-430-4726) or Pastor Craig (641-691-5447) to set up a time and we can have the church open for you.

(Patty will be out of the office Nov. 6-13.)



Thanksgiving is on Thursday, November 26. Celebrate wisely and stay healthy!



Veteran's Day is Wednesday, November 11.

Wesley United Methodist Church
 1405 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
 Mason City, IA 50401
 641-423-6549 patty@mwesley.org
 Office Hours: Variable (Please call Patty at 641-430-4726 or Pastor Craig at 641-691-5447 to arrange a time.)
 Worship Times: Sunday, 9:00 AM
 Facebook Livestream service

Next newsletter mailed
 November 19, 2020.

Grace United Methodist Church
 200 14th St. NW
 Mason City, IA 50401
 641-423-5727
 Worship Time: Sunday, 10:30 AM







